



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 - 10:30 AM**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, STEVE FINNER, TRACY HALL: *WHOLENESS, BROKENNESS, WHOLENESS***

Tomorrow evening marks the beginning of the Jewish new year, Rosh Hashana. Observances begin with the blowing of the shofar, the ram's horn. The piercing sound is done in a very specific way: a whole note followed by three broken notes, followed by a whole note. In the 17th century, Rabbi Horowitz taught that when we hear shofar we hear this message: "I started off whole, I became broken, even splintered into fragments, but I shall become whole again! I shall become whole again!" Today we explore the possibility of wholeness after brokenness, the work and labor of moving from brokenness to wholeness, and who and what helps us along the way.

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 SERVICE INFORMATION**

For Sunday, September 5, 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/92036008312?pwd=ZXhCWU4xTDI2cIN3UjZ2VWpBbml6QT09>

**Meeting ID:** 920 3600 8312

**Passcode:** 889582

### **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.



## CLARE'S COLLOQUY

In early August, I gathered virtually with colleagues to explore the September Soul Matters theme of "Embracing Possibility." My heart was not in it. The Delta variant was spreading. Embracing family and friends (what fully vaccinated people had been doing weeks earlier) was no longer advisable with the highly contagious variant. The possibility of TUUC safely gathering in the building on September 12 was looking less and less likely. I entered the meeting resisting the theme of embracing possibility.

But then a colleague mentioned that September 11 would mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11, 2001. You remember where you were and who you were with (or who you called or rushed to pick up) on that morning of clear, blue skies when you first learned of a plane inexplicably crashing into the North Tower, followed by another plane crashing into the South Tower (removing the speculation that the first had been an accident.) Then a plane flew into the Pentagon, followed by a fourth crashing in a field in PA. You remember where you were when you saw the first tower fall and then the second. It was incomprehensible, traumatic, devastating, overwhelming.

By noon on September 11, 2001, I remember thinking, "As a congregation, we need to have an opportunity to be together tonight to light candles." An announcement went out, readings on loss and grief were identified along with a couple of hymns. Around fifty people gathered in the Meeting Room that night. And we did light candles. But what I remember most clearly is a family who joined us: two parents and two children. They had never been to our church. They had never heard of Unitarian Universalism. They were driving through our neighborhood and saw our lights on. They needed to embrace the possibility of faith, hope, and love in the face of nihilism, despair, and hatred. That night, we all needed to embrace the possibility of beloved community.

This memory gave me a fresh perspective on the theme of "Embracing Possibility." At this time, it is not safe to gather in a particular building giving each other literal hugs. What we need right now is to shine our lights through devices; through masked, socially distanced gatherings on the grounds of TUUC and in the wider community, and through videos introducing our various ministries on our website. We need many ways for those looking to deepen their spiritual and ethical lives while working for racial, social, and environmental justice to find and connect with one another. We need to embrace the possibility of beloved community in new ways.

While we are planning to keep the building closed through September, we will be gathering for Sunday worship and small groups for adults on Zoom. Our Youth Religious Exploration ministry is planning outdoor gatherings on Sunday afternoons. I welcome the participation of children and youth in Sunday morning Zoom worship! Please contact me if your family is interested in lighting the chalice or helping to tell a story or offering music. I am also planning a masked, socially distanced outdoor 9/11 remembrance service at TUUC from 10:00-10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 11. It will be in the memorial garden, weather permitting, or under the balcony if it's raining. Other TUUC ministries are considering outdoor masked and socially distanced gatherings in September and October while the weather is still good.

If you have ideas for an outdoor program, please make a proposal to the A-Team through [revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org).

Twenty years ago, on September 11, a family saw TUUC's lights on, drove into our parking lot, and walked into our building in need of faith, hope, and love. As the public health crisis of the pandemic is not over, may we shine our lights for each other and the stranger in new ways. May we embrace such possibility. For we still need each other's faith, hope, and love. We still need beloved community.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT TUUC

**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](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org).

### 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.

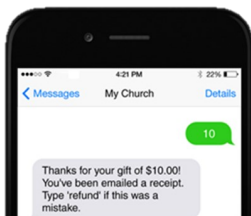
### TUUC CHOIR RESUMING

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](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org).



### 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](#)

## FROM THE TUUC BOARD

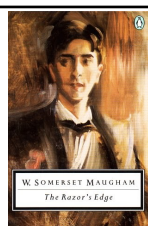
The Board of Trustees welcomes Eleanor (Ellie) Hughes! We conducted a Board “retreat” on Aug 20 and 21. Originally, we expected to be able to meet in person, since all of us are fully vaccinated. With the rising cases of COVID due to the Delta variant, we explored meeting outside, including at a park 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!



## TUUC BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

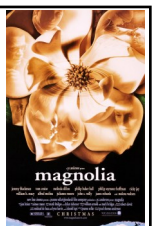
7:30 PM



## CABIN FEVER

MAGNOLIA (1999)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4: 4PM



## SOCIAL ACTION

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

On Sunday, September 19, the entire collection plate will go to one of our Social Action Community Partners, Out For Justice, Inc. Out For Justice, Inc. (OFJ) is a nonprofit, grassroots, organization dedicated to supporting and advocating for ex-offenders in Maryland. It is comprised of individuals who are both directly and indirectly impacted by the criminal justice system, advocating for the reform of policies and practices that adversely affect successful reintegration into society. For instance, people who have been accused of a crime, but have not yet been adjudged, should not have to be jailed (and so unable to care for their children or possibly lose their jobs) just because they cannot afford a small bail. Once a person has paid their debt to society, they should be able to re-enter society (get a job, rent an apartment, etc.) and not forever be judged by the worst day of their lives.

Since COVID, Out For Justice has:

- Collaborated with partners to create and implement a reentry housing plan to be used in conjunction with the DMV Black Mama's Bail Out initiative.
- Collected monetary donations that have funded mutual aid items, rent support, bail, and home detention fees.
- Facilitated the bailout/ home detention release/ housing placement of more than 50 people thus far.
- Issued a statement to Gov. Larry Hogan concerning the expedited release of incarcerated citizens, with a special emphasis on releasing those individuals on detention who are already in work release/pre-release status, in spite of their crime.
- Created a space for incarcerated individuals and their community to voice their opinions and concerns regarding incarceration during this pandemic on the Stories Behind the Walls Livestream.
- Completed a radio ad educating the formerly and currently incarcerated on their right to vote.
- Created three TV commercials informing Baltimore residents of their voting rights (to be aired on Fox 45 station) that include OFJ members and partners.

To donate you may A: donate as you normally do, to the plate or to "SAC" on Sunday, September 19, B: write a check to TUUC and specify "OFJ" or "SAC" on the memo line, or C: donate directly to Out for Justice, at [www.Out4Justice.org](http://www.Out4Justice.org). Thank you for your generosity.

### 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.)

### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12 AT NOON

The next Social Action Committee Meeting will meet Sunday, September 12 at noon, following the service and breakout rooms time. All are welcome. An agenda will be sent to all on our mailing list.

# 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.

3 Sept	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
4 Sept	Saturday	Cabin Fever—Magnolia	4:00 PM
5 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
7 Sept	Tuesday	Virtual Lunch with the Minister	12:00 PM
7 Sept	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	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
9 Sept	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
10 Sept	Friday	YRE Kick Off Get Together	6:30 PM
11 Sept	Saturday	20th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance	10:00 AM
11 Sept	Saturday	Cabin Fever: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid	4:00 PM
12 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
12 Sept	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:00 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](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
8/29/2021	10:30 AM	53