



Women's History Month

THE THRESHOLD

MARCH 12 - 10:30 AM - SACRED VULNERABILITY - REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, NANCY CASWELL

Walking the path of vulnerability means there are times when we cannot walk at all; times when we can't get out of bed; times when our body is not doing what it used to do. Some see vulnerability as a weakness. Yet vulnerability is the human condition. When we share in community, our bodily pains, our emotional wounds, our spiritual doubts, we are met not with pity but with compassion. We are met by those who know their own vulnerability. This mutual knowing is the foundation of love. Today we celebrate sacred vulnerability. Nancy Caswell will address how we are "each other's magnitude and bond."



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/93870444727?pwd=U0U4aXJicVI0QUVvYUUIUTUtQb1hxQT09>
Meeting ID: 938 7044 4727 **Passcode:** 192165

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

This past weekend we had a great day of cleaning and sorting through art supplies and materials in the closets and classrooms. There's still a lot to do (I may have bit off more than I could chew), but it was a lot of fun to listen to music, test the finger paints, and get our RE home ready for Spring. We'll be doing this at least once a year, so don't worry; there'll be another chance to get in on the fun.

Also, last Sunday, the elementary students finished the Growing an Antiracist curriculum we've been working through. It was wonderful to see how receptive and empathetic they were to the topics we discussed, and not all of it was easy. Now we have a few weeks of fun planned with a special Ramadan Lesson and some nature crafts before we dive into the Survive and Thrive program we're presenting in tandem with the Social Action Committee.

Thank you, everyone, for all your support of the RE Program here at TUUC!

Kara

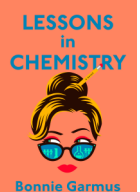
CABIN FEVER

PINOCCHIO
SUNDAY, MARCH 12
4:30 PM DISCUSSION



TUUC BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
7:30 PM



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

FAIR TRADE SALE, MARCH 12

Visit the Green Sanctuary Committee's table in the lobby on Sunday morning to support TUUC's mission, honor Ostara and the arrival of Spring, and prepare for Passover and Easter celebrations. We will have organic fair-trade chocolate, coffee, tea, and nuts from the Equal Exchange co-op available for sale. Thanks to your purchases, we are able to donate fair trade organic coffee and tea to be served during coffee hour each Sunday. Your purchases also support sustainable farming and fair compensation for farmers. For more information on Equal Exchange, see <https://www.info.equalexchange.coop/articles/our-model-authentic-fair-trade>.

"OUR MESSY LIVES" TO DISCUSS RECIPROCITY - MARCH 16

At our next "Our Messy Lives" discussion group, on Thursday, March 16th from 3:00-4:00 p.m., we will be examining the word **RECIPROCITY**. We chose this word after an in depth discussion on February 16th of **DEFERFENCE**. We saw **RECIPROCITY** as related to **DEFERENCE**. How so? We'll discuss that, too, on March 16th.

To join us, please look up Nancy Caswell's email on BREEZE, and send her an email, explaining your wish to join. She will send the Zoom Link to you and all "Our Messy Lives" participants the day before and start the Zoom a few minutes before on the 16th.

RECIPROCITY...a social norm that involves making mutually beneficial exchanges with other people...a process of exchanging things with other people to gain mutual benefit. Reciprocity plays an important role in the socialization process...where if someone does something for you, you then feel obligated to return the favor. Sharing, taking turns, engaging in reciprocal actions...as has been quipped, "Everything we need to know, we learned in kindergarten!"

Come and join in an enlightening sharing of thoughts and ideas on the word RECIPROCITY!

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

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK, SATURDAY, MARCH 25 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.

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

**March 18, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

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

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



Please Make Your Pledge
TODAY

We Are Making Progress

Our goals are **100% of members making a pledge** - we hope our friends support TUUC too!
and
\$352,000.00 in investment



24%

Percentage of Members Pledging



\$109,740.00

Total Pledges to Date

What is pledging season all about and why does it matter?

Pledging makes everything we do possible. This year our pledging season has provided wonderful opportunities for reflection, creativity and generosity. Many of you may be wondering what comes next. The Board of Trustees will be charged with putting forth a budget for the congregation's review and approval.

This is rigorous and often challenging process, especially when our giving is not in keeping with our expectations. Rev. Clare participates in this process each year representing the views of staff and providing valuable input on community priorities. Rev. Clare shared, "The amount of money we raise through pledges significantly shapes what we will be able to do as a congregation in the coming fiscal year. I have observed the board making tough decisions over the years, including those that affect our valuable staff when goals are not met."

The Trustees will be facing the important next stage of our community commitments in the coming weeks. If you have not yet made your pledge for the July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 fiscal year please do so TODAY.

We hope each member of the community will take the awesome responsibility of investing in our shared vision. It is our greatest wish that every member and friend embrace their financial stewardship and ensure we meet our goals.

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.

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.uulmd.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.

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
13 Mar	Monday	Makers' Meetup	7:00 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
17 Mar	Friday	Parkinson's Support Group	12:30 PM
18 Mar	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
19 Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
19 Mar	Sunday	Cabin Fever - IN THE CUT	4:30 PM
20 Mar	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
21 Mar	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
21 Mar	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
22 Mar	Wednesday	Book Group	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
03/05/2023	10:30 AM	59 adults/ 33 8 children