



**AUGUST 20 - 10:30 AM—POET'S DELIGHT—ANDREW HAGER**

In our annual poetry service, TUUC members and friends share works that bring them a sense of delight.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 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/99490874543?pwd=eXJOZDMYsnFjOTVsWkZjUEdhK2I1dz09>

Meeting ID: 994 9087 4543

Passcode: 703891



**DONATE BY TEXT**

Send an amount to  
**(410)834-0700**

**PASSING THE  
PLATE**

**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 ▼

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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

Many years ago, in Missoula, Montana, when a Jewish family put a menorah in their window for Hanukkah, a rock was thrown through the window. The editor of the town paper not only ran a story about this vandalism, he also published a full-page picture of a menorah. He asked all the people in the town---regardless of their religious identity---to post the menorah in their own windows. The majority of townspeople did to say, "Whatever you do to my neighbor, you do to me."

I was reminded of this story at the end of July. In the early hours of July 23, the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Plano, Texas had its front doors intentionally set on fire by arsonists. The congregation held Sunday morning worship as planned several hours later. It is not known who the arsonists are. It IS known that four individuals appeared during Sunday worship on June 25th to video themselves mocking our Unitarian Universalist welcome of LGBTQ folk and to heckle the preacher during worship. They posted a video of this "visit" on YouTube on July 12. The police have not yet been able to establish a connection between this video (which garnered over 200,000 views) and the arson. But the Anti-Defamation League and GLAAD have tracked more than 350 incidents of harassment, vandalism and assault motivated by anti-LGBTQ rhetoric in an 11-month span beginning last June. Texas had the third highest number of anti-LGBTQ incidents in the country.

So, what does this have to do with the Hanukkah story in Missoula, Montana? Well, the Dallas Morning News not only covered this story on June 23 and June 24, "Anti-LGBTQ YouTubers trolled a progressive Plano church. It was firebombed weeks later," they also published a letter to the editor entitled, "Stand Against Hate" by the Reverend Matt Gaston, lead pastor of First United Methodist Church of Plano. He noted that his church shares a community garden with Community Unitarian Universalist Church. He went on to write that United Methodists share the UU's "gracious inclusive stance of LGBTQ persons." Then he observed:

*"The attack...comes two months after the Allen Outlets shooting and after consecutive Easters when a self-confessed hate group placed antisemitic fliers under the windshield wipers of cars in our parking lot.*

*Plano police investigated but say it is difficult to track down the culprits with a chargeable hate crime.*

*Therefore it is upon us as residents and persons of faith to remain diligent, prayerful and in solidarity with one another in our stance of love against hate in all its forms.*

*This does not come without a price. Jesus' life is ample witness to that.*

*We have placed on our outdoor sign, "Hate has no home here, nor with our Unitarian Universalist neighbors."*

I invite all residents and persons of faith to join us in that stance.

I have not heard how many people, in the last week, have put up a sign that says, "Hate has no home here, nor with our Unitarian Universalist neighbors."

I am grateful for Rev. Gaston's leadership. It reminds me of the stand the neighbors in Missoula, Montana took when they put menorahs in their windows.

"Whatever you do to my neighbor, you do to me."

Such courageous affirmations illuminate the world in every season.

## TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATE:

#### MENTORING MALE TEENS IN THE HOOD, BY SUE ROYER

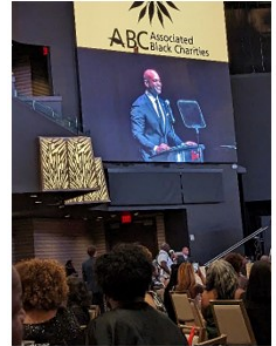
One of our TUUC Community Partners, Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood, was honored by Associated Black Charities at their annual gala in June. Associated Black Charities selected several community organizations that serve Black people in Baltimore.



Wanda's Sister, Sue, Joyce, Aaron, Wanda

Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood (MMTH) is working to change the narrative surrounding the lack of resources, role-models, and experiences that many Baltimore youth have exposure to. MMTH celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2022. TUUC volunteers will return to tutoring at MMTH on the first Saturday of the month this fall. Please contact Sue Royer, Ann Beezley, or Dave Haupt for more information.

I was honored to be one of the MMTH volunteers invited to attend the Associated Black Charities Gala on June 10 at Maryland Live. We were treated to an excellent meal and an amazing entertainment lineup, including Dru Hill. It was a Who's Who of Black Baltimore in attendance. Some of the other community honorees were the Afro-American Newspapers, the Black Arts District, the Squeegee Collaborative Leadership Team, and the Black Church Food Security Network.



Governor Wes Moore

### NEWS ABOUT US

During the pandemic, during the sharing of joys and sorrows in Sunday morning worship, many of us came to count on the hearing our Chat Host read "I love Michael," and "I love Nancy." These expressions of devotion were so hopeful in difficult times. On June 18, 2023, after the joyful wedding of Lou Gieszl and Eleanor Hughes during the Sunday morning worship service, Michael Magrogan proposed to Nancy Caswell in the TUUC foyer during hospitality. Nancy said, "Yes!" On the evening of August 8 (8-8-23), ten members of Nancy and Michael's family gathered in a semi-circle at the front of the Meeting Room to witness these octogenarian love birds exchange vows. It was a great honor, at the end of the ceremony, to introduce Mr. and Mrs. Michael Magrogan!

Three days earlier, Demian Canosa, the son of Roslyn and Rob Canosa, exchanged vows with his soulmate, Melissa Hirsh, in a picture-perfect interfaith wedding in Cortland, New York. Because Demian grew up in TUUC, I had the honor of co-officiating with a rabbinical student who is a close friend of the bride. In sharing their story, Demian wanted those gathered to know that he went out on his first date with Melissa after learning that his sister, Rani, had died unexpectedly earlier that morning. He said, "It was the saddest and happiest day of my life." For two years, the rite of passage we most often gathered for were celebrations of life for people we love who loved us. The loss of these beloved members, friends, and family left (and leaves) a hole in our lives and in the congregation. To officiate at four weddings in less than four months---including the wedding of Nissy Liske (who served as a Nursery Care Provider) and Dan Watters---has truly been delightful! Congratulations! Mazel Tov! And all best wishes to the newlyweds! We rejoice in love and its possibilities! ---Rev Clare

## **GREEN SANCTUARY PLANNING MEETING—SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 AT 12 PM**

The Green Sanctuary Committee will hold its annual planning meeting after the service on Sunday August 20, at noon, downstairs. All are welcome to attend! Bring some food and ideas to share, and we'll talk about what we would like to do in the upcoming church year. You may also attend by zoom. The zoom link will be on the church website.

## **SOCRATES CAFÉ TO PROBE RELIGION/MORALITY CONNECTION—MON, AUG 21 AT 7:30PM**

In order to have morality, is religion required? The next Socrates Cafe will be examining the connection. Is it necessary? Bring your thoughts and perspectives this coming Monday evening, August 21st, from 7:30-9:00 PM, on Zoom. To be emailed the Zoom Link the day before, email a request for it to [socratescafe@towsonuuc.org](mailto:socratescafe@towsonuuc.org). Let's sort this out, as Socrates would have us do. What would Socrates think? How about what novels and plays have to say? Or poems? What would Emerson, Thoreau, or "The Dude" think? Hmmm...

## **WORSHIP AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE AT TUUC**

Announcing our new 4-part Series, Worship as a Spiritual Practice at TUUC! We will be meeting in the foyer after the service on September 17, October 1 and 29, and November 12. Bring your own lunch and if desired, food to share. We will enjoy good food, good company, and good spirit as we reach into ourselves to discover what we love most about worship. We welcome all ages, experiences, and spiritual orientations into this fun exploration of worship, creativity, ritual, and joy! Email Intern Minister SarahRuth Davis to save your seat in this 4-part Series at [sahruth@towsonuuc.org](mailto:sahruth@towsonuuc.org).

## **TUUC CHOIR TO RESUME FOR THE NEW SEASON**

Our TUUC Choir has had their well-deserved break this summer, and will resume rehearsals soon. If you've been considering singing with the choir, the beginning of the season is a great time to start! First rehearsal will be on Thursday, August 31st at 7:30 PM, and we'll sing a little bit on Sunday, September 3rd. Since we know that many of you are away over that first weekend, we'll have a small Welcome party prior to rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 7th. Our TUUC Choir rehearses weekly on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30, and sings two or three times per month in Sunday services. You'll receive a schedule for choir Sundays to help you plan. We sing a variety of styles--contemporary choral, folk, Classical, show tunes, traditional music from around the world, pop, etc. It's a great group of people, and in this post-pandemic time, about half of the choir is relatively new to it. Some experience with reading music is helpful, but not required--you'll learn a lot as you go. If you'd like to join or to just try it out a few times before deciding, please contact Tracy Hall (Music Director) at [music@towsonuuc.org](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org).

Alternatively (or in addition!), we have something called Community Choir approximately every six weeks. On those Sundays, anyone can "walk in" and learn the music on the morning of the Sunday service. Yes, you'll need to come pretty early (we need to do soundchecks for Zoom prior to the service, AFTER the rehearsal), but this is so much fun! All ages are invited, and the music is a little simpler. We have a great time on those Sundays. Whether you decide to join us for TUUC Choir (with rehearsals on Thursday evenings), or for the Community Choir Sundays--or both!--we welcome you and look forward to making music with you!

## SOCIAL ACTION

### 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.)

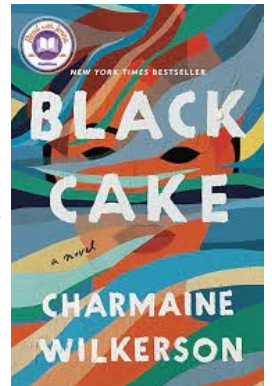
## CABIN FEVER

**THE BOY WHO  
HARNESSED THE WIND**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20**  
**4:30 PM DISCUSSION**



## BOOK CLUB

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23**  
**7:30 PM**



**TRAIL MAINTENANCE**  
**Third Saturday Work Party**  
**August 19, 2023—9:00 AM**

Contact Todd Robertson for  
more information at  
[mrtodd37@gmail.com](mailto:mrtodd37@gmail.com)



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

19 Aug	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
20 Aug	Sunday	Sunday Service - Poetry	10:30 AM
20 Aug	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Planning Meeting	12:00 PM
20 Aug	Sunday	Cabin Fever—The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind	4:30 PM
21 Aug	Monday	Mindful Way Meditation	7:00 PM
21 Aug	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
22 Aug	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
23 Aug	Wednesday	Book Group—Black Cake	7:30 PM
25 Aug	Friday	Parkinson Support Group	12:30 PM
26 Aug	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Potluck	6:00 PM
27 Aug	Sunday	Cabin Fever—The Hitch-Hiker	4:30 PM
31 Aug	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
3 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
5 Sept	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
7 Sept	Thursday	Men's Brunch	11:30 AM
7 Sept	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
9 Sept	Saturday	Celebration of Life for Geoff Crenson	2:00 PM
10 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
10 Sept	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Barbenheimer	4:30 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
08/13/2023	10:30 AM	NA / 21