



April 12, 2024

Submissions appearing for the first time this week are printed in GREEN.

Volume 4 Number 2

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024 AT 10:30 AM—LONGING, THE LANGUAGE OF THE SOUL—INTERN MINISTER SARAH RUTH WEKOYE DAVIS, TRACY HALL, MUSIC DIRECTOR, AND THE TUUC CHOIR

What is longing teaching us, what can we learn from the yearnings of our soul? We explore longing for justice, for love, for purpose, and examine readings by Tara Brach, Tomas Merton, and the story of Peter Pan, which all tell us of embracing longing as a spiritual practice.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 ONLINE SERVICE INFORMATION

Topic: Sunday Service

Time: April 14, 2024 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98644714955?pwd=K243SzlsRlhXT2RWRnNzdWhNVW5Zdz09>

Meeting ID: 986 4471 4955

Passcode: 194163

CABIN FEVER

A Dry White Season

Sunday, April 21

4:30 PM



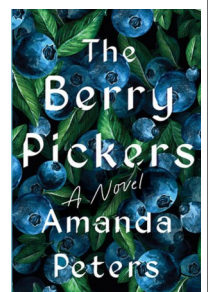
BOOK CLUB

The Berry Pickers

by Amanda Peters

Wednesday, April 24

7:30 PM



CLARE'S COLLOQUY

At the beginning of March, I met with colleagues for an on-line spiritual retreat. We had each received a package which we were instructed to not open until told.

The facilitator shared that what was in each package was a puzzle. But the pieces had been sent in a jumble and without any image. Without a picture to guide us, we were to spend the remaining time bringing the hidden picture into view

The first thing I did was to invite my spouse to join me at the dining room table with this jumble of pieces. He said, "What? There's no picture?! OK. Look for the borders." I'd heard, "Look for the helpers," but never "Look for the borders." But I did as he advised. It took some time, but we finally had the frame of the puzzle together on all four sides. Then we set to work on the center. By the time I had to re-gather with colleagues, some flowers and a bird's claws holding a branch had emerged from the chaos.

I listened to how other colleagues had gone about revealing the story of their puzzle. Several were of the "make the border first" school. Others just looked for shapes and colors that might go together. We were asked to consider how this practice imitates the slow work of God/Spirit flowing through our lives.

Earlier this week, we met again for our on-line spiritual retreat. I was able to share that when Don and I completed the puzzle, one piece was missing. I didn't know if it had been planned to have one piece missing as a metaphor for life's unfolding...there's always an unknown! Apparently, it had not been planned!

This month our Soul Matters theme is the gift of interdependence. Often we Unitarian Universalists speak of the "web" of interdependence. The puzzle pieces with the emerging image of a bird surrounded by flowers and greenery encouraged me to slow down and pay attention to what is in the web and how we are connected.

What do you find yourself noticing as spring literally unfolds new life? What borders are you finding or seeking to frame the story of your life? Upon whom and what are you dependent in this interdependent web? And what one piece has yet to come into view? In the words of Sharon Salzburg, "Patience means being wholeheartedly engaged in the process that is unfolding, rather than ripping open a budding flower or demanding a caterpillar to hurry up and get that chrysalis stage over with."

To help us explore, together, what is in the web and how we are connected, we will, on April 7, welcome visitors from the Baltimore American Indian Museum who will share, through dance, their understanding of our interdependence. On Earth Day, we will welcome Patty Mochel from the Green Towson Alliance to speak to us of native plants. SarahRuth Davis, our Ministerial Intern, will lead us in contemplating our longing(s) on April 14. And we will conclude with Thich Nhat Hanh's concept of interbeing.

TOGETHER, WE SHAPE THE FUTURE: YOUR PLEDGE, YOUR IMPACT

As spring unfolds, bringing a wave of renewal and vibrant energy, we at TUUC find ourselves inspired by the promise of what lies ahead. This time of awakening and fresh starts mirrors our journey together — firmly grounded in our shared values while ambitiously reaching for what's possible. Our annual pledge is more than a tradition; it's a vital step in cultivating a future that embodies our collective hopes and dreams.

The Heart of TUUC: Rooted and Reaching

At the core of our church lies a dynamic balance, a beautiful duality of being both rooted and reaching. Like a tree with deep, sturdy roots and branches stretching upwards, we are grounded in our values while aspiring to reach new heights. Our church thrives on the collective financial investment we make, transforming it into a vibrant sanctuary of connection, growth, and enlightenment.

A Call to Action: Your Pledge Matters

This year, as we kick off our Pledging for 2024, we invite each of you to reflect on the role TUUC plays in your life and consider how your financial commitment can support our journey forward. **With every pledge, we reaffirm our dedication to a community that is both nurturing and visionary, one that embraces each member with open arms and seeks to make a broader impact on the world around us.**

Investing in Our Aspirations

Your contributions help turn aspirations into reality. Whether it's through enhancing our building, welcome newcomers to our services and programming, or building sacred community together, each pledge is a testament to our shared values and goals. We're excited to delve deeper into the priorities that you, our cherished congregation, have voiced. These priorities not only reflect our collective vision, but also guide our steps towards a future where our church continues to be a beacon of spirituality and learning, justice and hope.

The Power of Immediate Action

In the spirit of Margaret Wheatley's inspiring words, ***"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about,"*** **we urge you to take immediate action.** By pledging now, you ensure that TUUC remains a cornerstone of spiritual growth, social justice, and unconditional support.

Adjusting Together: Rising Costs and Our Shared Responsibility

In a world where everything from health insurance for our staff to the day-to-day expenses of our church is on the rise, we find ourselves at a crucial juncture. The reality is clear and unavoidable: costs are increasing, and as responsible stewards of our church, we need to adapt our pledges accordingly.

This isn't just about numbers on a page; it's about ensuring the sustainability of the community and values we hold dear. We've heard from many within our congregation that the rising cost of living hadn't been considered in their pledges. This oversight means our collective contributions haven't kept pace with the actual costs of maintaining our church's

operations and mission.

We're reaching out to ask each of you to reflect on this reality and adjust your pledge, if possible. Even a modest increase from each of us can make a significant difference. We recognize that not everyone has the capacity to give more, and we want to affirm that every gift, no matter its size, is valuable and appreciated. It's the collective effort that counts.

There Is No 'Someone Else'

In our TUUC community, every member matters, every pledge counts. **There's no mysterious 'someone else' to shoulder the responsibility; it's on us, together. Your pledge is a declaration of commitment, a symbol of what we can achieve when we all contribute.**

Join Us in Shaping the Future

We invite you to visit our website to explore in greater detail the investment priorities that emerged from our heartfelt conversations. It's an opportunity to understand the depth of our aspirations and the impact your pledge can make.

[Click here to delve into our 2024 Investment Priorities and Make Your Pledge.](#)

In closing, we extend a heartfelt thank you. Your unwavering support and dedication to TUUC not only sustain us, but propel us towards a future filled with promise and possibility. Let's continue to build this future together, rooted in our legacy and reaching for the future we have envisioned together.

With gratitude and hope.

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 Kate Venables Music Fund
Give to Memorial Garden
Give to ODB Caseroles
Give to Plate Collection
Give to Religious Education Registration
Give to Restricted Fund
Give to Social Action Collection

TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

NEWS ABOUT US

We are delighted to share that Zinnia Epps gave birth to Zacarias Bliss Epps. on March 21, 2024 at 4:22 AM. We will be dedicating Zacarias to the care and nurture of our religious community on May 12th in our 10:30 am worship service. A potluck party will follow in the lower level community space— where Zinnia attended Sunday School; where Zinnia cares for our nursery babies and toddlers; where Zacarias will become part of the nursery; and where love is the password transmitted from generation to generation! ---Rev. Clare



GREEN SANCTUARY TIP OF THE WEEK

Spring is here and many of us are getting out in our yards and gardens. For cutting the lawn and other gardening activities, use electric-powered tools rather than gasoline-powered tools which emit greenhouse gases. Most electric ones are available with rechargeable batteries so there is no cord to get in the way. As an added bonus, electric tools do not give off smelly fumes and tend to be quieter than the gas ones. An analysis of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data found that gas-powered lawn and garden equipment in Maryland emitted an estimated 597 tons of harmful “fine particulate” air pollution in 2020 — an amount equivalent to the pollution emitted by 6.4 million gas-powered cars over the course of a year. Think how much cleaner the air will be without them. It will be nice to smell the flowers!

APRIL ETHNIC LUNCH—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 AT 12:30 PM

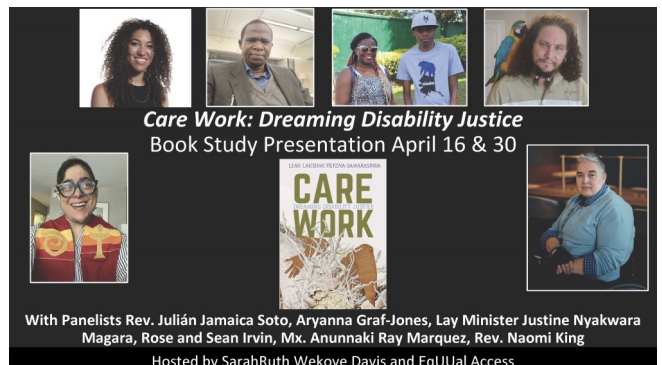
In April Ethnic Lunch is going to a new (or at least new for us) Indian restaurant in Cockeysville, Indian Ocean, <https://indianoceanmd.com> on Wednesday, April 17 at 12:30 PM.

The restaurant is located at 11121 York Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030, a little south of Shawan Road. To make a reservation send an email to ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org by Monday, April 15. --- Janet Kuperstein and Claudia Sumler

CARE WORK: DREAMING DISABILITY JUSTICE—BOOK STUDY PRESENTATION APRIL 16/30

Join us on Tuesday, April 16th and Tuesday, April 30th at 1:00 PM for a two-part Book Study Presentation on Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, presented by SarahRuth Wekoye Davis and EqUual

Access. This offering is for Unitarian Universalist religious professionals and lay leaders, as we examine disability intersectionality within our places of worship. Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/CareWorkPresentation>



Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice
Book Study Presentation April 16 & 30

With Panelists Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto, Aryanna Graf-Jones, Lay Minister Justine Nyakwara Magara, Rose and Sean Irvin, Mx. Anunnaki Ray Marquez, Rev. Naomi King
Hosted by SarahRuth Wekoye Davis and EqUual Access

Panelists include Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto, Aryanna Graff-Jones, Lay Minister Justine Nyakwara Magara, Rose and Sean Irvin, Mx. Anunnaki Ray Marquez, and Rev. Naomi King. Panelists will

present on topics from the book, personal and professional experience with disability intersectionality, and will offer recommendations for congregations and religious professionals. The workshop will include question and answer sessions and small group discussion.

Participants are encouraged to read the book and bring their thoughts and questions! Guided reading and discussion questions will be sent out to registered participants prior to each 90-minute session. We hope to see you there as we work together in love, toward a more just world.

JUBILEE THREE ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP—FRIDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 12-14

Enrollment is limited so sign up today! \$170 per participant, and \$85 for second and third person in the same household. This is the link for registering: <https://pcolejones.wufoo.com/forms/myjuo7e0ssk3wb/>

TUUC SOCRATES CAFÉ TO EXPLORE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & SPIRITUALITY

The next TUUC Socrates Cafe, next Monday evening, **April 15th, from 7:30-9:00 PM, on Zoom**, will take up the question: "In what ways can we ensure that our engagement with Artificial Intelligence (AI) enhances, rather than diminishes, our human experience and spiritual journey?" Those seeking to prepare ahead of time, are encouraged to view the suggested 11-minute YouTube video, "[How Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) is Transforming the Spiritual Journey.](#)" There are numerous additional Web sites and YouTubes on the subject, as well; so surf the Internet and bring to the discussion your findings, as well as your own thoughts about this topic. To join our e-mail list and receive the Zoom Link the day before, send an e-mail to socratescafe@towsonuuc.org. We'd love to hear your thoughts on the 15th!

OUR MESSY LIVES TO EXAMINE THE WORD/CONCEPT/IDEA OF PRESENCE

The next session of Our Messy Lives, the group that chooses a word/concept/idea to discuss, will be held on Zoom next Thursday afternoon, April 18th, from 3:00-4:00 PM. We will explore the concept of **PRESENCE**. What is **PRESENCE**? Is it spiritual? Can it be practiced? How so? It has been defined as **existence** or **companionship**. Is it one of these or both? What else? Please join us and bring your own thoughts and reflections. Amy Cuddy defines **PRESENCE** as a self-assured confidence that's not arrogant but allows us to express our true selves. Is it this? In her book, entitled [Presence](#), Cuddy says we can achieve this by leveraging the body-mind connection to change the way we feel about ourselves, rather than worrying about how others perceive us. To delve into this discussion with us on the 18th, look up Nancy Caswell's e-mail address on BREEZE, our Church Directory, send her an email, and she will e-mail the Zoom Link for the session the day before. What about "presence of mind?" Hmm...what is that?

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK—SATURDAY, APRIL 27 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.

SOCIAL ACTION

JANUARY CASSEROLE COLLECTION

The January Casserole collection yielded 15 frozen casseroles and \$275. Wegmans generously provided a gift card for an additional \$250. These funds purchased 20 Party sized Mac & Cheese and 16 Meat Lasagna casseroles at an average cost of \$8.36/ casserole (retail price is \$14-17).

OUR DAILY BREAD

April is our month to make and freeze casseroles for Our Daily Bread. The details, recipes and baking tins are all out in the lobby. Don't feel like cooking? You can also donate funds to purchase casseroles. \$17 pays for one Party Sized casserole. Please help feed the needy.

VOTER MOBILIZATION ORGANIZING SCHOOL - SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM AT ALL SOULS CHURCH

Whether your congregation has a long history of voter mobilization or you're just starting to think about it, we hope you'll join with other UUs from DC, MD, and VA for our first-ever organizing school! We are all more effective when we gather together in our power. We strongly encourage congregations to send teams of at least 3 people to help build momentum. Also, we are excited to welcome youth and offer programming to several other age groups in conjunction with the organizing school!

For more information: [Organizing School Public Page - Google Docs](#)

Registration is on a sliding scale from \$0 to \$50, with \$25 being the standard fee. This allows us to provide a light breakfast, full lunch, and snacks. [Click here to register for Organizing School.](#)

ACTC

The Assistance Center of the Towson Churches (ACTC) is in serious need of more donations. They have seen a 25% increase in the individuals and families in need of food and termination of their grants from the Maryland Food Bank. They need \$35,000 just to be able to meet their needs in April. ACTC may have to give out food less frequently if they don't get more funds. You can donate to ACTC in several ways.

You can donate non-perishable foods or donate funds. (They have a Spring Matching Gifts Challenge right now.) To donate directly: <https://www.actcerves.org/donate-to-actc/> You can also donate to TUUC and write ACTC in the memo line.

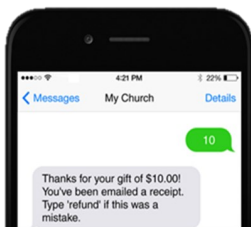
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

12 Apr	Friday	Writing As a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
13 Apr	Saturday	Memorial Service for Sharon Feroldi	10:00 AM
14 Apr	Sunday	Coming of Age	10:00 AM
14 Apr	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
14 Apr	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	10:45 AM
14 Apr	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:15 PM
14 Apr	Sunday	TUUC Focus Group on Accessibility	7:00 PM
15 Apr	Monday	Mindful Way Meditation	7:00 PM
15 Apr	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
16 Apr	Tuesday	Care Work Book Study Presentation	1:00 PM
16 Apr	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
17 Apr	Wednesday	Ethnic Lunch—Indian Ocean	12:30 PM
18 Apr	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
18 Apr	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
20 Apr	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
21 Apr	Sunday	Coming of Age	10:00 AM
21 Apr	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
21 Apr	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	10:45 AM

PASSING THE PLATE

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



DONATE BY TEXT

Send an amount to
(410)834-0700

SUNDAY SERVICE

ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	In-Person / Online
04/07/2023	10:30 AM	Unknown / 26