



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 who would welcome a blessing in the building without being unwelcoming to other creatures, please bring them this morning. Today we reflect on what animals teach us human animals about welcoming the cycles of life.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 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/99857715439?pwd=cUg0SnF6azlFQj9MYTRrcW1eDk2QT09>

Meeting ID: 998 5771 5439

Passcode: 524628

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION—GOT TRASH?

YRE is looking for donations for crafting projects! We always love to see the fun crafting supplies you have lying around and welcome all donations. Right now, we are specifically looking for: used toilet paper/paper towel rolls, wire coat hangers, tennis ball containers, golf ball containers, CDs (to cut up), soda bottles (rinsed), jeans for cutting into strips, bar soap (new in package). Thank you!

--- Kara Tyler, Director of Religious Education

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 two screenshots of the online contribution interface. The left screenshot, titled 'Give to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church', displays a contribution amount of '\$ 0.00'. Below the amount are three dropdown menus, each with a red circle around its arrow: 'Give to 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign', 'Add Gift to Another Fund', 'Give this One Time', and 'Give by Credit/Debit Card'. A blue 'Continue' button is at the bottom. The right screenshot shows the expanded dropdown menu for 'Give to Restricted Fund', listing options such as '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 circled dropdown in the left screenshot to the expanded menu in the right screenshot.

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

NEWS ABOUT US

Susan Woolhiser's heart surgery went well and she appreciates cards (her address is in Breeze.)

Sue Royer is home and recovering well from her hip replacement and is grateful for meals from TUUC members.

Healing wishes to Judi Clague on her recent surgery and great gratitude for her gift of "Lonely People" in worship last Sunday!

Healing wishes to Mary Beth Brizzolara as she recovers from shoulder surgery.

--- Rev Clare

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FLOORING INSTALLATION—SEPTEMBER 17 AND 22

TUUC needs volunteers to assist with our upcoming flooring installation on Sunday, September 17 at 6:00 PM and Friday, September 22 at 12:00 PM. Volunteers will **not** be moving heavy items. Please reach out to Kara Tyler at tuucdre@towsonuuc.org if you are interested in helping. Thank you so much!

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. 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

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>

SOCRATES CAFÉ TO PROBE THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF HIERARCHY

Next Monday evening, September 18th, from 7:30-9:00 PM, on Zoom, we will be holding our 37th TUUC Socrates Cafe, when our question to probe, as Socrates would have us do, and as Peter Talley suggested, will be: "What are the strengths and weaknesses of hierarchy?" We will attempt to ponder the question philosophically as in this suggestion for preparation.

Jonathan Wolff, a British philosopher and academic, a Professor of Philosophy and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at University College London, discusses his own political philosophy theories in a 41:50 YouTube video entitled "Social Equality & the Problem of Hierarchy," where he explains hierarchy in terms of justice and injustice. He asks, "Is hierarchy a bad thing from the point of view of social equality?" Additionally he asks, "In an ideal world, should hierarchy be abolished?"

Wolff looks at hierarchy anthropologically, seeing hierarchy as pervasive in human society... power positions exist...we form hierarchies in government, and in nearly every other organization...hierarchy is also formed, as Adam Smith says, by personal qualifications and merit, although not necessarily....four hierarchies form, says Wolff: "the big man, the technician, the holy man, and the old man." Smith also sees hierarchies formed by age, fortune, and birth. There are hierarchies in relationships, seen in behaviors, and in sentiments, seen in attitudes toward others.

How does hierarchy manifest itself? Wolff continues on, giving provocative examples...he presents many ponderable ideas...bring your own take on this topic to share...bring us why you think hierarchy exists...is it innate in humans? Does it arise out of ambition, greed, instinct? This is an ambitious topic, well worth contemplating and examining. To join the discussion, please email socratescafe@towsonuuc.org, and you will be emailed the Zoom Link the day before.

THANK YOU KIM PEABODY!

On Sunday, Kim Peabody gave Rev. Clare a check for the TUUC Building Fund to cover the cost of replacing the fogged glass of a window in the Meeting Room that looks out on the grove. Kim said, "Al and I used to sit by this window every Sunday. I'm so grateful that the fogged glass has been replaced." Today, the A-Team agreed to dedicate this new, clear window to the memory of Al Peabody. As you look out on the sycamores, through clear glass, please thank Kim Peabody for her generous donation to the TUUC Building Fund and take a moment to remember Al Peabody! --- Rev Clare

NONES AT TUUC

As we gather as a vibrant community at TUUC each week, it's clear there are many ways our spiritual space allows us to explore our shared values, fellowship, and belonging. On Sunday Rev. Clare drew our attention to a group referred to as the 'nones' – individuals seeking spiritual meaning beyond traditional religious boundaries. I can't help but think that extending a heartfelt welcome to these seekers aligns perfectly with our Unitarian Universalist principles. Wouldn't those in search of purpose and meaning find it here among our diverse and compassionate congregation? Wouldn't those yearning for an accepting community discover it within our TUUC family? Wouldn't those who are passionate about social justice find a home here?

I invite every member and friend of TUUC to take a moment and look around you. "Are there 'nones' in your orbit who may be searching for a welcoming community like ours? Who is awaiting your invitation to TUUC? As caretakers of this community, we all share the responsibility of nurturing its growth and fostering connections. Let's embrace the role of being wonderful ambassadors for TUUC and invite those who may be seeking just what our community offers.

Make that personal invitation. While it's essential to let people know we're here, it's the personal connection that truly makes a difference. Think back to your own experiences of entering new communities – didn't a kind individual extending a hand, expressing an interest in who you are, and introducing you to others make you feel more welcome and at ease? As we carry the inspiration from Rev. Clare's meaningful service, let's keep an eye out for those who, like the 'nones,' are in search of community. Let's bring intention to the role we all share as ambassadors and extend heartfelt invitations to who might be searching for us.

---Tracey Myers-Preston, Membership Chair

PASTORAL CARE CONVERSATIONS

Intern Minister SarahRuth Davis will be available for informal pastoral care conversations following worship in the foyer on September 17th and October 1st. She will be available in a Zoom break out room following worship, for informal pastoral care conversations on September 24th and October 8th. Look for her, to join in!

SarahRuth is available to schedule individual pastoral care conversations though contacting her by email at sarahruth@towsonuuc.org.

COMMUNITY CHOIR

The first Community Choir Sunday of the new worship year will be on Sunday, October 15th. This is an opportunity to rehearse only on the morning of the service, and to sing that day. All ages are welcome! You'll need to arrive at 9:00 AM to rehearse together. You'll have a substantial break time during sound checks before the service. This time we'll combine forces with the TUUC Choir (they will have prepared one piece already, which you can join in on), and we'll have a guest cellist joining us that day. Hope to see you the morning of October 15th! Please RSVP to Tracy at music@towsonuuc.org if you plan to come. But if you forget...you can still just show up!

SOCIAL ACTION

ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES

The Assistance Center of the Towson Churches, ACTC, is again responding to the community needs. They are open on Wednesday evenings from 5-7pm, to help those unable to come during the day. They are also restarting their financial assistance program. Please note that ACTC really needs canned soups.

EARLS PLACE OPENING DOORS DINNER—THURSDAY OCTOBER 5 AT 6:00 PM

Join our TUUC group to celebrate new beginnings for the men of Earl's Place and Prospect Place as they continue to rebuild their lives and move from hopeless and homeless to hopeful and housed. This event will take place on Thursday, October 5 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at the Boumi Temple 5050 King Ave in Rosedale, MD. You have the option to participate in the auction online and the deadline to donate items to be auctioned is September 15th; possibly extended to the 22nd at the latest. For more information, please visit <https://cchbaltimore.org/cornerstone>.

OUT FOR JUSTICE—LEGISLATIVE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE CLINIC

Out For Justice is in the midst of planning their legislative agenda for this year. Their focus will be on the expungement of records. Out For Justice is also planning the “2023 All Night Community Resource Clinic” 4pm-4am in October, the place and time TBA. The purpose of this event is to bring civic education, voter registration, child support modifications, and the new expungement legislation to a neighborhood in Baltimore. They are looking for support from legal, workforce, employer, civic, and social partners. To find out more, to donate, or to become more active with this inspiring community partner, please check out their website, out4justice.org.

NONPERISHABLE FOOD

Nonperishable food can be dropped off at these locations:

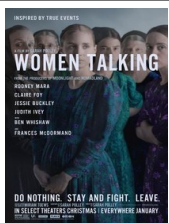
- Mondays, 12 to 2 PM: Ascension Lutheran Church parking lot (7601 York Rd.)
- Thursdays, 12 to 2 PM: Trinity Episcopal Church parking lot (120 Allegheny Ave.)
- Thursdays, 5 to 6 PM: Valley Baptist Church parking lot (1401 York Rd.)

CABIN FEVER

WOMEN TALKING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

4:30 PM DISCUSSION

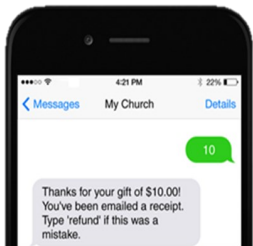
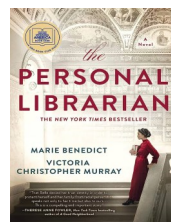


BOOK CLUB

PERSONAL LIBRARIAN

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

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— <i>Women Talking</i>	4:30 PM
18 Sept	Monday	Mindful Way Meditation	7:00 PM
18 Sept	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
19 Sept	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	7:30 PM
19 Sept	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 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
24 Sept	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
24 Sept	Sunday	Cabin Fever— <i>They Cloned Tyrone</i>	4:30 PM
26 Sept	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circle	7:30 PM
27 Sept	Wednesday	Book Group	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
09/10/2023	10:30 AM	Unknown / 23