



Women's History Month

THE THRESHOLD

APRIL 2 - 10:30 AM - **RESISTING RETRIBUTION** - REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, TRACY HALL, AND THE TUUC CHOIR

In a recent speech, the former President of the United States proclaimed, "I am your retribution." His threat of violence to get his way was (and is) not an idle threat. As we head into the Jewish festival of Passover with its promise of liberation on Wednesday and begin the Christian observance of holy week with its promise of justice, I wondered what Moses and Jesus might have to say and call us to do in response to "I am your retribution."


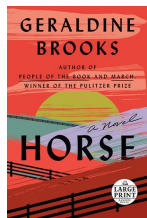
SUNDAY, APRIL 2 ONLINE SERVICE INFORMATION

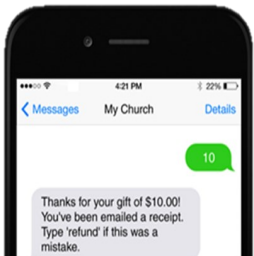
For those who plan to join us on Zoom this Sunday, please see below for the Zoom information.

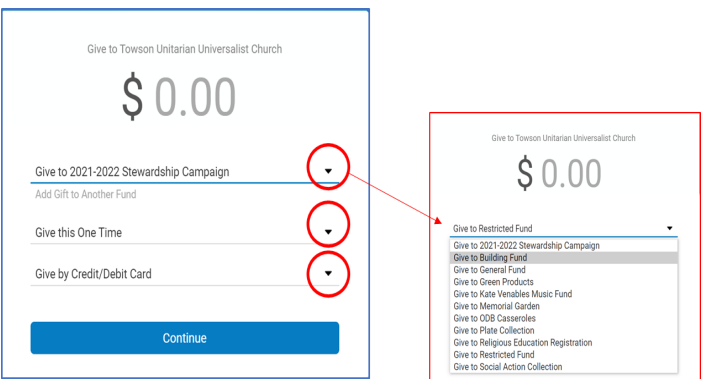
Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/99173111457?pwd=K25KQ3JhemtBZ3d4RDFKMWROVEpIU09>

Meeting ID: 991 7311 1457

Passcode: 858367

<h2 style="text-align: center;">CABIN FEVER</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">HAROLD AND MAUDE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, APRIL 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:30 PM DISCUSSION</p> 	<h2 style="text-align: center;">TUUC BOOK CLUB</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 PM</p> 
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	<h2>PASSING THE PLATE</h2> <p>DONATE BY TEXT Send an amount to (410)834-0700</p> <p>DONATE TO TUUC VIA PAYPAL, TEXT, OR BREEZE MORE INFORMATION ON THE TUUC WEBSITE</p>
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<h3>ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS</h3> <p>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.</p>	
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CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Last week, Al Franken interviewed the drag star BenDeLaCreme on The Daily Show. The show turned serious when Ben shared his experience of growing up queer and having the Vice Principle of his school tell him to “tone it down.” Now he is a drag performer---not because he was exposed to it as a child---but because he saw a container for himself when he went to his first drag show. He saw a world that would accept him not “in spite” of who he was but precisely “for” who he was. He came on The Daily Show knowing that Al Franken would ask him about the anti-trans bills and anti-drag bills being proposed and passed in states around the country. Ben appearing as BenDeLaCreme was an act of resistance. The audience present in the studio and at home applauded. Since March 31 was National Trans Day of Visibility, I want to lift up that our religious community is one where people of all gender identities are welcomed and accepted not “in spite of” who we are but precisely “for” who we are.

When you think of walking the path of resistance, what comes to mind? For colleagues, it was not a specific image---it was the feeling of fatigue. Many associated resistance with fighting or expending energy against those wielding power unfairly. This can be draining.

But resistance can also inspire. A Facebook friend recently posted a photograph of a yellow flower blooming through the crack in the sidewalk. Against all odds, beauty grew and bloomed in the most unlikely of places.

Her photograph reminded me of the Russian scientist Nikolai Vavilov. He grew up hearing his father's stories of not having enough food. In 1891, he saw people in his country die of starvation. As he grew older, he committed his life to ending starvation. Genetics was a new field. Nikolai Vavilov had a dream. He would cultivate plant species that would be resilient and thrive where none had survived before. During World War I he was sent to Iran to determine why Soviet soldiers were getting ill. He discovered fungus growing on wheat. He put seeds of other plants in his pocket. He began the world's first seed bank at his Institute with the hope of training farmers to grow more resilient crops. By the 1930's, he had collected hundreds of thousands of seeds from five continents.

Then Stalin came into power. Stalin forced peasant farmers off their farms and turned to someone who was not a farmer or a scientist but who promised “an agrarian revolution.” It was an anti-science campaign not unlike what we have seen in the United States in the past few years including repeating lies.

Nikolai Vavilov was arrested and tortured by Stalin. Hitler, who wanted to control the world's food supply, sent troops to loot Vavilov's seed bank in Leningrad. Nine scientists died of starvation protecting Vavilov's seed bank from the Nazi's. Vavilov died in prison.

But his seed bank survived the war. He was pardoned posthumously. And because of Vavilov, the Svalbard Global Seed Bank was created near the North Pole in 2008 with the goal of preventing world famines in the future.

Walking the path of resistance takes many forms from speaking out and serving as a role model like BenDeLaCreme to seeking out knowledge to serve humanity like Nikolai Vavilov. Sometimes, a flower growing where it was not expected lifts fatigue and brings joy along the way. So, too, does a faith community that welcomes us for who we are and encourages us to fulfill our dreams for justice.

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

NATURE'S BEST HOPE—FRIDAY, MARCH 31 AT 7:00 PM

Come to an inspiring talk by Prof. Doug Tallamy, U. of Delaware, on the small steps we can do that will have a big impact on saving nature. See flyer below for more information.

Beautiful insect and butterfly photos. Snacks provided. You can also attend by Zoom.

WOMEN'S LUNCH BRUNCH—CANCELED

The Women's Lunch Bunch previously scheduled for April 3 has been canceled. Please reach out to Sue Shankroff for updates on the next meeting.

MEN'S BRUNCH—CANCELED

The Men's Brunch previously scheduled for April 6 has been canceled. Please reach out to Herbert Shankroff for updates on the next meeting.

TUUC MUSIC PROGRAM UPDATE

Last weekend was an exciting one for music at TUUC! On Saturday, we held a West African Drumming Workshop, led by Sharon Pataky, with 18 participants, followed by a Drum Circle with 3 additional people! What a blast! Be on the lookout for the next date for TUUC Drum Circle. On Sunday (26th), the Community Choir provided music during the Sunday service, with 17 people, many of whom had not sung in the Community Choir before. The choir was enhanced by two flute players, Donn Teubner-Rhodes and Dominique Hall. We were also blessed to hear two teenaged children of SarahRuth Davis, our ministerial intern who was leading the service, sing in the service--Angelina and Victoria! The next Sunday for Community Choir--when anyone can show up the morning of the service to learn the music in a pre-service rehearsal--will be on May 7th. Mark your calendar. While you are marking your calendar, plan to experience our Special Music Sunday this spring on May 21st. We'll be doing some amazing music, with lots of rhythm! See the separate article about how you could help with it. Meanwhile, TUUC Choir continues to rehearse each Thursday at 7:30, and the group continues to grow. Thanks to everyone for your support of music at TUUC!



SINGERS AND HAND CLAPPERS NEEDED FOR PROJECT FOR SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY IN MAY

We are working on some amazing choir projects for the Special Music Sunday on May 21st of this year. Two of the pieces are very unusual and require larger forces and lots of rhythmic energy. This music is incredibly fun, yet substantial. One is an arrangement of a Tune-

Yards song, and the other one will give you goosebumps!

Tracy Hall will be holding extra rehearsals on Saturdays for anyone who can help, but who can't be at Thursday evening rehearsals. We'd especially like to have some young adults or teens involved, but anyone 12 or older (all the way up!) who can help is very welcome. The rehearsals will be from 10 AM to 12 PM, on the following dates: **April 8th**, April 22nd, May 6th, 13th, and 20th. One or more of these rehearsals may be cancelled if everyone is on track learning the music, or if a majority of the special singer group cannot attend. Please contact Tracy at music@towsonuuc.org if you'd like more info, or you'd like to participate. We need singers, but we also need people to learn fairly complex handclapping parts or percussion parts. If you like rhythmic, embodied music, you will really want to be part of this!

THE FACES OF DEPRESSION: MAY 1, MAY 8, MAY 15, AND MAY 20

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. One of the major mental health issues of our time is depression. Statistics show that 20 percent of adult Americans can expect to experience clinical depression at least once.



In the 18th and 19th century, depression, also known as melancholia, was thought to be a character trait that was inherited and could not be changed. Today, we understand it as a disease that can be treated. Nevertheless, there is much about depression that is still not understood, and stigma attached to depression remains a problem. For those suffering from depression and those close to them, depression can seem mysterious and impossible to cure.

In this 4-week course, led by Rev. Karyn Marsh, who is a chaplain at Johns Hopkins Hospital, participants will learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of depression, about treatments for depression, and how to support those who are experiencing depression. While this course is designed for those who are supporting people with depression, it will also offer resources for participants to tend to their own mental health.

The first three classes will be held via zoom on Mondays, May 1, May 8, and May 15, from 7 pm until 8 pm. The final class session will be in-person at TUUC on May 20 from 1 pm until 3 pm. Participants are encouraged to attend all four sessions. To register please click on this link: <https://tuucdatabase.breezechms.com/form/55276183>

Third Saturday Work Party April 15, 2023 - 9:00 AM - Noon

**Weeding of: Hillside, Cherry Grove, Thoreau Meadow & Meditation Area, Circle Garde, 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.**

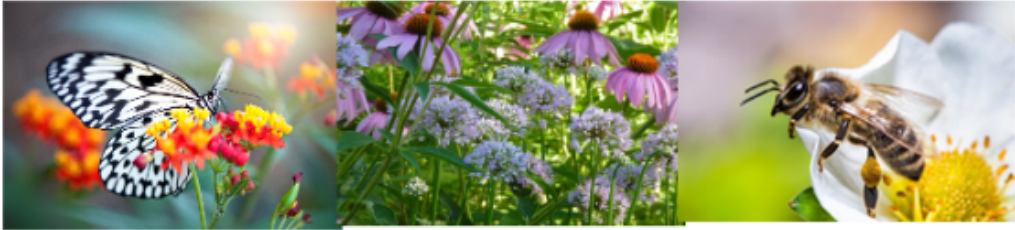


Please contact
Todd Robertson at
mrtodd37@gmail.com
with any questions.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF MIMI MARKS

We regret to inform you of the death of Mimi Marks on March 25, 2023. Mimi was an energetic and dedicated member of our congregation for 38 years. Mimi served in virtually every volunteer role at TUUC from greeting visitors to serving as Board President from 1998-1999. In the past 20 plus years, Mimi Chaired Membership; served on TUUC's 50th Anniversary Committee; worked on Stewardship; served as the Inner Life Council Head; and organized Hospitality. Mimi enjoyed people of all ages and brought her listening skills and warm heart to Lay Pastoral Associates. A multi-platform celebration of Mimi's life will be held at 10 a.m. on April 29th with a reception to follow.

---Rev. Clare



Getting ready to select plants for your Garden?
Worried about the loss of Pollinators and Insects?
Like beautiful photos of Butterflies and Insects?

Come to TUUC on
Friday March 31 at 7 pm for
Nature's Best Hope
A Film Talk by Professor Doug Tallamy,
University of Delaware
Snacks provided

Presented by The Green Sanctuary Committee

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



Thanks to the very generous gift provided by an anonymous member, **any pledges made to TUUC between March 27 and April 5 will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$30,000**

Here's Where We Are - \$352,000.00 is our goal



66%

Percentage of Members Pledging



\$236,905.00

Total Pledges to Date



The Impact Our Pledges Make

Sustains Our Intellectual & Spiritual Community

Maintains Our Building and Grounds

Propels Our Music Program

Fosters Our Vibrant Youth Education

Advances Our Racial, Social & Environmental Justice Programs

Provides for Our Valuable & Qualified Staff

Members and Friends of TUUC, imagine the impact of your pledge being *DOUBLED*.

If you have not yet made your pledge, TODAY is the day.

Visit the TUUC website at towsonuuc.org and click on the pledge button at the top of the homepage to make your pledge for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Your investment will ensure we can continue all the things we enjoy as a community and our dollars provide.

Pledge forms have been made to those who have not yet pledged online.

If you prefer to mail your pledge form, please make sure to do so ASAP so that TUUC will receive the matching dollars for your generous gift.

SOCIAL ACTION

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. Please save the date of Sunday, 4/23/23, from 3-6 PM for the Issues Convention of the Sacred Listening Campaign. The location is to be announced. Everyone from all the congregations in the campaign is invited to participate in this convention to determine the 2-3 priority issues for Baltimore County Bridge.

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.)

HELP SUPPORT OUR VALUES THROUGH THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY (UULM)

One of TUUC's Partners is the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) is a statewide action network of Unitarian Universalists who work to support UU values. They educate, engage, and mobilize UUs to advocate for specific issues before the Maryland General Assembly. Working in coalition with local, state and national organizations, we as UUs promote UU values through legislation which affirms:

- the inherent worth and dignity of all,
- reverence for the interdependent web of all existence, and
- justice, health and equity in society.
- It approaches each issue through an anti-racism/anti-oppression lens to deepen an understanding of the impact of policies on historically marginalized communities and people of color.

This organization is, of course, very active before and during the MD legislative Session, which is going on right now, from the middle of January 11 until April 10. You can become a member of UU Legislative Ministries by donating as little as \$25 on their website, which is uulmmd.org.

If you are particularly interested in one issue, you can become involved in legislation for issues such as: Medical Aid in Dying [MAID], Immigration, Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Healthcare, and Gun Violence. You can monitor proposed legislation or get involved, at the website—uulmmd.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar [here](#) for most current schedule.

31 Mar	Friday	Green Sanctuary Presents Nature's Best Hope	7:00 PM
1 Apr	Saturday	Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM
2 Apr	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
2 Apr	Sunday	SACReD	1:00 PM
2 Apr	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Harold and Maude	4:30 PM
4 Apr	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
4 Apr	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
6 Apr	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
7 Apr	Friday	Parkinson's Support Group	12:30 PM
7 Apr	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
8 Apr	Saturday	Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM
9 Apr	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
11 Apr	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
11 Apr	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circles	7:30 PM
13 Apr	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
15 Apr	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
16 Apr	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
16 Apr	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:30 PM
17 Apr	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
03/26/2023	10:30 AM	92 / 38