



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, JOYCE DUNCAN, AND ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS: *WATER COMMUNION—LIKE RIVERS RUNNING TO THE SEA*

In July, I embraced the possibility that we would regather, today, in our building with a big homecoming celebration. The Delta variant changed these plans. This Sunday, we will ponder the question, “If the home of your spirit were water, what form would it currently take?” Would it be salty, still, stormy, muddy, streaming, or something else....? Embracing possibility, we will reflect on a particular creature who lives in various forms of water throughout its life and what this creature can teach us about living with uncertainty in these uncertain times. ---Rev Clare

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Welcome back to religious exploration in physical space! As much as we enjoyed seeing our friends and meeting each other’s pets on Zoom, we are thrilled to offer an opportunity for faith development in community in a safe environment.

Families with children in Kindergarten through 12th grades are invited to join us on Sunday afternoons from 3-4:30 pm for outdoor multiage programming. We will offer engaging activities related to one of the seven UU principles each week. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 19 at TUUC, using the picnic grove, playground, and porch area. We will alternate meeting at TUUC with meeting at local parks, such as Oregon Ridge, Hampton Mansion, and Cromwell Valley Park.

Safety measures include wearing masks, physical distancing, and bathrooms available for hand washing. Projects will be done in family pods. Families are invited to bring water bottles and snacks if needed (no food provided). Please see the family email or contact tuucdre@towsonuuc.org for details and to find out how to sign up.

These plans may change if the threat level of Covid 19 increases.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, September 12, 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/98492774271?pwd=MDMxcGZVelcyUVp2ODZ5ejJlT3hBZz09>

Meeting ID: 984 9277 4271 **Passcode:** 825204

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 20th 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.

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.

TUUC ETHNIC LUNCH—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 12:30 PM—KOKA K-BBQ

Fall is around the corner and Ethnic Lunch is returning on Wednesday, September 15 after a summer hiatus. The restaurants still on our list from 2020 do not offer sufficient outdoor seating for a group our size and we know that many people are still uncomfortable with eating indoors. So Janet Kuperstein and I continue to look for ethnic restaurants with outdoor seating where we haven't been recently.

Our next lunch will be at Koba Korean BBQ at Belvedere Square in Baltimore. They have seating for 12 people outside. We won't be able to do Korean BBQ outside but they offer a lunch menu with several other Korean meals that should appeal.

Lunch will be at 12:30, Wednesday September 15 at Koba Korean BBQ, www.kobaayce.com, 510 E. Belvedere Square. There is limited free parking around the square and metered parking on the street. All are welcome, but please respond by Monday, September 13 to ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org so we can notify the restaurant as to how many are expected. Hope you can join us! ---*Janet Kuperstein and Claudia Sumler*

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE FAIR TRADE SALE—SEPTEMBER 18 FROM 11AM TO NOON

Celebrate our new church year and support fair trade farmers with the Green Sanctuary Committee, Saturday morning September 18th from 11 AM to 12 Noon, on TUUC's front porch.

WRITING YOUR SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 FROM 7:30-8:30 PM

Join us for Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography on Friday, September 24 from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. We will explore our spiritual history as we write on selected topics. The meeting is facilitated by Art Starr. Please contact Nancy Caswell at nancycaswell@cox.net for the Zoom meeting information.

ORDINATION OF KARYN BERGMANN MARSH

In June, The Towson Unitarian Universalist Church voted to ordain Karyn Marsh as a minister. We have set a time and date! Please mark your calendars for 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 6. While we do not yet know whether this great occasion will be held virtually or on site, we do know it will be a grand celebration! The congregation participates in the actual act of ordination so we need you to attend! Our current budget for the ordination includes flying in a guest preacher; special music; flowers; a reception; a dinner for Karyn's family and honored guests; and a gift from the congregation for Karyn.

However, the ordination was not part of this year's operating budget approved by the congregation. So, if you would like to make a designated financial gift for the ordination of Karyn Marsh, you may do so here: <https://tuucdatabase.breezechms.com/give/online>

Enter amount; designate for "Restricted Fund;" and write Karyn's name in comments section after entering your information.

You may also donate by text to **410-834-0700**

{Amount} Ordination - example (\$50 Ordination).

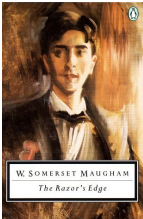
If you choose to snail mail a check, please write "Ordination Karyn Marsh" in the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity! And please know that any funds not needed for the ordination will be designated for the TUUC Building Fund. Whether we ordain Karyn in the TUUC building or in virtual space, this will be a truly uplifting and memorable event in the life of our congregation! Again, mark your calendars, now, and plan to participate!

- Rev. Clare


TUUC BOOK CLUB

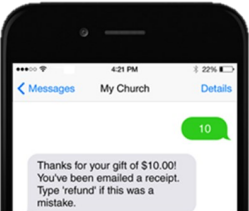
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6
7:30 PM



CABIN FEVER

BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID (1969)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: 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](#)

SOCIAL ACTION

AN URGENT NOTICE FROM THE UU SIDE WITH LOVE ACTION CENTER

Texas just passed a series of devastating bills and executive actions that gut voting rights, criminalize abortion access, use the National Guard to arrest undocumented migrants, expand dangerous gun laws and carry out more executions this year. But it's not just Texas.

Across the country, white nationalism and authoritarianism are more and more prevalent in our streets and our legislatures. Recently, 49 states have introduced over 400 voter suppression bills. As of today, 25 states have asked the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

We need our UU communities to show up to Side With Love. That is why we're activating all our campaigns (UU the Vote, Create Climate Justice, and Uplift LGBTQ+ & Gender Justice) to organize in this defining moment. Through our collective commitment to justice, we live out our faith in a better world. [REGISTER to take action and learn how your congregation can grow our justice work in this critical moment.](#)

The Action Center is a place to join in national and local action to take on these battles. Right now, bills that could expand voting rights, create a pathway to citizenship, address homelessness and poverty, and transform how we confront the climate crisis hang in the balance because our representatives have chosen profit over people, and the oppression of many over liberation for all. Together we have opportunities to tip the scales towards justice. [Join us for the launch of the Side With Love Action Center on Sunday, September 12 at 2 PM EST](#) (recorded, if you cannot make it at that time).

We know that the web of injustice can feel impossible to untangle. But we also know that when we weave our love together through collective action, the fabric of beloved community is the most powerful, connective, transformative force in the world. We must--we WILL--meet the challenges of this moment by showing up together.

Also, what can you do now?

Before joining us for the Action Center launch, we invite you to take action to support communities that have been impacted by these issues:

- [Give to support communities impacted by Hurricane Ida](#) (resource from Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism)
- [Sign on to the Red, Black, and Green New Deal Climate Pledge](#)
- [Donate to Texas Abortion Care Funds](#)
- [Organize to Tell the Senate to Finish the Job and Pass the *For the People Act*](#)

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. 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.

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.



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.

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
14 Sept	Tuesday	Virtual Lunch with the Minister	12:00 PM
15 Sept	Wednesday	Ethnic Lunch—Koba Korean BBQ	12:30 PM
16 Sept	Thursday	Virtual Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
18 Sept	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
18 Sept	Saturday	GSC Fair Trade Sale	11:00 AM
18 Sept	Saturday	Celebration of Life—Al Peabody	2:00 PM
18 Sept	Saturday	Cabin Fever—I am Divine	4:00 PM
19 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
19 Sept	Sunday	Our Journey Together	7:15 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
09/05/2021	10:30 AM	68