



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022 - 10:30 AM**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: "GOOD INTENTIONS"**

We've all heard the expression, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." But, as Universalists, who do not profess belief in hell, how do we understand "good intentions." Specifically, what is the role of mistakes in our world view? Are mistakes to be avoided at all costs or do we embrace them? What does our response to our own mistakes and those of others teach us?

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 SERVICE INFORMATION**

For Sunday, January 9, 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/97057318567?pwd=SGdmUnc1REIEUW9IRlpLVDNmWXVuUT09>

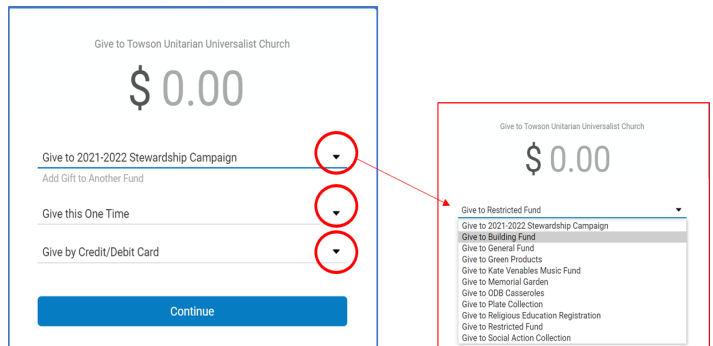
Meeting ID: 970 5731 8567 Passcode: 793596

**YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

We look forward to meeting with families again and hearing about your winter holiday. We are moving the family gatherings to virtual space for the month of January. Please join us at 9 AM at the link in the family email or the TUUC calendar. In January we will be talking about living with intention. This week we will focus on passion as the driver of intention, inspired by the story *We Are The Waterkeepers* by Carole Lindstrom.

**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.



## 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.

## 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.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT TOWSON UUC

### TUUC 2021 AUCTION—ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE

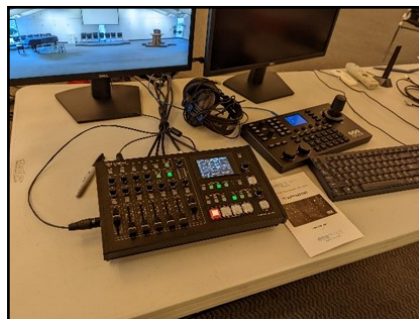
Thanks to everyone--donors and bidders, committee members, other volunteers and TUUC staff who made this year's *Gather Our Gifts!* auction a resounding success and a great deal of fun. Together we raised \$17,500 for the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church! There's still chance to purchase the last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

### 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

### 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.



### VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH THE MINISTER—TUESDAYS AT NOON

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

### SOUL MATTERS SHARING CIRCLES—FEBRUARY 8 AND 22, MARCH 8 AND 22, APRIL 12 AND 26, MAY 10 AND 24

Soul Matters Sharing Circles will begin new groups, virtually, on February 8. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month for a little over an hour to explore the spiritual theme of the month in more depth. Our themes will be Widening The Circle, Renewing Faith, Awakening, and Nurturing Beauty. 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).

**WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE—FRIDAYS FROM 1-2 PM—JANUARY 14 AND 28, FEBRUARY 11 AND 25, MARCH 11 AND 25, APRIL 8 AND 22, MAY 20, JUNE 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 one another and be known and to share stories of who we are and what is on our mind and in our hearts.

--- Rev. Clare

**ETHNIC LUNCH TIME—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19 AT 12:30 PM (VIRTUAL)**

The upsurge in Covid-19 cases, thanks to the arrival of Omicron, means many people are reluctant to visit restaurants. Janet Kuperstein and I have decided to return Ethnic Lunch to Zoom cooking demonstrations until we feel comfortable returning to restaurant dining.

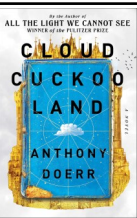
On Wednesday, January 19 at 12:30 everyone is invited to join Janet as she prepares a lunch with a French influence. She'll prepare *salade Niçoise*, *Madeleines* with a savory cheese flavor and *pots de crème*.

We may be continuing with Zoom get togethers until Spring. If there are any cooks out there who would like to demonstrate a favorite dish from their cultural background or discovered on a trip to foreign countries, let us know.


If you plan to join us, RSVP to [ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org](mailto:ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org).

--- Claudia Sumler and Janet Kuperstein

**TUUC BOOK CLUB**  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2  
7:30 PM

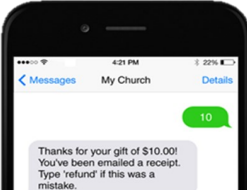


**CABIN FEVER**  
THE LOST DAUGHTER (2021)  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9: 4:30PM



**PASSING THE PLATE**  
DONATE TO TUUC VIA PAYPAL, TEXT, OR BREEZE  
MORE INFORMATION ON THE TUUC WEBSITE [HERE](#)

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



## 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:

- a. 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
- b. Text your donation to TUUC (410-834-0700 ) for SAC Social Action Collection ex: text "30 SAC."
- c. 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.)

### 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.

9 Jan	Sunday	Family Gathering	9:00 AM
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
11 Jan	Tuesday	Virtual Lunch With Minister	12:00 PM
11 Jan	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circles	7:30 PM
13 Jan	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
13 Jan	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
14 Jan	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
15 Jan	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
16 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
16 Jan	Sunday	Cabin Fever—The King of Comedy	4:30 PM
17 Jan	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 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.

**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
01/02/2022	10:30 AM	61