



### SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022 - 10:30 AM

### REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: "THE HEART'S INTENTIONS"

This first Sunday of 2022 is traditionally a time to think about resolutions and goals for the coming year. But a Unitarian Universalist Director of Religious Exploration, Kate Covey, observed, "Intention is different from setting goals or resolutions in that it "pulls us into" who we truly are. Goals and resolutions "push us out" into future possibilities. To set intentions, we listen to our inner voice which tells us who we truly are." This morning, as we begin opening to intention, we reflect on who and what we are about and connect to the wisdom of our own true hearts rather than focus on what we need to do to become someone else.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 SERVICE INFORMATION

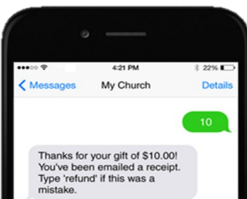
For Sunday, January 2, please join us at 10:15 AM to be admitted prior to the service starting at 10:30. We will have break-out rooms for coffee and conversation following the service.

Zoom Link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92361393821?pwd=SFR2VU5rK3VSVXBlcWVJeXJlcj0QT09>

Meeting ID: 923 6139 3821 Passcode: 007862

### YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

YRE gatherings 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. Contact Joyce at [tuudre@towsonuuc.org](mailto:tuudre@towsonuuc.org) to RSVP.



## PASSING THE PLATE

**DONATE BY TEXT**  
Send an amount to  
**(410) 834-0700**

**DONATE TO TUUC VIA PAYPAL, TEXT, OR BREEZE**

**MORE INFORMATION ON THE TUUC WEBSITE [HERE](#)**

### 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

## CLARE'S COLLOQUY

At the end of November, my parents learned that my mother's "Cousin Nan," who was in her early 90's, had died of natural causes in February of 2021. When I learned the news, my first thoughts were of visiting with her and her first husband, Dick, when I was a child. She was tall, full of energy, hail-fellow-well-met, inquisitive, and was a lot of fun. Her husband was the kind of person who would go down the slide designed for children at a pool. They both had wide smiles and loved to laugh---big, hearty laughs.

Reading her obituary, I was struck by these details: "A committed friend and philanthropist, she loved family, neighbors, and spending quiet evenings in conversation with a cigar and a brandy in each hand (in that order)....She gave generously to support the causes she cared about and lent her energy, warmth, and compassion to all who knew her. (She) was simultaneously larger than life and down to earth, and we will always be reminded of her when we sit outside, breathe deep the fresh air, and gaze into the big night sky. And then we'll each raise a brandy and say: "To you, Nan!"

Her friends and family were reflecting in her obituary who she was, fundamentally, at her core. These were qualities of being that Cousin Nan could not have set New Year's resolutions or goals to achieve.

Our congregational chat has reflected the deaths of many loved ones in the past year. These people are missed, primarily, for who they were in relationship to us and to others---rather than for anything on a resume; or any significant publications; or specific ways they worked to become a better version of themselves in the New Year.

Perhaps for this reason, our Soul Matters theme for January is "What does it mean to open to intention?" What does it mean to pause to reflect on who we are? This is different from the tradition of setting resolutions and goals to become a better version of ourselves.

The Great Resignation, an idea proposed by Professor Anthony Klotz, that a large number of mid-career employees in health care and technology have left or will leave their jobs after the Covid pandemic ends may be related to questioning if what they are doing is aligned with their deepest values. It may be related to inner discernment about authenticity and transformation rather than about how society defines (or defined) success.

This month, at the start of a new year, when we are done with the pandemic but it does not appear to be done with us, we open to intention. The word comes from Latin and refers to stretching and leaning towards. This month we stretch toward our true selves and lean towards our internal compass so that we can reflect on who we want to be in relationship to ourselves, to others, and to the moral issues facing us. We reflect on the qualities of our unique and unrepeatable selves for which we hope to be remembered so that those who follow "will sit outside, breathe deep the fresh air, gaze into the big night sky," and raise a glass in our honor.

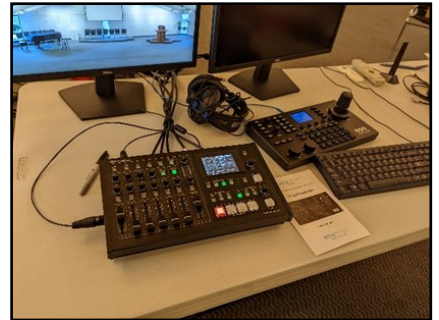
## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT TOWSON UUC

### 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. 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.



### PHISHING/SCAM EMAILS—DO NOT RESPOND

Well, the scammers are at it again. If you receive an e-mail, ostensibly from my Gmail account, with a request for gift cards or a message that I need help from you and can't telephone you, or some other vague request that I would never make, please ignore it. I don't know how the scammers get addresses for members of our UU congregations. I know that my Unitarian Universalist colleagues have had to warn their congregants to avoid such phishing scams. My thanks to those who have alerted me to recent attempts. I have reported the bogus Gmail account addresses to Google. ---Rev. Clare

### GREEN SANCTUARY MEETING—SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 AT NOON

Green Sanctuary Committee will meet via zoom on Sunday January 2nd at noon. Zoom information is on the TUUC web calendar. All are welcome.

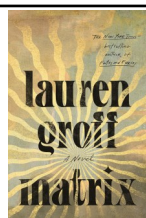
### FAREWELL TO JANET SCHOLLENBERGER—SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 AT 12:30 PM

On Sunday January 2 at 12:30 PM, please join in a zoom call to bid farewell to longtime TUUC member Janet Schollenberger. She and her husband Doug are relocating to the Gettysburg area. Janet, a master gardener, has been an incredible resource to The Green Sanctuary Committee over the years, both with our gardens and in obtaining grants for special projects. The Zoom link is on the TUUC web calendar.

### TUUC BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

7:30 PM



### CABIN FEVER

THE BEATLES—GET BACK (2021)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2: 4:00PM



## 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.)

### 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.

### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 AT NOON

The Social Action Committee will meet Sunday, January 9, at noon, following the service and Coffee Hour. All are invited- see Church calendar. An Agenda will be sent to persons on the mailing list.

#### 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.



# 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.

30 Dec	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
2 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
2 Jan	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Meeting	12:00 PM
2 Jan	Sunday	Farewell for Janet Schollenberger	12:30 PM
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
9 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
9 Jan	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
9 Jan	Sunday	Cabin Fever—The Lost Daughter	4:30 PM
9 Jan	Sunday	Date with Death Club	1:00 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](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org) for additional information or to volunteer.

## ZOOM SERVICE

### ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
12/24/2021	5:00 PM	29
12/24/2021	7:30 PM	41
12/26/2021	10:30 AM	37

Don't **Work** Sick

Don't **School** Sick

Don't **Church** Sick