



## What does it mean to be a people of beloved community?

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021 - 10:30 AM**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER; JOYCE DUNCAN, SUE ROYER: *BELOVED COMMUNITY IS...***

Our Soul Matters question for February is, “What does it mean to be a people of beloved community?” Today, we reflect on various understandings of beloved community. Which one(s) will resonate with you? How do we experience, steward, and nurture beloved community as members and friends of The Towson Unitarian Universalist Church? Teddy and his friends at TUUC will make a guest appearance to remind us of how we cultivated beloved community before the pandemic and show us a hopeful vision of how we will worship, study, play, and work together for justice after the pandemic.

**VESPERS—MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8 FROM 7-7:30 PM**

Ross Gay’s poem, *To the Fig Tree on 9th and Christian*, will be the focal point of tonight’s vespers service on beloved community.

**YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

Our faith is an expansive one. Historically, UUs disagreed with those who believed that Jesus was the only way to get to heaven and instead we asserted that all people have goodness in them and God would ensure that all humanity was welcomed into God’s love. That’s why we have “Universalism” in our name, Unitarian Universalists. Universalists believed in “universal salvation” or universal goodness. This call of universalism was a call to continually expand our love to wider and wider circles until all of humanity (and the natural world) is embraced. So, what’s one of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of Beloved Community? It tells us to “grow your love beyond boundaries!” Families with children in Kindergarten through 7th grade are invited to join us at 9 am on Sunday morning for a group meeting followed by breakout classes. Please check your parent email for a weather update on the Winter Walk at Hampton Mansion planned for this Sunday, February 7, from 2-3 pm. We will make a decision based on the weather forecast by Friday to let folks know if this will take place or be postponed.



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 SERVICE INFORMATION**

For Sunday, February 7, 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/94006476580>

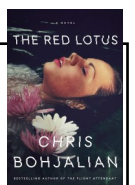
Meeting ID: 940 0647 6580

Passcode: 368557

**TUUC BOOK CLUB**

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

**MORE INFORMATION [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

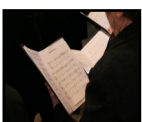
The Board also set these parameters for *undesignated* gifts:

- 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!**



**VIRTUAL CHOIR REHEARSAL**  
THURSDAYS AT 7:30 PM

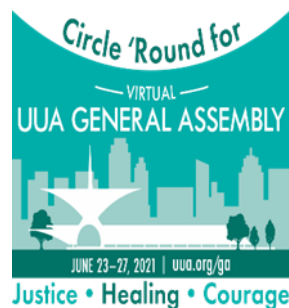


**VESPERS SERVICE**  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8  
7-7:30 PM

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

### CIRCLE ROUND FOR JUSTICE: HEALING, COURAGE VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

General Assembly (GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a **100% virtual event**. All details can be found at the [UUA GA website](#).



**Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage** is the theme for General Assembly 2021. General Assembly is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. We share stories of the work happening at our Association and in our congregations. We study ways to implement and live into our mission. UUA GA 2021 will incorporate recommendations from the Commission on Institution Change report, "Widening the Circle of Concern" and dialogue with the Article II Commission about our Principles and Purposes.

Registration is open! Registration for virtual GA 2021 is *\$200 per person*. [Learn about registration details](#). [Volunteer Applications](#) are open for those who want to volunteer to lower their costs to attend. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

### TEDDIES AND FRIENDS AT TUUC

Teddies and friends will be gathering for fun and beloved community this weekend! Check out Facebook to follow along and join us on Sunday to see all their adventures during the 10:30 am service.



### STEWARDSHIP

The theme for this year's Stewardship campaign is #Beloved Community #Commitment. We will kick off the campaign during the February 7 virtual service. Watch for a letter and pledge form to arrive soon in your email and/or your mailbox. All pledge forms are due by March 15.



In the coming weeks, listen to the testimonials given on Sunday morning, and consider your commitment to our beloved community. You are invited to take a photo of yourself and your family holding a sign with #Beloved Community #Commitment and post it in our TUUC Facebook Group or submit it for inclusion in the Threshold. Selfies!

The Board of Trustees expresses our deep gratitude to Anita Cox, who served as the Stewardship Committee chair or co-chair for many years. Anita has taken a step back from this role, while continuing to be an active member of our community. We are still adding volunteers to our Stewardship Team.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Sue Royer.

## CLARE'S COLLOQUY

What does it mean to be a people of beloved community?

What images of beloved community come to mind when you hear this question?

Do you see people gathered to worship; singing in the Choir; hearing the sorrows and joys that bind us together in the human condition; sharing a cup of fair trade coffee; dropping off meals to facilitate recovery and healing; asking "big questions and deeply listening to one another in religious exploration classes and support groups; collecting canned food; making casseroles; joining with other communities to care for the earth; answering the call to gather to witness to the need for justice?

The poet Forrest Hamer remembers the black church of his childhood and writes of the organist:

*"when the sermon had been made...  
We waited for the moment his fingers spoke in their tongues,  
listened for the urgent translation into this:  
We have returned to a blessed place;  
Our family is here with us, even the dead and not-born;  
We are journeying to the source of all wonder...  
Amen"*

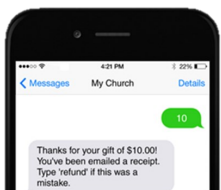
I love Hamer's vision that Beloved Community includes the dead and not born....journeying to the source of all wonder.

This month will reflect on the practice of Beloved Community. One of these practices is stewardship, financially supporting our congregation's mission to deepen our spiritual and ethical lives by working for racial, social, and environmental justice.

We will be hearing from one another what TUUC means to us. We will be hearing things that really matters to us about our practice of Beloved Community. And we will be hearing our hopes for what TUUC will mean to the wider community in the year to come.

It has been almost a year since we moved into virtual space because of Covid-19. We miss seeing each other in person. Yet we know how much we need one another and that our affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the free and responsible search for truth and meaning have never been more important.

As we consider #Beloved Community and #Commitment and make our pledge to TUUC, may we remember that when we gather together, like Forrest Hamer, "We return to a blessed place; our family is here with us, even the dead and not-born; we are journeying to the source of all wonder. Amen!"



### 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](#)

## OUR MESSY LIVES REMINDER

Our Messy Lives, the discussion group which focuses on a provocative word, will be resuming on Zoom next Thursday, February 11 from 3-4 pm and will continue to meet on the second and fourth Thursday afternoon each month, going forward. We look forward to discussing "Resilience" on the 11<sup>th</sup>. This is an open-ended group, so join us whenever you can. However, in order to receive the Zoom Link for each session, please contact Nancy Caswell (email address in TUUC Breeze) and you will be added to the email list. If you have been a participant previously, we still have your email address, and you will be receiving the Zoom link for each session.

## FOR VALENTINE'S DAY: EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS AT TUUC ON SAT, FEB 13

Bundle up and join Green Sanctuary committee members on TUUC's porch on Saturday, February 13, from 10:30 am to noon, to purchase organic, fair trade goodies from Equal Exchange. Great Valentine's gifts! We have a selection of organic and fair trade items including the following:

- Coffee (regular including some whole beans, and decaf)
- Tea (black, green, flavored, herbal)
- Chocolate, including bars in a variety of flavors
- Baking cocoa
- Nuts (unsalted cashews and almonds)



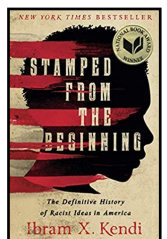
If you are unable to make it to TUUC on Saturday morning, we are also offering local deliveries this weekend, for a \$5 donation. You can contact Carel Hedlund (info in directory) with any questions, or to request information regarding delivery. To learn more about fair trade and Equal Exchange, here is an informative video. <https://www.youtube.com/embed/H3Cx5Jn9hgA>

## WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF CONCERN DISCUSSION—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 FROM 1-2:30 PM

We continue our discussion of the UUA's Commission on Institutional Change report, "Widening the Circle of Concern." Today we look more deeply at hospitality and inclusion. For more information, please see <https://www.towsonuuc.org/widening-the-circle>.

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

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](mailto: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!

## WRITING YOUR SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY STARTING ON FRIDAY FEB 26 AT 2PM



Join us every second and fourth Friday from 2-3 PM as we explore our spiritual lives. There will be a fifteen minute writing session followed by optional sharing with the group. Open to women, men, and non-binary.

For more information and to register please contact Art Starr at [mensgroup@towsonuuc.org](mailto:mensgroup@towsonuuc.org).

## GREEN SANCTUARY MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT 12:00 PM



## *Coffee with the Minister*

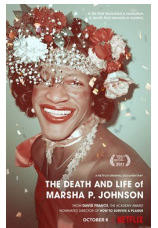
Tuesdays at Noon

## CABIN FEVER

"THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON" (2017)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT 4PM

**MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#)**



## 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](http://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/>.

### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 AT 12:00 PM

The Social Action Committee will meet at noon, after the Service and Coffee time, on Feb. 14, at noon. All are welcome. An Agenda will be sent to members.

## *Writing as a Spiritual Practice*

**A VIRTUAL DROP-IN GROUP**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT 1:00 PM**



**TUUC POST AUCTION SALE—ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE!**

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION!

# 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.

5 Feb	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
6 Feb	Saturday	Orientation to Towson UUC	10:00 AM
6 Feb	Saturday	Cabin Fever: The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson	4:00 PM
7 Feb	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	9:00 AM
7 Feb	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
7 Feb	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Meeting	12:00 PM
8 Feb	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
9 Feb	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
9 Feb	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
9 Feb	Tuesday	Soul Matters	7:30 PM
10 Feb	Wednesday	Program Council Meeting	7:30 PM
11 Feb	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
11 Feb	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 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
01/31/2021	10:30 AM	84