



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER: "LOVE YOUR ENEMIES?"

One of the suggested angles for our Soul Matters monthly theme is "Widening Our Circle of Compassion To Our Enemies." I wasn't initially drawn to this theme and especially not for the day before Valentine's Day. But today, I received a call from a TUUC member who asked me if I thought "we" should arm ourselves, now, to prepare for future violence with "them" who currently have "most of the guns." Apparently, this had been a topic of discussion among several TUUC members. The short answer is, "No." The longer answer is to explore what the Biblical injunction "Love your enemies" meant and why it is still important to our ethical and spiritual lives. Spoiler alert: You will not find this message in the card section for Valentine's Day.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022 - 10:30 AM

GUEST MINISTER, REV. CHRISTIN GREEN: "LIVING IN CIRCLES"

Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition made up of communities of communities. Our lives are made up of many circles and some that overlap. What does it look and feel like to widen and not just overlap? Join guest minister Rev. Christin Green to explore how we might embody our values and principles in this practice of widening the circles in which we live.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, February 13, 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/99818244901?pwd=UVM3STh4K3ZPWjJqK05hMXgyeXd6Zz09>

Meeting ID: 998 1824 4901 Passcode: 768787

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Families are invited to join us for a family gathering Sunday at noon by Zoom. We explore widening the circle by learning the story of one of our UU ancestors, Rev. Ethelred Brown, the first Black Unitarian minister in America. Contact Joyce Duncan at tuudre@towsonuuc.org for more information or to be added to the mailing list. See the family email or the TUUC website calendar for the link to join.



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.

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Our spiritual theme for February is “Widening the Circle.” What does this theme mean to you? When I first heard those words, in my mind’s eye I saw a circle of 40 chairs at River Road Unitarian Universalist Church with colleagues in the Chesapeake chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. In pre-Covid times, when another colleague arrived, we needed to literally widen the circle. This entailed finding an extra chair for this colleague, bringing it to the “circle,” and then colleagues “widening the circle” to make room for the extra chair and cherished colleague. It was not something that one person could do alone. It required effort by many individuals. Chairs scraped the floor in a wave as several people scooted back; smiles and waves were exchanged; sometimes there were further sounds of scraping as chairs were moved further back or forward to maintain something of the circle shape. Perfection was not the goal. Community was the goal.

Last winter, a hard copy of the report from the UUA Commission on Institutional Change, entitled “Widening The Circle Of Concern” sat on my desk (it still does!) The UUA Commission on Institutional Change was like the colleague arriving at the already formed circle. The report “Widening The Circle Of Concern” was like the extra chair---a means to become more inclusive. (The report may be accessed on-line, here: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>) Last winter, on Sunday afternoons, around 20 TUUC members and friends were like the colleagues moving their chairs back as we discussed the report’s recommendations on ways to become an anti-racist, multi-cultural congregation and association of congregations. Sometimes we smiled. Sometimes we winced at the scraping sound of painful stories of exclusion. The report made it clear that perfection is not the goal. The goal is a more inclusive and welcoming community. The goal is Beloved Community.

As we continue to discuss the proposed Eighth Principle, with its vision “of journeying to spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions” the image of Unitarian Universalists literally moving their chairs to create a more inclusive circle is appropriate. Widening our circle of concern will entail recognizing where we are in our current circle; making adjustments; changing some practices and intentionally “widening the circle.” Perfection is not the goal. Community is the goal.

The Reverend Cristin Green will address the theme of “Widening the Circle” in worship with us on February 20th. She is the Assistant Minister for Congregational Life for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax, VA. I first heard Rev. Cristin Green in her role as Worship Arts coordinator for the Chesapeake chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. She is a member of Diverse & Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries as well as Unitarian Universalist Professionals of Color. She is also a poet and musician. Please give The Reverend Cristin Green a warm TUUC welcome! Although you may not have to move your chair back when we gather for worship on February 20th, do smile, wave, and listen to her preach on the theme of widening the circle.

NEWS ABOUT US

Nancy Hannah, who has been a beloved member of TUUC for over a half century; a cherished Choir member; and our former dedicated Office Administrator, has entered home hospice care. Nancy is doing well and is looking forward to watching the Super Bowl this Sunday. She welcomes cards, e-mails, and texts. She has requested no phone calls. Nancy's contact information is in Breeze.

---Rev. Clare

STEWARDSHIP

The theme for this year's Stewardship campaign is **#GatherOurGifts**. We kicked off the campaign during the February 6 service. Our Director of Religious Exploration Joyce Duncan led us in re-enacting the story of Stone Soup, where villagers found they had resources to share with a traveler. Self-described quiet member Marianne De Bow shared her stewardship testimonial and challenged all to increase our pledges for the coming year!

Edith Roundy, who is a student in our Youth Religious Exploration program, designed the logo for our campaign!

In the coming weeks, listen to the testimonials given on Sunday morning, and consider your commitment to TUUC. We intend to return to our building in March and preparations are underway!

You are invited to take a photo of yourself and your family holding a sign with **#GatherOurGifts** and post it in our TUUC Facebook Group or submit it for inclusion in the Threshold.

Watch for a letter and pledge form to arrive soon in your email and/or your mailbox. All pledge forms are due by March 15.



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 Verabales Music Fund

Give to Memorial Garden

Give to ODB Casseroles

Give to Plate Collection

Give to Religious Education Registration

Give to Restricted Fund

Give to Social Action Collection

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT TOWSON UUC

GREEN SANCTUARY FAIR TRADE SALE—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 FROM 11 AM TO 12 PM

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Green Sanctuary Committee will be selling fair trade chocolate, coffee, tea and nuts on the church porch, Saturday Feb 12th from 11 am to noon. Come get your heart felt gifts!!

ETHNIC LUNCH—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT 12:30 PM

Covid-19 cases are dropping but we think one more month with Zoom cooking demonstrations is the way to go for February Ethnic Lunch. This month Janet Kuperstein is going to take us to the Middle East by demonstrating how to prepare some dishes from Jordan. Everyone is invited to join Janet via Zoom on Wednesday, February 16 at 12:30. RSVP to

ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84081841796?pwd=bVhGc2pNaUJsY2R6cDRDNU9aTUJW>

Meeting ID: 840 8184 1796 Passcode: 464610

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP VIRTUAL GET-TOGETHER—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT 7 PM

The group will have a gathering for conversation in virtual space. We offer an atmosphere for fellowship and friendship among TUUC single adults. We range in age from the 60's through the 80's, but gladly welcome anyone to join us. Please call Ronald Rowley to RSVP and to get more information. He is listed in the church directory.

TUUC JERUSALEM MILL PARK VISIT—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20 AT 2 PM

You are invited to join fellow TUUCers at Jerusalem Mill Park on February 20 at 2 pm for walk and/or visit to the historic buildings there. Those of all ages are welcome. Please see the website for a description of the park and directions:

<https://jerusalemmill.org/>

We welcome all TUUC friends and members, you do not need to have children in the RE program. Please contact Joyce at tuudre@towsonuuc.org if you have questions or need more details. RSVP appreciated but not necessary.

TUUC BLOOD DRIVE—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 FROM 10:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 for the next TUUC Blood Drive. There is a critical need for blood right now but we are also in a different time with COVID-19 disease prevention. **We at TUUC strongly encourage anyone that has ANY reservation about giving blood at this time for ANY reason to please sit this one out.** We will get past this and will have more blood drives in the future for you to participate in. Please only join us on March 9th, if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating.

To sign up for an appointment time between 10:30am-4:00 PM please use the link below OR email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times. Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=TOWSONUUCHURCH>

SOCIAL ACTION

ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES (ACTC) FOOD DONATIONS

Nonperishable food can be dropped off at these locations:

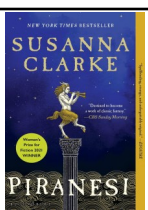
- Mondays, 12 to 2 PM: Ascension Lutheran Church parking lot (7601 York Rd.)
- Thursdays, 12 to 2 PM: Trinity Episcopal Church parking lot (120 Allegheny Ave.)
- Thursdays, 5 to 6 PM: Valley Baptist Church parking lot (1401 York Rd.)

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 12:00 PM

The Social Action Committee will meet Sunday, February 13, at noon, following the service and Coffee Time. All are invited - please see the Church Calendar for more information. An Agenda will be sent to persons on the mailing list.

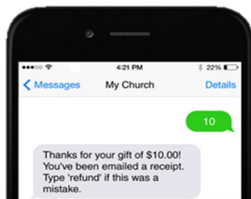
TUUC BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2
7:30 PM



CABIN FEVER

I HEART HUCKABEES (2004)
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13: 4:30PM



DONATE BY TEXT

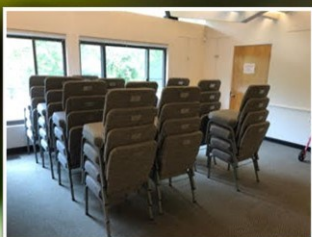
Send an amount to
(410) 834-0700

PASSING THE PLATE

DONATE TO TUUC VIA PAYPAL, TEXT, OR BREEZE

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

February 19, 2022
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM



Third Saturday Work Party

Indoor focus – Meeting Room Prep
Outdoor focus – Ivy Removal

Rain or shine (disposable rain gear provided)
Moderate weather permitting.
Bathrooms available.



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.

11 Feb	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
12 Feb	Saturday	Fair Trade Sale	11:00 AM
13 Feb	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
13 Feb	Sunday	Family Gathering	12:00 PM
13 Feb	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
13 Feb	Sunday	Our Journey Together	3:00 PM
13 Feb	Sunday	Cabin Fever—I Heart Huckabees	4:30 PM
15 Feb	Tuesday	Virtual Lunch With Minister	12:00 PM
15 Feb	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
15 Feb	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
16 Feb	Wednesday	Ethnic Lunch Time	12:30 PM
17 Feb	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
19 Feb	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
19 Feb	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Group	7:00 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
02/06/2022	10:30 AM	69