



JANUARY 8, 2023 - 10:30 AM

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, LOU GIESZL, CHAIR OF YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE—*CENTERING OUR CORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST VALUES*

One way we introduce newcomers to our faith tradition is through the seven Unitarian Universalist principles in the front of our 1995 hymnal and the (now) six sources of our faith tradition. However, we have subsequently adopted, as a congregation, and eighth principle. Today, Lou Gieszl will share how our religious education ministry is instilling our core values in our students and how that helps him (and other facilitators of YRE) to find his center. Our faith tradition does not just say that “revelation is not sealed,” we live this truth. Since 2020, the Article II Study Commission has been reviewing our Principles and Purposes and talking with Unitarian Universalist leaders and members in our association of congregations. This Commission will be issuing a proposed draft of new wording later this month and soliciting feedback from congregations. This proposed change will need to be voted on by all congregations both in 2023 and in a final form in 2024. What do we know about what Unitarian Universalists currently understand to be the center of our faith?

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 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/99889747351?pwd=em9udzluZ3ZXejNjZW5PSmtZZk1NUT09>

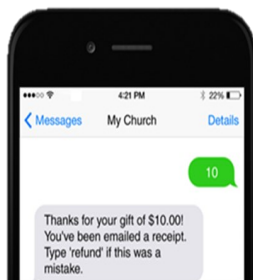
Meeting ID: 998 8974 7351 **Passcode:** 361727

AMAZON SMILE QUARTERLY DONATION: \$80.89

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.

As of December 20, 2022, TUUC has received a total of \$2,109.88 from Amazon!



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PASSING THE PLATE

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

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Our spiritual theme for January is walking the path of finding our center. What images come to mind when you think of finding your center?

For me, it sparked the memory of attending a Quaker elementary school. In second grade, we were invited into a moment of silence, before lunch, to listen for the still small voice within. I closed my eyes, heard nothing, and opened one eye to see if it looked like those around me were hearing anything.

Now, as an adult, I now know not to listen for a literal still small voice. In order to center, now, I focus on deep breathing: inhaling for four seconds, holding for four seconds, and exhaling for eight seconds. It brings me into the present moment. I feel my shoulders relax.

This month, as a congregation, we are being invited into a process to help one another to discover our center. On January 28th, BRIDGE Maryland, will be launching a Sacred Listening Campaign. Leaders in our congregation will be trained in how to engage in Sacred Listening through one-on-one meetings with members of TUUC. The purpose of these 30-45 minute meetings is not to talk about the weather; or offer therapy, or discuss stewardship, or do a needs assessment for TUUC. The purpose of these meetings is to create an intentional relationship to help us, as individuals, to find our center---not in terms of deep breathing---but in terms of where our center is sending us these days to work to improve our communities and world. Areas to explore in a 1-1 include

* life story	* family	* occupation	* avocation
* faith	* politics	* associations	* neighborhood
* congregation	* plans for future	* obstacles	* gifts

I am very excited by the possibilities for this Sacred Listening Campaign within TUUC. The center of our faith tradition is right relationships. By engaging in this process from the end of January through mid-March, we will get to know ourselves and one another at a deeper level and discover what the center of our congregation is in 2022! And we will bring what we learn to a BRIDGE, MD meeting in April to discern what the center of BRIDGE, MD of Baltimore County will be!

If you are interested in the training on Sacred Listening, please speak with me.

As our Soul Matters Sharing Circles packet notes:

“As we try to make sense of “finding our center” this month, it’s fine to pull up the image of the Buddha sitting peacefully under a tree, but we can’t let that overshadow the image of a diver balancing way up there on her diving board, pausing to regain her composure and courage so she can leap and go “all in.”

Maybe in the end, instead of only asking each other, “Are you centered these days?” we need to ask, “Where is your center sending you these days?” and “Where is your center calling you to go?”

Here’s to walking the path of finding our center with ourselves, with each other, and with BRIDGE, MD!

----Rev. Clare

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY—JUNE 15-21, 2023 IN PITTSBURGH, PA

Did you know that General Assembly 2023 is in Pittsburgh, PA? That's in our region! Please join us!

General Assembly 2023 will be a multiplatform event, with registration options for in-person and/or virtual participation. In-person registration includes access to events scheduled to take place in Pittsburgh, as well as everything available to virtual registrants. Full virtual registration includes access to the GA app, as well as all on-demand programming, live webinars, and live-streamed events. In addition there is a business-only virtual option for those only wishing to participate in business matters.



[Registration is now open for everyone!](#)

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION—IT'S A NEW DAWN, IT'S A NEW DAY

New beginnings at fraught with potential for new adventure and opportunities to grow. The Religious Education Program is embracing that potential and sliding into this New Year with open hearts and excited bodies, ready to wiggle our way into the next chapter here at TUUC.

The K-5th Class will be beginning a new curriculum titled "Growing an AntiRacist." It is based on the proven reality that children are aware of injustice and power dynamics as early as five years old and that these concepts can solidify in their minds as early as 9. We will be offering age-appropriate opportunities to have conversations around the topics of race, justice, and inequality.

The Middle School Class will continue their tour of world religion. January will bring them to Asia, beginning with Taoism.

The High School Class delves deeper into the Coming of Age Curriculum, moving from the Belonging section (where we come from) and into the Becoming section (who we are). This program is designed to consciously move teens from the myopic gaze of the typical child to a more inclusive and intentional way of seeing themselves and the world.

And now, for all of you reading this, I suggest you check out this video for a beautiful story of family, skilled dancing, and an iconic voice. This is how I'm focusing my energy for the New Year: *Feelin' Good* by Nina Simone: <https://youtu.be/oHRNrgDIJfo>

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.

OUR TUUC COVID POLICY AND MASKING

On Sunday, a visitor asked me if all of Baltimore County is requiring masking now. No. At TUUC we currently are because the hospitalization rate is over 10 per 100,000.

Today, a very responsible TUUC member alerted me that they had been at church on Sunday and tested positive for Covid two days later. We reviewed those with whom they may have been in close contact in order to notify them.

So, for now, until Baltimore County is out of the yellow zone on Covid Act Now, please be prepared to mask if you attend worship in the building and while we sing. If you are comfortable unmasking to eat and drink, you are welcome to do so in the foyer in order to partake of hospitality.

We will continue to offer multi-platform worship. And we are beginning to avail ourselves of our new technology to host multi-platform meetings downstairs!

We are all looking forward to Covid numbers going down along with the number of flu and RSV cases! We wish each other well (including speedy and smooth recoveries) as we move through this season of winter viruses.

---Rev. Clare on behalf of the A-Team

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF DR. ALBERT HYBL

We regret to inform you of the death of Dr. Albert Hybl, the husband of TUUC member Lois Hybl on December 12. Al was born in Iowa City, Iowa in 1932. He earned a BA in math and chemistry at Coe College. Al was drafted into the US army in 1954. He received his PhD in Chemistry and Math with a specialization in Crystallography from the California Institute of Technology. He served as a professor of biophysics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Al was a renaissance person with interests ranging from classical music to chess to mushroom hunting. Many of us remember Al as Lois's dancing partner. They enjoyed the polka, waltz, folk, and Irish social dancing. They traveled to the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ireland for dance workshops and tours. They were married for 60 years. Messages of condolence may be sent to Lois (her contact information is in Breeze.) A celebration of Al's life will be held at the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church at 11 AM on March 11th.

--- Rev. Clare

FAIR TRADE SALE—SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 BEFORE SERVICE

The Green Sanctuary Committee will be selling fair trade coffee, tea, candy, and nuts this Sunday 1/8 before and after the service. Your purchases mean that TUUC can live its values by serving fair trade coffee at our coffee hours.

GREEN SANCTUARY MEETING—NOW SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 AT 12:00 PM

Due to New Year's Day being the 1st Sunday of the month, for January we are moving the Green Sanctuary meeting to the third Sunday – January 15th. The hybrid meeting starts at 12:00 PM.

JANUARY ETHNIC LUNCH—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 12:30 PM

Ethnic Lunch is starting the new year with a return to an old favorite. Join us at Fusion (<https://fusion10752.com>), a restaurant that covers a range of Asian cuisines. It's located at 10752 York Road in Cockeysville.

We'll be gathering on Wednesday, January 18 at 12:30. RSVP to ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org by Monday, January 16 if you plan to join us.

---Janet Kuperstein and Claudia Sumler

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK—SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 AT 6:00 PM

Join us for good food and conversation in the church upper level lobby. 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.

VIRTUAL PARTY GAMES WITH TUUC BOARD—SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 AT 7:00 PM

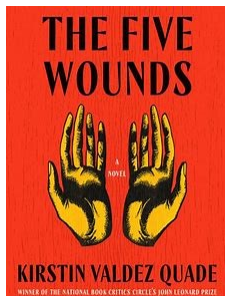
On Saturday, January 21 at 7 PM, you are invited to join the TUUC Board of Trustees for an evening of online party games! Brew tea, get into some comfy pajamas, and log onto Zoom for some fun! Each year, the Board offers this event as an auction item. We still have spots open for the low cost of \$20! Donate to the church and have a great time doing so! As a special bonus, all participants get a goodie bag delivered to their homes! Email Andrew Hager (contact information in Breeze) to claim your spot.

TUUC BOOK

CLUB

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

7:30 PM



CABIN FEVER

GLASS ONION: A KNIVES OUT
MYSTERY (2022)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

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.)

OUR DAILY BREAD

The New Year has started and TUUC is restarting regular donations of frozen dinners to Our Daily Bread. Our Daily Bread has been serving hot meals all through the pandemic and our contributions will be appreciated. We have some new recipes to make and plenty of tins. Please see the poster in the lobby for details.

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.

6 Jan	Friday	Writing As A Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
8 Jan	Sunday	Fair Trade Sale	10:00 AM
8 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
8 Jan	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:30 PM
8 Jan	Sunday	SACReD	1:00 PM
8 Jan	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery	4:30 PM
10 Jan	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
10 Jan	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circles	7:30 PM
11 Jan	Wednesday	Improv	7:00 PM
11 Jan	Wednesday	Roots and Wings Meeting	7:00 PM
12 Jan	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
15 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
15 Jan	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
16 Jan	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
17 Jan	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
17 Jan	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
18 Jan	Wednesday	Improv	7:00 PM
19 Jan	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	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
01/01/2023	5:30 PM	45 / 29