



FEBRUARY 18—10:30 AM—*THE ONES WE SENT AWAY*—REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, THE TUUC YOUTH GROUP, THE TUUC CHOIR

In November, Sue Royer shared with me an article by Jennifer Senior entitled, “The Ones We Sent Away.” It was her story of learning, at the age of 12, of her aunt who had been sent to live in an institution in the 1950’s because of an intellectual disability. How many of us remember a relative or neighbor who was sent away to an institution because of a disability (either visible or invisible)? How did this shape our understanding abilities and disabilities and equity? How has our understanding changed with a growing appreciation for justice and equity?

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 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/97469766913?pwd=WG9JT255MjBJNDBjQVBWdnJHeWhqdz09>

Meeting ID: 974 6976 6913 Passcode: 179931

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Making Faith has been focusing on Buddhism! We've been meditating, making rock mandalas, and having big, important discussions. Our younger students have been enjoying learning about the life of Siddhartha. If you don't know it, our library has a copy of the beautiful picture book and of Herman Hesse's seminal fictionalization.

Older students are working hard planning the YRE Sunday Service on March 24th with our own SarahRuth Davis. The service will be focused on the stories and practices we've been looking at in our study of Buddhism.

JOB OPENING—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. Additional hours will occasionally be available as requested.

Contact Kara Tyler if interested at TUUCDRE@TowsonUUC.org.



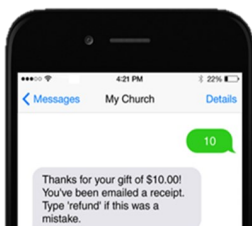
PASSING THE PLATE

DONATE BY TEXT

Send an amount to
(410)834-0700

DONATE TO TUUC VIA PAYPAL, TEXT, OR BREEZE

MORE INFORMATION ON THE [TUUC WEBSITE](https://www.towsonuuc.org)



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

NEWS ABOUT US

Marilyn and Allan Thorn deeply appreciate the cards and calls they received as Marilyn was healing from injuries sustained in a car accident. Thank you for your kindness and support encouraging Marilyn during her recovery. It meant (and continues to mean) a great deal to her and Allan. They are doing well and are so happy to finally be home together!

GREEN SANCTUARY TIP OF THE WEEK

If you are looking for something for yourself, your home, or your family, what can help you save money, help someone else, and help the environment? You can download the "Buy Nothing" app or use the website to look at items that others would like to get rid of or you can post things that you would like to give away. The important thing is that no money changes hands and useable items are recycled to new homes. It is a win-win-win. You simply sign up to the Buy Nothing site in your area and start looking at the items offered or post items of your own. For more information go to <https://buynothingproject.org>



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY OF MARYLAND

Please help the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UU-LM-MD) get important legislative bills passed. Go to their website: www.uulmmd.org and join an advocacy team, get their latest updates, and, of course, donate funds.

SOCRATES CAFÉ TO DISCUSS CULTURAL APPROPRIATION—MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

TUUC regular, Jeff Savoye, suggested that we probe the question, *"Is cultural appropriation really a thing, and, if so, is it a bad thing?"* at our upcoming Monday, February 19th TUUC Zoom Socrates Cafe from 7:30-9:00 PM.

For those of us who need some background to the whole subject, a BBC 8:40 YouTube Video, ["Cultural Appropriation: Whose problem is it?"](#) (produced by BBC Stories) provides a helpful explanation of cultural appropriation. There are multiple other YouTubes to watch, including the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota 52 seconds YouTube, ["What is cultural appropriation?"](#) There are several useful and informative TED Talks, too.

In depth explanations can be found by Googling several articles in The New York Times. One such article, dated 9/30/22, explains ["What Does Cultural Appropriation Really Mean?"](#) Another, a 6/14/17 NYT op-ed, ["In Defense of Cultural Appropriation,"](#) discusses how racism and marginalization play into the discussion.

Should clothing be culturally appropriated? There has been intense backlash online for endorsing cultural appropriation, broadly defined in a [Truthdig NYT piece](#) as *"the practice of using certain elements from another culture without the consent of people who belong to that culture."* When is it a "bad thing?" Is it ever a "bad thing?" How so? Why so? Can it be disrespectful? Offensive? Inappropriate? Harmful? Exploitative? Intentional? Unintentional?

In "[Three Cheers for Cultural Appropriation](#)," written by Time contributor Bari Weiss, Weiss argues that "borrowing from other cultures is "not only what makes American culture so rich, but is also a big part of the reason America is so successful." So should culture be shared, but not hoarded? Borrowed as homage, and not as derision? Yoga? Hoop earrings? Should white people have a say in deciding what constitutes cultural appropriation?

So to join us on the 19th to discuss this hot topic, email socratescafe@towsonuuc.org, and ask to be added to our email list. You will be sent the Zoom Invite Link the day before.

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.

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 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, FEBRUARY 25

Our next Community Choir Sunday is on Feb. 25th. Participants will need to arrive at 9:00 AM to learn the music for that morning's service. Everyone is invited! If you plan to participate, please RSVP to Tracy Hall at music@towsonuuc.org. Children and teens can sing at the beginning of the service, and still leave for YRE at the appropriate time. Hope to see you then!

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.

NEXT TUUC BLOOD DRIVE—FRIDAY, MARCH 8 FROM 11 AM TO 5 PM

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Friday, March 8th, 2024 for the next TUUC Blood Drive. There is a critical need for blood right now, please check your calendar and consider donating blood at our drive. Please only join us on March 8th, if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating.

To sign up for an appointment time between 11am-5pm please use [this link](#) or email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times. Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!

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.**



SOCIAL ACTION

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY—WEEKLY UPDATE

During the legislative session, the TUUC Social Action Committee will provide updates on the status of our legislative priorities and tips for how you can get involved.

For more information, [please visit this page](#).

ACTC NEEDS NONPERISHABLE FOODS

ACTC needs nonperishable foods, especially hearty soups.

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.)

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

Give to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

\$ 0.00

Give to 2023-2024 Stewardship Campaign

Give to General Fund

Give to Green Products

Give to Karin-Verables 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

CABIN FEVER

SOCIETY OF THE SNOW (2023)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

4:30 PM DISCUSSION

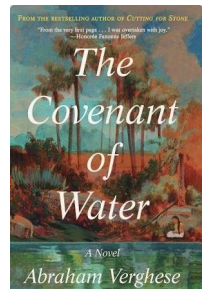


BOOK CLUB

THE COVENANT OF WATER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

7:30 PM



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

17 Feb	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
17 Feb	Saturday	Celebration of Life—Arnie Marsh and Joan Barry-Marsh	1:30 PM
18 Feb	Sunday	Coming of Age	10:00 AM
18 Feb	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
18 Feb	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	10:45 AM
19 Feb	Monday	Mindful Way Meditation	7:00 PM
19 Feb	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
20 Feb	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
21 Feb	Wednesday	TUUC Board Meeting	7:30 PM
22 Feb	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
24 Feb	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Group	6:00 PM
25 Feb	Sunday	Coming of Age	10:00 AM
25 Feb	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
25 Feb	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	10:45 AM
25 Feb	Sunday	Cabin Fever—Society of the Snow	4:30 PM
27 Feb	Tuesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circle	7:30 PM
28 Feb	Wednesday	Book Group	7:30 PM
29 Feb	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	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
02/11/2023	10:30 AM	Unknown / 29