



**SEPTEMBER 10—10:30 AM—WHY DO YOU AND I EXIST?—REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, KARA TYLER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

This morning, our Youth Religious Education ministry launches “Making Faith.” What is our new model of youth religious education? How might it help our congregation of all ages to answer the question, “Why do you and I exist?” What is your own answer to this existential question?

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 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/98069973845?pwd=eXBXTjBiOGtUJWV2UvaXJldkt2QT09>

Meeting ID: 980 6997 3845 Passcode: 280277

**SEPTEMBER 17—10:30 AM—WELCOMING THE CYCLES OF LIFE: THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, ANDREW HAGER, MIA HAGER**

This morning we welcome the wisdom of the animals in our lives through our annual Blessing Of The Animals. If you have a beloved pet you are grieving, please send a photo of your pet, its name, and a memory of your pet to [revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org). If you have a beloved pet who would not welcome being in the building on September 17th, please send a photo of your pet, its name, and three qualities that are a blessing in your life to [revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org). Please send all photos by September 12.

If you have a beloved pet who would welcome a blessing in the building without being unwelcoming to other creatures, please bring them on September 17th. Today we reflect on what animals teach us human animals about welcoming the cycles of life.

**TUUC YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

Are you ready to Hoot? We are starting up OWL this fall for the 4th-6th graders. Our Whole Lives is a formative, life saving program that offers medically accurate, judgement free, value based sexual health/sexuality/relationship education in a small, safe setting. This year, we have two amazing volunteers who undertook a strenuous training program (I took it, too, whew!) and who have dedicated their time and love to making sure our young people have access to this program. Marianne De Bow and Marilyn Carlisle deserve a round of applause for their commitment.

Classes will start in October, but until then, I need your trash. That's right. I need magazines with images of people, bodies, and families. Priority should be based on non-white centered publications so we can ensure our program runs in line with our values and commitment to anti-racism. Donations can be left in my box, slid under my door, or passed to myself or the teachers. Thank you! --- Kara Tyler, Director of TUUC Youth Religious Exploration

## 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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

We are so excited to share the wonderful news of the birth of Maya Bitner Karimian on August 26, 2023. Congratulations to Ali and Emily who are home, sleep deprived, and in love with her. Happily, her big sister, Ella, is excited and attentive! Welcome to this spinning world, Maya! We look forward to dedicating ourselves to your care!



## HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Jane will be on vacation from September 19 until October 14 and volunteers are needed to make coffee and set up Hospitality for the following dates: September 24, October 1, October 8, and October 15. The sign-up sheet is hanging on the bulletin board next to the kitchen door at TUUC. Thank you for volunteering to make TUUC a welcoming and hospitable community.

## 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](mailto: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!

## 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.

## OUR MESSY LIVES TO PROBE THE WORD "REVOLUTION" ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Have we ever disagreed with something so passionately that we would like to commence a **REVOLUTION**? Such as to preserve **Democracy**? To preserve the **Earth**? To uphold **human rights, equality, justice, and compassion, when we believe they're being denied**?

How does a **REVOLUTION** begin? Who can start one? A **REVOLUTION** is "a fundamental change in a political organization," or in the way things are done, or in the way business is conducted. It can be peaceful or turbulent. It is meant to overthrow, repudiate, and thoroughly replace the existing status quo.

If we were to believe in something so vehemently and whole-heartedly, how could we become the catalyst for a **REVOLUTION**? Have we seen one in our lifetime? How about The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1963, making change by the March on Washington and his "I Have a Dream" speech on the Mall? It was **revolutionary**, for sure, 60 years ago! Is a **REVOLUTION** an uprising? Can it be conducted by those who have reached a justifiable boiling point? Such as the Black Lives Matter and the #MeToo movements? Is a **REVOLUTION** an awareness-raising campaign?

What other world-wide examples of **REVOLUTIONS** have we known? A **REVOLUTION** is "an attempt to achieve fundamental and relatively sudden change in political power and political organization:" Did the **March on Washington** achieve that? How about the **March on Selma**? What about the current **Gabon** situation? Other governments overthrown? What about the **January 6th Insurrection**? Was that a **REVOLUTION**? Or not? Do we see where some fundamental changes need to be made in our country?

Bring your thoughts and ideas to **Our Messy Lives**, this coming **Thursday, September 14th, from 3:00-4:00 PM, on Zoom**. We hope to shed some light on the subject and to come to terms with our own feelings of powerlessness in the face of what we perceive to be injustices. To join, please find Nancy Caswell's email address on BREEZE, our TUUC Member Directory, and let her know, by email, that you'd like to join **Our Messy Lives**, and she will email the Zoom Link to you the day before. Should be an interesting sharing and discussion! We welcome you!

### **SEPTEMBER ETHNIC LUNCH—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT 12:30 PM**

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](http://www.kungfu12szechuan.com). Lunch begins at 12:30 PM.

RSVP at [ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **MABON RITUAL AND POTLUCK—SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 FROM 6 TO 9 PM**

Named after the Celtic Sun deity, Mabon celebrates the autumnal equinox. Like the vernal equinox in March, the day equals the night, but on this sabbat, we celebrate the bounty of Earth and give thanks for the harvest, both material and spiritual. Join the Roots and Wings Chapter of CUUPS for a potluck and ritual on this first night of autumn. We will also be planning for future rituals in the coming year, including Samhain and welcome all who are interested in participating and/or leading rituals.



### **FARMING FOR THE FUTURE—SYSTEMIC CHANGES FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS—SEPT 26-28**

Join UUs for Just Economic Community, UUs for Social Justice, Side with Love and UU Ministry for Earth in Washington, D.C. September 26-28, 2023 to learn about our food and farming system and to advocate for an equitable and climate-smart 2023 Farm Bill. If you eat food, you care about the Farm Bill—even if you don't know it! The farm bill connects the food on our plates, the farmers and ranchers who produce that food, and the natural resources—our soil, air, and water – that make growing food possible.

Congress puts forward only every five years a must-pass farm bill that determines the kind of food and farm system we have. Congress is writing the 2023 Farm Bill NOW. So NOW is the time for our UU voices to be heard. Farm bills address many issues UUs care about including food quality and food chain security, soil and water contamination, food deserts, equity for small-scale producers, conservation, research, crop insurance, and nutrition programs like SNAP (formerly food stamps).

The first two days (Tuesday and Wednesday) will feature speakers and the last day (Thursday) will be direct advocacy with U.S. senators. There will be a concert with Jim Scott on Tuesday evening and a worship service on Wednesday evening, both at All Souls Unitarian in DC. Register Here: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6111610>



## **Farming for our Future**

**Systemic Changes for the Climate Crisis**

A UU Advocacy Conference for Healthy Soil, Food, and Communities

September 26-28, 2023

Washington DC

# 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

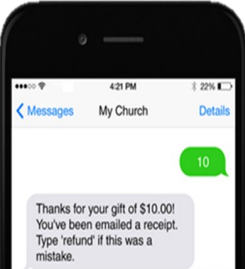
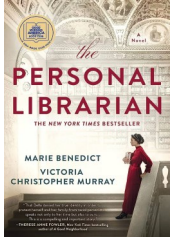
Nonperishable food can be dropped off at these locations:

- 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**

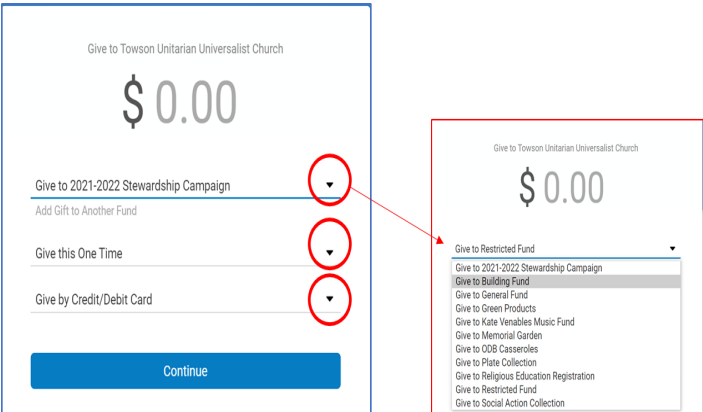


**DONATE BY TEXT**  
Send an amount to  
**(410)834-0700**

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

**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.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

8 Sept	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
9 Sept	Saturday	Celebration of Life for Geoff Crenson (Private)	2:00 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	Our Messy Lives	3:00 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
17 Sept	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Women Talking	4:30 PM
20 Sept	Wednesday	Ethnic Lunch	12:30 PM
21 Sept	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
22 Sept	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
23 Sept	Saturday	Roots and Wings CUUPs Mabon Ritual	6:00 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
09/03/2023	10:30 AM	62 / 28