



The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church
A Welcoming Congregation

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER; JOYCE DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION: *HOME BY ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE*

Anais Ninn said, “We don’t see things as they are. We see things as we are.” In this colorless time of the year which may well mirror the monochrome of our spirits, what might creatures from sparrows to mantis shrimp reveal about reality beyond what we currently perceive?

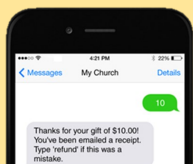
YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Our faith is a hopeful one. Our UU ancestors disagreed with those who saw this life as doomed and irredeemable and instead asserted that life in the here and now was good and full of possibilities. In difficult times our faith encourages us to hold on to hope by imagining the new day that is on its way. (Think about how often we quote the famous line about the arc of the universe bending toward justice.) So, what’s one of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of imagination? It tells us to “imagine the new day that is on its way!”

Those with children in Kindergarten through 7th grades are invited to join us this Sunday as we talk about the power of imagination and how to have that help us in difficult times. See the parent email or the church calendar for details on joining the virtual meeting. We look forward to continuing our community in 2021.

DONATE BY TEXT

Send an amount to
(410)834-0700



PASSING THE PLATE

DONATE TO TUUC VIA PAYPAL, TEXT, OR BREEZE

MORE INFORMATION ON THE TUUC WEBSITE [HERE](#)

UPCOMING SERVICE INFORMATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, January 10, 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/94029277518>

Meeting ID: 940 2927 7518

Passcode: 560176

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,94029277518#,,,,*560176# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,94029277518#,,,,*560176# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

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

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



created by P. Evans



VIRTUAL CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAYS AT 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

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

We are opening calendars to a new year: 2021. As the mockumentary "Death to 2020" on Netflix concluded, many of the challenges that faced us in 2020 will still be with us: Covid-19; economic hardship; a politically divided nation; racial injustice; climate change...to name a few. But there is also hope that we have a vaccine for Covid; an administration that truly cares about the economic struggles of millions of Americans; an example of bi-partisanship in the government funding/Covid relief bill; and John Kerry has been appointed as the first special presidential envoy for climate by President-elect Biden.

The suffering and loss our country has experienced over the past year will not immediately heal. So it is good to remember Paul Loeb's observation that "Those who make us believe that anything's possible and fire our imagination over the long haul, are often the ones who have survived the bleakest of circumstances. The men and women who have every reason to despair, but don't, may have the most to teach us, not only about how to hold true to our beliefs, but about how such a life can bring about seemingly impossible social change."

This was the premise when the Commission on Institutional Change was appointed for the Unitarian Universalist Association. Members of historically marginalized identities in our association of congregations were chosen to lead the study. On January 17, at 1 p.m., you are invited to continue discussing the first chapter of the report on theology which can be found here: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening/theology> and the second chapter of their report (found here: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening/governance>) which examines how we organize ourselves in light of our theology.

The Rev. Alice Blair Wesley observed, "...the potent idea of the free church has had to be time and time and time again reconceived, reconstructed in human imagination, from memories of the tradition so obscured, or twisted and bent out of shape over time, as to be---sometimes---almost gone from the world." Specifically, we will examine white supremacy culture in how we organize ourselves and strategize for equity, inclusion, and diversity moving forward.

Dialogue on the "Widening the Circle" report will continue every other Sunday through April. The purpose is to help one another to imagine the future of Unitarian Universalism in general and of our congregation in particular.

This is one practical way to answer our spiritual question for January, "What does it mean to be a people of imagination?" *Happy New Year!*



VESPERS SERVICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 11 FROM 7-7:30 PM

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 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism.



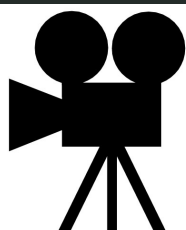
Structural racism stands in opposition to each of the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. It denies the inherent worth and dignity of each person, blocks justice, equity and compassion in human relations, prevents unequivocal acceptance of one another and serves as a stumbling block to spiritual 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. 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



CABIN FEVER

THIS WEEK: “THE MASTER” (2012)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 4PM

MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#)



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

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



SPIRITUAL SEEKERS MEETING ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 10 AM POSTPONED

The Spiritual Seekers meeting on Saturday, January 9 at 10 am is being postponed. At the earliest opportunity, this meeting for newcomers to connect with longer time members will be rescheduled. ---Patty Barry, Membership Chair, and Rev. Clare



NEXT TUUC DRAWDOWN MEETING – TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 AT 7:30 PM

Now that winter is progressing, we are all grateful to have heated houses. Have you wondered about the best way to maintain that heating system so that it operates efficiently? When is it time to replace it? What is the best system for your home? What innovations are there in terms of environmentally friendly heating and air conditioning systems? Don't wait until your system needs repair or replacement, get the information now by joining us for the next Drawdown Zoom session on Tuesday, January 19 at 7:30 PM. If you would like the Zoom link, please contact Bobbie Miyasaki (email in Breeze).



Donna Eden, Carel Hedlund, & Bobbie Miyasaki



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 AT 12:00 PM

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP HAPPY HOUR—SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 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.



OPEN QUESTION LISTENING SESSION WITH THE BOARD—SUNDAY, JAN 24 AT 1 PM

Please join us on Sunday, January 24 at 1 pm for a virtual listening session with the Board on the following Open Question:

What changes do we need to make to be more accessible to those living with disabilities or special needs?

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82661997623?>

[pwd=ejc3cnUremIxMmInOVBkSzdMS2ZZQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82661997623?pwd=ejc3cnUremIxMmInOVBkSzdMS2ZZQT09)

Meeting ID: 826 6199 7623

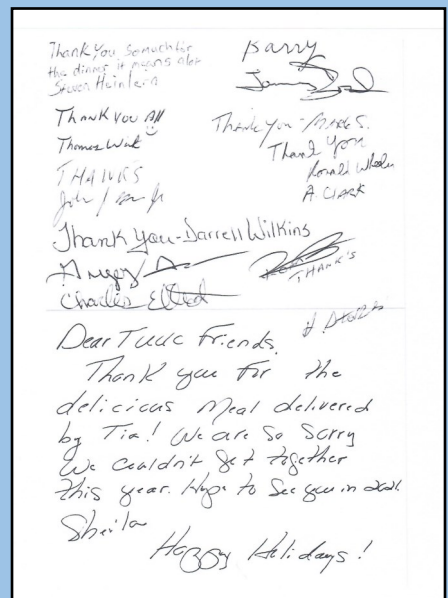
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The Board of Trustees selected several Open Questions for dialog this church year. Open Questions are those about which we won't be making a decision soon. These give us an opportunity to reflect about the future as a congregation. The Board spent time brainstorming and discussing this question and wants to hear your thoughts. Please join us.

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.



STAYING IN TOUCH

Do you want to join our “member to member” email group? Still named for the days when members would post messages on a physical bulletin board, the Bulletin Board email group allows members and friends to email the entire group. Currently we have over 90 email addresses in this group.



To be added (or removed), please contact Kai Aiyetoro at churchoffice@towsonuuc.org.

Once you’ve been added, be sure to add bulletinboard@towsonuuc.org to your contacts.

JOIN THE TUUC CHOIR

Happy New Year! Our choir continues to meet each Thursday evening at 7:30 on Zoom (usually until about 8:45). We have completed several recorded projects, and will be doing more. Even if you are not comfortable with that, please join us! We are regularly finding new ways for the choir to contribute to music at TUUC. Please contact Tracy at music@towsonuuc.org for more information.



END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

All contribution data should be entered into Breeze no later than January 15, 2021. But if you want to check on your contributions and print out your statement before then, see this [FAQ](#) to find out how.



Writing as a Spiritual Practice

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 AT 1:00 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.

NEW ONLINE BREEZE CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS

There is a new feature in Breeze that will allow donors to cover fees associated with online giving. You may now choose to pay the additional cost incurred during this process when you contribute online. Just select that option when making your contribution. You will be credited the full amount that you give. Here are some examples:

The logo for Breeze, featuring the word "breeze" in a lowercase, blue, sans-serif font.

- If a donor chooses to give \$100 with a credit/debit card and they **choose to cover the fees**, they are opting to increase their donation to \$103.30. The church receives \$100 (net of fees), and the donor receives credit for \$103.30 on their Breeze profile, as well as on their tax statement.
- If a donor chooses to give \$100 with a credit/debit card and they **choose not to cover the fees**, they do not increase their donation. The church receives \$96.80 (net of fees), and the donor receives credit for \$100 on their Breeze profile, as well as on their tax statement.

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

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/>.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY JANUARY 10 AT NOON

The Social Action Committee will meet Sunday, January 10 at noon, following the Service & Coffee. All are welcome. An Agenda will be sent to SAC members.

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

8 Jan	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
9 Jan	Saturday	Spiritual Seekers Sharing for Newcomers	10:00 AM
9 Jan	Saturday	Cabin Fever—The Master	4:00 PM
10 Jan	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	9:00 AM
10 Jan	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
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
14 Jan	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
14 Jan	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 PM

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

ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

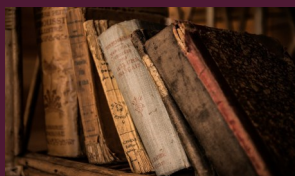
(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
01/03/2021	10:30 AM	85

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

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 AT 7:30 PM

MORE INFORMATION ON THE TUUC WEBSITE [HERE](#)

