



## What does it mean to be a people of becoming?

**SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021 - 10:30 AM**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, JOYCE DUNCAN, TRACY HALL AND THE TUUC CHOIR, BEN FIREMAN, GABE GORDILLO, SEBASTIAN GORDILLO, RUFUS ROUNDY, AND KATE LONGABAUGH: *OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO! HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR BRIDGING***

This month we transition from considering what it means to be a people of becoming to what it means to be a people of story. A cherished story about becoming is “Oh, The Places You’ll Go!” by Dr. Seuss. He wrote it to convey lessons he had learned in his long life. This story seems particularly fitting for our high school graduates who have not experienced a traditional senior year. Today we celebrate this milestone in their lives and share our love for how their own stories of becoming will unfold.

### YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

UU congregations share a lot of attributes, but at the same time, no two UU communities are the same. And often their uniqueness is rooted in a very particular event in their history: a fire, an act of justice, a new building, creating a memorial garden, an argument even or a church member who became famous. Story is what keeps that event alive, and even more importantly, story is what enables that event to become the glue that binds the community together. Families with children in Kindergarten through 4th Grade are invited to join us on Sunday at 9 AM for a virtual meeting. See the [TUUC calendar](#) for the link.

### VIRTUAL VESPERS—MONDAY, MAY 10 AND MAY 24 at 7PM

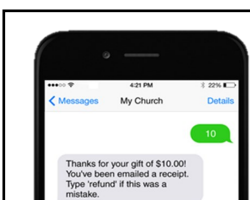
Vespers is a brief evening worship service consisting of contemplative readings and music; the sharing of joys and sorrows; and an opportunity to reflect further on the theme of the month. Our vespers services will meet twice in May: from 7:00-7:30 PM on May 10 and May 24.

### SUNDAY, MAY 2 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, May 2, 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: 936 3102 9915 Passcode: 469860



### 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

Seth Meyers, has a recurring segment on his late-night show called, "Stories We Need Right Now." I doubt if he will cover this one---but it deserves to be covered.

Talk of consolidation of the Unitarians and the Universalists began in 1865. But it was not actively discussed until the 1950's. In the 1950's, one Unitarian matron said, "The Universalists are nothing but Baptists who can read!" And one Universalist said, "The Unitarians seem more interested than analyzing the nature of infinity...than in the spirit of love. I....feel that I ought to put on my company manners when I go into a Unitarian Church."

This may not sound like the kind of story we need right now. We have enough stories of divisiveness in our country and in our world.

But here's the thing: conversations between the two denominations continued and misconceptions about "the other" were brought to light. Universalists were not more theologically conservative. They launched the experimental Charles Street Meeting House with innovative humanist preachers to lift up the truths of the world's religions. And the Unitarians were not necessarily more theologically radical. Their national journal was called "The Christian Register."

Conversations continued and over \$50,000 was spent. Reports on a proposed plan for merger; the question of merger; advantages and disadvantages of merger were issued. A 139 page manual for every one of the Unitarian and Universalist congregations were issued along with a 46 page study guide. The goal was to have one of the greatest experiments in democracy succeed---the participation of each and every Unitarian and Universalist congregation.

By 1959, the major question facing consolidation was with regard to what the purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association would be. Would Christianity be specifically referenced in the Bylaws? The two general assemblies met separately. Then they met together. They met late into the night. And the final decision was a reference to "the universal truths taught by the great prophets and teachers of humanity in every age and tradition."

In 1960, 125,000 voted in favor of merger. 17,000 voted against it. Ninety four percent of Unitarian congregations and ninety five percent of Universalist congregations participated. Two thousand people gathered in the Symphony Hall of Boston for a Service of Celebration. The closing hymn was "As tranquil streams that meet and merge and flow as one into the sea, our kindred hearts and minds unite to build a church that shall be free."

May 12 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Happy Diamond Jubilee to the Unitarian Universalist Association!

Through intentional relationship building suspicion OF "the other" turned to faith IN each other. It is not a new story. But it is a story that bears repeating. It is the kind of story we need right now.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TUUC

### GREEN SANCTUARY—FOLLOW UP FROM APRIL 18 EARTH DAY SERVICE

Our speaker Rev. Dr. Terry Ellen mentioned several sources that we can use to educate ourselves about the climate crisis, the need for immediate action in this decade, and how climate change is tied to issues of poverty, racism indigenous genocide, with wealth divide and other social justice issues. Here are the sources he mentioned:

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): <https://www.ipcc.ch/>
- Sign up for Bill McKibben's weekly online articles in the New Yorker: <https://www.newyorker.com/newsletter/the-climate-crisis>
- The UUA's Create Climate Justice resource, with a newsletter to sign up for: <https://www.uua.org/environment>
- NAACP's Climate and Environmental Justice Program: <https://www.naacp.org/environmental-climate-justice-about/>
- Rev. William Barber's Poor Peoples Campaign and environmental justice: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/forward-focus-climate-change-environmental-justice/>

He also urged us all to let our elected representatives know how important it is to act on these issues now, even if you don't have a specific bill name or number to refer to.

### GREEN SANCTUARY FAIR TRADE SALE—SATURDAY, MAY 8 FROM 11 AM TO NOON

Celebrate spring and support fair trade with the Green Sanctuary Committee, Saturday morning May 8, from 11 AM to 12 PM, on TUUC's front porch. We will have a variety of regular and decaf coffee, tea, almonds and cashews, and chocolate bars. Also, try our new product: North Country Cayenne Hot Sauce, a traditional Appalachian style organic red hot sauce from Vermont. Medium spice level.

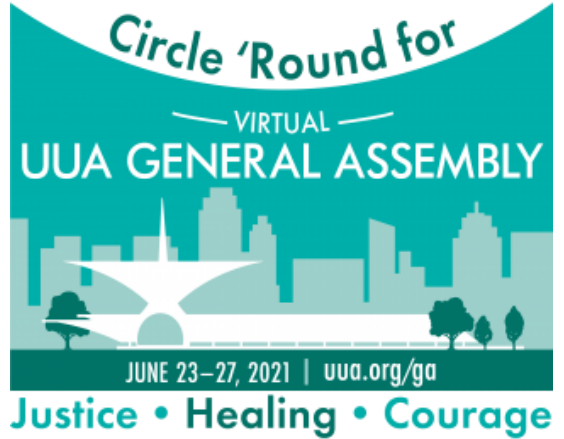
### TUUC BLOOD DRIVE—WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 FROM 10:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Wednesday, May 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 May 12th, if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating.

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. Also, vaccination timing doesn't interfere with donating. If you aren't having any side effects/symptoms then you are able to donate. To sign up for an appointment time between 10:30 AM to 4:00PM please use [this link](#) or email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times.

## 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 - Healing - Courage and the dates are June 23 – 27. Last year, over 4900 people attended! Check out the [schedule of events](#).



This is a great year to attend! For a \$200 registration fee, you can attend many workshops and be inspired and renewed through worship! You don't have to commit to attend something in every time slot.

**If you plan to attend and would like to serve as a voting delegate, please contact Sue Royer by May 10.** The Board will be voting to approve delegates at the May meeting.

In addition, 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 contact Sue Royer at [president@towsonuuc.org](mailto:president@towsonuuc.org) by May 10.

### 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.



**TOWSON UUC GREEN  
SANCTUARY MEETING**  
*Sun, May 2 at Noon*



**CABIN FEVER**  
**"WINTER KILLS" (1979)**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 1: 4PM**



## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

### SPECIAL FOOD DONATIONS

Interested in providing bottled water or fresh fruit for neighbors in need? Please complete this form. You will be asked to purchase the items and deliver them to ACTC. You can decide if you'd like to make a one-time donation or sign up to donate these items on several occasions.

#### 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.)

Below are the most-needed items:

- Breakfast cereal (box)
- Canned meals (pork and beans, chili, pasta meals, etc.)
- Canned vegetables (tomatoes, beans, corn, peas, potatoes, etc.)
- Canned fruit
- Dry pasta, rice, instant potatoes (bag or box)
- Spaghetti sauce (jar or can)
- Macaroni and cheese meals (box)
- Tuna (can)
- Peanut butter, jelly (jar)
- Soup (can)
- Toiletries (deodorant, lotions, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers, feminine hygiene products, etc.)

### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY, MAY 9 AT NOON

The Social Action Committee will meet at noon on Sun. May 9, following the Sunday Service. All are welcome. An agenda will be sent to members of the Committee.



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



*Writing as a  
Spiritual Practice*  
**A VIRTUAL DROP-IN GROUP  
FRIDAY, APRIL 30 AT 1:00PM**

**TUUC BOOK CLUB**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5 AT 7:30 PM**



***Writing Your Spiritual  
Autobiography***  
**Friday, May 14  
2:00 PM**

# 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 Apr	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
2 May	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	9:00 AM
2 May	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
2 May	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Committee	12:00 PM
2 May	Sunday	YRE Program—OWL	3:30 PM
4 May	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
4 May	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
4 May	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
5 May	Wednesday	Book Club	7:30 PM
6 May	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
7 May	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
8 May	Saturday	Green Sanctuary Fair Trade Sale	11:00 AM
8 May	Saturday	Cabin Fever—Crip Camp	4:00 PM
9 May	Sunday	Family Meetings/Classes	9:00 AM
9 May	Sunday	Sunday Service/Coffee Hour	10:30 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
04/25/2021	10:30 AM	70