



***What does it mean to be a people of commitment?***

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021 - 10:30 AM (START OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME)**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, JOYCE DUNCAN: *COMMITTED TO CHANGE***

Perhaps you, too, are old enough to remember when the start of Daylight Savings Time required a commitment to manually spring clocks forward an hour. Now technology does it for us. The same cannot be said for other changes in our lives from forming a new habit (like regular exercise) to working with others to dismantle systems of oppression. Having just lost an hour (but looking forward to longer hours of daylight) this morning we reflect on our commitment to change and what it requires.

**YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

Our faith is a living tradition. We describe the six sources of our living tradition, instead of one holy book or one prophet (<https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/sources>). When we learn new things, we expect our faith to change. We vote on adding new sources and new principles, as well as changing them. We are committed to keeping an open mind about anything that might challenge and change our faith. So, what's one of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of Commitment? It tells us, "Everything changes, so be ready to keep growing!"

Please join us on Sunday 9 AM for a group meeting, then break out into smaller classes for Kindergarten through 4th and 5th grades through 7th grades. This week we talk about change through learning about the life of astronaut, doctor, and dancer Mae Jemison. Contact Joyce Duncan, Director of Religious Exploration, if you would like to be added to our parent email list or if you have any questions about offerings for children and youth.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14 SERVICE INFORMATION**


For Sunday, March 14, 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

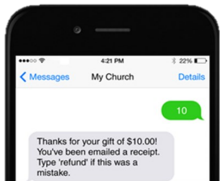
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93067380073?pwd=TUFENkIHZFpJaU5aWCt5M2ZQY1JlQT09>

Meeting ID: 930 6738 0073

Passcode: 088269



**VESPERS SERVICE**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 15**  
**7:00—7:30 PM**



**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](#)

## 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 19 AT 1:00PM



**TUUC POST AUCTION  
SALE—[ITEMS STILL  
AVAILABLE!](#)**



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

**CABIN FEVER**  
“HIGH LIFE” (2018)  
SATURDAY, MARCH 13 AT 4PM



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

### 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

### ALL IN FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

The theme for the 2021 Virtual Intergenerational Seminar is "All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability."

This dynamic event will take place all online Friday, April 9,

2021 - Sunday, April 11, 2021. Programs will ground, connect, and equip participants to take action toward achieving climate justice through more equitable and sustainable food systems. **Registration ends March 18, 2021.** <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar/register>. The Intergenerational Spring Seminar, hosted by the UUA Office at the UN aims to instill in Unitarian Universalist youth and adults a commitment to global engagement and the skills to take action locally to address global issues.

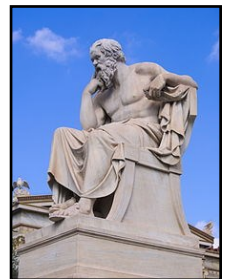


### WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF CONCERN—SUNDAY, MARCH 14 FROM 1—2:30 PM

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>.

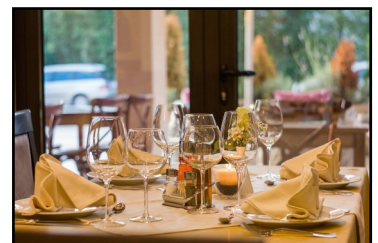
### SOCRATES CAFÉ—NEXT MONDAY, MARCH 15 FROM 7:30-9:30 PM

The next session of the TUUC Socrates Cafe will be held this coming Monday, March 15th, from 7:30-9:00 PM on Zoom. Those on our email list will receive the Zoom Invite Link on the 13th. If you are not on our email list, and would like to be, please email Nancy Caswell, Facilitator, at [socratescafe@towsonuuc.org](mailto:socratescafe@towsonuuc.org) to be included. The question to be pondered on Monday, selected by the group at our last session is "How can we hold corporations accountable for their social responsibility, (and can they be held accountable in the first place)?" The following online reading is recommended for background enlightenment before the session: [Corporate Social Responsibility as the Organization's Commitment against Stakeholders](#). If you have some time to do so, please read it for enjoyment. Namaste!



### 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](mailto:ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org).

--- *Claudia Sumler and Janet Kuperstein*

## **SAVE THE DATE! TUUC'S FIRST ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW: SATURDAY, APRIL 10 AT 7 PM**

Join us for an evening of surprises as TUUC members and friends perform an assortment of acts guaranteed to astound and amaze you! Comedy! Music! Dance! It's everything you could ask for in a 90 minute show for the whole family!

## **TUUC GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE ENVIRONMENTAL FILM AND DISCUSSION: *FROM THE ASHES***

The Green Sanctuary Committee wishes you to know about this upcoming environmental film and discussion about the coal industry.

*From the Ashes* is a compelling feature documentary that explores one of the country's most contentious topics — coal and the mining industry. It captures Americans in communities across the country as they wrestle with the legacy of the coal industry, and what its future should be. The Panel Discussion is Thursday, March 18 at 7:30 PM. The Film Link will be sent upon registration. Panelists include Jamie DeMarco of the [Chesapeake Climate Action Network](#) and David Smedick of the [Sierra Club](#). Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register for the event.



## **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE UUA 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

If you've never attended the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of congregations, it's really quite amazing. In 2021, it will be all virtual. Worship services are multicultural, led by diverse UU ministers. Music is multicultural. There are workshops on so many topics! And there are caucuses for young adults, and for people of color. There are opportunities to witness. The theme is Circle 'Round for Justice and the dates are June 23 – 27. Last year, over 4900 people attended! Check out the [schedule of events](#).

For 2021, the Board of TUUC is offering two scholarships of \$200 each to cover the registration fee. These scholarships are prioritized for congregants who identify as

Black, Indigenous or a Person of Color (BIPOC), or  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer/Questioning, Intersex or Asexual (LGBTQIA), or  
Youth (will have completed grades 9 – 12), or  
Emerging Adults (age 18 – 24), or  
Young Adults (age 18 – 35)

If you are interested, please reach out to Sue Royer at [president@towsonuuc.org](mailto:president@towsonuuc.org)

### **AMAZON SMILE QUARTERLY DONATION: \$117.67**

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.



## STEWARDSHIP

We experienced **#BelovedCommunity** on March 7 by worshipping together with the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Scituate, Massachusetts. Rev. Pam Bartz from Scituate and Rev. Clare co-led worship. They knew each other from seminary and re-connected recently while attending an online course. We heard stories and music using beach glass or sea glass. Our Music Director Tracy Hall led us in a yoga laughter practice. How can I keep from laughing?



To date, 74 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. If you haven't yet pledged, please do so! 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.



*Angela Castillo-Epps*



*Don Norman and Rev. Clare*



*Joyce Duncan, DRE*



*Spice Kleinmann and Lizza Lewis*

## FROM THE TUUC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Do you want to help lead the church into the future? Do you want to help build our Beloved Community? If so, the nominating committee is looking for a few good people. Positions available are Finance Head, Treasurer, Trustees-at-Large, House and Grounds Manager, and Nominating committee member. For details of the roles [click here](#). As part of our commitment to being an inclusive congregation, there may be consideration for flexibility and innovation to accommodate anyone who is interested. If you would like to nominate a member with their consent, the deadline is 3/30/2021. Please email your response to the nominating committee at [nominating@towsonuuc.org](mailto:nominating@towsonuuc.org).



# TUUC SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY PARTNER WE SUPPORT?

March 21 will be Social Action Sunday, and we will highlight one of the Community Partners which TUUC supports, Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood (MMTH). We will welcome Mr. Cameron Miles, director of Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood, which has been changing young lives since 1996. All non-pledge donations on March 21 will go to supporting this organization.

Several TUUC members volunteer at MMTH, which allows both groups to interact with those who they would not normally meet. MMTH tutors urban boys and young men, opens their horizons with field trips, and mentors them into becoming productive citizens and leaders of tomorrow. Education, speakers, trips, sporting events, health forums, conflict resolution, STD and AIDS workshops, and real conversations about the "Hood" come together to prepare them to compete in a society that too often allows them to slip through the cracks.

To donate, you can:

1. Donate as you normally do, to the plate or to "SAC" on Sunday, March 21, or
2. Write a check to TUUC and specify "MMTH" in the memo line, or
3. Write a check directly to "Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood", and send it to: P.O. Box 6756, Columbia, MD 21045.

Thank you for your generosity.

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY, MARCH 14 AT NOON

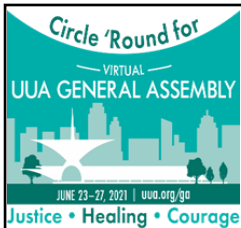
The Social Action Committee will meet March 14, at noon, following the service and coffee chats. All are welcome. An agenda will be sent to members.



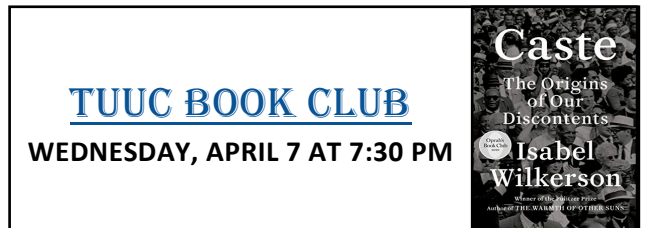
**VIRTUAL CHOIR  
REHEARSAL**  
THURSDAYS AT 7:30 PM



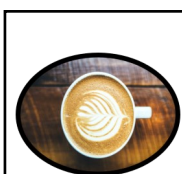
***Writing Your Spiritual  
Autobiography***  
Friday, March 26  
2:00 PM



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



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



***Coffee with the  
Minister***  
Tuesdays at Noon

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.

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
14 Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
14 Mar	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
14 Mar	Sunday	Widening the Circle	1:00 PM
15 Mar	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
15 Mar	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
16 Mar	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
16 Mar	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
16 Mar	Tuesday	Women's Group	7:30 PM
17 Mar	Wednesday	Ethnic Lunch	7:30 PM
19 Mar	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
20 Mar	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	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](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
03/07/2021	10:30 AM	108