



SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, JOYCE DUNCAN, ANDREW HAGER: "A RITUAL OF RENEWAL"

In the Christian liturgical calendar March 2nd, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent. These forty days are dedicated to making a commitment to give up something as a way of preparing for the celebration of Easter. For our faith community, the time since March 8, 2020, has felt like a very long season of Lent. It has been almost two full years since we gathered in our building. For some, today feels like a long-awaited and hoped-for time of renewing engagement with our community in three dimensions. You are invited to think of two objects: one that symbolizes a part of the pandemic era you cannot wait to be rid of and the other that symbolizes what has deepened your personal faith in the past two years that you want to lift up and celebrate with our beloved community. If you register to attend worship in person, please plan to bring these two objects with you to TUUC. If you plan to attend virtually, please send Rev. Clare a photo of your two symbols and what they mean to you. We mingle waters in September and share flowers in May. Today we bring symbols of what we are giving up and what we cherish as we begin our exploration of renewing our faith.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 SERVICE INFORMATION

For Sunday, March 6, 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://zoom.us/j/93613553540?pwd=MTdrU2xsY00xd2ZOQmc0bVNsTDIRUT09>

Meeting ID: 936 1355 3540 Passcode: 884963

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are looking forward to seeing everyone this Sunday. There will be classes offered for Kindergarten through 5th grade, 6th-8th grade, and 9th -12th grade (YRUU). Make sure to register everyone who will be attending (kids and adults) by using the link sent out by Rev. Clare in an email this Monday. This is required even if you have filled out the on-line RE registration form previously. If you have any questions about classes or wish to be added to the family email list, please contact Joyce at tuudre@towsonuuc.org. I hope you can join us soon!



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 March, chosen last spring, is “Renewing Faith.” There was no way of knowing that Russia would invade Ukraine on February 24th, initiating the biggest land war in Europe since World War II. Upon learning of the invasion, a colleague posted this excerpt from a poem by Somali-British poet Warsan Shire:

“Later that night
i held an atlas in my lap
ran my fingers across the whole world
and whispered
where does it hurt?
it answered
everywhere
everywhere
everywhere”

What does renewing our faith mean in the face of this stark reality? It is hard to have faith in reason, and trust that everything will work out in the end, when a single individual is able to send tanks into a sovereign country; accuse its Jewish President of being a Neo-Nazi; quite possibly have authorized a crime against humanity by using thermobaric vacuum bombs on civilians including children; and definitely ensured that the world knows his nuclear forces are on high alert.

On the other hand, each day since this catastrophe began, we have seen the best in human nature from an individual Ukrainian single handedly trying to stop a tank from moving forward with his bare hands to an individual Ukrainian approaching a heavily armed Russian soldier and handing him sunflower seeds telling him that they will grow out of his corpse in her land. Ukrainians have removed road signs to confuse the Russian soldiers and one group of women spent an afternoon making Molotov cocktails. President Zelensky, when the USA offered him a flight out of Kyiv to set up his government out of the warzone replied, “I need ammunition and not a ride.”

When it comes to renewing faith, we have seen countries pull together and agree to stop doing financial business with Russia---including the United States---even when it will entail hardship for citizens. We have seen sports teams refuse to compete with Russian athletes to send a clear message that this aggression is wrong. We have seen Anonymous cyber hackers try to get the truth about the world situation to Russian citizens who are being told repeated lies by the Russian government.

Frederic and Mary Ann Brussart tell the story of how the Dutch-born American minister and pacifist, Abraham Johannes Muste was once asked by a reporter, "Do you really think you are going to change the policies of this country by standing out here alone at night in front of the White House with a candle?" Muste replied softly: "Oh I don't do this to change the country. I do this so the country won't change me.”

For me, on March 2nd, renewing faith is not about renewing trust that “everything will be OK.” Inspired by the example of Ukrainians, renewing faith is remembering our highest ideals, who

we love, who we want to be and acting accordingly. Sometimes, as in the story of A. J. Muste, this means lighting a candle as a silent witness. Sometimes, as in the stories of heroism from Ukraine, resistance to injustice asks much more of us.

TUUC members have asked about how to help the people in Ukraine and the refugees from Ukraine. Please know the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, committed to peacefully advancing human rights around the globe, has several partners it is supporting. You may learn more here: <https://www.uusc.org/press/we-demand-an-end-to-the-bloodshed-uusc-responds-to-vladimir-putins-invasion-of-ukraine/>

May this longing to help to ease suffering renew our faith.

SOCIAL ACTION

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.)

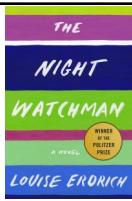
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY, MARCH 13 AT 12 PM ON ZOOM

The Social Action Committee will meet on Zoom at noon on Sunday March 13, following the Service and Coffee time. All are welcome. Please see the church calendar for information. An Agenda will be sent to those on the mailing list.

TUUC BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

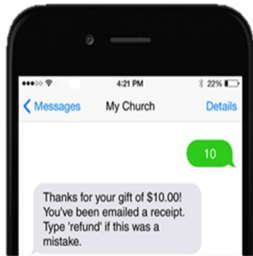
7:30 PM



CABIN FEVER

HELL OR HIGH WATER (2016)

SUNDAY, MARCH 6: 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](#)

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.

STEWARDSHIP

We're over halfway through this year's Stewardship campaign. During our Feb 27 worship service, new member Jennifer Erwin shared how her family was looking for a faith community for themselves and their daughter. They have found that community in TUUC and we're so glad to welcome them!

As of Feb 25th, 41 households have pledged; an additional 34 households are sustaining pledgers, whose pledge continues until they inform us otherwise. That's a total of 75 pledging households so far. We still expect to hear from 55 households.

On our website, there is an [online pledge form](#) and a [printable pledge form](#), as well as the [Stewardship letter](#). You have the option of becoming a sustaining pledger. Sustaining pledgers from last year have been sent letters with the amount of your sustaining pledge; if you want to make any changes, please let the office know by March 15.

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. Pledge forms are due by March 15. Volunteers will start making follow-up calls on March 16.



L-to-R: Apua Paquola, Jennifer Erwin, Luciana (in front),
Membership Chair Patty Barry

Skill Up Spring Series 2022

bit.ly/skillup4justice



FEB. 20: Creating Effective Guest Opinions & Letters to the Editor
- Jeff Milchen

MAR. 20: Grounding, Welcoming & Energizing
- Canedy Knowles & Rev. Kristina Church

APRIL 17: The Art of the Ask - Nicole Pressley

MAY 15: How Do I Get People to Care?
Building Strong Grassroots Actions for Justice
- Susan Leslie

**Every 3rd
Sunday**

- 1 pm PT
- 2 pm MT
- 3 pm CT
- 4 pm ET

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT TOWSON UUC

GREEN SANCTUARY MEETING—SUNDAY, MARCH 6 AT 1 PM

The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet via Zoom on Sunday March 6th at **1 pm (note time change)**. The Zoom information is on the church calendar. All are invited!

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>

JUBILEE 3 ANTI-RACISM TRAINING—APRIL 1-3, 2022

Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives? Are you ready to take a leading role to nurture a multicultural future in the face of opposing cultural currents? Jubilee 3 Anti-Racism training is for you! This online training includes presentations, discussions, videos, exercises, and small group work. This 2 ½ day workshop is open to anyone who wants to journey toward making a stand against racism. [Registration and details](#)

Trainers: Paula Cole Jones, Dr Leon Spencer, and Lutricia Callair. \$170 per person. Registration deadline is March 27. Some training funding for volunteers is available in the church operating budget; contact Sue Royer for details.

TUUC REOPENING THIS SUNDAY

We are re-opening TUUC to partial capacity this coming Sunday. For more information please go here <https://www.towsonuuc.org/tuuc-reopening>

We have reached capacity for this Sunday, registration for next week will open on Monday.

Everyone in the building will need to have registered; be prepared to show their vaccination card or a photo of it on their phone; and be masked while in the building. We will also be streaming Sunday's service on Zoom. If you are planning to attend in person, please bring a symbol of something you want to leave behind from the pandemic as well as a symbol of something you want to bring forward from wisdom gained during the pandemic.

If you are planning to attend in virtual space, I welcome a sentence about what you hope to leave behind and a sentence about what you hope to bring forward. The goal is for this ritual of renewal to include everyone! Looking forward to this transition to multi-platform worship and this ritual of renewal exactly two years after our last worship service in our building! See you in the Meeting Room and in Zoom! ---Rev. Clare

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.

6 Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
6 Mar	Sunday	Date with Death Club	1:00 PM
6 Mar	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Committee	1:00 PM
6 Mar	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Hell or High Water	4:30 PM
6 Mar	Sunday	Our Journey Together	7:15 PM
8 Mar	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
8 Mar	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circles	7:30 PM
9 Mar	Wednesday	TUUC Blood Drive	10:30 AM
10 Mar	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
10 Mar	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
11 Mar	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
13 Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
13 Mar	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	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	Online/In-Person
02/27/2022	10:30 AM	66 /10