



## The Threshold

Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
*A Welcoming Congregation*

### What does it mean to be a people of deep stillness?

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020 - 5:00 PM (FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE)**  
**REV. CLARE L PETERSBERGER; JOYCE DUNCAN: *JOY TO THE WORLD!***

This is not a “traditional” family service! This afternoon, you are invited to meet in the virtual space called Zoom to share your favorite holiday ornament or decoration that brings you joy! This invitation is for people of all ages! However, if you have a child who would like to share a musical piece, please let Tracy know. We may not be able to pass a literal flame, but we will share other sounds and symbols of love and joy! If you have a taper, please bring a taper to your device. We will light it as we sing Silent Night from our homes.

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 24, 2020 - 7:30 PM (CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE)**  
**REV. CLARE L PETERSBERGER: *LIFE IS SAVED BY THE SINGING OF ANGELS***

So proclaimed The Reverend Dr. Howard Thurman. On this silent night we listen for their messages and songs and give thanks for the angels among us. If you have a taper, please bring a taper to your device. We will light it as we sing Silent Night from our homes.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020 - 10:30 AM**  
**DOMINIQUE HALL, LAY WORSHIP ASSOCIATE: *AN ILLUSION OF STILLNESS***

The Silent Night captures a fraction of a moment of the Christmas story -- a pause at the very beginning of a journey. In this liminal space between old and new years, we will breathe and consider how the turmoil of 2020 can guide us into 2021.

### **YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

I hope you are enjoying the holidays! YRE classes for Kindergarten through 7th are on hiatus until January 10. Families with children in 8th through 12th grade are invited to check the parent email for details on joining us at Cromwell Valley Park this Sunday for a winter walk.



## YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

### UPDATE ON CHILDREN AND TEENS AT TUUC—FROM JOYCE DUNCAN, DRE

Many TUUC congregants are missing seeing our children and teens during the pandemic. The youth ministry program continues to reach out to families and support them. Children and teens still meet to share community, share moments of joy and sorrow, and further their faith development. Obviously, many things are different, especially for children, when we can't meet in person. We have dedicated adults and young adults who show up most Sunday mornings to meet virtually, using materials that thematically echo the theme of the month. These sessions have been prepared by the Soul Matters staff to work in virtual space and tweaked by me to work for the particular children here at TUUC. Sessions use videos, on-line picture books, songs, meditation and movement activities, and guided discussions.



Children from Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade meet at 9 am on Sunday mornings for an introduction to the theme followed by a short story or demonstration, sometime provided by a guest expert. This larger group breaks into two smaller groups for the second 30-40 minutes. The younger group enjoys discussing the story, a song related to the theme, meditation, and lighting and extinguishing a chalice. They also share the art or other activity that they did at home from the packet sent out each month to support the theme. These have included making a Future Voter button, a Thanksgiving turkey with feathers sharing what they are grateful for, and a Pride banner. They have also reached out to TUUC elders by making and sending cards (see photos).



The 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> have also been a part of the 9 am meeting on Sundays. Lou Gieszl and Ellie Hughes share a bit on what their class does when they go into break out rooms:

*Our group has been using classic episodes of The Simpsons as a starting point for discussing social justice, human values, spirituality, and religious principles. The "Platinum Rule" — treat people as they want to be treated — has*



been a common theme in our conversations. Examples of characters who follow this rule are tough to find in the town of Springfield though. D'oh.

Those in 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade finished up the Our Whole Lives sexuality education for middle schoolers in the early part of the fall. They celebrated with a bonfire and final celebration. They decided to meet every other week after that, outside at Cromwell Valley Park when the weather was good; virtually for discussion of Twilight zone episodes if not.

In December, this group joined with YRUU to safely stuff stockings outside for the 30 men at Earl's Place and Prospect Place, our community partners in supporting men experiencing homelessness.

YRE also sponsored walks in nature at different local parks starting in the summer and continuing into the fall.



## VESPERS SERVICE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 FROM 7-7:30 PM

### 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'Ambrogio

#### 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

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

### CABIN FEVER

Join our online movie group for weekly discussions.

Email [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org) to be added to our mailing list and receive Zoom meeting information.



### This Week—THE LITTLE HOURS (2017)

Life at a convent takes an unruly turn when three unconventional nuns cross paths with a handsome gardener. Based on THE DECAMERON. (Available on Netflix. Rated R.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/o-q5iROzPNY>

Discussion: Sunday, December 27, 4 PM

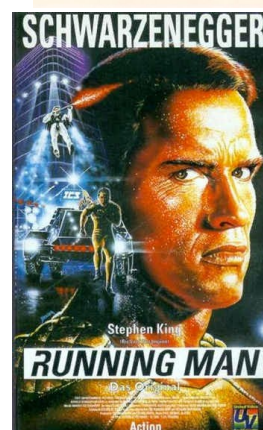


### Next Week—THE RUNNING MAN (1987)

Start the new year with big, dumb fun from 1987! In the distant future year 2017, convicted criminal Arnold Schwarzenegger has a choice between life in prison or risking his life on the country's highest-rated reality TV gameshow. Will he survive prime time TV? (Available on Amazon Prime. Rated R.)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/pkAN5rGGP1M>

Discussion: Saturday, January 2, 4 PM



### WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF CONCERN—SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 FROM 1-2:30 PM

The Commission on Institutional Change of the Unitarian Universalist Association invites us into dialogue on its comprehensive report on how to build anti-racist and multi-cultural congregations. You are invited to be part of this conversation!



We will meet from 1:00-2:30pm on January 3 to discuss their findings on theological diversity. To prepare for this conversation, please go to <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>. Then, please click on the heading, "Theology." This is the chapter we will be discussing. Your thoughts are welcome and needed!

---Rev. Clare

## PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE

This congregation has a history of working to support legislation to prevent gun violence in Maryland. We now have the opportunity to work with other Maryland UU congregations to ask our legislators to revisit two bills Governor Hogan vetoed that would prevent gun violence (SB708) and a bill that would require registering rifles and shotguns (SB208). Bill SB708 continued funding of the Safe Streets Initiative. Bill SB208 would have required gun merchants to register the ownership of any rifles or shotguns they sell, including those displayed in demonstrations by white supremacy groups. The Governor admits that he refused to sign both bills because the General Assembly refused to pass a number of law enforcement bills he wanted. <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Crime-Bills-Veto.pdf>



You can find your legislators and how to contact them by typing in your address at <https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=177afa87a67746a4ac5496b2d0897fb7> and then telling them, simply: "I urge you to override Gov. Hogan's veto of SB708 and SB208." Thank you for voicing your support for legislation to prevent gun violence in Maryland. --- Rev. Clare

---Rev. Clare

## POST-AUCTION SALES



Thanks to everyone who helped us celebrate TUUC's 60th Anniversary and make our *Diamond Jubilation!* Auction a big success! Some items from the 2020 TUUC Auction are still available for sale. Please check [Post-Auction Sales](#) on the TUUC Website for more information.

## AMAZON SMILE QUARTERLY DONATION: \$98.20



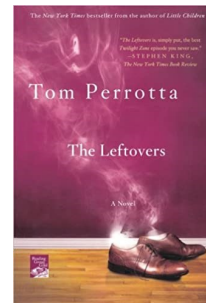
Thank you for choosing Towson UUC as your preferred charity with [Amazon Smile](#)! Every time you use the site with TUUC listed as your preferred charity, Amazon donates a small amount (0.5%) from your purchase to our church. This quarter, TUUC made \$98.20 from Amazon Smile donations.

## TUUC BOOK CLUB

January 6, 2021—7:30PM:

### The Leftovers by Tom Perrotta (2014—384 pages)

What if—whoosh, right now, with no explanation—a number of us simply vanished? Would some of us collapse? That's what the bewildered citizens of Mapleton, who lost many of their neighbors, friends and lovers in the event known as the Sudden Departure, have to figure out. Tom Perrotta has written a startling, thought-provoking novel about love, connection and loss.



### ZOOM INFO:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94362838007>

Meeting ID: 943 6283 8007

Passcode: 662422

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

### NEXT BOOK CLUB

#### MEETING

ON FEBRUARY 3, 2021

AT 7:30PM

The Vanishing Half  
by Brit Bennett (2020)



## 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!

## 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](mailto:news@towsonuuc.org).

## 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](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org).

## TUUC SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO EARL'S PLACE AND PROSPECT PLACE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

Thank you everyone for your generous donations bringing joy to the men healing from homelessness residing at Earl's Place and Prospect Place. TUUC members/friends fulfilled the Holiday Wish list of Michael C, provided gift cards for the men of Prospect Place, funded our annual Holiday homemade dinner catered by Tia, and fulfilled our annual donation customarily collected in the spring. Thank you RE students and families for your enthusiasm in assembling our stocking stuffers including your thoughtful handwritten Holiday Cards for each of the men.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Generosity here at TUUC is spectacular!!!!

### **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 PM:**

Ascension Lutheran Church parking lot  
(7601 York Rd.)

#### **Thursdays, 12 to 2 PM:**

Trinity Episcopal Church parking lot (120  
Allegheny Ave.)

#### **Thursdays, 5 to 6 PM:**

Valley Baptist Church parking lot (1401 York  
Rd.)



You also may donate to Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) by sending a check payable to TUUC with ACTC in memo line, or by donating directly to their website: <http://actconline.info/>.

### **HOMELESS NEED WINTER GEAR**

In partnership with the Surprise Shop, ACTC will be collecting blankets (including mylar emergency blankets), sleeping bags, winter coats and jackets to help keep our homeless community and neighbors in need warm this winter. If you have new or gently used items to donate, please drop them off at one of our donation locations:

Ascension Lutheran Church (7601 York Road) Mondays, 12-2 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church (120 Allegheny Avenue) Thursdays, 12-2 PM

Valley Baptist Church (1401 York Road) Thursdays 5-6 PM

Also, if you are someone you know in our service area is facing eviction or cut-off of heat or electricity, please email [actc316@gmail.com](mailto:actc316@gmail.com). Be sure to include name, address, contact information and a summary of financial need.



## 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](mailto: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:



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

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

24 Dec	Thursday	Family Christmas Eve Service	5:00 PM
24 Dec	Thursday	Christmas Eve Service	7:30 PM
27 Dec	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
27 Dec	Sunday	Cabin Fever Discussion—The Little Hours	4:00 PM
28 Dec	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
29 Dec	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
2 Jan	Saturday	Cabin Fever Discussion—The Running Man	4:00 PM
3 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
3 Jan	Sunday	Widening the Circle	1:00 PM
4 Jan	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
5 Jan	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
5 Jan	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
5 Jan	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
6 Jan	Wednesday	TUUC Book Club	7:30 PM
9 Jan	Saturday	Spiritual Seekers Sharing for Newcomers	10:00 AM
10 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM

Happy New Year! 2021

**Don't Work Sick**  
**Don't School Sick**  
**Don't Church Sick**

## ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
12/20/2020	10:30 AM	91



1710 Dulaney Valley Road  
Lutherville MD 21093-9705  
Phone: 410-825-6045  
Email: [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org)  
Website: [www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org)



### **Minister**

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger  
[revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto: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 Council**

Convener: Andrew Hager  
Communications: Patty Barry

### **Staff**

Youth Religious Exploration Director:  
Joyce Duncan, Credentialed RE  
[tuucdre@towsonuuc.org](mailto:tuucdre@towsonuuc.org)

#### Music Director:

Tracy Hall  
[music@towsonuuc.org](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org)

#### Church Administrator:

Kai Aiyetoro  
[churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org)

#### Communications and Outreach Coordinator:

Philip Browne  
[news@towsonuuc.org](mailto:news@towsonuuc.org)

#### Bookkeeper:

Raly Baltchev  
[bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org)

## **Missed an issue of the *Threshold*?**

You can always find past issues at

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