



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

**SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021 - 10:30 AM**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: *STORIES TEACH US WHAT IS REAL***

David Loy wrote, “We do not experience a world and afterward make up stories to understand it. Stories teach us what is real, what is true, and what is possible. They are not abstractions from life (though they can be that); they are necessary for our engagement with life.” What stories do you remember your mother (or a mothering figure) telling you or reading to you to teach you what is real, what is true, what is possible? Please e-mail me ([revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org)) the story and what it taught you about reality, truth, and possibility. On this Mother’s Day, we celebrate stories told by maternal figures in our lives to teach us about who we are and what matters most.

### YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

This week the Kindergarten through 4th Grade continues to explore our monthly theme of Story, starting with the story of our own congregation. We will also practice the story Rooster and His Friends and record it for YRE Sunday. I hope you can join us as we wind up the church year. Stay tuned for information about walks or other outside activities that may be planned for the summer. Please check your email for the link to join the virtual meeting at 9 AM this Sunday or contact Joyce Duncan at [tuucdre@towsonuuc.org](mailto:tuucdre@towsonuuc.org).

### SUNDAY, MAY 9 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, May 9, 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: 972 2706 4646 Passcode: 066743



**VESPERS SERVICE**

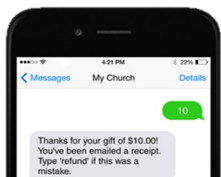
**MONDAY, MAY 10**

**7:00—7:30 PM**

### 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.



### 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 in 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 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 4:00 PM please use [this link](#) or email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times.

### **OUR MESSY LIVES—NOW ONCE A MONTH EVERY SECOND THURSDAY—MAY 13 AT 3PM**

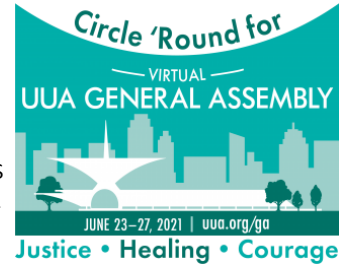
Due to dwindling attendance with "Our Messy Lives" and the enhanced enjoyment of getting outside in the beautiful, warmer weather; after some discussion amongst our group, rather than taking the summer off completely; we'll try transitioning to monthly Zoom sessions beginning next month in May. On Thursday, May 13, we will be discussing the idea of "Unintentionality." The following sessions will be held on June 10, July 8, August 12 and September 9 with topics to be announced. Hope this compromise works for all those who would miss our conversations and find them a fun way to spend an hour. If you are interested in joining us, please email Nancy Caswell, Facilitator and Zoom Host. Her contact information can be located in Breeze. Nancy sends out the Zoom information one to two days prior to each session. We hope to see you at our next meeting on May 13!

### **SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP HAPPY HOUR—SATURDAY, MAY 29 AT 6 PM**

The group will have an outdoor meal on the lower level porch at the church. We will take proper precautions for our health. Bring your own chair, beverage, and food. 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.

## UUA 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.

## COVID VACCINE ASSISTANCE

If you need assistance with getting your Covid vaccination; a local pharmacy is available for home delivery or walk-in vaccination. Leave a message on the church office voicemail for more information.

 <p><i>Writing as a Spiritual Practice</i> A VIRTUAL DROP-IN GROUP FRIDAY, MAY 7 AT 1:00PM</p>	 <p><i>Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography</i> Friday, May 14 2:00 PM</p>
<p><b><u>TUUC BOOK CLUB</u></b> WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2 AT 7:30 PM</p> 	<p><b><u>CABIN FEVER</u></b> "CRIP CAMP" (2020) SATURDAY, MAY 8: 4PM</p> 

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

### DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PARTNER TUUC SUPPORTS?

For May, we highlight the [Assistance Center of Towson Churches \(ACTC\)](#), which has been a TUUC Community partner longer than any other organization. During the pandemic, when so many have lost their income and may even be homeless, the need for food and other assistance is greater than ever.

ACTC has continued to operate the entire time (safely), not only as a food bank, but also as a source of emergency assistance, *including food, eviction and utility cutoff prevention, payment for prescriptions and lunches for the homeless*. They even provide a maildrop for those with no current address. Members of TUUC are among the volunteers. On the FIFTH SUNDAY of this month, May 30, the entire (non-pledge) collection plate will be donated to ACTC. So, please be generous.

Whether your text donation says "Plate" or "SAC," it will go to ACTC. To contribute to ACTC by check, send a check payable to TUUC and send to 1710 Dulaney Valley Rd. Lutherville MD 21093 and *specify "ACTC" on the memo line*. PayPal donations for this service will go to ACTC. Any other time, you could donate directly to ACTC at this link: <http://actconline.info>.

Thank you for your generosity!

### 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!**



**GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE  
FAIR TRADE SALE  
SATURDAY, MAY 8 AT 11 AM**

# 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.

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
9 May	Sunday	Social Action Committee	12:00 PM
9 May	Sunday	YRE Program—OWL	3:30 PM
10 May	Monday	Vespers	7:00 PM
11 May	Tuesday	Coffee with the Minister	12:00 PM
11 May	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
11 May	Tuesday	Soul Matters	7:30 PM
12 May	Wednesday	TUUC Blood Drive	10:30 AM
13 May	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
13 May	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
13 May	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 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](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
05/02/2021	10:30 AM	79