

The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church
A Welcoming Congregation

What does it mean to be a people of deep healing?

NOVEMBER 15, 2020 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: #TDOR AND US

In a recent conversation with my oldest nephew, he asked about introducing oneself with one's pronouns and why this is important. Today I will share my answer. Hopefully, such conversations will lead to a year when November 20, the Transgender Day of Remembrance, will celebrate famous transgender people who died of old age. But this year, again, we will mourn young transgender people murdered by violence for their gender identity. In the words of B. Herbert, a Black Gender-Fluid Unitarian Universalist, "Be prepared, to be led into the possibilities for tomorrow by those who tomorrow wasn't built for."

VIRTUAL VESPERS – NOVEMBER 16 FROM 7-7:30 PM

Virtual Vespers is a contemplative service of readings and music. This is a time to rest from the demands of the world; to let go of stress; to meditate; and to deepen one's spiritual life.



YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Our faith asks us to serve others. It's part of our second UU Principle, "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations." But sometimes when we try to help and heal others we assume we know exactly what they need, but we're wrong! So what's one of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of healing? It tells us to "Listen Before You Try to Help and Heal Others!"

Please join us this Sunday at 9 am for a family meeting followed by classes for Kindergarten through 4th and 5th-7th grades as we learn about the Platinum Rule, which invites us to treat others as they would like to be treated, not how WE would like to be treated.

Activities for 8th/9th grade class and YRUU will be communicated directly to families and participants through email and/or texts.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, November 15, please join us at 10:15 am to be admitted prior to the service starting at 10:30. We will have break-out rooms for coffee and conversation following the service.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94190546991>

Meeting ID: 941 9054 6991

Passcode: 186448



created by P. Evans

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

November 29th "Make a Joyful Noise" Where do our hymns come from, both the old and the new? Why do we sing what we sing? Why do some of us really dislike some hymns while loving others? Is it really true that the reason some UU congregations are poor singers is because congregants are reading ahead to see if they agree with the text? And what do all those words and numbers at the bottom of the page of our hymns mean? During his thirteen years as the director of music at the St. Johnsbury VT UU Congregation, Steve made a study of UU hymnody. You are going to hear some fascinating stories, and we will sing quite a few hymns. If you have a favorite you would like to hear, or even be willing to sing, email Steve care of churchoffice@townsonuuc.org

ONGOING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Contact facilitator in Breeze for meeting information or see the [church calendar](#).

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

2nd Sunday each month at noon

Facilitator: Lorraine Sorbello

COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER

Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Facilitator: Rev. Clare Petersberger

AGING TOGETHER

2nd Tuesday each month at 1:00 PM

Facilitator: Michael Magrogan

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30—9:00 PM

Facilitator: Jane D'Ambrogi

SOUL MATTERS

2nd & 4th Tuesdays 7:30—8:30 PM

Facilitator: Rev. Clare Petersberger

PROGRAM COUNCIL MEETING

2nd Wednesday each month at 7:30 PM

Facilitator: Andrew Hager

MEN'S REFLECTION GROUP

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30—9:00 PM

Facilitator: Fred Sypher

TUUC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

3rd Wednesday each month at 7:30 PM

Facilitator: Sue Royer

MEN'S GROUP

2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30—8:30 PM

Facilitator: Michael Magrogan

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

1st Sunday each month at 12:00 PM

Facilitators: Carel Hedlund and Charlene Rossi

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Over a month ago, I was sitting with colleagues who were already planning worship for Epiphany (January.) Someone mentioned the number of Biblical stories in this year's lectionary cycle about Jesus healing people. And someone else responded, "It's too soon to talk about healing." I understood the context. This person meant that losses from the pandemic of Covid-19; from climate change; from the political divisions in our country need to be mourned and grieved. But aren't mourning and grieving a part of healing?

Our spiritual question for this month is, "What does it mean to be a people of healing?" The story that I need to hear does not come from the Bible. It does not involve the lame walking or the dead being resurrected. It does not involve any quick fixes or cures.

The story I need to hear is from the grandfather of Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen. On her fourth birthday he told her:

"In the beginning, there was only the holy darkness, the Ein Sof, the source of life. Then, in the course of history, at a moment in time, this world, the world of a thousand, thousand things, emerged from the heart of the holy darkness as a great ray of light. And then, perhaps because this is a Jewish story, there was an accident. [laughs] And the vessels containing the light of the world, the wholeness of the world, broke. And the wholeness in the world, the light of the world, was scattered into a thousand, thousand fragments of light. And they fell into all events and all people, where they remain deeply hidden until this very day..."

"...the whole human race is a response to this accident. We are here because we are born with the capacity to find the hidden light in all events and all people; to lift it up and make it visible once again and, thereby, to restore the innate wholeness of the world. This is a very important story for the world today. This task is called tikkun olam in Hebrew, which means the restoration of the whole world. This is a collective task. It involves all people who have ever been born, all people presently alive and all people yet to be born. We are all healers of the world."

It is never too soon to talk about healing. Healing is a process which we cannot will or control. But we can make choices that contribute to the health of our bodies, the peace our minds, and the wholeness of our spirits. The story Dr. Remen heard as a four-year-old greatly impacted her vocation as a doctor. How does hearing that you are exactly who is needed to heal the world touch and inspire you?

For me, it is harder to find the hidden light in all events. I need a spiritual community that reassures me that by looking for the hidden light in all whose lives we touch, we restore the innate wholeness of the world. I need a spiritual community that reminds me that we collectively have the strength to continue the work of repairing and restoring wholeness to heal the world. Gratitude for the opportunity to live out, together, our answer to the question, "What does it mean to be a people of healing?"

REVISED BYLAWS APPROVED AT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We did it! Four years after starting a process of examining our governance structure, the congregation voted overwhelming in favor of the revised Bylaws and the amended and restated Articles of Incorporation on October 25, 2020.

This removes matters of policy from the Bylaws, and empowers the Board of Trustees, the Administrative Team and the Program Council.

We had 60 Members present at the meeting plus an additional nine Members submitted an absentee ballot in advance. We had outside assistance from the Rev. David Pyle of the UUA and from attorneys at Ferguson, Schetelich, & Ballew. But mostly, the hard work of this four-year effort was completed by members of this congregation, including Jasmine Stock, the members of the Governance Task Force, and the members of the Bylaws Committee of the Board, and Trustees. Deep appreciation and gratitude for all!



**SPECIAL WEEK OF
THANKSGIVING *THRESHOLD*
ARTICLE DEADLINE: MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 23 AT NOON**

RAFFLE

The raffle has always been a fun part of our annual Auction and this year is no different. There will be many winners whose names will be drawn while you watch on Auction Night. Neil Porter will be our Raffle Master. Buy your tickets on Bid Beacon soon. Every ticket you purchase will result in a slip with your name going into the pool. Raffle sales close early on Auction Night so Neil can get the last slips into the big bowl before the first drawing. See the separate Raffle announcement in this *Threshold* for all the great gift cards and gift certificates being awarded. New prizes are being donated almost every day. Many thanks to the donors who make our Auction Raffle possible.



FUND-A-NEED

In recent years we have started the tradition of allowing cash donors to submit a winning bid to “Fund-a-Need” at TUUC. This year our three opportunities to “Fund-a-Need” involve helping out with expenses related to getting resources that help make our virtual services illuminating and engaging. While you’re browsing the items in Bid Beacon, please go to the Cash Donation category and consider purchasing a place for one of the Soul Matters Ministry packets being offered. These won’t be Live Bid on Auction Night as in previous years so we can stay within this year’s shortened Auction Night schedule.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

This year we will wait until the day after Auction Night and collect only the items (tangible objects) that were sold. On Sunday, November 22nd, donors of sold items should drive by the downstairs door of the church between 12 and 2pm. The Auction Committee will take your donated item(s) from your car. If you can’t come at that time, you can email auktiondonations@towsonuuc.org with a time during that week when you can drop-off the items, or you can deliver them directly to the winner’s home. Please only bring items that sold. We will send email to everyone who donated tangible objects on Sunday morning indicating whether or not your items sold. Pick-up will be on the following Saturday, November 28th, between 1 and 3pm. If you placed the winning bid for any tangible items, drive by the downstairs door and the Auction Committee will bring your items to your car.

PROXY BIDDING

You may request a proxy to place bids or to purchase fixed priced items and raffle tickets. Email auktiondonations@towsonuuc.org to request this help. You’ll need to tell us the item name, the number of places you wish to purchase (if that’s applicable) and the maximum you are willing to pay. If you are unable to attend our Zoom Auction Night, you’ll need to use a proxy to bid on any of the “Live” Auction items. These will only be open for bidding on Auction Night. If you cannot access Bid Beacon to view the items or bid, you may view the items and raffle tickets in [VIEW DONATIONS](#) and request a proxy to place your bid. However, this will not show you the current bid price or when a fixed price donation has sold out.

PLEASE DONATE—It’s not too late—Go to [READY TO DONATE](#)

GET ON BID BEACON & BID, BID, BID—Go to [GET WITH THE PROGRAM](#) for instructions.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

BREEZE PHOTOS

In this time of social quarantine, we miss seeing one another. One way we can still safely see each other is by uploading our photo in our church software, Breeze. If you have not done so, please consider doing so, now. If you need assistance in doing so, please contact Kai at churchoffice@towsonuuc.org or send her your photo. Thank you!

CABIN FEVER

Join our online movie group for weekly discussions.

Email churchoffice@towsonuuc.org to be added to our mailing list and receive Zoom meeting information.



This Week—COTTON CLUB ENCORE (1984)

Francis Ford Coppola's 1984 gangster musical about 1920s Harlem's hottest night spot, re-mastered and re-cut with a greater focus on the lives and music of the African-American performers. (Available on Amazon Prime. Rated R.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/6-5j3DBmmR4>

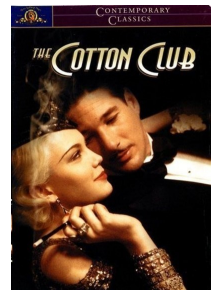
Discussion: Saturday, November 14, 4 PM

Next Week—THE QUEEN (1968)

In this rarely seen documentary, go behind the scenes of a 1967 drag queen competition. (Available on Netflix. Not rated.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/SeXrIzqMAfY>

Discussion: Sunday, November 22, 4 PM (Please note the date change. We don't want to interfere with the auction.)



SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP HAPPY HOUR: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 4 PM

The group will have a happy hour chat in virtual space. We offer an atmosphere for fellowship and friendship among TUUC single adults. We range in age from the 60's to 80's, but gladly welcome anyone to join us.

Please call Ronald Rowley to RSVP and to get more information. He is listed in the church directory.

TUUC VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE—PLEASE LET FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS KNOW ABOUT THIS EVENT—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 3 PM

Are you TUUC curious? Well, we're curious about you! Join us to share your journey. We want to get to know you better. Maybe you've been to one of our Sunday services

or you have a friend who belongs to the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church. Meet our minister, Rev. Clare Petersberger and a few of our members.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing your story at our informal Zoom meeting on Sunday, November 15 at 3 p.m.

Zoom Info:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5028771040?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5028771040?pwd=clRBNTN1UnVkYTtUFPJeG1ENVVvdz09)

[pwd=clRBNTN1UnVkYTtUFPJeG1ENVVvdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5028771040?pwd=clRBNTN1UnVkYTtUFPJeG1ENVVvdz09). Passcode: 7CtOnE

Meeting ID: 502 877 1040

Passcode: 7CtOnE

One tap mobile

TUUC SOCRATES CAFÉ: NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16: 7:30-9:00 PM

At our second Zoom session of the TUUC Socrates Café, we each had a chance to add our own “two cents worth” of opinions in answer to the provocative philosophical question, suggested by Peter Talley: “Must we change our modern notion of epistemology in terms of our modern times, especially COVID-19?” Our third session, on Monday, November 16 at 7:30pm, will examine Casey Mashburn’s suggested question: “If you decide there’s not a God, on what do you base your ethics, base right and wrong?” We welcome new participants! To join, please e-mail TUUC member and Socrates Café facilitator Nancy Caswell at socratescafe@towsonuuc.org, and she will add your e-mail address to her list for the Zoom Link which she will e-mail two days before on November 14. We extinguish our Chalice Lighting candles with the Delphic Oracle’s wisdom, “Know thyself.” *Namaste!*

ETHNIC LUNCH TIME: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 12:30PM

Although the weather continues to be lovely, Janet Kuperstein and I have decided it is time to move Ethnic Lunch inside for our November 18 (Wednesday) get together. Inside dining isn’t going to be happening any time soon so we are going to try an experiment via Zoom. Instead of eating lunch (although people are invited to eat if that works for them), we are going to talk about food and cooking from other countries. I am going to do the first one and I will be talking about Russian cooking. I have a tiny kitchen and so I will not be trying an actual cooking demonstration. Instead I will walk people through one or two recipes for zakuski (think the Russian version of tapas or mezze). Next month, Janet will take a turn and then we will be looking for volunteers. Hopefully we will have enough interest to get us through the next six months which will bring us to spring and perhaps the possibility of eating together in small groups. If you plan to join us, RSVP at ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org

--- *Claudia Sumler*

OUR MESSY LIVES

This group is about certain personality traits like patience and kindness and what happens when we try to implement them in our lives. If you are always patient and kind, for example, congratulations! However, this group is not for you. But if you are like me and are not always patient or kind, then please join us as we explore our messy lives. Open to all: women, men, and non-binary; but *pre-registration is required* to receive the Zoom meeting id, password and personality trait that will be featured that week. The group will meet via zoom on the following dates and times, from 3-4 pm, on Nov 19 and Dec 10. To register, contact Art Starr at mensgroup@towsonuuc.org.

TUUC BLOOD DRIVE - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Saturday, December 12th, 2020 for the next TUUC Blood Drive. There is a critical need for blood right now but we are also in a different time with social distancing and COVID-19 disease prevention. We at TUUC strongly encourage anyone that has ANY reservation about giving blood at this time for ANY reason to please sit this one out. We will get past this and will have more blood drives in the future for you to participate in.

NEW INFO: The Red Cross is testing all donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The antibody test is authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and will indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to the coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. This test is not to diagnose current COVID-19 symptoms, referred to as a diagnostic test. Click [here](#) to learn more about COVID-19 Antibody testing.

To sign up for an appointment time between 8:00 am-2:00 pm please use [this link](#) OR email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times. Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!"

UPDATE ON THE TUUC COVID CARE FUND

TUUC is a caring congregation. In May of 2020, the TUUC Board approved establishing a fund (for up to two years) to help members experiencing financial hardship due to Covid 19. Fifteen members and friends donated \$2,700 to the Covid Care Fund. To date, \$1,305 has been distributed. Your kindness has made a real difference. As anyone who has watched "It's A Wonderful Life" knows, feeling the love and support of a community is a deeply moving and meaningful experience. It is a reminder that we are not alone. We are part of an interdependent web of relationships.

Thank you for your generosity. ---Rev. Clare

2021 COMMON READ, BY ANDREW HAGER, PRESIDENT-ELECT

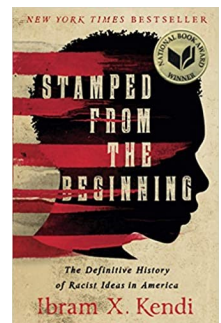
In Iceland, there is a holiday tradition where family members exchange books on Christmas Eve, then spend the night reading and eating chocolate. I find this simultaneously quaint and aspirational.



If, like me, you loved the thought of curling up with a book during the long, dark nights of late autumn and early winter, you'll likely relish the return of TUUC's Common Read. Last year, we read *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*. This year, we'll be reading a series of books about anti-racism and discussing them in the Spring as part of our ongoing education and discussion around the 8th Principle.

For February: *Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi or *Stamped (Young Adult Adaptation)* by Jason Reynolds

Synopsis: "The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power to create dynamics that separate and silence. Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel, how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited."



Meeting: Monday, 2/22/2021, 7:30-9:00 PM

For March: *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam

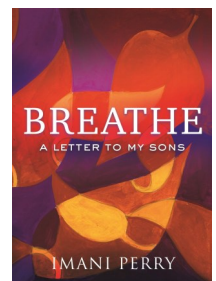
Synopsis: "From award-winning author Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam of the Exonerated Five comes a powerful YA novel in verse about a boy who is wrongfully incarcerated."



Meeting: Monday, 3/22/2021, 7:30-9:00 PM

For April: *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry

Synopsis: "Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues an unflinching challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition." (This is the UUA's Common Read choice for this year.)



Meeting: Monday, 4/19/2021, 7:30-9:00 PM

TUUC SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Do You Know About This Partner We Support?

For November, we highlight the TUUC Social Action Community Partner, **Earl's Place**, which, along with Prospect Place, is Cornerstone Community Housing (CCH).

CCH is a housing and social justice organization in Baltimore City and County dedicated to assisting men who are homeless who want to change their lives, and to changing community attitudes toward the homeless. While things are very different in the world and we have had to adjust, the men continue to change their lives. I am pleased to say that so far no one at either program has tested positive for COVID.

To-date this year we have housed 30 men at Earl's Place where we only house and support 17 men at a time in transitional housing. Of the 13 who left the program, ten moved to permanent housing.

These milestones and so many more are only possible with your support.

You can find more information on our website, www.cchbaltimore.org and our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/cchbaltimore>.

On November 29, the entire (non-pledge) offertory plate will be donated to Earl's Place. To contribute to Earl's Place, use one of these methods:

1. Send a check payable to TUUC (to 1710 Dulaney Valley Rd. Lutherville MD 21093) and *specify "CCH" or "Earl's Place" on the memo line, or,*
2. Text your donation to the Social Action Committee: amount + SAC Social Action Collection ex: text "50 SAC."

Thank you for your generosity!



UPCOMING AUCTION COACHING SESSION:

Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 PM



The 2020 TUUC Auction Committee has one more online Auction Coaching Session! This is a Zoom meeting that covers a variety of topics including: how to enter your donation, introducing Bid Beacon—the software hosting our Virtual Auction, as well as various highlights of Auction Night events! All are encouraged to attend these online sessions. More information is available [here](#). You can attend the auction coaching sessions over Zoom via [this link](#).

ACTC THANKSGIVING PROJECT—PLEASE SEND DONATIONS BY NOVEMBER 15

This year TUUC will do things differently because of

the pandemic. Rather than purchasing delivered food baskets, we are asking only for monetary donations.

A \$25 donation will purchase a basket. In the past, we have suggested giving \$10 extra to cover the cost of a turkey. ACTC is hoping that each church will be able to donate enough money for *50 baskets*. (Last year we passed the 60-basket mark.)

1. Send your check, **payable to TUUC, with the memo: "ACTC-Thanksgiving Basket"**. Our bookkeeper will keep a record of your donations. Or
2. Text your donation to: 410-834-0700 thru the Social Action Committee, **amount + SAC** (ex: text "35 SAC" to give \$35), Or
3. Donate directly on the Assistance Center of Towson Churches website: <http://actconline.info/> See this website for any further information about ACTC.

Thank you for your generosity.

FOOD DONATIONS TO ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES (ACTC)

Since we cannot make food donations in our lobby now, nonperishable food can be dropped off at these locations:

Mondays, 12 to 2 p.m.:

Ascension Lutheran Church parking lot (7601 York Rd.)

Thursdays, 12 to 2 p.m.:

Trinity Episcopal Church parking lot (120 Allegheny Ave.)

Thursdays, 5 to 6 p.m.:

Valley Baptist Church parking lot (1401 York Rd.)

COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER: TUESDAYS AT NOON (RESUMES 11/17)



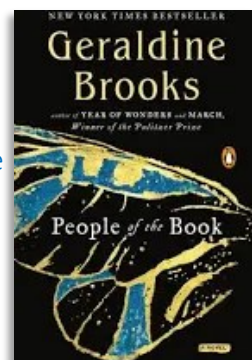
Virtually share a cup of coffee or some other beverage of your choice (or even eat lunch) with Rev. Clare. Our conversations have ranged from the beauty of nature to pets on the screen to concern for our upcoming elections. What's on your mind and heart today?

Check the TUUC Website for Zoom Information.

TUUC BOOK CLUB

December 2, 2020, 7:30PM: The People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks (2008—372 pages)

In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated. Follow the journey of a rare illuminated manuscript through centuries of exile and war.



ZOOM INFO:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94829322010>

Meeting ID: 948 2932 2010

Passcode: 709068

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 948 2932 2010

Passcode: 709068

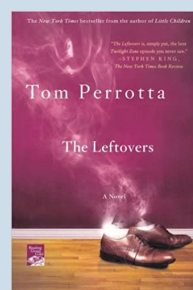
NEXT BOOK CLUB

MEETING

ON JANUARY 6, 2021

AT 7:30PM:

The Leftovers by Tom Perotta (2011)



GREEN SANCTUARY—DRAWDOWN

The holidays are coming and our Drawdown Zoom group is thinking about gift giving....green gift giving, that is! Please join us as we explore the world of environmentally friendly gifts for friends, family, or yourself, on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7:30PM. Give a gift to someone special and help the earth at the same time. While we have many suggestions, we also welcome your input. Feel free to share a special gift which you gave to someone or which was given to you. How was it environmentally friendly and what impact did it have? If you are not already on our mailing list, please contact Bobbie Miyasaki (email in Breeze) so that you can receive the Zoom link prior to the meeting. — Donna Eden, Bobbie Miyasaki, and Carel Hedlund

JOIN THE TUUC CHOIR

TUUC Choir has started its first virtual choir recording project! We are beginning gently, using only audio for our first production. You can be involved, even if you are not attending rehearsals regularly. But we still have regular Thursday evening rehearsals, from 7:30 to around 8:45 on Zoom, where we discuss the recording process, rehearse pieces that we anticipate will become audio and/or video recorded projects, and check-in with one another. Please join us!

SOLOISTS FOR SUNDAYS

We'd like to have TUUC friends of all ages to present or lead music on Sundays. If you play an instrument or feel comfortable singing live during the Zoom service, please contact Music Director Tracy Hall and let her know what you have in mind. Variety is wonderful!

FROM TUUC PASTORAL ASSOCIATES: FACING THE HOLIDAYS IN OUR NEW REALITY

We are now into our 9th month of COVID. Unbelievable! We all have been touched in some way by this pandemic. Our Phone Pals volunteers have called and chatted with many TUUC members. Some are still in contact but others are not. While these contacts were important to people at first, it appears that many folks have become involved in many of our zoom activities and have established their own support groups. That is wonderful.

With the travel limited and the holidays coming, many people are going to be home and have to deal with the challenge of a new holiday reality. The TUUC Lay Pastoral Associates do want you to know that we are still available to chat with anyone who feels the need for a listening ear. We do not want anyone to feel alone or lonely. Someone is always a phone call away. If you want someone to talk to please feel free to e-mail laypastoralassociates@towsonuuc.org. You may also call Rev. Clare who will connect you with a Lay Pastoral Associate. Or you may call me. My phone number is in the church directory on-line.

Sending lots of love to all,
Carol Horst (on behalf of the Lay Pastoral Associates)

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE THRESHOLD

TUUC committees are encouraged to submit an article or announcement to the weekly published Threshold newsletter. Please remember the deadline is **Wednesday at 12:00 PM** and should be sent to news@towsonuuc.org. For the week of Thanksgiving, the deadline for Threshold Articles will be Monday, November 23 at 12:00 PM.

WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 1:00PM



A reading and writing prompt give us the opportunity to both write and hear what others write that we might know ourselves and be known.



VESPERS SERVICE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 FROM 7-7:30 PM

PASSING THE PLATE

We are committed to being a spiritual community in virtual space during this crisis and we need your financial support. This includes paying our ongoing financial commitments to our vendors and staff who are continuing to work remotely.

Renewing your pledge is more important than ever and now may be done online here:

<https://www.towsonuuc.org/2021-pledge-form>

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE THROUGH BREEZE

Paying your pledge or making contributions can be easily sent through Breeze through this link:

<https://tuucdatabase.breezechms.com/give/online>

PAYPAL CONTRIBUTIONS

You may use PayPal to pay your pledge to treasurer@towsonuuc.org. To avoid additional fees, send your contribution to the setting "family and friends" and please note the purpose of your donation in the message area.

MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS

You may still mail checks to the church. Mail is checked weekly.

HOW TO TEXT YOUR CONTRIBUTION OR PLEDGE

Send a text to: 410-834-0700 and indicate where you want your contribution to go by entering one of the commands to get your contribution to the right fund. See NEW examples below:



amount + 2020-21	2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign
<i>ex: text "50 2020-21" to give to 2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign</i>	
amount + ODB	ODB Casseroles
<i>ex: text "50 ODB" to give to ODB Casseroles</i>	
amount + GreenProducts	Green Products
<i>ex: text "50 GreenProducts" to give to Green Products</i>	
amount + SAC	Social Action Collection
<i>ex: text "50 SAC" to give to Social Action Collection</i>	
amount + Plate	Plate Collection
<i>ex: text "50 Plate" to give to Plate Collection</i>	
amount + Auction	Auction
<i>ex: text "50 Auction" to give to Auction</i>	

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar [here](#) for most current schedule.

14 Nov	Saturday	Committee on Ministries	9:30 AM
14 Nov	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Group Happy Hour	4:00 PM
15 Nov	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	9:00 AM
15 Nov	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
15 Nov	Sunday	Lay Pastoral Meeting	1:00 PM
15 Nov	Sunday	TUUC Virtual Open House	3:00 PM
16 Nov	Monday	Auction Rehearsal	7:00 PM
16 Nov	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
17 Nov	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
17 Nov	Tuesday	Green Sanctuary—Drawdown	7:30 PM
17 Nov	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
17 Nov	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
17 Nov	Tuesday	Auction Coaching Session	7:30 PM
18 Nov	Wednesday	TUUC Board Meeting	7:30 PM
19 Nov	Thursday	Rehearsal	6:00 PM
19 Nov	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
20 Nov	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM



ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
11/8/2020	10:30 AM	81

TUUC 2020 Diamond Jubilation! Auction Raffle

A good bet for you and a great investment in TUUC!



Tickets on sale now and before 7:30 pm on Auction Evening 11/21

Buy your tickets on Bid Beacon - Winners drawn on Auction Evening

You don't have to be present to win!

RAFFLE PRIZES*

\$50 Gift Certificate to Szechuan House; \$150 Gift Certificate to Gertrude's;

\$50 Gift Card to Graul's; Three \$50 Gift Cards to Mom's;

\$50 Gift Card to the Wine Source; Two \$50 Gift Cards to the Orchard Market;

\$100 Gift Certificate to the Ivy Bookstore; \$50 Gift Card to Pappas;

\$100 Visa Gift Card; \$125 Visa Gift Card; \$25 Visa Gift Card; \$20 Netflix Gift Card

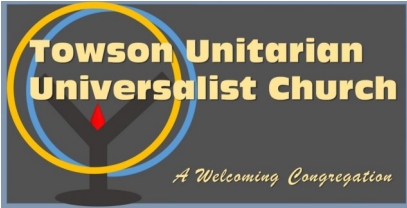
More may be added!

* Thanks to our generous raffle prize donors:

Oak Crest UUs, Jason Braspennickx, Ann Beezley, Aynsley Hamel, Richard Scholle,

Claudia Sumler, Nancy Mears,

Jane Selewach, Donn Tuebner-Rhodes



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Phone: 410-825-6045
Email: churchoffice@towsonuuc.org
Website: www.towsonuuc.org



Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger
revclare@towsonuuc.org

Leadership

Board of Trustees:

President: Sue Royer (2020-2021)
President-Elect: Andrew Hager (2020-2021)
Treasurer: Wendell Finner (2019-2021)
Secretary: Susan Riggs (2020-2022)

Trustees-at-Large:

John Mattingly (2019-2021)
Samantha Saalfield (2019-2021)
Angela Castillo-Epps (2020-2022)
Patty Barry (2020-2022)

Administrative Team

Head of Staff: Rev. Clare Petersberger
Finance: Vacant
House and Grounds: Todd Robertson
Church Administrator: Kai Aiyetoro

Program Committee

Convener: Andrew Hager
Communications: Patty Barry

Staff

Youth Religious Exploration Director:
Joyce Duncan, Credentialed RE
tuucdre@towsonuuc.org

Music Director:

Tracy Hall
music@towsonuuc.org

Church Administrator:

Kai Aiyetoro
churchoffice@towsonuuc.org

Communications and Outreach Coordinator:

Philip Browne
news@towsonuuc.org

Bookkeeper:

Raly Baltchev
bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org

Missed an issue of the *Threshold*?

You can always find past issues at

<https://www.towsonuuc.org/our-news>

TECHNICAL USHERS NEEDED

We are recruiting additional technical ushers. We want to rotate in one or two new ushers to give others a break. You should be comfortable with Zoom and technology and be willing to attend a rehearsal on Thursday at 6 pm as well as join the Zoom meeting 20 minutes early on Sunday morning. To volunteer, please contact our Church Administrator at churchoffice@towsonuuc.org.

