



MAY 7 - 10:30 AM - BLESSED ARE THE MAKERS

REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, TRACY HALL, AND THE TUUC COMMUNITY CHOIR

A colleague wrote a version of the Beatitudes that begins, “Blessed Are The Makers.” What are you a maker of? Beauty? Laughter? Messes? Conversation? Coffee and Tea? Meaning in the face of tragedy? Justice? Or do you feel right now like you are making do? Today we will recognize Rachael Tyler who is preparing to graduate from high school and who has been one of our Nursery Providers this year. Rachel is a knitter and aspiring film maker. What are you a maker of? What do we aspire to be makers of as a congregation?

SUNDAY, MAY 7 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/98535643096?pwd=RTE3ZUFIMVp5ZWZ4SThBSE5sZjNlZz09>

Meeting ID: 985 3564 3096

Passcode: 978581

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

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

In the April 30 worship service we explored antidotes to cynicism. Our reading was from a Stephen Colbert commencement address where he spoke about the importance of the verb "Yes and" in improvisation. One yes ands to whatever one's partner says on the stage. "No" is not a possible response. I shared how the original Greek Cynics were non-conformists who lived in nature, did not dress or live or worship as society dictated; and considered themselves to be citizens of the world (from whence we get the word "cosmopolitan.") The original Greek Cynics are very much like Unitarian Universalists in 2023! With this in mind, Marcia Brooks asked me to please share in The Threshold, the end of my homily. Here it is:

To Governor Bill Lee, who signed a bill banning drag shows we can be the nonconformists and say, "Yes, AND we are going to intentionally support a drag show."

To the Montana governor who just signed a bill prohibiting gender affirming medical care for children, (even though his own son is publicly gender binary) we can be nonconformists who say, "Yes, AND we will be sending money to support Montana State representative Zooey Zephyr who is trans and who advocated for trans children to receive gender affirming medical care."

To the Virginia school Board which banned 21 books, we can be nonconformists and say, "Yes, AND...we will ensure that our church library has copies of each and every one of them—AND---that we have read each and every one of them ourselves."

To each and every state that is enacting health care laws that endanger the lives of women we can be nonconformists and say, "Yes, AND...we are teaching comprehensive human sexuality in our congregation (Our Whole Lives) AND we will partner with all working to safeguard medical care for women and their families."

To advance the clean energy agenda we can say----actually, your A-Team IS saying,

"BGE, thank you for your flyer about how you can serve the fleet of vehicles for our business by installing charging stations. AND...we don't own a fleet of vehicles but we are interested in learning more about installing one or two charging stations."

We can acknowledge the many issues needing our collective voice and action without being pulled into our culture's big, "No." Our faith is one of the freedom of nonconformity, the freedom of "Yes and."

In this month when we will be walking the path of creativity together, I look forward to learning those things to which you are responding, "Yes, and..."

TUUC YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

This Fall, Sunday morning religious education is getting a major overhaul, as we venture on a grand experiment. Churches across the country, Unitarian Universalist and otherwise, are all facing anemic classes in their children's programs and low volunteer numbers.

After discussions with students, parents, and volunteers, I propose we try something completely new. We will be combining the One Room Schoolhouse model with a Creativity approach. The YRE classroom will include all ages and become a spiritual maker's space where students and volunteers can pursue their interests. We will teach each other and work together toward common goals. Collaboration and Relationship will be the primary goal while still infusing the program with educational opportunities so students can learn about Religion in general and UUism in specific.

This new approach offers a few particularly awesome things for you:

- Anyone can volunteer. You don't need to know about kids or teaching to participate.
- Anyone can lead. Bring your passion and share it. Woodworking, Papercrafting, Meditation, Knitting, Engineering, Coding (I will have one computer available), Theatre, Music, Anything! I'm happy to brainstorm ideas with anyone interested.
- Any schedule works. Want to volunteer every week, once a month, one time only? No problem.
- Anyone can help. Even with nothing to lead, your presence is needed.
- Anyone can donate materials, tools, crafting items, appliances to tinker with, etc.

And for the kids:

- We can wiggle and move whenever we need to.
- We can make sounds and talk with our friends.
- We can listen to a story in the "quiet" space.
- We can work alone or with a group.
- We will learn more things, have interesting conversations, AND get to make awesome projects.
- We get a say in what we learn.

Beginning in the fall, a typical Sunday will look much different: YRE will have a Chalice Lighting, a short lesson or discussion, and then open class with guided or individual projects. And instead of 8-10 volunteers on a Sunday morning, I will only need 3-4. All this, and we can still run the OWL program and Coming of Age for the students slated for those programs.

I will be spending this summer working on setting everything up, so if you want to know more or want to pitch in, let me know. Remember, this is an experiment, so I definitely want to hear what you think. The vision is constantly evolving as we move toward an engaging, active, mindful YRE program.

Welcome to **Making Faith**

Feel free to grab me to chat or email me at tuucdre@towsonuuc.org.

Kara Tyler

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

HAND CLAPPERS NEEDED FOR SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY IN MAY

One of the choir pieces we are learning for the May 21st Special Music Service calls for a small group to clap specific rhythms. We need three people to learn these parts and then we'll put it with the choir. We'll have one rehearsal just for the hand-clappers, at a time that's convenient for you, and then we'll put your rhythm with the choir in one or two rehearsals, including the dress rehearsal on Saturday, May 20th. Please contact Tracy at music@towsonuuc.org if you can help with this! I promise you will have so much fun!

THE FACES OF DEPRESSION: 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 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>

NAMING THE NEW TRAIL

Have you walked the recently constructed trail that runs through the woods on our property? We are grateful to those who have helped establish this path. Their work has provided us a place for contemplation and observation.

At this moment, the trail is unnamed. At their most recent meeting in March, members of the Board proposed calling it the TUUC Ancestors Trail. The intention was to acknowledge, not only those members of our congregation who have come before us, but also the previous stewards of our land. The path travels from the Memorial Garden to the Thoreau Meadow across grounds that were once worked by enslaved Africans and, before that, controlled by the Piscataway- Conoy Nation. Under this proposal, we will work to create a marker explaining the history of the land and acknowledging the previous inhabitants. This marker will be

dedicated upon its installation.

If you have questions, feedback or concerns about the current plan, please contact Andrew Hager (AndrewW.Hager@gmail.com) by Friday, May 12. The Board will vote to finalize the name at their May 17 meeting.

WOOD FAMILY FAREWELL PARTY

As you may have heard, The Wood Family (Katie, David, and their 4 children) are moving to the West Coast in June. Please join us for a farewell gathering on Sat 5/6 at 4pm at the Avallone home—the address is listed in Breeze. For more information, please contact Clare Flynn-Avallone (information in Breeze).

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Main course and drinks will be provided. Please share with Clare what you plan to bring so we can try to avoid duplication. Rain date will be Sunday, May 7 in the afternoon.

TUUC DRUM CIRCLE—SATURDAY, MAY 6 AT 3 PM

The TUUC Drum Circle will meet for a regular drum circle event on Saturday, May 6th from 3 to 4 PM. Please bring a hand drum if you have one. Join in the rhythm! All ages are invited.

COMMUNITY CHOIR-SUNDAY, MAY 7

Our next Community Choir service will be on Sunday, May 7th. Anyone is invited to sing, just come at 9:00 AM to learn the music and then sing in the 10:30 service! You'll have a break from around 9:45 until 10:15. The music will be fairly simple, but there will be some lyric reading necessary.

NEWCOMERS' SESSION—SUNDAY, MAY 7 FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

New to TUUC? Have questions about our congregation and its programs? Please stop by Room 2 after the service on May 7. The Membership Committee would be pleased to get to know you a bit better and to help you connect with any groups or activities you might like to explore.

OUR MESSY LIVES TO MEET TO DISCUSS “WOKE” - THURSDAY, MAY 11 ON ZOOM AT 3PM

Have you ever wondered what is the precise meaning of the word **WOKE**? We hear the word often, but those of us who like to discuss words/concepts during "Our Messy Lives," want to further understand what **WOKE** means in today's culture: does it always mean the same thing, or is there an assortment of meanings out there? Our next one-hour session will be held next **Thursday, May 11th from 3 to 4 PM**, a week earlier than usual, and we'll be bringing with us definitions we've found, examples we've heard of, and Google searches we've explored. **WOKE**, according to linguist Tony Thorne, the author of the [Dictionary of Contemporary Slang](#), cited in a David Remnick January 23, 2023 New Yorker Political Scene article, "What Does 'WOKE' Mean, and How Did the Term Become So Powerful?" meant, before 2016-2018, kind of a straightforward definition: '**socially aware**' or '**empathetic**.' Thorne, however, goes on to explain: "'Then the right, the conservative right, seizes hold of this word,' in order to heap blame on it for everything from deadly mass

shootings to lower military recruitment." To join our interesting Zoom conversation on the 11th, please look up Nancy Caswell's email address on BREEZE, our TUUC Member Directory, send her an email, and she'll email the Zoom Link the day before. Come, join us, and bring your thoughts, discernments, and discoveries on the subject of **WOKE**.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF PETER LIVERIGHT

It is with sadness that I share news of the death of Peter Liveright on Sunday. He was one of the first people I met at The Towson Unitarian Universalist Church in 1999. He served on the Ministerial Search Committee and shared his wonderful wit and background in Human Resources. It was always a pleasure to visit with Peter and his wife of 63 years, Barbara, and see photographs of their travels around the country. Peter was Barbara's devoted caretaker when she developed dementia.

Peter was committed to TUUC and served for 13 years on the TUUC Personnel Committee. He was also a UUA compensation consultant for the Joseph Priestley District for many years. One of my fondest memories of Peter was attending a workshop at the UUA General Assembly on an Aesthetics of Jazz offered by Professor Sharon Welch. As we waited for the lecture to begin, Peter's eyes looked into the past as he shared memories of the jazz he heard in New York City.

More information about Peter's life may be found here:


https://www.peacefulalternatives.com/obituary/peter-liveright?fbclid=IwAR21j9xh9uQ2rsDC6c6l0uYBnnsb8rMKWn8d8_hlbEblZYtlyd3rPiKn7WU

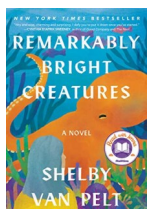
Peter's family will be holding a private celebration of his life. But they have asked that donations in his memory be made to The Towson Unitarian Universalist Church with his name in the memo line. Donations will go to the TUUC Building Fund.

Peter Liveright lived up to his name. He had a long and well lived life. May his memory always be for a blessing. --- Rev Clare

GREEN SANCTUARY MEETING—NEXT MEETING SUNDAY, MAY 7 AT NOON

The next monthly Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting will be on Sunday, May 7 at Noon in the Meeting Room and on [Zoom](#).

<p>CABIN FEVER</p> <p>JUDY BLUME FOREVER</p> <p>SUNDAY, MAY 7</p> <p>4:30 PM DISCUSSION</p>	
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<p>TUUC BOOK CLUB</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, MAY 24</p> <p>7:30 PM</p>	
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STEWARDSHIP

The first phase of our fiscal Stewardship for the 2023-2024 budget year is drawing to a close. The Trustees and budget leadership have begun crunching the numbers to see how our personal investments in TUUC will come to life as the expression of our budget. **As a reminder to all, the pledges you are making at this time will begin to support the budget of our community as of July 1, 2023.** Soon we will all have the opportunity to review and participate in decisions around the financial stewardship of TUUC.

This time also overlaps with the close of our current fiscal year. So as you are thinking ahead to next year, **please also make sure you have completed making your pledge for this current year.** The cycle of your generosity ensures that we continue to make the investments in all the many things we have prioritized as a community and enjoy each day as members.

Here's the latest bottom line as of May 2, 2023



\$294,366.00

We are counting on every member and friend to make your pledge - big or small - we need everyone to share the responsibility of supporting all we gain from being part of this beloved community.



Please visit the TUUC website or click anywhere on this email to make your pledge TODAY.

Special Circumstances

If you are a member and unable to make a pledge this year, please reach out to our Treasurer to share a discrete request for a pledge waiver. As our bylaws outline, "members are expected to make an annual contribution, unless its been waived by the Treasurer or the Treasurer's designee." We would be happy to assist any members who would like to pursue this option for the next fiscal year. Please email stewardship@towsonuuc.org and we will forward your request on.

SOCIAL ACTION

BRIDGE UPDATE

The initial phase of Our Sacred Listening Campaign has ended, but we have learned so much, we are entering a new phase. We are going to be reaching out to more individuals for a while longer. So, you might be receiving a message asking you to participate in these conversations. If you don't want to wait to be asked, just let Rev. Clare or Ann Beezley know, we want to hear from as many people as possible.

The date for the Issues Convention has been set as Saturday, 6/10/2023, from 10 AM to 1 PM. Everyone from TUUC is invited.

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.

NONPERISHABLE FOOD

Nonperishable food can be dropped off at these locations:

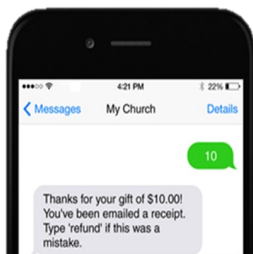
- Mondays, 12 to 2 PM: Ascension Lutheran Church parking lot (7601 York Rd.)
- Thursdays, 12 to 2 PM: Trinity Episcopal Church parking lot (120 Allegheny Ave.)
- Thursdays, 5 to 6 PM: Valley Baptist Church parking lot (1401 York Rd.)

JUBILEE ANTI-RACISM TRAINING—FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 2-4, 2023

Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives? Are you ready to take a leading role to nurture a multicultural future in the face of opposing cultural currents? Come Join Us for this life changing weekend!

Friday, June 2 (6 to 9 PM EST); Saturday, June 3 (9 AM to 8:30 PM EST); Sunday, June 4 (12:00 to 6:30 PM EST)

Cost: \$170 per participant (includes cost for trainers and materials). \$85 for second or third person in same household. First person must register at \$170 for subsequent family members to receive the discount. Contributions in support of this work are welcome. To register, visit <https://www.paulacolejones.com/jubilee>



DONATE BY TEXT

Send an amount to
(410)834-0700

PASSING THE PLATE

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

5 May	Friday	Parkinson's Support Group	12:30 PM
5 May	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
6 May	Saturday	Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM
6 May	Saturday	TUUC Drum Circle	3:00 PM
7 May	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
7 May	Sunday	Newcomers' Session	11:30 AM
7 May	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Committee	12:00 PM
7 May	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Judy Blume Forever	4:30 PM
8 May	Monday	The Faces of Depression	7:00 PM
9 May	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
9 May	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circles	7:30 PM
11 May	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
13 May	Saturday	Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM
14 May	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
15 May	Monday	The Faces of Depression	7:00 PM
15 May	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
16 May	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
16 May	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
18 May	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
04/30/2023	10:30 AM	53 / 38