



DECEMBER 3—10:30 AM—THE INSPIRATIONS OF OUR FAITH – REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, KARA TYLER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, TRACY HALL, MUSIC DIRECTOR, AND THE TUUC CHOIR

This month, we celebrate the gift of mystery. The proposed revised Article II of the Bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association says that “direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder are primary sources of Unitarian Universalist inspiration.” What are such experiences? Why are they primary sources of our faith tradition? What other sources that inspire our faith tradition? Today, you are invited to return your Guest At Your Table boxes for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to promote human rights around the globe.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 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/91464673697?pwd=dncrYkk0a09vLyszczjF4aHJpWU56dz09>

Meeting ID: 914 6467 3697

Passcode: 673945



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](#)

CABIN FEVER

THE DEER HUNTER (1979)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

4:30 PM DISCUSSION

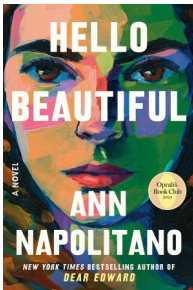


BOOK CLUB

HELLO BEAUTIFUL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:30 PM



CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder are primary sources of Unitarian Universalist inspiration. These experiences open our hearts, renew our spirits, and transform our lives.

(from the amended proposed Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association)

The stories retold at this time of year are all about direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder. The Hebrew people expected to have enough oil to burn for only one night to rededicate their temple. They watched the flame burn for eight days. By the fourth century, Christians celebrated the journey of the wise people, following a bright star, who worshipped the holy in a human baby. For centuries before that humans sang and feasted when they noticed the minutes of daylight lengthen and knew that the natural world and their own lives would continue.

These were all direct experiences of mystery and wonder that opened hearts, renewed spirits, and transformed lives. A few delegates to the UUA General Assembly in June expressed concern that this language implied that Humanism was becoming a second-class theology in our faith tradition. But one can be a Humanist and still have direct experiences of mystery and wonder. Andre Comte-Sponville, a retired professor of philosophy at the Sorbonne, (and self-identified Atheist) wrote:

...Some friends and I had gone for a walk in the forest we liked so much. Night had fallen. We were walking. Gradually our laughter faded, and the conversation died down. Nothing remained but our friendship, our mutual trust and shared presence, the mildness of the night air and of everything around us...My mind empty of thought, I was simply registering the world around me – the darkness of the undergrowth, the incredible luminosity of the sky, the faint sounds of the forest...only making the silence more palpable. And then, all of a sudden...What? Nothing: everything! No words, no meanings, no questions, only – a surprise. Only – this. A seemingly infinite happiness. A seemingly eternal sense of peace. Above me, the starry sky was immense, luminous and unfathomable, and within me there was nothing but the sky, of which I was a part, and the silence, and the light, like a warm hum, and a sense of joy with neither subject nor object ...Yes, in the darkness of that night, I contained only the dazzling presence of the All.... ...'This is what Spinoza meant by eternity', I said to myself – and naturally, that put an end to it.'

With humility and humor Andre Comte-Sponville lifts-up how trying to think our way into direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder does not work. But we can open ourselves to such experiences. Each December we light tiny flames to re-enact the wonder of the oil that burned for eight days; the wonder of the holy being born in a baby; the wonder of the return of sunlight. We light flames that we might have our own direct experience of union with nature, with others, and with “the dazzling presence of the All.” May our experiences and celebrations this December bring us closer to one another and move us to work for a world made fair with all her people one.

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

NEWS ABOUT US

Many thanks to all who helped Sean Mackey when he fell in the foyer of TUUC on November 19. Sean broke his hip; had a successful surgery to repair it; and has been working his hip in rehab this week. He would welcome cards of encouragement. His address is in Breeze.

Marilyn Thorn is grateful for the cards that members and friends of TUUC have sent following her car accident. Marilyn has been moved from the hospital to rehab. Let's keep cards of encouragement coming! Marilyn's home address is in Breeze.

Several TUUC members and friends have been caught by Covid and flu in the past few weeks. The good news is that the majority of cases have been mild. We wish each other well!

I am grateful that TUUC has technology to stream worship as well as some committee meetings for those and for those under the weather and for those more comfortable joining us from home or from work.

---Rev. Clare

BISHOP CARLTON D. PEARSON

Bishop Carlton D. Pearson, an Affiliate Minister of All Souls Unitarian Church of Tulsa died on November 19. His amazing spiritual odyssey included graduating from Oral Roberts University and building a congregation of 6,000 as a Pentecostal preacher to renouncing hell and preaching "a gospel of inclusion" that rejected the ideal of hell. For doing so, he was labeled a "heretic" and chose to resign as a regent from the Board of Oral Roberts University. In 2008, Bishop Pearson joined All Souls Unitarian Church of Tulsa and became an Affiliate Minister. The 2018 film "Come Sunday" documented his religious odyssey. "He helped people of all cultures and faiths know that God loves us beyond belief. In an era of division, he stood out as a voice of unity and reason," said Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar, Senior Minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa. TUUC's Affiliate Community Minister, The Reverend Karyn B. Marsh had the opportunity to work with, and learn from, Bishop Pearson during her internship at All Souls. We celebrate Rev. Pearson's "gospel of inclusion" and all the lives he touched with his universalist faith, hope, and love.

----Rev. Clare

GREEN SANCTUARY MEETING—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT NOON

The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet Sunday December 3rd at 12 noon, in room 6 downstairs, or you may attend by zoom (the link is on the TUUC web calendar). All are invited to attend, as we continue to work on becoming a greener community.

TUUC DRUM CIRCLE WILL MEET SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 3 PM

Hello, lovers of rhythm! Please join us for the TUUC Drum Circle on Dec. 3rd in the Meeting Room at 3 PM. We'll mostly drum free-form, and we'll have a meditative drumming time near the end of the event. Please bring a djembe or other hand drum if you have one. We'll make available a few drums and lots of small percussion.

COMBINED LUNCH GROUPS—THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 11:30 AM

The combined men's and women's lunch groups will meet Thursday, December 7 at 11:30 AM in the Cafe at Edenwald. For more information, please contact Sue or Herb Shankroff.

COMMUNITY CHOIR ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

The next Community Choir Sunday will be Sunday, December 10th. This is an opportunity to sing without a prior rehearsal. All ages are invited (students attending YRE can sing at the beginning of the service). You will need to arrive at 9:00 AM that morning to learn the music, and then we'll sing in the service that morning! You will have a lengthy break after the rehearsal, during sound checks. The service will be observing Hanukkah, and on the topic of hope. There will be a variety of musical styles included in this service. Hope you will join us!

YULE RITUAL AND POTLUCK—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 5:00 PM

Join us in celebrating the returning of the light and our hopes for the new year in ritual and song! We'd like to take this time of transition to begin the new year with positive intentions. The ritual will begin at 5 pm. (Please arrive between 4:30 and 4:50 PM.) Snacks and drinks to follow the ritual. The participation is free and open to all. However, cash donations are always welcome. We are asking participants to bring a non-perishable food item for the Assistance Center of Towson Churches basket.



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

SOCIAL ACTION

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.)

GUESTS AT OUR TABLE—DONATION BOXES NEEDED

This is a reminder for folks to bring in our donation boxes for Guests at Our Table to the UU Service Committee by Sunday, December 3.

TUUC SOCIAL ACTION HOLIDAY GIVING

You are invited to experience the joy of giving this holiday season by gifting to men healing from homelessness. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Earl's Place is a recovery-based housing program providing long-term (up to two years) housing and supportive services to men experiencing homelessness; 17 men at a time.

Adopt-a-Resident: Holiday Wish List for Anthony Falcon

Anthony is 57 years old. He likes Tai Chi, Bowling, Nature Walks, and Animal Documentaries.

- Slip-on House Slippers Black 8 1/2 - 9 1/2 M width
- Allen Iverson Answer III Reebok Sneakers High-top Red & White Size 8 1/2
- Amazon Gift Card
- Hat, Scarf, and Gloves - Colors preferred are black, navy blue, or green

Prospect Place is in Rosedale and serves 12 chronically homeless men. Amazon and Walmart are convenient for the men. Our TUUC goal is to gift a total of 29—\$25.00 gift cards. Starting with 12 for the men of Prospect Place and hopefully another 17 for the men of Earl's Place.

When: by Sunday December 10th

Where and How: Drop off wrapped gifts in the church lobby near the countertop Poinsettia or in and near the Earl's Place bucket on the floor of our coat closet. Place Gift Cards in the small holiday box next to the countertop Poinsettia. You are also welcome to order online and ship directly to Earl's Place, or email, or snail mail gifts and gift cards for Earl's Place & Prospect Place by sending to Sheila Helgerson, Cornerstone Community Housing Executive Director at: sheila@cchbaltimore.org | Earl's Place 1400 E. Lombard Street Baltimore, MD 21231

Please update Sheila Malenski at sheila@cchbaltimore.org to help keep track of items purchased.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

1 Dec	Friday	Writing as a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
3 Dec	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	9:00 AM
3 Dec	Sunday	YRE—OWL	10:00 AM
3 Dec	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
3 Dec	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
3 Dec	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:15 PM
3 Dec	Sunday	Drum Circle	3:00 PM
3 Dec	Sunday	Cabin Fever—The Deer Hunter	4:30 PM
4 Dec	Monday	Mindful Way Meditation	7:00 PM
5 Dec	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
7 Dec	Thursday	Combined Women's and Men's Brunch	11:30 AM
7 Dec	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
8 Dec	Friday	Ethnic Lunch	12:30 PM
10 Dec	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	9:00 AM
10 Dec	Sunday	Community Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM
10 Dec	Sunday	YRE—OWL	10:00 AM
10 Dec	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
10 Dec	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Grace Quigley	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
11/26/2023	10:30 AM	60 / 33