



Women's History Month

THE THRESHOLD

MARCH 5 - 10:30 AM - **VULNERABILITY AND COMMUNAL CARING** - REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, SARAH RUTH DAVIS, KARA TYLER, AND TRACY HALL AND THE TUUC CHOIR

In Judaism, tomorrow marks the festival of Purim. Unlike many Jewish holidays, this one focuses on human action (as opposed to God acting in human history.) The story of Esther reminds the Jewish community of its vulnerability in exile. It does so in a fun way: people dress up in costume and boo the villain and cheer the heroine. You are invited to dress up as your favorite hero, heroine, or villain or to simply wear a mask as we celebrate a story about the risks of vulnerability and the rewards of a caring community.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 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/97296971999?pwd=ZWYzWndleFJjUnUwb0JYUGtRckFmZz09>

Meeting ID: 972 9697 1999

Passcode: 575558

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Join the RE Volunteers and Parents on March 4th from 9 AM - 1PM to organize classrooms and art supplies! We have materials of all kind from the past years which need to be gone through and sorted as well as some decorating and furniture fixing to do. TUUC will provide lunch. Kids of all ages are welcome but we are not providing childcare. See you then!

~Kara Tyler (DRE)

CABIN FEVER

CASABLANCA

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

1:00 PM @ TOWSON CINEMA



TUUC BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

7:30 PM

LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY



Bonnie Garmus

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

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 Kara 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

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Today, a college friend posted a photo of birds in snow---the first snowfall she has experienced this year. She entitled it "Positive photo day 1083." In March of 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, she started walking in a park near her home in New York. And, as she walked, she began taking photos: of a field of spring flowers; squirrels; birds; a turtle. And she shared, "I am going to do my best to continue to go walking every day and post something calming, beautiful, or funny that I see along the way." She has done just that. Through the isolation and not knowingness of Covid; through the changing seasons; through the deaths of loved ones; through headlines about national and international crises---through it all---Pam has posted a positive photo each day for nearly three years.

I have been thinking of Pam's intentional practice heading into religious holidays which encourage believers to "give up" something. The 40 days of Lent invite Christians to remember how Jesus went into the desert for 40 days to resist temptations and to pray. Some choose to give up a favorite food; or time on screens; or something else they enjoy to test, for forty days, their own self-discipline. The month of Ramadan invites Muslims to remember when the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. During the thirty days of Ramadan, Muslims are expected to refrain from eating from dawn until dusk and to refrain from bad thoughts and bad deeds. Volunteering on behalf of others and feeding the poor can be substituted for fasting if necessary.

What strikes me about Pam's practice is that it developed during a time when we were collectively forced to give up our normal routines of work and school and church; of leisure activities with friends and celebrating holidays with family---and not just for 30 days or 40 days but for over a year!

Rather than give up something else, Pam found a practice of taking in beauty and sharing it to have a calming effect for both herself and others. Her practice reminds me of these words of Jeff Foster:

You will lose everything... perhaps even your memories... But right now, we stand on sacred and holy ground, for that which will be lost has not yet been lost, and realizing this is the key to unspeakable joy... Impermanence has already rendered everything and everyone around you so deeply holy and significant and worthy of your heartbreaking gratitude.

Loss has already transfigured your life into an altar.

Our spiritual theme this month is vulnerability. Three years ago, humans were reminded of our vulnerability as a novel virus made its way around the globe. In isolation, some learned to bake bread or learned a new language or how to play an instrument. Some gained a new perspective on their lives and discerned what would be worthy of their time after Covid.

My college friend, Pam, has taken a photograph of beauty to post on Facebook for 1083 days and counting. What practice did you, or will you, take up and continue because loss has already transfigured your life into an altar?

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF DR. ALBERT HYBL - MARCH 11 AT 11:00 AM

Dr. Albert Hybl, a professor of biophysics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, died on December 12. 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.

A celebration of life for Dr. Albert Hybl will be held on March 11 at 11 AM. It will be multi-platform. [The link is on the church calendar.](#) A reception will follow.

COMMUNITY ROOM

The naming of a thing gives it power and determines it's fate. This is why you never give your name to a face. Many people name their children after someone they admire or whom they want to honor, thereby imbuing the child with the characteristics of the name.

The name itself can foretell how a person - or place - will be regarded.

In this vein, I have instigated a change in the open space downstairs to transition to calling it the "Community Space".

In my time here so far, I've worked hard to make it an area the parents and children are comfortable spending time and where committees could meet. I hope to see everyone in our church community make use of it in the future. This is an area where we have meals as small groups, do arts and crafts, mingle and socialize, carry out church business, and in the teens' case - sometimes sleep.

By referring to it as the Community Space, we are calling into manifestation that it will be used by the community in informal, family-like ways.

Kara Tyler, Director of Religious Education

GREEN SANCTUARY MEETING - MARCH 5 AT NOON

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77742147056?pwd=7yzQfiLaXfY26IEfNoySqJAHjwXb2J.1>

Meeting ID: 777 4214 7056 Passcode: 20Gkan

WOMEN'S LUNCH GROUP - MARCH 6 AT NOON

The Women's Lunch Group will meet on Monday, March 6 at noon in the cafe at Edenwald. If you have any questions or plan to attend contact Sue Shankroff. New folks are always welcome.

TUUC BLOOD DRIVE—MARCH 8 FROM 12 TO 6 PM

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Wednesday, March 8th, 2023 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 March 8th, if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating.

To sign up for an appointment time between 12pm-6pm please use [this link](#) or email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times. Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!

MARCH ETHNIC LUNCH - MARCH 15 AT 12:30 PM

We are returning to Asian fusion for March's Ethnic Lunch on Wednesday, March 15 at 12:30. Mona's Super Noodle www.monasupernoodle.com offers foods from Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos. Mona's Super Noodle is located in the Hampden neighborhood, 850 W. 36th Street, Baltimore.

All are welcome, but please respond by Monday, March 13 to ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org so we will know how many tables to hold. Hope you can join us!

Janet Kuperstein and Claudia Sumler

USHERS AND GREETERS

Remember when you first entered TUUC? There was someone there to welcome you to the fellowship. They made you feel welcomed and made it comfortable for you to come into the space.

Are you interested in meeting new people at the church? One easy way to do that is to become an usher or greeter on Sunday mornings. Contact Patty Barry or Claudia Sumler if you are interested in becoming a greeter or usher. Get involved with your new congregation!



**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church**
A Welcoming Congregation

Third Saturday Work Party

Weeding of:

- Hillside, Cherry Grove, Thoreau Meadow & Meditation Area, Circle Garden, Pine Garden, Bayscape Garden, Memorial Garden, Rain Garden, Playground
- Parking lot clean up
- Weed whacking around the building
- Weed whacking tree maintenance trails
- Reforestation evaluation and maintenance
- Continuance of nature trail

**March 18, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



Thank you to Art Starr for his inspiring words that grounded us in reflection on what it means that "we are each other's business". He focused us on acknowledging, "we are not going back to 2020" and challenged us to consider what would our vows be if we signed the book today.

You may hear some sharing they are increasing their pledges and have decided to do so by an increased amount of \$1 (one dollar) a day from last year's investment.

Others have asked are their guidelines and recommendations that could help them make their pledging decision. We are pleased to share that the UUA provides The Suggested Fair-Share Contribution Guide. We have posted this at the top of the stewardship page if you would like to take a look. Please visit towsonuuc.org and click on the Stewardship 2023 button.

Ready to make your pledge? Simply click anywhere on this image and you will be taken to the right place.

Community Mosaic Update

We want everyone to contribute - adults and children

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the project so far! We have many beautiful contributions, and you'll begin to see the mosaic take shape over the coming weeks. This week we invite you to respond to "We are each other's business." What image, word, or phrase comes to mind when you consider how, as a community, we show deep caring and concern for others in times of joy and sorrow—how you experience yourself as part of an interconnected web? Join us at the art table during hospitality or send a photograph, words, or a drawing via email to stewardship@towsonuuc.org.



We are Each Other's Business

SOCIAL ACTION

OUT FOR JUSTICE

Now that Ms. Nicole Hanson-Mundell has told us a bit about what Out For Justice is all about, it's time to help them out. Please check out their website to volunteer/donate: getinfo@out4justice.org. Lobby in Annapolis with Out For Justice on 3/22/23....save the date now with more information to follow.

BRIDGE UPDATE Recently Reverend Clare said, The Sacred Listening Campaign has begun. We have started reaching out to a small group of people. However, if you haven't been contacted yet and are eager to get your voice heard, please contact Rev. Clare or Ann Beezley.

DONATIONS AT TUUC

Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) still need donations. 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.

ACTC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ACTC needs more volunteers. They are helping more people than ever. To volunteer please reach out to actc316@gmail.com.

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.)

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly of Maryland is only 90 days, from January 11 to April 10, 2023— not much time to get our priority bills passed. The Unitarians Universalist Legislative Ministry UULM, has a website that lists our organization priority legislation for this session. This is their website: <https://www.uulmmd.org/>

The priority legislation for 2023:

- Climate Change - <https://www.uulmmd.org/cc-current-session>
- Criminal Justice - <https://www.uulmmd.org/cj-current-session>
- Gun Violence Prevention - <https://www.uulmmd.org/gv-current-session>
- Health Care/Reproductive Rights - <https://www.uulmmd.org/hc-current-session>
- Immigration - <https://www.uulmmd.org/im-current-session>
- Medical Aid in Dying - <https://www.uulmmd.org/maid-current-session>
- To get the current status of the Maryland legislation - <https://www.uulmmd.org/current-status-of-priority-legislat>
- Are you interested in Federal Legislation? Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice – UU Advocacy in the Nation's Capital (uusj.net)

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 Mar	Saturday	YRE Projects	9:00 AM
5 Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
5 Mar	Sunday	Cabin Fever - Casablanca	1:00 PM
5 Mar	Sunday	Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity	1:00 PM
6 Mar	Monday	Yoga Class - Auction Item	5:45 PM
7 Mar	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
7 Mar	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
8 Mar	Wednesday	Blood Drive	12:00 PM
9 Mar	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
10 Mar	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
11 Mar	Saturday	Celebration of Life - Albert Hybl	11:00 AM
12 Mar	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:30 PM
12 Mar	Sunday	Cabin Fever - GUILLERMO DEL TORO'S PINOCCHIO	4:30 PM
13 Mar	Monday	YOGA Class - Auction Item	5:45 PM
14 Mar	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
14 Mar	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circle	7:30 PM
15 Mar	Wednesday	TUUC Board Meeting	7:30 PM
16 Mar	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
16 Mar	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
02/26/2023	10:30 AM	81 adults/ 37 11 children