



What does it mean to be a people of commitment?

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, REV. PAMELA MERRIL BARZ: *COMMITTED TO CONNECTION*

This Sunday marks the one-year anniversary of the last time we met as a congregation in our building. We did not know then, as we lifted up the wisdom of clowning in the festivals of Purim and Holi, that we would find new ways to manifest our commitment to connection: meeting in virtual space for worship for the coming year; holding socially distanced classes, walks, meals; support groups; and other events outside in the warmer months. In affirmation of our commitment to creating new ways to connect, this morning we will be joining another UU congregation on the east coast. This congregational connection came through a connection our Minister made in seminary over 30 years ago. To what connections are you committed? And how do these connections bring you health and wholeness? To what connections might we commit together?

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

When we think about commitment, we think first about our Unitarian Universalist commitment to asking questions and being curious. We encourage people to ask questions of wonder. We support people as they question norms and express doubt. Far from outlawing doubters and questioners, our faith places them at the center. So, what's one of the ways our non-conformist faith guides us into becoming a people of Commitment? It tells us to "stay committed to being curious!" Please join us at 9 am on Sunday for a group meeting and then breakout into classes for Kindergarten through 4th and 5th to 7th graders. We hope you can join us for another Winter Walk this Sunday, March 7 from 2-3 pm at Benjamin Banneker Park. See the parent email or contact Joyce at tuucdre@towsonuuc.org for more information.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, March 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/96625722374>

Meeting ID: 966 2572 2374

Passcode: 404006



VESPERS SERVICE

MONDAY, MARCH 8

7:00—7:30 PM

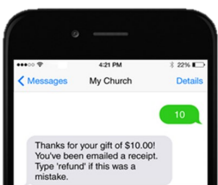
PASSING THE PLATE

DONATE BY TEXT

Send an amount to
(410)834-0700

DONATE TO TUUC VIA PAYPAL, TEXT, OR BREEZE

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



CLARE'S COLLOQUY

What were you doing in the first two weeks of March 2020? When I go back and look in my email folder from a year ago, it reveals that on March 3, I inquired of the UUMA how to purchase a Zoom account. On March 4, I conversed with Walter Burnett, who taught public health, on a new procedure to disinfect our stones of joy and sorrow because of a new virus called Covid-19. We also planned to not have people greet their neighbor with handshakes on Sunday March 8 and decided that the offertory plates should not be passed hand-to-hand but rather left in the back. March 5, Mimi Marks and I emailed about hospitality and the use of gloves and utensils to serve. Also on March 5, Sue Royer and I communicated on a plan should it be necessary for staff to work from home. Within six days, the decision was made by the Program Council to take TUUC into virtual space just four days later. This was a lot of change in a very short period of time! With it came feelings of fear and loss and uncertainty.

One thing that was certain was the need to figure out how to stay physically apart in order to all be together “on the other side” of the pandemic while remaining connected emotionally and spiritually.

What has impressed me is your commitment to this goal---from sharing photos for virtual worship services to participating in socially distanced family walks; from sharing joys and sorrows and grieving illnesses and deaths in the chat on Sunday mornings to participating in our Phone Pals Program and talking to Lay Pastoral Associates during this challenging time; from participating in drive by celebrations such as honoring the seminary graduations of Karyn Marsh and Lora Powell Haney and pouring water in the TUUC parking lot for Water Communion to bringing Xmas ornaments to your devices to share on Christmas Eve; from teaching OWL in the grove and sponsoring Youth Group bonfires when the weather permitted to launching new virtual programs such as Vespers, Socrates Café, Our Messy Lives, and Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography; from continuing to support our community partners to building a bio-retention wall at TUUC!

Our spiritual question for March is, “What does it mean to be a people of commitment?” Great gratitude for your commitment to worship, study, socialize, serve, and work together for justice together during this time apart. Here’s to anticipating a time when we can safely gather again!



*Writing as a
Spiritual Practice*
A VIRTUAL DROP-IN GROUP
FRIDAY, MARCH 5 AT 1:00PM



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

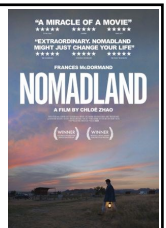


COMMON READ

**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY,
MARCH 22 AT 7:30 PM**

CABIN FEVER

**“NOMADLAND” (2020)
SATURDAY, MARCH 6 AT 4PM**

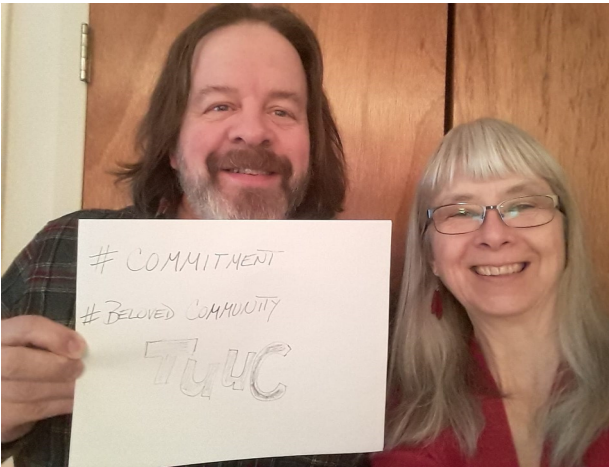


STEWARDSHIP

Our stewardship testimonials continued on February 28 with Deborah “Spice” Kleinmann telling the story of her spiritual journey, from her Jewish ancestors to her current beloved community at TUUC.

Rev. Clare shared that she has pledged and posted her own selfie! To date, 56 pledges have been received – thank you! Let us visualize being generous with our hearts. We invite you to give from your heart, and to be as generous as you can. Our Stewardship Team members are starting to make phone calls to follow-up. Rev. Clare mentioned this during worship on Sunday and asked that you please accept the call and speak with a member of the team. Here are links to the [online form](#) and [printable form](#).

You are invited to take a photo of yourself and your family holding a sign with #BelovedCommunity #Commitment and post it in our TUUC Facebook Group or submit it for inclusion in the Threshold.



Thom and Robin Sinn



Spice Kleinmann and Lizza Lewis



Don Norman and Rev. Clare



Joyce Duncan, DRE

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

GREEN SANCTUARY—LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The Green Sanctuary Committee prepared and submitted letters on 4 important issues pending in the Maryland legislature (click on links to see letters):

1. [A constitutional amendment on environmental rights](#)
2. [A prohibition on single-use plastic bags](#)
3. [A climate solutions bill that requires an acceleration in greenhouse gas reductions, targets overburdened communities, protects fossil fuel workers, and plants 5 million trees](#)
4. [A bill targeting transit safety and investment](#)

Because these bills were supported by the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland, these letters were signed in the name of TUUC by President Sue Royer. They were submitted to Senator Chris West and Delegates Michele Guyton and Nino Mangione, as our church is in their district.

Feel free to forward these letters to your own senator and delegate, indicating that your church supports these important bills and you think they are important! Please contact Carel Hedlund (info in Breeze) if you have any questions.

IN MEMORY OF ERIC GRATZ

We regret to inform you of the death of Eric Gratz on February 20th. Eric died in home hospice care. He and his wife Jackie joined TUUC in 1971. They attended worship and lectures at TUUC and enjoyed film discussions. In 1999, Eric thoughtfully reached out to Rev. Clare to introduce her to counselors in the community. Since moving to Edenwald, Eric brought Jackie to TUUC to visit her favorite native plants. He is remembered for his keen mind and caring heart. Notes of condolence may be sent to Jackie. Her address is in Breeze. --- *Rev. Clare*

WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF CONCERN—SUNDAY, MARCH 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 restoration and reparations. For more information, please see <https://www.towsonuuc.org/widening-the-circle>.

ETHNIC LUNCH TIME—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 AT 12:30 PM

In March, Ethnic Lunch falls on St. Patrick's Day so we are turning to the Emerald Isle for inspiration. Janet Kuperstein will demonstrate how to make Irish soda bread. While it is baking, I will make colcannon, a favorite Irish dish of potatoes and kale or cabbage made luxurious with butter. Recipes will be provided. March also means the beginning of spring. With luck by the time we are scheduled for April we may be able to find some ethnic restaurants where we can gather outside or we can go back to the pavilions at Oregon Ridge. If you plan to join us, RSVP ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org.

--- *Claudia Sumler and Janet Kuperstein*



TUUC SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

THESE ISSUES NEED OUR SUPPORT—HOW YOU CAN HELP

In Item 2 of the upcoming Maryland Legislative Session, you will find a few key measures which the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of MD (UULM-MD) supports. Voting on Item 2A occurred on Thursday, February 11.

Please find your Representative [here](#), and email or call them [this week](#). More information on these measures can be found at the [UULM website](#).

You may use this template, or any part of it you wish, for an email:

Please vote to support the following measures:

1. **Criminal justice reform:** Repeal the Law Enforcement Bill of Rights ([HB 151](#)) and Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021 ([HB 670](#))
2. **Climate Change:** Transportation Safety and Investment Act - ([HB 114 / SB 199](#)) and Climate Solutions Now - ([HB 583 / SB 414](#))
3. **Economic Justice:** Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program Act - ([HB 375/SB 211](#)) Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program Act - ([HB 375/SB 211](#))
4. **Healthcare:** Health Equity Resource Communities Initiative - ([HB 463/SB 172](#))
5. **Gun Violence Prevention:** Require licensed dealer for all gun transfers ([HB 4/SB 208](#)) and fund the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program ([SB708](#))
6. **Immigration:** The Maryland Trust Act - ([HB 304/SB 88](#)) and MVA Data Sharing law ([HB 23/SB 234](#)) to limit local cooperation with ICE and Dignity Not Detention ([HB 16/SB 478](#)) to end local contracts to imprison immigrants pending deportation.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY, MARCH 14 AT NOON

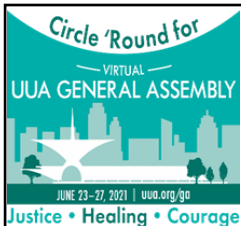
The Social Action Committee will meet March 14, at noon, following the service and coffee chats. All are welcome. An agenda will be sent to members.



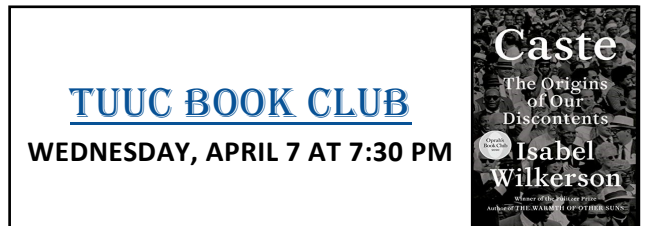
**VIRTUAL CHOIR
REHEARSAL**
THURSDAYS AT 7:30 PM



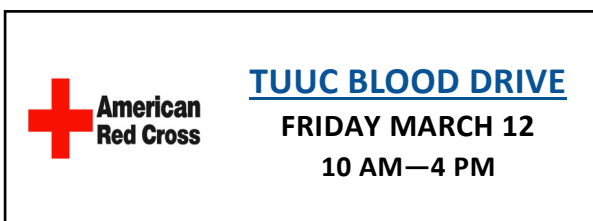
*Writing Your Spiritual
Autobiography*
Friday, March 12
2:00 PM



**UUA GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**
JUNE 23-27, 2021



TUUC BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7 AT 7:30 PM



TUUC BLOOD DRIVE
FRIDAY MARCH 12
10 AM—4 PM

You 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/>.

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 Mar	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
6 Mar	Saturday	Cabin Fever—NOMADLAND	4:00 PM
7 Mar	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	9:00 AM
7 Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
8 Mar	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
9 Mar	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
9 Mar	Tuesday	Soul Matters	7:30 PM
10 Mar	Wednesday	Program Council Meeting	7:30 PM
11 Mar	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
11 Mar	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
11 Mar	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
12 Mar	Friday	Blood Drive	8:00 AM
12 Mar	Friday	Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography	2:00 PM
13 Mar	Saturday	Cabin Fever: High Life	4:00 PM
14 Mar	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	9:00 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
02/28/2021	10:30 AM	86