



**SEPTEMBER 4, 2022 - 10:30 AM**

**REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER—*BELONGING TO THE UNIVERSE***

In mid-July, President Biden released the first full-color image from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope. Addressing the release of the first photos, John Mather, the Webb senior project scientist asked, "What happened after the big bang? How did the expanding universe cool down and make black holes and galaxies and stars and planets and people?" The Webb telescope promises to help answer these questions. Soon after the release of the first photo, people on Facebook began making it the cover photo of their profile. What do these first images from the Webb show us about our time and place in the universe? What do they teach us about belonging?

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 ONLINE SERVICE INFORMATION**

For those who plan to join us on Zoom this Sunday, please see below for the Zoom information.

**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/95929594519?pwd=TjdmVk5XVDRNVTIVOFZxcINTRFdQdzO9>

**Meeting ID:** 959 2959 4519      **Passcode:** 742903

### **IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF SUSAN TUSA**

We regret to inform you of the death of TUUC member Susan Laurie Tusa on August 16, 2022. Susan served as Board President of TUUC from 1992-1994. She also served as a Greeter, participated in worship services, served as a member of the Adult Religious Education Committee, the TUUC Sabbatical Committee in 2005, and the TUUC Personnel Committee.

Although Susan and her husband Dan moved to Lacey, Washington 13 years ago, Susan maintained her membership with our congregation, read the Threshold cover-to-cover, sent donations for fundraisers for our community partners, and participated in our virtual adult religious education class "A Date With Death Club" from January through mid-April. Susan never lost the art form of the handwritten letter in her beautiful cursive script. Messages of condolence may be sent to her husband Dan Durham. Susan's contact information is in Breeze. Her obituary was published here: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/baltimoresun/name/susan-tusa-obituary?id=36278726>

Susan touched so many lives in her vocation as a teacher and in her intentional outreach to people in so many different walks of life. She will be remembered for her beauty and love of beauty, for her smile, graciousness, deep listening, affirmations of "Yes! Yes!", thoughtful analysis, gentle humor, hopeful perspective, generous spirit, and love. She will be greatly missed. In memory of Susan, donations may be made to TUUC, one of TUUC's community partners, or a charity of your choosing.

----Rev. Clare

## CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Groucho Marx is reported to have once said, "I don't want to belong to any club that would have me as a member." His son explained the origin of this one-liner, Once...when he was in a gregarious mood, he let some friends persuade him to join the Friars Club. After months of refusing to take part in any of the club's activities, he finally decided it was foolish to pay dues any longer and sent in his resignation. In the next mail, he received a letter from the club's president, wanting to know why he had resigned. My father promptly wrote back, "Because I don't want to belong to any club that would have me as a member!"

We are a church, not a club. But I have been thinking about this story in the context of our September spiritual theme of "Belonging." What does it mean? Does it mean that we long for a welcome to be ourselves in religious community, to be accepted for who we are? Does it mean that we are longing to be not merely observers but participants in community, engaged in the mission and work of the congregation? Are the two entwined? Do we become who we long to be by supporting our mission to deepen our spiritual and ethical lives by working for racial, social, and environmental justice?

The Soul Matters Sharing Circle packet for September offers the antithesis of Groucho Marx's pithy retort that he didn't want to belong to any club that would have him as a member. It offers this challenge: the true blessing of belonging is not that you get to come inside the circle; it's that you get to participate in expanding it.

With this in mind, for Water Communion on September 11th, you are invited to bring a small vial of water symbolizing a quality of talent or gift that you are bringing to TUUC to grow into the person you long to be thereby expanding the possibilities for what our community longs to become. If you can help with a reader's theater of a Chinese folk tale on September 11th, please contact me ([revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org))

On September 18th, Hannah Freeman, from BRIDGE, Maryland and I will dialogue on what it means for our congregation to belong to BRIDGE. Unlike the Friar's Club, this organization develops public relationships to promote policies to realize equity in our common life. How do we do this? Nancy Caswell and Ann Beazley will share what they learned at a training for BRIDGE, Maryland.

And on September 25th, our Membership Committee will reflect on what belonging to TUUC really means. In the words of Jan Richardson, "It desires for you to become the sanctuary that you have found..."

Welcome back to, if not THE place where you belong, a people to whom you belong who accept you for who you are and invite you to become who you yearn to be. Together, may we realize our collective longing for all to know they are whole and holy.

### AMAZON SMILE QUARTERLY DONATION: \$81.66

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.



# TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

## MEET OUR INTERN MINISTER

SarahRuth Davis will begin serving as TUUC's Intern Minister after Labor Day.

She resides in Annapolis, Maryland. She is a Candidate with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and attends Meadville Lombard Theological School. SarahRuth completed her chaplaincy residency in 2022. She holds degrees in communications, psychology, and business administration and specialized training in special education advocacy. She grew up in Kakamega, Kenya and studied Arabic during her service in the United States Air Force. SarahRuth is a member of the disability community, living with lupus and military service-connected disabilities. She is the mother to five beautiful children, enjoys kayaking, crocheting, cooking, and spending time with friends and family.



SarahRuth is looking forward to meeting with members of the TUUC community and can be reached at [sarahruth@towsonuuc.org](mailto:sarahruth@towsonuuc.org) to schedule time to meet.

## HELP NEEDED - TUUC HOSPITALITY TEAM

The TUUC Hospitality Team is seeking a family or committee/group to assist on the following Sundays: September 25, October 23, October 30, November 6. Help on Sundays and donations are also appreciated. For more information, please contact Kathy Ramirez (contact information in Breeze).

## HELP NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER 11 WORSHIP SERVICE

Calling actors of all ages for the September 11 worship service! We will be re-enacting a story from Africa and China during our annual water communion at 10:30 on September 11. There are 14 roles. If you are interested in playing one of them, to bring this story to life, please contact Rev. Clare ([revclare@towsonnuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonnuc.org))

## JOIN THE TUUC CHOIR!

TUUC Choir is meeting again in person! Join us for rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM. We sing a variety of styles and difficulty levels (we work ahead on the harder music). Choir does not sing in every Sunday service, but generally at least twice per month, and you'll receive a schedule ahead of time. Now is a great time to join! Masking is still required for singing at this time, and masks made for singers are available. For more information, contact Music Director Tracy Hall: [music@towsonuuc.org](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org).

## TUUC BLOOD DRIVE—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 FROM 1-7 PM

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Wednesday, September 7th, 2022 for the next TUUC Blood Drive. There is a critical need for blood right now, please check your calendar and consider donating blood at our drive. Please only join us on September 7th, if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating. To sign up for an appointment time

between 1-7pm please use [this link](#) or email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times. Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!

## **FAIR TRADE SALE—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 BEFORE AND AFTER SERVICE**

Have you been missing your favorite fair trade coffee, tea or chocolate? Or maybe nuts? Celebrate our new church year by supporting fair trade farmers when the Green Sanctuary Committee holds its sale on Sunday September 11th both before and after the service. We will have a variety of regular and decaf coffee, tea, almonds and cashews, and chocolate bars.

## **SOUL MATTERS SHARING CIRCLES**

Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 22, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Jan. 24 from 7:30-9 PM on Zoom

Soul Matters Sharing Circles are small groups that meet to explore our spiritual theme of the month in greater depth by fostering circles of trust and deep listening. Each participant is provided with a packet which includes exercises to experience the theme of the month and not just analyze the theme. In addition, each packet includes questions to walk with and not talk through. Participants bring their life story as a way to answer the question.

There are additional resources in the packet for contemplation and spiritual practice. These are not intended to be stand alone sessions. Instead, participants are asked to commit to attend as many of the eight sessions as possible. Soul Matters sharing circles will re-open in February if this is a better time of the year for you. If you would like to participate in the sessions from Sept. through January, please e-mail Rev. Clare ([revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org)) so that she may send you a packet. Also, if you are interested in facilitating a circle, please let Rev. Clare know.

## **WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE—DROP IN SESSIONS**

Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 9, Jan. 6, Jan. 20 from 1-2 PM on Zoom

Writing As A Spiritual Practice will resume on September 23 and all are welcome to these stand alone sessions on Zoom. We check-in; light a chalice; listen to a brief reading; and then choose one of several prompts. After writing together for 15 minutes in silence, we are invited to share what we have written. Through this practice we become more present to our own lives and get to know the lives of others at a deeper level. We close with a benediction. The purpose of this group is not perfection it is presence. Join us on one or all of the Friday sessions above!

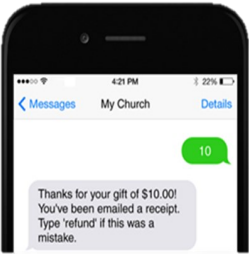


## SACRED CURRICULUM ON FAITH SUPPORT FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

A new national organization called SACReD, the Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity (<http://www.sacreddignity.org/>) has formed to empower congregations to become loving, justice-seeking faith communities that fully support the fulfillment of reproductive moral agency and flourishing for all. SACReD has developed a curriculum to help participants deepen their understanding of the connection between faith, racism, and reproductive ethics, and to identify strategies and actions for liberation within religious communities and the larger world.

Given that the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade—and that many people have never had meaningful access to reproductive healthcare—it is a critical time to learn and to act. Rev. Clare will be offering this curriculum in seven 2-hour sessions on Zoom, 1:00-3:00 PM. The first session will be offered on Sunday Oct. 2 and repeated on October 30th.

Participants are required to attend the first session. That's why it is being offered twice. The other sessions will be held on Nov. 13, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 5, April 2, and April 30. Participants are required to attend at least 6 of the 8 sessions including the first one. Please register [here](#) if you would like to participate. Your participation will help TUUC to become an official part of this interfaith Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity.



### PASSING THE PLATE

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

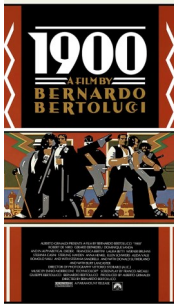
**DONATE TO TUUC VIA PAYPAL, TEXT, OR BREEZE**  
**MORE INFORMATION ON THE [TUUC WEBSITE](#)**

# CABIN FEVER

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## 1900

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: 4:30 PM

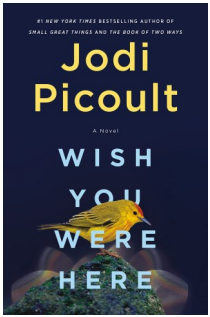


# TUUC BOOK CLUB

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## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

### 7:30 PM



# SOCIAL ACTION

## FOOD DONATIONS AT TUUC

We are again collecting donations of nonperishable food for the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC). Please deposit them in the round bin (Marked ACTC) on the floor of the Church lobby. The top five items that ACTC is requesting are: pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, peanut butter, and Pop Tarts.

## NONPERISHABLE FOOD

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.)

## EARL'S PLACE DONATIONS

In addition, there is a round bin marked "Earl's Place" for donations of paper goods and toiletries, such as toilet paper or paper towels.

## CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY HOUSING OPENING DOORS DINNER—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Cornerstone Community Housing (a SAC partner) invites you to join us at the Shriner's Boumi Temple in Rosedale for the Opening Doors Dinner, Thursday, October 6 at 6 PM.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support during the past years of distancing. You may not see us in person, but your presence is felt every day.

We are opening the doors and invite you to join us as we celebrate new beginnings for the men of Earl's Place and Prospect Place. We look forward to sharing how you continue to help change their lives as they move from homeless to housed.

DINNER: Catered by Atlantic Caterers; Soft drinks and wine are included in the ticket price. Cash bar for beer and mixed drinks.

For more information or to purchase tickets online: <https://ourfundraiser.events/OpeningDoors2022>.

The silent auction is online this year and can also be accessed through this link. Please contact Sheila Helgerson with any questions at 410-522-0225 or [sheila@cchbaltimore.org](mailto:sheila@cchbaltimore.org).

### 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 Casseroles

Give to Plate Collection

Give to Religious Education Registration

Give to Restricted Fund

Give to Social Action Collection

# 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.

4 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
6 Sept	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
6 Sept	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
7 Sept	Wednesday	Blood Drive	12:00 PM
8 Sept	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
10 Sept	Saturday	Celebration of Life—Jeff Arnstein	11:00 AM
11 Sept	Sunday	Fair Trade Sale	10:00 AM
11 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
11 Sept	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
11 Sept	Sunday	Cabin Fever—1900	4:30 PM
11 Sept	Sunday	Our Journey Together	7:15 PM
13 Sept	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
15 Sept	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
17 Sept	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
17 Sept	Saturday	Celebration of Life - Simeon G. 'Moan' Margolis	11:00 AM
18 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
18 Sept	Sunday	Cabin Fever	4:30 PM
19 Sept	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM

**Don't Work Sick**  
**Don't School Sick**  
**Don't Church Sick**

SUNDAY SERVICE		
ATTENDANCE REPORT		
(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)		
Date	Time	In-Person / Online
08/28/2022	10:30 AM	68 / 27