



## The Threshold

Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
*A Welcoming Congregation*

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021 - 10:30 AM**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: *BE A PAIN***

Alastair Moock is a member of the Melrose Unitarian Universalist congregation outside of Boston. He received a Grammy nomination for his song, "Be A Pain." On this Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday we lift up what Alastair Moock is teaching the next generation about imagining how the world could be and encouraging them to be brave activists for justice in the 21st century.

**VIRTUAL VESPERS – JANUARY 18 FROM 7-7:30PM**

***EINSTEIN'S DREAM AND OUR OWN***

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. Tonight, we contemplate a dream Einstein had and how it shaped his life's work. Zoom link is [here](#).

**YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

This month we focus on imagining a better world. And who better to celebrate than Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr? Dr. King's words in his "I Have a Dream" speech can be revisited through the lens of today's environment with even more impact. Racism is still here, deep in our society. Today, more white UU's realize that they need to imagine a better world. We need to work hard to end racism. Our faith has taken up this work and called on UUs to build a world without racism. So, what's one of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of imagination? It says, "Imagine and work for a better world." Those with children in Kindergarten through 7th grades are invited to join us on Sunday morning at 9 am for a group meeting followed by breakout classes. Please see the website calendar, the parent email, or contact Joyce Duncan at [towsonuuc.org](http://towsonuuc.org) for details on how to join.



## 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.

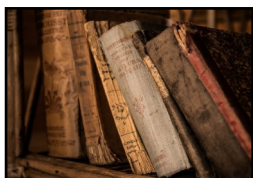
The suffering and loss our country has experienced over the past year will not immediately heal. So it is good to remember Paul Loeb's observation that "Those who make us believe that anything's possible and fire our imagination over the long haul, are often the ones who have survived the bleakest of 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!*



### TUUC BOOK CLUB

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 AT 7:30 PM**

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



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

### COME TO THE TUUC SOCRATES CAFÉ—NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18 FROM 7:30-9:00 PM

The TUUC Socrates Café will meet on Zoom again this Monday evening, January 18 from 7:30-9:00 PM. The question for probing this time is: “*What are the emotional roots of democracy?*” Bring your thoughts and insights and suggested questions for future sessions. Peter Talley has suggested that, as a segue, we watch Frederick Wiseman’s lengthy documentary, “*City Hall*” on YouTube. The film explores the nitty gritty of running the city government of Boston, MA. View the trailer on YouTube [here](#).



Socrates Café welcomes new “seekers of truth” to join us next Monday evening, just email [socratescafe@towsonuuc.org](mailto:socratescafe@towsonuuc.org) by midday on Saturday, January 16, and your email address will be added to our participant list for all updates and notifications. The Zoom Link for the 18<sup>th</sup> will be sent to all participants on Saturday, January 16. Remember the Delphic Oracle: “*Know thyself.*”

### 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*

### SURVIVING THE PANDEMIC FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS— THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, JANUARY 28, AND FEBRUARY 4 FROM 8:30-9:30 PM

We invite parents and caregivers to join us for a three-part series of virtual meetings for a facilitated conversation to help those with children of any age survive and thrive during the pandemic. The YRE Committee hopes you will join us for any or all of these meetings offered on three consecutive Thursdays, January 21 and 28, and February 4 from 8:30-9:30 pm. An RSVP if you plan to attend to [tuucdre@towsonuuc.org](mailto:tuucdre@towsonuuc.org) is appreciated but not necessary. Please invite others outside of TUUC to join us! Information on how to join these meetings will be available by emailing [tuucdre@towsonuuc.org](mailto:tuucdre@towsonuuc.org) and from the church calendar on the website. Zoom link is [here](#). Meeting ID: 893 3454 2985. Passcode: 015523

## **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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82661997623?pwd=ejc3cnUremIxMmlnOVBkSzZMS2ZZQT09)

[pwd=ejc3cnUremIxMmlnOVBkSzZMS2ZZQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82661997623?pwd=ejc3cnUremIxMmlnOVBkSzZMS2ZZQT09)

Meeting ID: 826 6199 7623

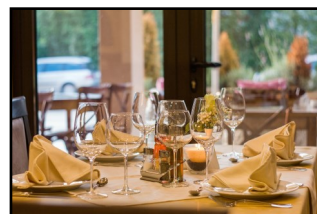
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The Board of Trustees selected several Open Questions for dialog this church year. Open Questions are those about which we won't be making a decision soon. These give us an opportunity to reflect about the future as a congregation. The Board spent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

## **ETHNIC LUNCH TIME—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27 AT 12:30 PM**

Ethnic Lunch is usually scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month, but we expect that people are going to be more interested in the inauguration than in food so we have moved the lunch to the following Wednesday, January 27 at 12:30.

We continue gathering via Zoom to hear about foods from different cultures. For January Monica Sweidel is going to discuss a cuisine that is close to home, Tex-Mex. Learn what makes Tex-Mex different from Mexican and watch Monica demonstrate how to fix chicken fajitas.



We hope to continue discussions on foods from other cultures for the next several months. We are looking for volunteers to talk about recipes from their ethnic background or the food that they fell in love with while on a trip. Anyone who is interested in helping can send an email to [ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org](mailto:ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org). If you plan to join us, please RSVP at the same e-mail address.

- Claudia Sumler & Janet Kuperstein

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A VIRTUAL SOUL MATTERS SHARING CIRCLE?

Soul Matters Sharing Circles meet virtually on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to around 8:45 PM. You will receive a packet that invites you to choose one of four spiritual exercises to practice to probe the spiritual theme of the month in more depth. The packet also includes readings, music, videos, and questions.

As a participant, you may expect to be part of a covenanted community of thoughtful and caring deep listeners and spiritual seekers. Please enroll by January 29 by emailing me at [revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org). This will give you time to practice one of the exercises before our meeting on February 9th. This second "semester" will run through the second Sunday of June. --- Rev. Clare

## STAYING IN TOUCH

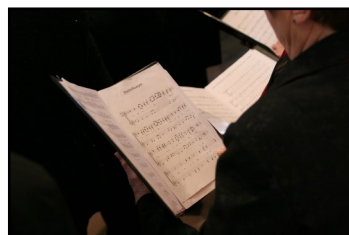
Do you want to join our "member to member" email group? Still named for the days when members would post messages on a physical bulletin board, the Bulletin Board email group allows members and friends to email the entire group. Currently we have over 90 email addresses in this group.

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

Once you've been added, be sure to add [bulletinboard@towsonuuc.org](mailto:bulletinboard@towsonuuc.org) to your contacts.

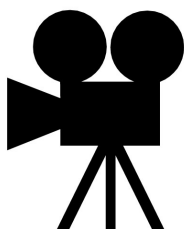
## JOIN THE TUUC CHOIR

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](mailto: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.

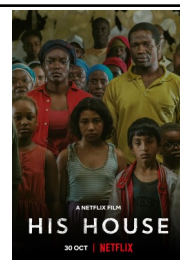


## CABIN FEVER

THIS WEEK: "HIS HOUSE" (2020)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 AT 4PM

MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#)



## 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:

- 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.

## GET CONNECTED WITH BREEZE

Do you miss the TUUC paper directory? As a 21st century congregation quarantined due to COVID; it can be isolating if you cannot make contact with your fellow members and friends. We encourage you to sign up with the Breeze church database so you will have access to the most up to date contact information for all active members of TUUC. You can update your own contact information as needed and even check on your annual contributions. Check out this [video](#) to see how easy it is to sign up. Create an account [link](#).

## *Writing as a Spiritual Practice*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22 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.

## TUUC SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

### 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.)

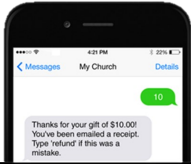
#### Thursdays, 5 to 6 PM:

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/>.

#### 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](#)

## 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.



Thank you so much for the dining it means alot  
Sheila Helgerson

Thank you all  
Thomas Wink

THANKS  
John / Sarah

Thank you - Darren Wilkins

Amy

Charles Elford

Thank you Mrs. S.  
Thank you  
Korall Wicks  
A Clark

Thank you  
if possible

Dear Tuuc Friends,  
Thank you for the delicious meal delivered by Tia! We are so sorry we couldn't get together this year. Hope to see you in 2021.  
Shirley  
Happy Holi days!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

16 Jan	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
16 Jan	Saturday	Cabin Fever—His House	4:00 PM
16 Jan	Saturday	Board Games	7:00 PM
17 Jan	Sunday	Widening the Circle	1:00 PM
18 Jan	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
19 Jan	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
19 Jan	Tuesday	Drawdown Meeting	7:30 PM
19 Jan	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
19 Jan	Tuesday	Women's Board Meeting	7:30 PM
21 Jan	Thursday	Parenting in Pandemic Times	8:30 PM

## 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.

## 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).

**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
01/10/2021	10:30 AM	88