



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021 - 10:30 AM

DOMINIQUE HALL, LAY WORSHIP ASSOCIATE: "FROM CHESTNUTS TO WAITING SEEDS— OPENING TO JOY IN SEASONS OF ANXIETY"

Mel Torme and Robert Wells wrote The Christmas Song in a single afternoon in July, trying to capture the essence of a frigid winter day during a sweltering summer. Like the chestnuts mentioned in the opening lines of the song, sometimes it is necessary to experience a hard, stressful winter in order to sprout with the warmth of spring.

How can anticipating future seasons (or remembering those in the past) help us open to the joy in our lives? How do the stresses of life prepare us for the possibility of future joys?

SUNDAY DECEMBER 26 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, December 26, 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/88009620532?pwd=N1dDRFRwZDR3UXY1ZXg5RlhZeWF3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 880 0962 0532 Passcode: 175814

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We hope you have a happy and safe holiday. YRE gathering will start up again on January 9. Please stay tuned for details on how and where we will be meeting. All ages are invited to join me and Tom Zeller for a walk at Cromwell Valley Park on January 2, from 2-3 PM meeting at the Willow Grove Nature Center. We look forward to seeing you then.

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS

When making your contributions online, please be sure to designate your donation to the correct fund by using the dropdown arrow. Click on the fund you wish to contribute to and write the entity (ex: ODB) in the note area for clarification.

Give to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

\$ 0.00

Give to 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign

Add Gift to Another Fund

Give this One Time

Give by Credit/Debit Card

Continue

Give to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

\$ 0.00

- Give to Restricted Fund
- Give to 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign
- Give to Building Fund
- Give to General Fund
- Give to Green Products
- Give to Kate Venables Music Fund
- Give to Memorial Garden
- Give to ODB Classrooms
- Give to Plate Collection
- Give to Religious Education Registration
- Give to Restricted Fund
- Give to Social Action Collection

CHRISTMAS EVE AT TUUC

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021 - 5:00 PM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, JOYCE DUNCAN: "REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY!"

Before Thanksgiving, when I asked my nephew what he would be interested in bringing to a Zoom Christmas Eve service, he replied, "Your favorite ornament." I said, "We did that last year." He answered, "Yeah. It was good. It should be a tradition." Part of what made this service memorable was that people of all ages participated and shared ornaments that represented joy. So bring your favorite ornament (that may or may not be part of your family's traditions) to your device. If you have a child who would like to share a musical piece, please let Tracy know as soon as possible. We may not be able to pass a literal flame, but we will share other sounds and symbols of love and joy! If you have a taper, please bring a taper to your device. We will light it as we sing Silent Night from our homes.

For the first Christmas eve service, please join us at 4:45 PM to be admitted prior to the service starting at 5:00 PM.

Zoom Link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97357840279?pwd=STREOVZlbnNrcGk2dHUxUXJSVmdPUT09>

Meeting ID: 973 5784 0279 Passcode: 914460

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021 - 7:30 PM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: "LET EVERY HEART PREPARE ROOM"

A beloved holiday Christmas story is of the pageant where the child playing the part of the innkeeper didn't send Mary and Joseph away but instead extended hospitality and said "Come on in!" What if that child got the story right---that others helped Mary and Joseph? What would it mean for the nativity story? What would it mean for our lives? What might it tell us about where joy is found? If you have a taper, please bring it to your device. We will light it as we sing Silent Night from our homes.

For the second Christmas eve service, please join us at 7:15 PM to be admitted prior to the service starting at 7:30 PM.

Zoom Link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93428508672?pwd=YmVuUFR2aFRNOE5WcS9UTVNiKONaUT09>

Meeting ID: 934 2850 8672 Passcode: 820380

AMAZON SMILE QUARTERLY DONATION: \$91.14

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.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT TOWSON UUC

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE—HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING

The Green Sanctuary Committee urges you to check out, and to share, this article on how to avoid wasteful holiday gift wrapping with clever ideas for reusing what you have. [Please visit this page for a helpful guide from Greenpeace.](#)

TUUC 2021 AUCTION—ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE

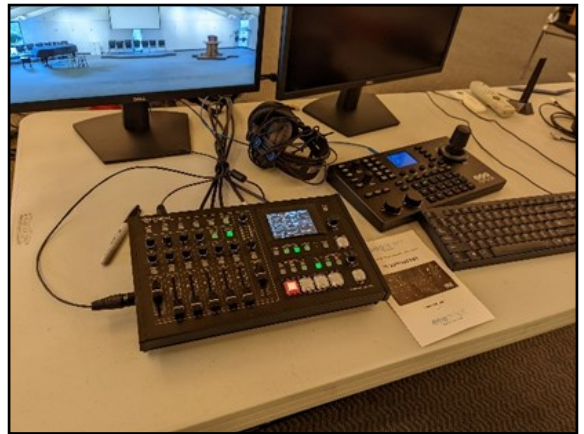
Thanks to everyone--donors and bidders, committee members, other volunteers and TUUC staff who made this year's *Gather Our Gifts!* auction a resounding success and a great deal of fun. Together we raised \$17,500 for the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church!

There's still chance to purchase the last places for some very enticing events, activities and services. You can hike, bike, eat, drink, learn, craft, sing, play games or be entertained while getting to know the other participants a little bit better. One particularly fun item is Len Proctor's online Improv Class which needs one or two additional takers. Ann had to twist my arm to buy this last year because I was worried about being put on-the-spot to perform. I was wrong. The classes were a blast. Very playful, totally non-judgmental and confidence-building.

The complete list and how to order appear in the [POST AUCTION SALES](#) link on the Auction Webpage. --Dan Alper and the 2021 Auction Team

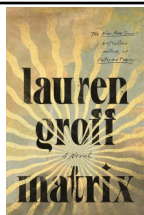
UPDATE ON HYBRID MINISTRIES

We're very excited to share that Armbruster AV completed the installation of our new streaming cameras and equipment on December 20! Training for the A/V team will be scheduled for January. And...Verizon has completed the installation of FIOS to the church! We haven't yet switched over to Verizon, but expect to do that early in 2022.



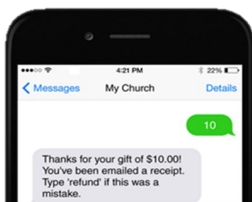
TUUC BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5
7:30 PM



CABIN FEVER

THE BEATLES—GET BACK (2021)
SUNDAY, JANUARY 2: 4:00PM



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](#)

DATE WITH DEATH CLUB

We have the opportunity to pilot an adult religious exploration curriculum written by a Unitarian Universalist minister, The Reverend Karen G. Johnston. The Date with Death Club is a non-dogmatic exploration of our mortality in community, ranging from philosophical to spiritual, from humorous to informational. This program provides a safe and brave space to explore the taboo topic of our mortality and the possibility of living a more awake life by facing the reality of our death. [Please register here.](#)

You may participate virtually (or in person, depending on where numbers are as we head towards spring) in one or all of the six sessions:



January 9---Getting Comfortable With Death Talk 1-3:00 PM

Death has become hidden, making it harder for us to come to terms with the reality of it. It hasn't always been this way. The modern death-positive movement creates ways for those who want the chance to talk openly about mortality. We'll explore how the Date with Death Club provides a chance to grow our comfort and knowledge about this topic.

January 23---Circle of Life: Loving and Losing 1-3:00 PM

With love comes loss. With living comes dying. Using the popular documentary *My Octopus Teacher*, we will explore what it means to stay open in the face of losing, and how we can heal even as we experience grief and sorrow. To provide time to view the film together, this session may run longer.

February 6---Dying, Death, and Poetry 1-3:00 PM

Reflecting upon dying and death can sound morbid, but really it can connect us with what is truly meaningful in our lives, as well as with beauty in the world and gratitude in our hearts. This session will use easy-to-understand poetry to help us find our own way of understanding our mortality.

February 20---After Life/Afterlives 1:00-3:00 PM

What happens after we die is a mystery. There's lots of speculation and theory but no concrete evidence. In this non-dogmatic session, we'll explore concepts of an afterlife (or not) through different traditions and outlooks, then engage in personal reflection on what our beliefs are, where we got them from, and how they have held up over our lifetimes.

March 6---Good Life, Good Death 1:00-3:00 PM

What do people mean when they say "a good death?" And how is that connected to having "a good life?" Is it the same for everyone? Are there barriers to a good life? What do these terms mean for you?

March 20---Eco Grief, Extinction Fears, Processing 1:00-3:00 PM

Due to the climate crisis, we face not our own mortality, but questions about our collective existence as a species and whether the planet is dying (at least as it is inhabitable by humans). Using concepts from the "Work That Reconnects," developed by Joanna Macy, we'll bravely explore this emotional terrain.

SOCIAL ACTION

EARL'S PLACE

Earl's Place, along with Prospect Place, are programs of Cornerstone Community Housing (CCH). CCH is dedicated to helping men experiencing homelessness rebuild their lives and to changing attitudes toward homelessness through outreach and education. Earl's Place, which is a stepping stone on the way to attaining a permanent home, houses 17 men at a time. The support of organizations like TUUC help provide the steady income necessary to provide hope, help and home to men experiencing homelessness. To learn more about Cornerstone Community Housing (Earl's Place), visit their website: <http://www.cchbaltimore.org/>

At the November 14 service Sheila Helgerson, director of Earl's Place, provided a wonderful talk about Earl's Place. To contribute to Earl's Place, use one of these methods:

- Send a check payable to TUUC and send to 1710 Dulaney Valley Rd. Lutherville MD 21093 and specify "Earl's Place" or "CCH" on the memo line
- Text your donation to TUUC (410-834-0700) for SAC Social Action Collection ex: text "30 SAC."
- Donate on Breeze: From the top of the first page of the website select "donate" and choose "EP" on the Drop-down list.

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.)

YEAR END GIVING HELPS MAINTAIN OUR BUILDING

Now is a good time for year end giving to the Building Fund to help pay for our office remediation project. This can be done by purchasing plaques for the chairs (limited supply available) and make donations to the Building Fund by December 31.

We are also seeking members for our House Team to maintain our religious home. Please speak with Clare Flynn-Avallone for more information at houseandgrounds@towsonuuc.org.

THANKSGIVING BASKET PROJECT

TUUC contributed \$1250 to the Thanksgiving Basket Project at ACTC. Thanks to all who contributed to making Thanksgiving a bit better for more than a few families.



It's not too late...60 undedicated chairs available!

If you would like to purchase a plaque for our new chairs, it's not too late. You may dedicate a plaque in memory of someone or honor someone for \$75. This money will go to the TUUC Building Fund. Complete this [form](#) to place your order. Thanks!

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.

23 Dec	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
24 Dec	Friday	Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	5:00 PM
24 Dec	Friday	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7:30 PM
26 Dec	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
27 Dec	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circles	7:30 PM
30 Dec	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
2 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
2 Jan	Sunday	Cabin Fever—The Beatles: Get Back	4:30 PM
4 Jan	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
4 Jan	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
5 Jan	Wednesday	Book Club—"Matrix" by Lauren Groff	7:30 PM
6 Jan	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
7 Jan	Friday	Home Paramount	12:00 PM



SEEKING TECHNICAL USHERS—WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Two of our regular technical ushers have moved from the area. We need additional volunteers to give the regulars a break. The most pressing need is for people who are comfortable with PowerPoint (or Keynote) and have a very good internet connection – to be the A/V usher once a month on Sunday morning. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 6 PM. Please contact churchoffice@towsonuuc.org for additional information or to volunteer.

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
12/19/2021	10:30 AM	59