



The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church
A Welcoming Congregation

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER; JOYCE DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION: *RELIGION LIVES ON IMAGINATION*

Bill Whitson, a retired minister for the Church of Scotland, concluded that “Religion lives on imagination.” What do we imagine for the future of Unitarian Universalism and for what our congregation might become?

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Classes are on hiatus for this Sunday, the last of the month. Please see parent email for details about classes and how to send a teddy or stuffed animal off to TUUC this week. Classes resume on Sunday, February 7.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, January 31, 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/98036315685>

Meeting ID: 980 3631 5685

Passcode: 723240



VESPERS SERVICE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1
7-7:30 PM

TUUC BOOK CLUB

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 AT 7:30 PM

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



NOTES FROM THE BOARD BY SUE ROYER, PRESIDENT

SPECIAL GIFTS

The Board extends our gratitude to Sue Shankroff for her leadership of the Special Gifts Committee for many years. This committee approved expenditures for many worthy projects for our church, including new computers for staff, new phones, a defibrillator, moving a piano, and humidity control systems for our pianos, to name a few. The Board is continuing the work toward better financial transparency and accountability that started under Joe Tumbler's leadership as Finance Head. As part of this, going forward, we will no longer have a separate fund for Special Gifts. The Board has approved moving the remaining balance in Special Gifts to the Building Fund (see below). We express our deep appreciation to Sue Shankroff and those who served on the Special Gifts Committee over the years.



SPECIAL FUNDS

In addition to our Endowment, the Board has established the following restricted Special Funds:

- Memorial Garden Fund – for the maintenance, repair and expansion of the Memorial Garden
- Building Fund – for future capital projects approved by the Board
- Kate Venables Music Fund - for music-related expenses, including, but not limited to, guest musician fees and music licenses
- COVID Care Fund – established May, 2020, for up to two years, for distributions to members of our church community who are in financial need

The Board also set these parameters for *undesignated* gifts:

- less than \$3,000 will be allocated to operating cash reserves
- \$3,000 to \$5,999 will be allocated to the Building Fund
- \$6,000 or greater will be allocated 20% to the Building Fund and 80% to the Endowment Fund

You can read more in our [Governance Policy](#).

STEWARDSHIP

Our annual Stewardship campaign kicks off in February and runs through mid-March. Look for member testimonials. **Why give to TUUC?** *Our church operates based on your contributions.* **Why pledge?** *We have plans and a budget and need to plan for expected income – from your contributions.* **Thank you!**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

WIDENING THE CIRCLE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 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! To prepare for this conversation, please go to



<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening> and read the chapter on Congregation and Community. If you have any questions, please let me know.

---Rev. Clare

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

Soul Matters Sharing Circles meet virtually on the 2nd and 4th 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 31 by emailing Rev. Clare at revclare@towsonuuc.org.

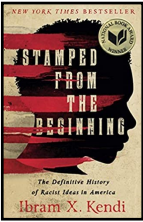
SURVIVING THE PANDEMIC FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS— THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 FROM 8:30-9:30 PM

We invite parents and caregivers to join us for a virtual meeting of 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 this meeting on Thursday, February 4 from 8:30-9:30 pm. An RSVP if you plan to attend to 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 and from the church calendar on the website. Zoom link is [here](#). Meeting ID: 893 3454 2985. Passcode: 015523

OUR MESSY LIVES UPDATE

Our Messy Lives, the discussion group which focuses every other week on a provocative word, will be starting up again on Zoom on Thursday, February 11th from 3-4 pm and will continue to meet every other Thursday afternoon. We look forward to discussing “Resiliency” on the 11th. This is an open-ended group, so join us whenever you can. However, in order to receive the Zoom Link for each meeting, please contact Nancy Caswell, (email address can be found in Breeze) to be added to the e-mail list. Prior participants are already on the new list and will receive the Zoom link for each session. A big *thank you* to Art Starr for conceiving the idea of Our Messy Lives and for facilitating the group for the last several months! Much appreciated, Art!

COMMON READ—FIRST MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 FROM 7:30-9:00PM



This year, the TUUC Common Read is a three book series about racial injustice. You are welcome to read any/all of the books and attend any/all of the meetings. On Monday, February 22, we will discuss *Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi and *Stamped (Young Adult Adaptation)* by Jason Reynolds. Click [here](#) for more information on future meetings.

WRITING YOUR SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY: SEEKING ZOOM VOLUNTEER

Art Starr is seeking a Zoom volunteer to assist him with an upcoming group "Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography" starting on Friday, February 26 from 2 to 3 PM. Future meetings will occur on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. If you have access to a personal Zoom account and would be willing to assist as a technical co-host, please reach out to Art at mensgroup@towsonuuc.org. Thank you!

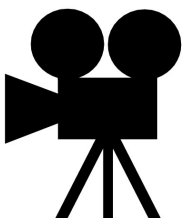
TUUC BLOOD DRIVE—FRIDAY, MARCH 12 FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Friday, March 12th, 2021 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. Please only join us on March 12th, if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating.

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 the COVID-19 Antibody testing. To sign up for an appointment time between 10:00am-4:00pm please use [this link](#) OR email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times.



Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!



CABIN FEVER

THIS WEEK: "ROAD TO PERDITION" (2002)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 4PM

MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#)



UPDATE ON COVID-19

At virtual coffee hour on Sunday, some members shared they had already received the COVID-19 vaccine for their work. Some reported mild side effects which are expected as the body builds immunity to this new virus. These individuals were grateful to have received the vaccine. Vaccination is part of the path forward to re-opening our community. We will still need to wear masks to stop the spread. But there is genuine hope that we can reduce the number of serious cases and deaths from this virus.

Conversation during virtual coffee hour turned to how to make an appointment to be vaccinated. Many of us will be notified when it is our turn. Baltimore City has a website, but its only for making appointments and you have to be in the 1A group and there are no appointments left for January. Baltimore County residents who want to be vaccinated should complete [this form](#). Completing the registration request form does not create an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination.

After completing the form, you will be contacted by County staff once you become eligible and when vaccines are available, with additional information about how to schedule your appointment. If you are unable to complete the form, please ask a friend, neighbor or family member for assistance. Please note: There is limited supply of vaccine nationwide. We will need to be patient. ---Rev. Clare

TEDDIES AND FRIENDS AT TUUC

Recent studies confirm that stuffed animals cannot contract Covid 19! Who knew? Even though we cannot gather at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, we can vicariously enjoy our teddy bears, stuffed cats, dogs, giraffes, dolphins, and any other creatures interacting in our favorite TUUC places, such as the meeting room, the nursery, the youth room, the sofas area, the playground, and the RE classrooms. Is your favorite plush friend ready for a change of scenery? If so, and if you can stand to be without them for a week or so, please consider entrusting one of your stuffed friends to our care for a weekend of Beloved Community in our church home. You can be part of this by checking out Facebook posts over the weekend of February 6/7.



We are looking forward to seeing stuffed animals from those of all ages! Please label your friend with their name, your name, and contact information and drop off at TUUC porch on Saturday, January 30, between 11 and 12 noon. Email Joyce at tuudre@towsonuuc.org with any questions and for other ways to make a drop off. Make sure you are subscribed to the church Facebook posts to see this event unfold.

Writing as a Spiritual Practice

A VIRTUAL DROP-IN GROUP
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT 1:00 PM



TUUC SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY OF MARYLAND MOBILIZES UU'S TO ADVOCATE ON PRIORITY ISSUES BEFORE THE MD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2021 Legislative Kick Off Update: Please take a minute and review [the resolutions](#) we passed, including the aspirational Anti-Racism Resolution which adopted many recommendations from the UUA Commission on Institutional Change, Widening the Circle of Concern, to build upon the work we have been doing to orient our organization and our work towards dismantling racism and other oppressions. More information available at www.uulmmd.org.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY—OUR DAILY BREAD NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Our Daily Bread is Maryland's largest hot meal program, serving more than a quarter of a million meals to those experiencing hunger in Baltimore City each year. January has a fifth Saturday, and even though we aren't together to bring casseroles to TUUC or donate for one to be bought in your name, the hungry people of Baltimore need you to be generous. Please consider sending a check to: Our Daily Bread, 725 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202

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.)

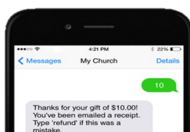
You also may donate to Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) by sending a check payable to TUUC with ACTC in memo line, or by donating directly to their website: <http://actconline.info/>.



TUUC POST AUCTION SALE—ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE!

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar [here](#) for most current schedule.
Click [here](#) for the schedule of ongoing regular TUUC virtual meetings.

30 Jan	Saturday	Teddy Drop	10:00 AM
30 Jan	Saturday	Cabin Fever: Road to Perdition	4:00 PM
31 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
31 Jan	Sunday	Widening the Circle	1:00 PM
1 Feb	Monday	Teddy Project	10:00 AM
2 Feb	Tuesday	Teddy Project	12:00 PM
2 Feb	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
2 Feb	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
3 Feb	Wednesday	TUUC Book Club	7:30 PM
4 Feb	Thursday	Parenting in Pandemic Times	8:30 PM
5 Feb	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
6 Feb	Saturday	Orientation to TUUC	10:00 AM

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.

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
01/24/2021	10:30 AM	114