



FEBRUARY 4—10:30 AM—JUSTICE WITHIN OUR REACH—REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, KARA TYLER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, ANN BEEZLEY, CHAIR OF TUUC SOCIAL ACTION, THOMAS HIGDON, POLICY OFFICER FOR BLOOMBERG HEALTH INITIATIVE, CAREL HEDLUND, CO-CHAIR OF TUUC GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE, MUSIC BY TRACY HALL AND A TUUC ENSEMBLE

The injustices we hear about, around the world, feel overwhelming. What can we do as individuals or as a religious community to really make a difference? Today, we explore justice within our reach. Specifically, the Maryland General Assembly is in session and crafting bills to move towards laws to address inequities and injustices in our state. In this arena, our individual and collective voices DO make a difference. Last year, the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland had a 58% success rate in passing bills that reflect our Unitarian Universalist values. What bills do they hope to pass this year? And how will y/our support make a difference?

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 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/93641169753?pwd=U3luZnJyYzNybTNsN3cxVWxMUXA0dz09>

Meeting ID: 936 4116 9753

Passcode: 685212

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION—WE ARE SEARCHING FOR NURSERY CARE PROVIDER!

This position aims to provide childcare for children attending Sunday Services with their parents. Childcare is provided for children ages two months to five years in the nursery. On some occasions, children up to age eight will be cared for. If you or someone you know is interested in picking up a few hours of work on Sunday mornings and the occasional afternoon, please contact Kara at tuucdre@towsonuuc.org. This is a contract position. Applications can be taken from within and outside of the church community. Even if you aren't able to commit to every Sunday, feel free to apply. The position can be rotated, or you can be added to our sub list.



It's an exciting time! Zinnia will have her munchkin in March, and Katlyn is graduating and moving on to bigger things. We are so excited for our current helpers' new adventures and the next wave of care providers to come on board.

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

“How radical can we be given the threat of authoritarianism?” This was the question asked at the Religious Leaders Caucus of BRIDGE Maryland in January. “How radical can we be given the threat of authoritarianism?” What is your answer?

Unitarian Universalist colleagues have been sharing the organizations to which they are giving money as we approach the November elections in the United States. This is one way to address the threat of authoritarianism---support organizations that are working to defend democracy.

Regardless of the results of the November election, authoritarianism is on the rise around the globe. Authoritarianism promises certainty in the face of fear. Economic inequality; wars pushing the Doomsday clock for nuclear war moving to 90 seconds before midnight; and climate change all contribute to feelings of fear.

Democracy requires that people live with uncertainty. But in the face of fear, it is hard to remain open to uncertainty.

How radical can we be given the threat of authoritarianism? The answer may sound simple: build relationships across identities and communities. This is how we discover shared interests. Finding shared interests is how people organize power. If you have any doubts about this, follow the organizing that was done over the last half century to generate enough people, money, and power to overturn Roe V. Wade.

The final revision of the proposed Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association defines justice as working “to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive” and the practice as “dismantling racism and all forms of systemic oppression” and supporting “the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.” The gift of justice is intimately linked to the practice of democracy which has a certain process even if the outcome is uncertain. (By way of contrast, in authoritarianism promises certainty but the process is an unaccountable centralized power.)

When it comes to building relationships across identities and communities, the proposed Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association defines equity as “every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness” and the practice as “using our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

So perhaps the answer to “how radical can we be given the threat of authoritarianism?” is to live our values as Unitarian Universalists: to not react to fear with more fear; to not be pulled into the certainty of a rigid worldview; to intentionally build relationships across identities and communities with the goal of building power; and to advocate for the use of inclusive democratic processes. How radical can we be given the threat of authoritarianism? Together, may we live into the answer(s).

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

GREEN SANCTUARY TIP OF THE WEEK

There is recent news that the department in charge of one of our principal waste landfills in the Baltimore area is trying to get permission to increase its height by an additional 40 feet. Without this change, it is anticipated that the landfill will reach maximum capacity within about 3 years. There is concern about the visual aspects of such a high hill of buried trash. Disposing of our waste materials has long been a problem and will continue to be one. Native American wisdom suggests: "We are part of the earth and the earth is part of us. The earth does not belong to man. Man belongs to the earth. Man is merely a strand of all creation." Decreasing consumption and waste, recycling, composting, and being mindful of the earth will make us, as Unitarian Universalists, better stewards of this planet. It will also help to minimize the scars on the earth where our waste is buried.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

A national organization called SACReD, the Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity has created a curriculum to empower congregations to become loving, justice-seeking faith communities that fully support the fulfillment of reproductive moral agency and flourishing for all. This curriculum, entitled SACReD, explores the connection between faith, racism, and reproductive ethics.

The final session helps participants to identify strategies and actions for liberation within religious communities and the larger world. Rev. Clare and SarahRuth Davis offered this curriculum last year. We will be offering these seven 2-hour sessions on Zoom, weekly, from 1:00-3:00 PM beginning Sunday February 11. Participants are required to attend the first session.

Please register by Feb. 6 on our website under Adult Programming if you would like to participate at <https://www.towsonuuc.org/sacred>. Your participation will help TUUC to become an official part of this interfaith Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity. ---Rev. Clare

IMBOLC RITUAL OF RENEWAL—FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 FROM 6 TO 8 PM

The Roots and Wings Chapter of CUUPS is sponsoring an Imbolc ritual on Friday, February 2 from 6 to 8 PM. The ritual will be in-person at TUUC in the lobby starting at 7 pm. Imbolc or Candlemas is one of the major sabbats of the Pagan year and is a time of purification and healing. Traditionally, the Celtic people would spend Imbolc cleaning their homes and clearing up the fields. In our ritual, we will focus upon renewal and clearing out our mental and spiritual debris. Participants are encouraged to bring a symbol of something they want to bless as well as food to share. All are welcome.



GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT NOON

The Green Sanctuary Committee will hold its monthly meeting Sunday February 4th at noon in Room 6 downstairs, or by zoom (link on [TUUC calendar](#)). All are welcome to join us as we work to further "green" TUUC and our wider community.

TUUC DRUM CIRCLE—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT 3:00 PM

Join the rhythm at the next TUUC Drum Circle session on Sunday, Feb. 4th in the Meeting Room at 3:00 PM! We'll have a free-form jam. If you have a hand drum (djembe, or any other traditional drum), please bring it. We'll have some extra percussion available, too. All ages and skill levels. We'll have a meditation time with the drums as well. Hope to see you then!

ETHNIC LUNCH—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 12:30 PM

On Wednesday, February 21, we are returning to Silk Road, an Uzbek restaurant, located in Pikesville, <https://silkroadbistro.com>

Uzbekistan is a little like Afghan, a little like Turkish, a little like Georgian, all good! Join us at 12:30 PM at 1004 Reisterstown Road.

RSVP by Monday February 19 to ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org.

SOUL MATTERS RESUMING IN FEBRUARY

Our Soul Matters Sharing Circles will next meet on Zoom on February 27 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 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?

Here is the list of our 2024 themes:

The Gift of...

February: *Justice & Equity*

March: *Transformation*

April: *Interdependence*

May: *Pluralism*

June: *Renewal*

We are scheduled to meet on Feb. 27, March 26, April 23, May 28, and June 11th.

If you would like to participate, please e-mail Rev. Clare at revclare@towsonuuc.org so she may send you the February packet.

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.)




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](#)

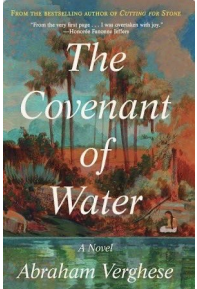
CABIN FEVER

BIRDY (1984)
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
4:30 PM DISCUSSION



BOOK CLUB

THE COVENANT OF WATER
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
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 2023-2024 Stewardship Campaign

Add Gift to Another Fund

Give this One Time

Give by Credit/Debit Card

Continue

23-24 Stewardship Campaign

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

\$ 0.00

Give to 2023-2024 Stewardship Campaign

- Give to General Fund
- Give to Green Products
- Give to Kate Venables Music Fund
- Give to Memorial Garden
- Give to ODB Classroves
- Give to Plate Collection
- Give to Religious Education Registration
- Give to Restricted Fund
- Give to Social Action Collection

Third Saturday Work Party

February 17, 2024
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Contact Todd Robertson
(see Breeze for contact information)
to let him know you will be attending.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

2 Feb	Friday	Writing As a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
2 Feb	Friday	Roots and Wings Imbolc Ritual of Renewal	6:00 PM
4 Feb	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
4 Feb	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	10:45 AM
4 Feb	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
4 Feb	Sunday	Parent Orientation for Coming of Age	12:00 PM
4 Feb	Sunday	Drum Circle	3:00 PM
4 Feb	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Birdy	4:30 PM
5 Feb	Monday	Mindful Way Meditation	7:00 PM
6 Feb	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
8 Feb	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
11 Feb	Sunday	Coming of Age	10:00 AM
11 Feb	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
11 Feb	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	10:45 AM
11 Feb	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:15 PM
11 Feb	Sunday	SACreD	1:00 PM
11 Feb	Sunday	Cabin Fever—The Longest Yard	4:30 PM
13 Feb	Tuesday	Makers' Meetup	7:00 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
01/28/2023	10:30 AM	Unknown / 26