



## **JANUARY 7—10:30 AM—LIBERATING LOVE – REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, KARA TYLER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, THE TUUC CHOIR**

One week into the new year, how are you doing with your resolutions? Are you eating healthy food? Getting more sleep? Going to the gym on a regular basis? How about exercises and good habits for your spiritual life? The proposed revision for Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Bylaws states, “Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.” Why is love at the center of our shared values? What is the spiritual discipline of love? How is it liberating?

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 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/91985045154?pwd=ZE11aDkzRERiNjRLaC9Od3EvTGM4dz09>

Meeting ID: 919 8504 5154

Passcode: 275285

### **YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION—UPDATES AND EVENTS**

This month, our OWL students will graduate with medically accurate information about their bodies and a new understanding of responsibility, relationships, and respect. Make sure to thank Marilyn Carlisle and Marianne DeBow for teaching and Spice for her support as a substitute.

Additionally, the 7th-9th grade students will start Coming of Age this month. If you have a student in this age range and are interested in signing them up, it is not too late! Contact Kara for more information ([tuucdre@towsonuuc.org](mailto:tuucdre@towsonuuc.org)).

Coming of Age is a profound experience for youth, and the first step as they make the independent choice to join the broader UU Community. Congregational support for their journey is essential. Right now I am looking for mentors and guest speakers! We are looking forward to an engaging and fun session.

For Making Faith, guest leaders and volunteer helpers are eagerly planning around the topic of Liberating Love. Sign up in the lobby to play with us!

## CLARE'S COLLOQUY

When you think of love, what images come to mind? The Valentine's made from doilies in grade school? How an older relative signed their letters? The first contemporary to tell you they loved you? What you felt when you held your child for the first time? What you read were the last recorded words of some of the people on the planes of 9/11? One option for a reaction on social media? Or something else?

When you hear the phrase "liberating love" what images come to mind? Freedom from an addiction one day at a time? Talking to a counselor without fear judgment? Finding your soul mate who accepts you for who you are without trying to change you? Joining with others to witness and to march, for civil rights, for reproductive justice, for immigrant rights, for peace?

A recent article in the New York Times added to the images I carry of liberating love. It was not about a rom com or a Hallmark Christmas movie. It was not about people who normally speak the word "love" in their daily routines. It was not about a documentary for justice.

It was about a place where people are not free: the largest prison in Chile, with 5,600 inmates.

In this most unlikely of settings, the prisoners had developed a relationship with the 300 feral cats who were there before them. One inmate said, "A cat makes you worry about it, feed it, take care of it, give it special attention...When we were outside and free, we never did this. We discovered it in here."

In return, the cats provide affection and acceptance.

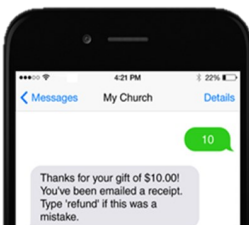
When he is released, one inmate, who still has two years to serve, is already planning to take with him the cat he met as a kitten, named, and has cared for since kittenhood.

The gift of liberating love is our theme this month. We are not living in an overcrowded prison. We do not have feral cats roaming around TUUC. Yet we come together to be reminded of, and to pay attention to, that which our lives meaning and purpose: love.

The revised Article II proposal reads, "Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love."

The prisoners in Chile are very clear about what the spiritual discipline of Love asks of them in terms of caring for the cats and helping volunteers to spay and neuter the kittens. They are very clear about what they receive in return (which they were not mindful of when they were free.)

What will the spiritual discipline of Love ask of you in the coming year? What relational gifts of liberating love do we, as a beloved community, hope to receive?



### 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](#)

# TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

## GREEN SANCTUARY TIP OF THE WEEK

Artificial light at night negatively impacts wildlife and can disrupt their migratory patterns. Help the critters in your local ecosystem. Rather than leaving exterior lights on at night, put your lights on motion sensors so that they turn on when needed. This can be safer, too, as it will alert you to movement in the area (be it animal or human!) In addition, using yellow (rather than white) exterior lights tends to have less impact on wildlife.



## GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 AT NOON

The Green Sanctuary Committee will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday January 7th at noon in Room 6 downstairs. Please join us in person or by zoom (link on TUUC web calendar). All are invited to attend as we work to "green" our church and wider community.

## CABIN FEVER AND GREEN SANCTUARY—JOINT FILM DISCUSSION ON SUNDAY JANUARY 14

The Cabin Fever group and the Green Sanctuary Committee invite you to a discussion of "2040". This refreshingly optimistic documentary focuses on what the future could look like by 2040 if we embraced solutions already available to us to improve the planet. Watch the film on your own: about 1.5 hours on [YouTube \(short ads every 10 min\)](#). (Also available on [Amazon Prime](#); and [Apple TV](#) (\$3.99)). Then join the discussion on Sunday January 14th at 4:30 PM (zoom link on [TUUC web calendar](#)). We look forward to seeing you!



## ETHNIC LUNCH—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17 AT 12:30 PM

Ethnic Lunch is starting the new year with a return to an old favorite. Join us at Villagio Café, [www.villagiocafe.com](http://www.villagiocafe.com), 6805 York Road, Towson, MD. We'll be gathering on Wednesday, January 17 at 12:30. RSVP [ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org](mailto:ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org) by Monday, January 15 if you plan to join us.—*Janet Kuperstein and Claudia Sumler*

## UULM-MARYLAND FAITH FORWARD—SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM

Please join us and UU's around the state, January 20th from 8:30 AM to 1 PM, as we get ready for the upcoming legislative session. Find out what our Issue Leads and their partners have been working on and what laws they think will be enacted this year. This year the kick off will be hybrid, with members having the option to participate via Zoom or in person at the **UU Church of Annapolis at 333 Dubois Rd in Annapolis**. Doors (and screens) will open at 8:30 AM. To register for this event, [please visit this website](#).



Doors (and screens) will open at 8:30

## **SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK—SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 AT 6:00 PM**

Join us for good food and conversation in the church upper level lobby. We offer an atmosphere for fellowship and friendship among TUUC single adults. We range in age from the 60's through the 80's, but gladly welcome anyone to join us.

Please call Ronald Rowley to RSVP and to get more information. He is listed in the church directory.

## **A PLACE TO STAND—A WRITING/CREATIVITY WORKSHOP FOR TRAUMA SURVIVORS, LED BY KRIS FAATZ**

Meeting on Zoom on Monday evenings 1/8, 1/22, 2/12, and 2/26, this workshop will provide a safe space for trauma survivors to use creativity as a recovery tool. Participants can explore their experiences honestly, with a focus on reclaiming and reinforcing their sense of self/identity, their self-trust, and their ability to access feelings of peace, safety, and delight. Each meeting will begin with a short free-writing exercise in response to a piece of music, and will continue with one primary thought question in which participants will engage with their thoughts about themselves, what they've experienced, and/or how they have emerged on the other side of the challenges they faced. Each meeting will also include one or two creative exercises which emphasize self-expression and conveying personal truth. Participants will be invited to share their responses to thought questions and exercises if they wish, but sharing is never required. Each session will begin at 7 PM and last about 90 minutes. Participants are welcome to attend as many sessions as they wish. Zoom information is on the TUUC Calendar.

## **JOIN US IN EXTENDING A WARM WELCOME TO ALL**

As we usher in the new year at TUUC, we have an exciting opportunity that calls for community-wide participation. We are delighted to extend an invitation to every member of our cherished community to embrace the role of welcoming visitors to our congregation.

Whether you can commit to this once a year or once a month, we encourage each of you to share your warm smiles and kind greetings with those who walk through our doors.

Welcoming newcomers is a truly fulfilling experience, requiring just a short amount of your time and a welcoming spirit.

In the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, it's easy to assume that others will always fill this vital role. However, the responsibility truly lies with all of us. By coming together in this essential role, we can swiftly and effortlessly fill our greeter calendar.

Picture the far-reaching ripples of your kindness as we make everyone feel at home within our community. Our strength as a congregation lies in our collective spirit, and your participation can make a significant impact.

To sign up and choose your preferred Sunday(s), simply click on the following link: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e5AygGRc>.

## NEWS FROM BLACK LIVES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM



For the first time since before the pandemic, BLUU community will gather for in-person worship, gratefully hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville in Rockville, MD! A gathering that will take place **both onsite and online**, we are going to enter the new year leaning into the uncertainty and possibility of wide-open spirit, wondering together how we can play with expansion and contraction in the context of spiritual practices that can help us stay rooted, while also sprouting.

BLUU's worship services are **Black Sacred Space in their entirety** - by and for Black people, with the words and voices of Black folks across the diaspora. We WILL BE IN **BLACK SACRED SPACE** for the in-person and online gatherings! We hope that Black UUs and Black folks from far and wide who share our values will join us!

Sunday, January 14th at 4pm EST  
UU Congregation of Rockville, MD  
100 Welsh Park Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850

*For our non-Black siblings in faith, please DO share this invitation with Black folks in your life and community.* Getting the word out about BLUU's gatherings and other programming is one powerful way of lending your support, and we deeply appreciate it!

For those gathering virtually, feel free to come [into the Zoom Room](#) as early as 20 minutes before the start of the service to get settled, say hello to the folks who are already gathering, and listen to the music softly playing as we all prepare for our time together.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER AND EMERGENCY CLOSURE INFORMATION

In the event that severe weather or other emergencies compromise the safe use of TUUC facilities or property, the church may cancel events or close to all activities. If the condition of the roads cause you to wonder whether we are proceeding with our programming as scheduled, please check for cancellations before you head out. Closure or cancellation information can be found in the following places:

- The Church Office and facilities are closed if Baltimore County Public Schools are closed.
- Outgoing Church Office Voicemail: (410) 825-6045
- <http://www.wbaltv.com/weather/closings>
- <http://towsonuuc.org>
- Church Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/51782871068/>
- TUUC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/TowsonUnitarianUniversalistChurch>
- TUUC Bulletin board/listserv: to request access send an email to [churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org) for your email addition to the listserv

# 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.)

## WHITE ANTIRACIST SPIRITUALITY IN U.S. HISTORY

In January, Ann Proctor will be hosting the second annual workshop series on [White Antiracist Spirituality in U.S. History](#), which will include powerful examples of UU spirituality in action. We'll explore ideas and practices around beloved community, cultivating hope through taking action, the groundedness that comes with being rooted in history, and much more.

## OUR DAILY BREAD

Time to heat up your ovens again, this time to help feed the homeless. January is a month that we will donate casseroles to Our Daily Bread. The recipes and casserole tins are in the church lobby. If you would prefer to donate funds, thanks great too. To donate just put **Our Daily Bread** in the memo line of your choice of payment. \$15 will purchase one casserole.

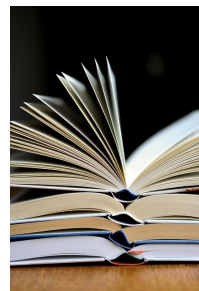
## CABIN FEVER

MAY DECEMBER (2023)  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7  
4:30 PM DISCUSSION



## BOOK CLUB

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24  
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.

Give to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

\$ 0.00

Give to Building Fund

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 Verobles 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



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

5 Jan	Friday	Writing As a Spiritual Practice	1:00 AM
7 Jan	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	9:00 AM
7 Jan	Sunday	YRE—OWL	10:00 AM
7 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
7 Jan	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
7 Jan	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:15 PM
7 Jan	Sunday	Cabin Fever—May December	4:30 PM
8 Jan	Monday	A Place to Stand	7:00 PM
9 Jan	Tuesday	Makers' Meetup	7:00 PM
11 Jan	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
14 Jan	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	9:00 AM
14 Jan	Sunday	YRE—OWL	10:00 AM
14 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
14 Jan	Sunday	Cabin Fever/Green Sanctuary—2040	4:30 PM
15 Jan	Monday	Mindful Way Meditation	7:00 PM
15 Jan	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
16 Jan	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
17 Jan	Wednesday	Ethnic Lunch	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
12/31/2023	10:30 AM	53 / 30