



DECEMBER 11, 2022 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, SARAH RUTH DAVIS, THE TUUC COMMUNITY CHOIR—*HARD HOLY GRACE*

While wonder can be a tool to celebrate the joys of life, it can also be a balm when we face struggle, sorrow, and loss. The late author, Brian Doyle, wrote, “one thing I have learned in life is to be quiet and listen and out will pour real honest naked hard holy grace.” Today we reflect on how wonder helps us to ask big questions about suffering and uncertainty.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 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/91032364116?pwd=VIRUOGwzeEpKMVNrRytrTkdTWUYrQT09>

Meeting ID: 910 3236 4116

Passcode: 964939

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

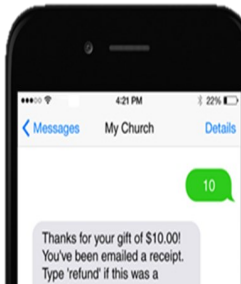
It’s the very beginning of a new month and already time is sliding through our fingers as we rush through some of the best events of the year. Instead of a note this week, I invite you to join me in taking a deep breath.

May you find stillness in the chaos.

May you find love in the fray.

Kara





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PASSING THE PLATE

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

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Twilight comes earlier and earlier now---before 5. And the sun does not rise until 7. Meanwhile, the headlines are filled with gun violence from Chesapeake, Va to Loch Raven Blvd.

I am reminded of what my colleague, The Reverend Dr. Laurel Hallman used to preach, "It's not dark because it's Christmas. "It's Christmas because it's dark."

We need the wonder of the upcoming holidays. We need wonder to light our way through the days of less sunlight. We need wonder to help us to face challenges in our lives, in our relationships, in our communities, in our country, and in the world.

We need stories of wonder to remind us to pay attention to the extraordinary in the ordinary: oil that burned longer than expected as a sign of liberation; the slightly longer time of sunlight after December 21 signifying new life; the birth of divinity in a helpless baby; the lights of unity and community on the Kwanzaa kinara.

In the mid 20th century movie, "It's A Wonderful Life," George Bailey comes to appreciate his daughter playing the same lines over and over again on the piano; his young son burping; the loose finial on the staircase of his home; and Zuzu's petals only after the angel Clarence shows him how life would have unfolded if he had never been born.

We don't have to go to that extreme to walk the path of wonder. The ecologist Rachel Carson invited people to pay attention when she wrote, "One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, "What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?"

More recently, the creator of Black Liturgies, the author Cole Arthur Riley observed, "Wonder requires a person not to forget themselves but to feel themselves so acutely that their connectedness to every created thing comes into focus. In sacred awe, we are a part of the story."

We are a part of a story still unfolding for us.

Whatever holidays you celebrate, may you, like George Bailey, pay attention to the extraordinary in the ordinary. May you, like Rachel Carson not be too busy to ask yourself "What if I knew I would never see this again?" May you, like Cole Arthur Riley feel the sacred awe of being a part of the story of the interconnected web of being.

May you walk the path of wonder.

Happy Holidays!

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 2:00 PM

Once again, we'll have a sing-along this year, with many TUUC Choir members helping, a few instruments, and lots of fun! Christmas favorites, plus some Hanukkah and Winter Solstice songs, too! We'll be live, but also streaming on Zoom.



HOLIDAY SING-ALONG

TUUC AUCTION—WE DID IT! THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who donated, bid, volunteered and participated for making this year's Rising Together auction a resounding success and a great deal of fun. We had a large and lively crowd attending in-person and more joining us on Zoom. Together we raised \$23,000 for the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church.



There are places left in some of the excellent activities offered at the Auction by our wonderful donors. They include dinners, bike rides, hikes, performances, professional services and more. [Click here](#) for the list of all available places and instructions on how to make a purchase. There is also a link on the auction webpage at towsonuuc.org/auction.

GREEN SANCTUARY—AMAZING PORT STREET COMMONS DAY—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 FROM 10:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

Please join the Green Sanctuary Committee to work with our community partner Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and others to get the Amazing Port Street Commons ready for the winter! We'll be cleaning the garden, clearing dead growth, and sheet mulching vegetable beds so they are ready for spring. For sheet mulching, donations of large pieces of cardboard (with any tape or adhesives removed and without glossy printing or wax) are welcome. Help get this important community greenspace in East Baltimore ready to weather the winter and look wonderful in the spring! We can carpool from TUUC. Please let Carel Hedlund (info in Breeze) know if you can join us. Suitable for ages 14 and up.

READERS THEATER: "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" BY CHARLES DICKENS—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 7 PM

After a hiatus of five years, Rev. Karyn Marsh will be performing Charles Dickens' beloved tale of redemption, "A Christmas Carol," in reader's theater format at TUUC. Come and have a glass of mulled cider and holiday sweets while watching the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge. Suggested donation of \$20. All proceeds will go to TUUC's nursery.

COMMUNITY CHOIR ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

The next "Community Choir" Sunday will be on Sunday, Dec. 11th. All ages and skill levels are invited! You will need to arrive at 9 AM to rehearse all the music for that morning's service. We take a break at 9:45, and then have a sound check before the service starts. Music is relatively simple and fun. Hope to see you then! Please RSVP to Tracy at music@towsonuuc.org, but if you forget, come anyway!

NEXT "OUR MESSY LIVES" TO EXAMINE PROCRASTINATION—THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

At our upcoming Our Messy Lives, Thursday, December 15th, 3:00-4:00 PM on Zoom, we will be taking a close and thorough look at **PROCRASTINATION**, that is, sharing our experience with it. To join us, please email Nancy Caswell, whose contact info is in BREEZE, and she will email the Zoom Link to you on the 14th. What is procrastination? According to an informative Web site on the subject, the Greek philosophers, like Socrates and Aristotle, developed a word to describe this type of behavior: Akrasia. Why does it happen? Can it be overcome? Come with your thoughts on why we make plans, but don't take action.

WINTER SOLSTICE RITUAL AND CELEBRATION—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 4:00 PM

Join us in celebrating the returning of the light and our hopes for the new year in ritual and song! We'd like to take this time of transition to begin the new year with positive intentions. The ritual will begin at 4 PM. (Please arrive between 3:30-3:50 PM.) Snacks and drinks to follow the ritual.

The participation is free and open to all. However, cash donations are always welcome. We are asking participants to bring a non-perishable food item for the Assistance Center of Towson Churches basket.



Artist: Yuri Leitsch

TUUC BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

7:30 PM



CABIN FEVER

THE LITTLE GIRL WHO LIVES
DOWN THE LANE (2022)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

4:30 PM



SOCIAL ACTION

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 most requested food items are: boxed breakfast cereal, canned meals (pork & beans, chili), canned vegetables, canned fruit, dry pasta, pasta sauce, Mac & cheese, canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly, canned soup, family and travel sized toiletries, and household supplies (toilet paper, laundry detergent). 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.

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.)

TUUC SOCIAL ACTION HOLIDAY GIVING

You are invited to experience the joy of giving this holiday season by gifting to men healing from homelessness. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Earl's Place is a recovery-based housing program providing long-term (up to two years) housing and supportive services to men experiencing homelessness; 17 men at a time.

Adopt-a-Resident: Holiday Wish List for Tierre Wallace

Tierre is 46 years old has been an Earl's Place resident for around 6 months. He is working toward certification as a Peer Recovery Specialist. Tierre enjoys playing video games.

Wish List—Still Needed:

- Sleeveless undershirts (XL)
- Hat, Scarf, and Gloves (colors preferred are black, blue, or gray)

Prospect Place is in Rosedale and serves 12 chronically homeless men.

\$25 Gift Cards: Amazon and Walmart Gift Cards are convenient for the men. Our TUUC goal is to gift a total of 29 \$25.00 gift cards. Our TUUC goal is twelve \$25.00 gift cards for the men of Prospect Place. We are half way there; extras will go to the men of Earl's Place.

When: by Sunday. December 11

Where and How:

Drop off wrapped gifts in the church lobby near the countertop Xmas Tree or in and near the Earl's Place bucket on the floor of our coat closet.

Place Gift Cards in the small holiday box next to the countertop Xmas Tree.

You are welcome to order online and ship directly to Earl's Place, or email, or snail mail gifts and gift cards for Earl's Place & Prospect Place by sending to:

Sheila Helgerson Cornerstone Community Housing Executive Director

Email: sheila@cchbaltimore.org

Mail: Earl's Place 1400 E. Lombard Street Baltimore, MD 21231

Please contact Sheila Malenski (TUUC/Earl's Place coordinator) with questions and to help keep track of items purchased. Her contact information is listed in Breeze.

AMAZON SMILE QUARTERLY DONATION: \$70.84

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.



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.

A screenshot of a web form for online contributions. At the top, it says "Give to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church" and displays "\$ 0.00". Below this are three dropdown menus: "Give to 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign", "Add Gift to Another Fund", "Give this One Time", and "Give by Credit/Debit Card". Each dropdown menu has a small downward arrow icon circled in red. At the bottom of the form is a blue "Continue" button.A screenshot of a dropdown menu from the online contribution form. The menu is open, showing a list of options: "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", and "Give to Social Action Collection". A red arrow points from the first dropdown menu in the previous screenshot to this one.

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 Dec	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
10 Dec	Saturday	Green Sanctuary-Amazing Port Street Commons Day	10:30 AM
10 Dec	Saturday	A Reading of "A Christmas Carol"	7:00 PM
11 Dec	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
11 Dec	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:30 PM
11 Dec	Sunday	Our Journey Together	1:00 PM
11 Dec	Sunday	Cabin Fever—The Little Girl Who Lives Down The Lane	4:30 PM
13 Dec	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
13 Dec	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circles	7:30 PM
15 Dec	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
15 Dec	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
16 Dec	Friday	Parkinson Support Group	12:30 PM
17 Dec	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
17 Dec	Saturday	Holiday Sing Along	2:00 PM
17 Dec	Saturday	Winter Solstice Ritual	4:00 PM
18 Dec	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
18 Dec	Sunday	Cabin Fever—We Need to Talk About Kevin	4:30 PM
19 Dec	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
12/05/2022	10:30 AM	71 / 34