



SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, ANDREW HAGER, MIA HAGER : *WHAT OUR PETS TEACH US ABOUT PLAY*

During the summer we have been reflecting on what it means to be a people of play. We conclude our summer worship series by celebrating what our pets teach us about play. Tom Hayden wrote how dogs, "motivate us to play, be affectionate, seek adventure and be loyal." When has a pet motivated you to play, be affectionate, seek adventure, and be loyal? For our virtual annual "Blessing of the Animals" worship service on August 29, you are invited to send a photo of your pet(s) and a few words about what this family member has taught you about play. Or you may choose to send a photo of a pet you remember fondly and what you learned from them about play.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, August 29, 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:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93352760567?pwd=VWFxTkpld0NmMUw3ZjlqOGV4VEQ5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 933 5276 0567 **Passcode:** 616113

TUUC BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
7:30 PM

CABIN FEVER
"ANNETTE (2021)"
SATURDAY, AUGUST 28: 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](#)

AMAZON SMILE QUARTERLY DONATION: \$100.43

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.

FROM THE TUUC A-TEAM

NEWS FROM THE A-TEAM: THE OPENING OF TUUC HAS BEEN POSTPONED

The TUUC Administrative Team met on August 5 and, after looking at the metrics and projected metrics for Covid in our community, decided to postpone homecoming scheduled for September 12 and to delay re-opening the building in September.

We made this decision based on the ever-growing numbers of Delta variant cases in Maryland and evidence that the Delta variant is more contagious, capable of infecting vaccinated individuals, and dangerous for younger people. We need to better understand the risks of this variant before returning to our building. Also, children under the age of 12 have yet to be vaccinated. Our number one priority is safety. To this end, we are using a formula for re-opening that is being used by many UU congregations that takes into consideration case counts, transmission rates, test positivity rates, number of people hospitalized with Covid, etc. The A-Team will continue to monitor these numbers to evaluate when we might safely reopen. We hope this set-back is temporary.

This decision was not easy. Based on the metrics in June, we were looking forward to regathering for a big homecoming celebration to see one another; to launch Sunday School classes, to appreciate the remediation work in the building that has been accomplished this summer; to express gratitude for the work on the grounds that has been done during three "Homecoming" work parties; to appreciate the freshly installed nameplates on the new chairs in the Meeting Room (see photos in newsletter); and to celebrate the lives of Al Peabody and Joan Kolobielski. So many people have contributed time this summer to preparing for our return to the building and we extend our heartfelt thanks!

We realize that this delay to returning to gathering in the building is disappointing. You are invited to gather on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. on August 31 at the following URL:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91464236242?pwd=NHpQNE9HaFpKQ0c2ZDlIQWozNVdMUT09>

to express your feelings and to brainstorm ideas for ways to stay connected as a community until the metrics indicate that we can plan to safely re-open the building.

We have promised that what defines our congregation is not a building but being in right relationship: "Love is the doctrine of our church, the quest of truth is its sacrament and service is its prayer." Thank you for embodying this covenant with your compassion, inspiration, resilience, and engagement.

In the midst of uncertainty, it is good to remember what does not change. No matter how the Covid metrics rise and fall, we care for and need one another in this beloved community.

*---Rev. Clare on behalf of other A-Team members
Kai Aiyetoro, Dan Alper, and Clare Flynn-Avallone*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT TUUC

GREEN SANCTUARY PLANNING MEETING—SUNDAY, AUGUST 29 FROM 12—1:30 PM

Green Sanctuary Committee Planning Meeting will be held on Sunday August 29th from 12 - 1:30 PM via Zoom. All are welcome to join us. Contact Carel Hedlund (info in Breeze) with any questions.

NEXT TUUC BLOOD DRIVE—TUESDAY, AUGUST 31 FROM 10:30 AM—4:00 PM

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Tuesday, August 31, 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 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 August 31 if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating. To sign up for an appointment time between 10:30am-4:00pm [please use this link](#) or email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times. Give the Gift of Life – Give Blood!

SOUL MATTERS SHARING CIRCLES ON SEPTEMBER 28, OCTOBER 26, NOVEMBER 9 AND 23, DECEMBER 14 AND 28, AND JANUARY 11 AND 25

Soul Matters Sharing Circles will begin meeting, virtually, on September 28. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month for a little over an hour to explore the spiritual theme of the month in more depth. Rather than simply read what theologians have to say about a topic or all discuss a list of questions on the topic, participants have the opportunity to engage a spiritual practice that speaks to them and reflect on a question that leads them to a deeper insight. Each participant receives a monthly packet with at least four exercises, a list of possible questions, and several pages of resources. We ask that participants commit to meeting twice a month for a semester (through the fourth Tuesday of January.) If you are interested in being part of a virtual Soul Matters Sharing Circle, or have questions about the program, please e-mail revclare@towsonuuc.org.

WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE—VIRTUAL DROP IN GROUP— FRIDAYS FROM 1—2PM ON SEPTEMBER 3 AND 24, OCTOBER 1 AND 15, NOVEMBER 19, AND DECEMBER 3 AND 17

You are invited to drop in to experience the power of writing in community. Twice a month we will gather for an hour on a Friday afternoon. We will introduce ourselves; I will share a quotation and writing prompt; and then we will write together for 10-15 minutes in silence and without stopping. Those who wish to do so will share what they have written---without comment, feedback, or judgement. This is sacred sharing and listening. The goal is not to improve one's writing (or to improve someone else's writing!). The goal is to know another and be known and to share stories of who we are and what is on our mind and in our hearts.

VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH THE MINISTER

If you are available at noon on Tuesday, join Rev. Clare and others for conversations over virtual lunch on topics ranging from how it goes with out spirits to how it goes in the nation and the world.

TUUC CHOIR RESUMING

If you have ever thought about joining the TUUC Choir, now is a great time to do that! We are resuming rehearsals on Zoom for the time being, on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM.

We actually rehearse music (mostly with everyone muted), we talk about recording for our virtual projects (some audio only, some with video), and we enjoy time catching up with one another.

We will continue to work on music of many different styles, and we are also discussing what amazing music we hope to learn once we are able to sing together in person again!

Please contact Music Director Tracy Hall for more information at music@towsonuuc.org.

FROM THE TUUC BOARD

The Board of Trustees welcomes Eleanor (Ellie) Hughes! We conducted a Board “retreat” on Aug 20 and 21. Originally, we expected to be able to meet in person, since all of us are fully vaccinated. With the rising cases of COVID due to the Delta variant, we explored meeting outside, including at a park in an open-air shelter. Ultimately decided that meeting on Zoom would be the safest and most comfortable. We read our Board covenant aloud and agreed to abide by that covenant. We started the process of exploring Open Questions and discussing an Annual Vision of Ministry. We reviewed how we complied with our governance policy last year (very well) and then discussed areas of the policy that need modification. Most of those are gaps or areas where we could use language that is more straight-forward. We also had some fun playing Scattergories and adorning our llamas (or a substitute) for a llama parade!



SOCIAL ACTION

ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES (ACTC) FOOD DONATIONS

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.)

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.

28 Aug	Saturday	Cabin Fever—Annette	4:00 PM
29 Aug	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
29 Aug	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Planning Meeting	12:00 PM
31 Aug	Tuesday	TUUC Blood Drive	10:30 AM
31 Aug	Tuesday	Ministry in Uncertain Times	7:30 PM
1 Sept	Wednesday	Book Club	7:30 PM
4 Sept	Saturday	Cabin Fever—Magnolia	4:00 PM
5 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
7 Sept	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
7 Sept	Tuesday	Ministry in Uncertain Times	7:30 PM
7 Sept	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
9 Sept	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
9 Sept	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
10 Sept	Friday	YRE Kick Off Get Together	6:30 PM



TECHNICAL USHERS NEEDED

We continue to recruit 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
8/22/2021	10:30 AM	57