



What does it mean to be a people of commitment?

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021 - 10:30 AM

LORRAINE SORBELLO: SOCIAL ACTION SUNDAY

March 21 will be Social Action Sunday, and the theme for March is Commitment. One of the Community Partners which TUUC supports is Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood. Today, we will welcome Mr. Cameron Miles, director of Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood, which has been changing young lives since 1996. Several TUUC members volunteer at MMTH, which 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.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

We are committed to conscience as a way to tell right from wrong. Our 5th UU principle inspires us toward "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Instead of turning to one person (such as a ruler or a single "wiseman") for all the answers, we believe that every single person has wisdom inside that needs to be listened to. The still, inner voice that we call conscience is a way to guide us on our journeys. So, what's one of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of commitment? It says, "Trust your conscience/inner voice/gut to help you tell right from wrong." We invite you to join us on Sunday morning at 9 AM for a family meeting and then break out classes for Kindergarten through 4th and for 5th through 7th grades. We will learn about conscience through the story of Gordon Parks, an African-American photographer, writer, musician, and film director who shone a light on segregation through his work. Families are invited to join us at North Point State Park this Sunday, March 21, from 2-3 PM for a Winter Walk. North Point is located in Baltimore County on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and is rich in natural beauty. This 1,310-acre park in Edgemere was once the site of the Bay Shore Amusement Park, a popular destination for summer visitors from 1906 to 1947. Please see the parent email for more details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, March 21, 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.

[Zoom Link](#) for service

Meeting ID: 819 2206 7127

Passcode: 175758



VESPERS SERVICE

MONDAY, MARCH 22

7:00—7:30 PM

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!

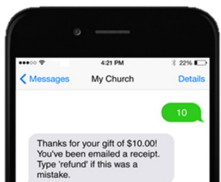


COMMON READ

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

CABIN FEVER

**“CIRCUS OF BOOKS” (2019)
SATURDAY, MARCH 20 AT
4PM**



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](#)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

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!

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](#).

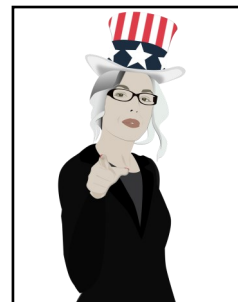
For 2021, the Board of TUUC is offering two scholarships of \$200 each to cover the registration fee. These scholarships are prioritized for congregants who identify as

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

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, 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.



SINGLES FELLOWSHIP HAPPY HOUR—SATURDAY, MARCH 27 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.

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

Nancy Caswell shared her testimonial on March 14, speaking about her spiritual journey, including many years as the spouse of an Episcopal priest. Nancy joined Channing Memorial UU Church in Newport, RI, where she was living, before retiring, and then splitting her time between Rhode Island and Maryland where her children live. She felt welcome the first time she attended TUUC when Tracy invited her to join the choir. Nancy shared that she has “said yes to countless TUUC Zooms!”. If you weren’t at the service, you can read her remarks, which are posted on the church website under Stewardship.

Reverend Clare, in her homily, spoke about our vision for when we reopen and can gather safely in person, and that we envision a new assistive listening system for our meeting room, cameras, equipment and an upgrade to our internet so that we can stream services, hiring an architect to conduct a study and draw up plans for a main level accessible restroom, training for congregants in multi-culturalism and anti-racism, and scholarships for General Assembly in 2022. We have big dreams!

To date, 105 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. 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.



Michael Magrogan & Nancy Caswell



Michelle List



Tracy Hall

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:

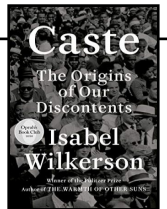
1. Donate as you normally do, to the plate or to "SAC" on Sunday, March 21, or
2. Write a check to TUUC and specify "MMTH" in the memo line, or
3. Write a check directly to "Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood", and send it to: P.O. Box 6756, Columbia, MD 21045.

Thank you for your generosity.



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

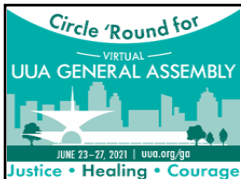
TUUC BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7 AT 7:30 PM



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



*Writing as a
Spiritual Practice*
A VIRTUAL DROP-IN GROUP
FRIDAY, MARCH 19 AT 1:00PM



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



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

19 Mar	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
20 Mar	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
20 Mar	Saturday	Cabin Fever—Circus of Books	4:00 PM
21 Mar	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	9:00 AM
21 Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
21 Mar	Sunday	Puzzle Swap	3:30 PM
22 Mar	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
22 Mar	Monday	Common Read Book Discussion	7:30 PM
23 Mar	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
23 Mar	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
23 Mar	Tuesday	Soul Matters	7:30 PM
25 Mar	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
25 Mar	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
25 Mar	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
25 Mar	Thursday	Parenting in Pandemic Times	8:00 PM

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
03/14/2021	10:30 AM	75