



**JANUARY 14—10:30 AM—BLACK BOY JOY – REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, KARA TYLER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, VOLUNTEERS FOR MENTORING MALE TEENS IN THE HOOD, THE TUUC CHOIR**

Our Director of Religious Education, Kara Tyler, introduced me to the book *Black Boy Joy*. Seventeen African American authors write about joys from their boyhood. It got me thinking about the stories that may someday be written by those who participate in our community partner “Mentoring Male Teens In The Hood.” On this Sunday when we remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we lift up how members of our congregation are helping the Kings in Baltimore to experience the joy of learning, the joy of community, and the joy of dreaming about the future.”

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 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/96136809479?pwd=MEJ6ZCtiZ3JVZldlVHpyYk2EzZWlCdz09>

Meeting ID: 961 3680 9479

Passcode: 012263

**YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Are you in awe of our amazing OWL teachers? Join them!

Facilitation Training for Elementary OWL (K-1 / 4-6) is being hosted at All Souls in DC February 9-11! Registration deadline is January 12th. Jennifer Nichols and Sandra Greenfield are the trainers.

Marilyn, Marianne, and I trained with Sandra, and she's amazing. Highly recommended if you're looking to join the OWL teaching team for this age group.

Contact Kara Tyler to register. TUUC covers tuition for a small number of trainers, so get in touch soon.

**Third Saturday Work Party**

**January 20, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

For more information contact:

**Todd Robertson** (see the Breeze directory online)



## 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?

## TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### GREEN SANCTUARY TIP OF THE WEEK

Baltimore County's Department of Solid Waste is proactive in encouraging individuals to take action to mitigate climate change. Each month they put out an excellent online newsletter called "The Resource," which is full of helpful information. For example, in the November issue, along with lots of other tips, they let people know about small businesses specializing in musical instrument reuse. These groups refurbish the instruments and provide them at a reduced price to help make them affordable and keep the instruments out of landfills. The groups are GreenDrop, Guitar Exchange, Lutheran Mission Society, Music-Go-Round, and National Children's Center. To read the December newsletter edition, go to:

<https://mailchi.mp/baltimorecountymd/december-2023-resource-newsletter?e=6ee3adcda7>

To subscribe, go to: <https://mailchi.mp/baltimorecountymd/resource-sign-up-page> Anyone can subscribe to this newsletter, so please share the sign-up link with friends. It truly is a "good read" and will inform, educate, and encourage each of us as to ways we can make a difference.

### 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!



### JANUARY SOCRATES CAFÉ TO PROBE HOW WE DISCERN REALITY—JANUARY 15

The January 15th TUUC Socrates Cafe will be examining how reality is discerned. The session will be, as usual, on the third Monday of the month, from 7:30-9:00 PM, on Zoom.

For some background to address the question, as Socrates would have us do, "How is reality discerned?" the following "look-ups" are suggested: first, a 6:35 YouTube video, "[What is reality?](#)" by Lisa Feldman Barrett from The-Well. In the video, it is stated that "your brain doesn't detect reality. It creates it." We can toss this thought around a bit on Monday night. Another suggestion is the Big Think 8:39 YouTube video, "[Is reality real? These neuroscientists don't think so.](#)" followed by our continuing to Google several [bigthink.com](#) articles, one of special interest being that of [Donald Hoffman](#), a cognitive psychologist, who hypothesizes that "we evolved to experience a collective delusion--not objective reality." Is there such a thing as "the holiness of reality?"

To join our Zoom Email List to receive the Zoom Invite Link for Monday evening the day before, send an email to [socratescafe@towsonuuc.org](mailto:socratescafe@towsonuuc.org). May our discussion on Monday evening be informative, daring, and amusing!

## **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*

## **OUR MESSY LIVES TO EXPLORE THE WORD "RELAXATION" - JANUARY 18**

The next Our Messy Lives discussion will be this coming Thursday afternoon, January 18th from 3:00-4:00 PM on Zoom. To receive the Zoom Invite Link, look up Nancy Caswell's email address on BREEZE, our TUUC Member Directory, and send her an email. She will gladly email the Zoom Invite Link to you the day before so that you may discuss with us.

"Relaxation"...does this word soothe? Offer comfort? Or does uttering it put oneself on edge? Some synonyms include: enjoyment, leisure, pleasure, recreation, relief, alleviation, amusement, assuagement, diversion, fun, reclining, refreshment, repose, rest. Which of these resonates? Let's find out next Thursday when we look closely at this word. Often REST AND RELAXATION are coupled. One might think of restfulness...how does each of us lull ourselves into renewal, if we can and do. Is it the antidote to stress? Does it bring peace and calm? Is relaxation "nonchalance" (a good word to explore, unto itself)? What are its antonyms? work, labor, drudgery? What are words we use to experience relaxation? Are they: "I am enough, I forgive myself, I release the past and embrace the present, I love myself, I am doing the best I can and that is enough, I let go and I am free." Looking forward to thoughts and ideas we'll exchange related to relaxation. Shalom!

## **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](#).



## **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.

## **COMMUNITY CHOIR ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST**

The next Community Choir Sunday will be January 21st. Anyone may participate by arriving at 9 AM to learn the music in a Sunday morning rehearsal, and then sing in the service! Please RSVP to Tracy at [music@towsonuuc.org](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org) if you plan to participate, but you can still come if you forget to RSVP.

**A PLACE TO STAND—A WRITING/CREATIVITY WORKSHOP FOR TRAUMA SURVIVORS, LED BY KRIS FAATZ—NEXT MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 22**

The next meeting of A Place to Stand, a creativity workshop for trauma survivors, will be on Monday 1/22 at 7 PM on Zoom. We're exploring how trauma can distance us from ourselves, and ways to reconnect with who we are. At our first meeting, we considered the statement: The world has only one of me. What does this bring up for you? We invite you to join us on 1/22 and, if you'd like, share your thoughts. Zoom Link is on the [TUUC Calendar](#).

**ICSJS TO SCREEN CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM DOCUMENTARY—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31**

What role did Christian nationalism play in the Capitol riot of January 6, 2021? Matthew D. Taylor, the Protestant scholar for the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies (ICJS) has devoted three years to researching the answer to this question. The result is a new ICJS-produced documentary, **Spiritual Warriors: Decoding Christian Nationalism** at the Capitol riot, which will premiere at an event on Wednesday, January 31st at 7 PM at The Senator Theatre, 5904 York Rd. in north Baltimore, followed by a panel discussion. Tickets are \$8, and are free for students with ID. Purchase tickets at [icjs.org](http://icjs.org) or [click here](#).

**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/e5AygGR>.



**PASSING THE PLATE**

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

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

## 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.

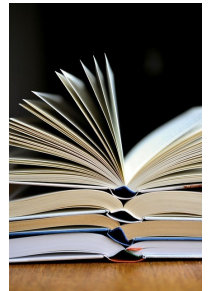
## CABIN FEVER

**2040 (2019)**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**  
**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

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.

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
18 Jan	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
18 Jan	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
19 Jan	Friday	Writing As a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
20 Jan	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
20 Jan	Saturday	Parent Orientation for Coming of Age	2:00 PM
20 Jan	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Group	6:00 PM
21 Jan	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	9:00 AM
21 Jan	Sunday	YRE—OWL	10:00 AM
21 Jan	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
21 Jan	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Songwriter	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
01/07/2023	10:30 AM	Unknown / 36