



SEPTEMBER 3—10:30 AM—*WATER CALLING YOUR HEART HOME*—REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, TRACY HALL AND THE TUUC CHOIR, KARA TYLER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We all come from water. We are protected by water in the womb. During our lives, we seek water that nourishes our spirits. During our lives, we create tears of joy and sorrow as signs of our humanity. This morning, if you are worshiping in the building you are invited to bring a small container of water symbolic of water calling your heart home. We will mingle our waters in four bowls representing joy and happiness, change and transition, grief and loss, and rest and renewal. What water is calling your heart home as we celebrate our annual water communion ceremony?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 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/97409464251?pwd=WkRRemcwV1BERkVPLOR6YWVrNVhkQT09>

Meeting ID: 974 0946 4251 Passcode: 772123

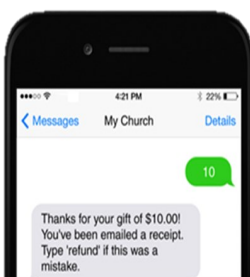
TUUC YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION—RACING TOWARD THE STARTING LINE

Is everyone ready for the next big thing? No, it's not the start of the school year or all the coming sports practices and games. It's not even all the piles of homework soon to follow students home again. No, I'm talking about the beginning of our church year!

We have Water Communion and the Blessing of the Animals coming up. But I'm really looking forward to the start of YRE and our new Making Faith Program.

This year, all the kids, ages K-12, will be together for lessons, discussions, activities, and worship. We will also offer OWL for 4th-6th graders, Coming of Age to 7th-9th graders, and special opportunities for our high schoolers to engage with the community and Sunday Service.

YRE begins on Sept 10th. Join us after service for a special Open House in the classrooms to learn more and hang out with the awesome kids of TUUC.



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](#)

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

When you think of the gift of welcome, what comes to mind?

Do you imagine Beowulf being presented with gifts of gold such as Seamus Heaney described in his translation of the Old English epic?

*The cup was carried to him, kind words
spoken in welcome and a wealth of wrought gold
graciously bestowed: two arm bangles,
a mail-shirt and rings, and the most resplendent
torque of gold I ever heard tell of
anywhere on earth or under heaven.*

The word “welcome” comes from the Anglo-Saxon, and is used in *Beowulf*. “Wilcuma” means *wil* (pleasure) plus *cuma* (guest.) The verb form, *wilcumian*, meant to receive someone or something with pleasure.

However, a sign of pleasure need not be two arm bangles or a resplendent torque of gold! I was reminded of this in a small Scottish village this summer. I was serving as a golf caddy for my father. I met a student who hopes to come to the United States in another year to serve as a professional golf caddy. In the golf shop, one morning, he introduced himself to me: My name is Finley. He asked my name. Then Finley introduced me to the two other people in the golf shop by name: Linda and Mark. Each time I saw Finley after that, he greeted me by name and asked how I was doing and how Ralph’s (my father’s) golf round had gone. Finley modeled the practice of receiving another with pleasure---by remembering their name and by being sincerely interested in others.

In worship on August 13th, SarahRuth Davis, our Ministerial Intern, and her daughter Adelia modeled ways they welcome each other with a hug and with an affirmation. They then invited us to reflect on how we like to be welcomed and to welcome others. One person reported they’d like to be welcomed with a short song. Another equated welcoming with being showered with loving words. Newlyweds shared how they welcome each other by sharing a kiss. Another person wanted to be called by their name and told that they are welcome here. And another person said, they “would love to be treated with genuine happiness to see me and interest in my life.”

The gift of welcome is the gift of being seen, of being heard, of being known, of being affirmed, of belonging. This is a gift we give and receive in religious community. We don’t have to wait for a warrior to show up on our doorstep. We don’t have to sing a song on key. We don’t even have to like to hug people or to be hugged! Finley reminded me the gift of welcome starts with learning the name of another person. It grows when that person is introduced to others by their names. Questions about another lead to connections that build beloved community over time. Welcome back to TUUC (or to TUUC for the first time!). Welcome to being received by others and to receiving others with pleasure!

SOUL MATTERS SHARING CIRCLES REGISTRATION BY SEPTEMBER 12

Autumn is a time for the first day of the new school year; for the Jewish high holy days, remembering the beginning of the world and marking the start of a new year; and, perhaps, for committing to a new spiritual practice.

Our Soul Matters Sharing Circles will begin meeting on Zoom on September 26 to explore the monthly theme. Prior to gathering, you will receive a packet of possible spiritual practices; questions on the theme; and readings. Participants are invited to choose one spiritual practice to engage and one question to reflect upon. In a circle of six to ten people, we share our experience with the practice and our thoughts on the question. We learn more about ourselves and connect with others on a deeper level.

This year's themes are based on the values articulated in the proposed Article II revision which delegates to the UUA General Assembly will vote upon next June.

This year's overarching frame is *The Gifts of Our Faith*. We focus on ten beloved UU values and explore their potential to shape us and in turn shape the world.

How do these values offer us both challenge and comfort? What might it mean to place them at the center of our living and loving? What promise do they hold for us individually as well as collectively? These are some of questions that will guide and bless our journey in the year ahead.

Here is the list of our 2023-24 themes: *The Gift of...*

September: Welcome

October: Heritage

November: Generosity

December: Mystery

January: Liberating Love

February: Justice & Equity

March: Transformation

April: Interdependence

May: Pluralism

June: Renewal

This year, we will experiment with meeting once a month for 1.5-2 hours (instead of twice a month). Therefore, we are asking participants to commit to meeting once a month so that we can really get to know one another. We understand that something may come up that will require missing a meeting or two. But these are not stand alone sessions. We are scheduled to meet on Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 12, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 26, April 23, May 28, and June 11th . We meet from 7:30 - 9:00 PM. on Zoom.

If you would like to participate, register at <https://tuucdatabase.breezechms.com/form/4e74593089> by September 12.

Looking forward to exploring the gifts of our faith with soul friends!

---Rev Clare

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

NEWS ABOUT US

Many of you will remember the delightful play readings performed at TUUC by long-time member Carol Mason and her husband **Jay Lyston**. Jay passed away peacefully on August 8th. A memorial service will be held at Oakcrest Nottingham Gardens, 8832 Walter Blvd., 3rd floor Meeting Room on Thursday September 7th at 1 PM. Messages of condolence may be sent to Carol Mason at the address in Breeze.

We regret to inform you of the death of dynamic TUUC member **Beryl Sass** on August 3rd. Beryl was a retired English teacher who had just celebrated her 95th birthday in July with her usual gusto and delight. Beryl continued to enjoy reading until two days before her death. There will be a celebration of Beryl's life, in person and on-line, at 1 PM on September 16th. Online condolences may be sent to the family through www.peacefulalternatives.com.

---Rev. Clare

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 sarahruth@towsonuuc.org.

WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE—DROP IN SESSIONS ON SEPT 8 & 22, OCT 6 & 20, NOV 3 AND 17, DEC 1 AND 15, JAN 5 AND 19 FROM 1 TO 2 PM ON ZOOM

Writing as a Spiritual Practice will resume on September 8 and all are welcome to these bi-weekly stand-alone sessions on Zoom. We check-in; light a chalice; listen to a brief reading; and then choose one of several prompts. After writing together for 15 minutes in silence, we are invited to share what we have written (although there is no obligation to share). Through this practice we become more present to our own lives and get to know the lives of others at a deeper level. We close with a benediction. The purpose of this group is not perfection it is presence. Please join us on one of the Friday sessions above. You will discover deep connections as well as wonderful writers!

MEN'S BRUNCH—THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 AT 11:30 AM

Men's brunch will meet Thursday September 7 at 11:30 AM in the Cafe at Edenwald. Please contact Herb Shankroff for more information.

WOMEN'S LUNCH BRUNCH—MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 AT NOON

Because the first Monday of September is Labor Day, the Women's Lunch Bunch will meet Monday September 11 at noon in the Cafe at Edenwald. At that meeting we will discuss the future of the Lunch Bunch. Please contact Sue Shankroff for more information.

SEPTEMBER ETHNIC LUNCH

Summer is ending and Ethnic Lunch is back! On Wednesday, September 20, we will be meeting at Kung Fu 12 Szechuan restaurant located in the shopping center at the corner of York and Seminary Roads, 1427 York Road, Timonium. The menu can be viewed at www.kungfu12szechuan.com. Lunch begins at 12:30 PM.

RSVP at ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org by 5:00 PM September 17. Looking forward to seeing everyone! --- Janet Kuperstein and Claudia Sumler

UNITING IN WELCOME: EMBRACE THE ESSENCE OF COMMUNITY BY WELCOMING VISITORS

We're thrilled to invite every member to join us in embodying the beautiful words of Gwendolyn Brooks: "We are each other's harvest: we are each other's business: we are each other's magnitude and bond." This sentiment, which inspired our stewardship campaign, now extends to a heartwarming opportunity – greeting visitors to our beloved church. **Whether you choose to offer a warm hello once a year or once a month, your presence and smile can create a lasting impact.**

It's easy to think that someone else will step into this role. But here's the heartfelt truth – the responsibility is shared by all of us. The magic lies in our unity, and your welcoming spirit can make newcomers feel right at home. **With just 15 minutes of your time, you can be a part of something truly meaningful.**

Imagine the resonance of each of us coming together. Envision the ripples of connection weaving through our community as we welcome newcomers with open arms. By embracing this role, you're contributing to the spirit of "We are each other's harvest."

Ready to embrace the heartwarming role of a greeter? It's as easy as sending a quick email to membership@towsonuuc.org with the subject line "I'm in" and a date of your choice or simply [clicking here](#) and picking the date or dates that work best for you.

Let's honor the essence of community and show that each warm greeting matters.

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

BARBENHEIMER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

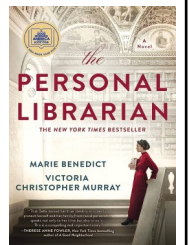
4:30 PM DISCUSSION



BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

7:30 PM



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.

The image shows a screenshot of the online contribution form. The form is titled 'Give to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church' and shows a donation amount of '\$0.00'. There are three dropdown menus for selecting the fund: 'Give to 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign', 'Add Gift to Another Fund', and 'Give this One Time'. A red box highlights the 'Give to Restricted Fund' dropdown menu, which is open and shows a list of options: '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', and 'Give to Social Action Collection'. A red arrow points from the dropdown menu to the 'Give to Restricted Fund' option.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

1 Sept	Monday	Music Rehearsal	2:00 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	Celebration of Life for Jay Lyston @ Oak Crest	1:00 PM
7 Sept	Thursday	Choir Welcome Party	7:30 PM
7 Sept	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
8 Sept	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
10 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
10 Sept	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Barbenheimer	4:30 PM
11 Sept	Monday	Women's Lunch Brunch	12:00 PM
12 Sept	Tuesday	Makers' Meetup	7:00 PM
14 Sept	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
16 Sept	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
16 Sept	Saturday	Celebration of Life—Beryl Sass	1:00 PM
17 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
17 Sept	Sunday	Worship as a Spiritual Practice at TUUC	11:30 AM
17 Sept	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:30 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
08/27/2023	10:30 AM	53 / 18