



## The Threshold

Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
*A Welcoming Congregation*

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2020 - 10:30 AM**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: *HOME BY ANOTHER WAY***

Our spiritual question for January is, “What does it mean to be a people of imagination?” We begin our exploration with the ancient story of Epiphany: the magi following a star to Jerusalem; and then to Bethlehem; and then, after being warned in a dream to avoid Herod, finding another way home. The characters in this story have been a source of inspiration for paintings, poetry, and a song by James Taylor that seems particularly relevant this January. What light is calling you to arise and shine? What dreams are warning you to “keep a weather eye to the chart on high and go home by another way?”

#### **YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

I hope you are enjoying the holidays! YRE classes for Kindergarten through 7th are on hiatus until January 10. The sunshine made the chilly temperatures quite comfortable last Sunday for our winter walk at Cromwell Valley Park. We enjoyed some extended moments of stillness and healing in the pine woods near Talmar Farm, which is a neighbor to the park. Thanks to YRE and YRUU leaders Spice, Larry, Tom, and Fred and to the Barnett and Carson families. We all enjoyed each other's company and the beauty of nature! The photos show one spot where we were stunned to stillness by the low sunlight coming through the tall spires of grass. The figure in the mask and hat is Larry Magder with his dog Luna (short for Lunatic). Here's hoping for more opportunities for time outdoors with friends and family in the coming year.





## FROM THE TUUC BOARD

### AN EIGHTH PRINCIPLE—DISMANTLING RACISM AND OPPRESSION AS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH

*“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions. —The Proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle of Unitarian Universalism.*

*The 8<sup>th</sup>  
Principle*

*of* UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALISM

Structural racism stands in opposition to each of the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. It denies the inherent worth and dignity of each person, blocks justice, equity and compassion in human relations, prevents unequivocal acceptance of one another and serves as a stumbling block to spiritual growth. Oppressive systems of white supremacy bind society with falsehoods rather than searching freely and responsibly for truth and meaning, they deliberately inhibit the right of conscience and the use of democratic process, they interrupt the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, and they disrespect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The consideration of an additional principle which seeks to build a Beloved Community by accountably dismantling racism and other oppressive structures comes at a much-needed time. The Eighth Principle was first proposed in 2013 by Reverend Paula Cole Jones, as a means of renewing and furthering the denomination’s express 1997 commitment to becoming an anti-racist anti-oppression multicultural organization.

Here at TUUC we have affirmed since 2016 that Black Lives Matter, and have continued our exploration of what it means to dismantle oppression internally and externally through our social action ministries and the work of A Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity. In the coming year we will use the consideration of the Eighth Principle to convene dialogues about where we individually and as a congregation stand in relation to racist systems, and will hope to have a vote at a congregational meeting on the principle’s adoption.

More information on the Eighth Principle may be found at [8thprincipleuu.org](http://8thprincipleuu.org). Materials from consideration of the Principle by our neighboring congregations in Columbia and Annapolis are available at <https://uucolumbia.net/why-the-8th-principle/> and <https://www.uuannapolis.org/8th-principle-resources/>

- Wendell Finner, for the TUUC Board of Trustees

## 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 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

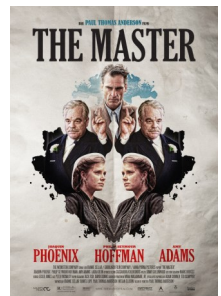


### Next Week—THE MASTER (2012)

A war-damaged alcoholic (Joaquin Phoenix) falls under the spell of a philosopher (Philip Seymour Hoffman) who is building a new religion. (Available on Netflix. Rated R.)

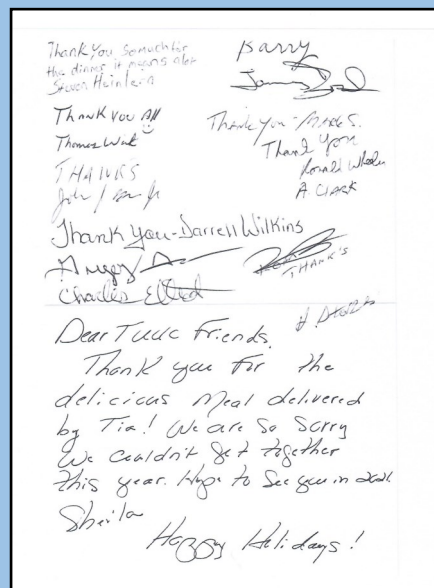
Trailer: <https://youtu.be/1WTM8eO1Oec>

Discussion: Saturday, January 9, 4 PM



## THANK YOU FROM EARL'S PLACE!

Thank you so much for your donations to Earl's Place! Here is a signed message from Sheila Helgerson, Executive Director of Cornerstone Community Housing.



## 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



## VESPERS SERVICE

**MONDAY, JANUARY 4 FROM 7-7:30 PM**

### 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.

**WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE—A VIRTUAL DROP-IN GROUP—FRIDAYS FROM 1-2PM: JAN 8, JAN 22, FEB 5, FEB 19, MAR 5, MAR 19, APR 2, APR 16, AND APR 30**

In this new year, you are invited to drop in to experience the power of writing in community. Twice a month we gather for an hour. We introduce ourselves. I share a quote and writing prompt. We write together for 15 minutes without stopping. At the end, those who wish share what they have written do so (without comment, feedback, or judgement from others.) This is sacred sharing and listening. The goal is not to improve one's writing. The goal is to know another and be known.

---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>

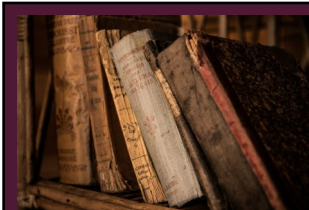


<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Crime-Bills-Veto.pdf>

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



**TUUC BOOK CLUB**

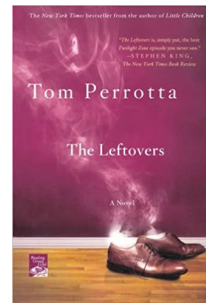
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 7:30 PM**

## 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.





The clock is ticking! Help Towson Unitarian Universalist Church finish this year strong by giving a gift to our Operating Fund by December 31. Your gift before year's end qualifies for tax deductions.



[Click here to give today!](#)

Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, and all we stand for, is only possible with the generous support of our members and friends like you. Your financial gifts make it possible for us to fulfill our mission to deepen our spiritual and ethical lives while working for racial, social, and environmental justice. Our accounting staff are happy to assist you with year-end giving.

**To make a tax-deductible gift before the end of 2020:**

- Gifts made by mailing a check must be dated on or before December 31, 2020.

**CARES Act helps you GIVE Back**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, enacted by Congress last spring, includes several temporary tax changes helping charities. **This includes a special \$300 deduction designed especially for people who choose to take the standard deduction, rather than itemizing their deductions.**

**What does this mean for the average taxpayer?**

If someone makes a cash donation to a qualifying charity, such as Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, before the end of 2020, they can get a **deduction of up to \$300**. This will be easy to report when completing the Form 1040 in 2021.

[Click here to give today!](#)

## 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.

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
11 Jan	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
12 Jan	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
12 Jan	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
12 Jan	Tuesday	Soul Matters	7:30 PM
14 Jan	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
14 Jan	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 PM

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
12/27/2020	10:30 AM	67



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>