



**SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 AT 10:30 AM—PEOPLE ARE JUST AS WONDERFUL AS SUNSETS—
REV. CLARE L. PETERSBERGER, KARA TYLER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, TRACY
HALL, MUSIC DIRECTOR, THE TUUC CHOIR, ZINIA EPPS AND HER FAMILY**

Today we have the honor of dedicating the baby of a mother who grew up in TUUC. What do we Unitarian Universalists believe about human nature-----our own and others? How have your views of human nature changed over the course of your life-time? What do you hope the baby we are dedicating, today, will learn from us about human nature?

SUNDAY, MAY 12 ONLINE SERVICE INFORMATION

Topic: Sunday Service

Time: May 12, 2024 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97422185580?pwd=OTM4WVlBajlBTm1rOU1pL1lqeVp6UT09>

Meeting ID: 974 2218 5580

Passcode: 661696

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This week in YRE news, we will begin a series of workshops called "PrayStations." It's a creative spiritual maker space that encourages conversations around spiritual topics while keeping hands and brains engaged through kinesthetic learning. Some of the activities we will be doing are "Bumper Sticker Theology," discussing pluralism through language, and Engaging with spiritual spaces by building with Legos. Classes are open to ALL students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

YRE still needs volunteers for the last half of May and all of June. Please sign up in the lobby or by contacting Kara Tyler.

CABIN FEVER

How to Please a Woman

Sunday, May 12

4:30 PM



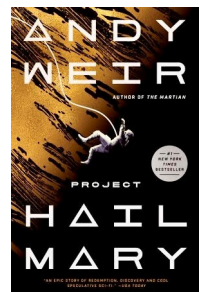
BOOK CLUB

Project Hail Mary

by Andy Weir

Wednesday, May 22

7:30 PM



CLARE'S COLLOQUY

In a meeting with colleagues, today, conversation turned to the upcoming Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in which delegates will vote on a revised statement of our Unitarian Universalist values and covenant. As a congregation, we have been exploring the revised values in worship and in our Soul Matters Circles this year: generosity, justice and equity, transformation, interdependence, and pluralism with liberating love at the center.

A colleague observed that in many of our congregations, we have not “argued for the good of heaven.” She offered this example: some women who worked hard for patriarchal language to be removed from the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Principles and Purposes in 1985, are now feeling disenfranchised because they don’t hear their work honored in the proposed statement delegates will vote on in June.

I could understand the feelings of these women. In 1985, I was a seminary student. I remember the struggle over patriarchal language. AND, I do not feel the proposed values and covenants erase our history. I see them reflecting that “revelation is not sealed” today anymore than it was in 1985 when we changed the language of the UUA’s purpose and removed the patriarchal language.

As I listened to my colleagues, my mind kept returning to the phrase “arguing for the good of heaven.” Another colleague was also unfamiliar with the phrase.

We learned it comes from the Jewish tradition. In the 1st century BCE the House of Hillel and the House of Shammai engaged in vigorous debates about theology, ethics, and ritual practice. The purpose of these debates was not for one side to “win” and the other side to “lose.” The purpose of these debates was not for power. The purpose of these debates was for truth to be revealed. And in order for truth to be revealed, all perspectives needed to be voiced and heard.

It seems to me that the gift of pluralism entails “arguing for the good of heaven.” The purpose is not to determine whose beliefs are right and whose beliefs are wrong; or whose identity is better than another; or who should exert power over another. The purpose is “a collaborative pursuit of truth” about what it means to be in relationship with human differences.

The gift of pluralism calls us to agree to listen, in love, to our differences and through our differences for, if not the good of heaven, then for our own. In the words of the Values and Covenant statement: “We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.”

TUUC ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT: OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND FEEDBACK

As part of our commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive congregation, TUUC is working with the architectural firm DKMB to help us make our grounds more accessible for everyone. They have now provided initial designs, and we need your feedback. Here's how to learn more about it and how to let us know what you think:

How to see the architectural drawings and learn about the project:

1. **Town Hall Meeting Sunday, May 19th, at 12:15 PM.** We will provide information, share the architectural drawings, and answer questions. This meeting will be hybrid—join us in the meeting room or via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/95034806885?pwd=N2RjTXI1SWNOcDcwU3FMbXU2YzI1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 950 3480 6885

Passcode: 286973

2. **Check your inbox** for an email with all of the information from our Town Hall meeting on April 28th—the same information will be shared at the meeting on May 19.
3. **The drawings will be displayed in the lobby through May 26**, and accessibility team members will be at hospitality to talk you through them and answer questions.
4. **The drawings are also posted on the TUUC Facebook Group.**

How to give feedback:

1. Email comments to access@towsonuuc.org.
2. Leave comments on the Facebook Group post.
3. Use post-its to comment on the drawings posted in the TUUC lobby (please do not write on the drawings!)



TUUC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

DOUBLING THE IMPACT—JOIN OUR MATCHING CAMPAIGN TODAY!

Exciting news! We're thrilled to announce a special Matching Campaign, where every pledge we make or increase will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling its impact on our beloved community.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of a fellow community member, we have the opportunity to double the impact of our pledges and propel us closer to our fundraising goal. **Whether you're making a new pledge or increasing your existing one, your contribution will count twice towards our target funds.**

Head over to the [pledging page](#) to make your pledge today.

GREEN SANCTUARY TIP OF THE WEEK

If you own a home, one of the best ways to reduce your carbon footprint is to focus on your HVAC system (which is typically the largest energy consumer in a home). Set a reminder to change your filter regularly (at least four times a year). This allows the system to operate at its most efficient. Install a programmable thermostat and set it to match your schedule, so the system is conditioning your home only when necessary. Lastly, make sure the supply and return vents aren't blocked, so the system doesn't have to work harder than necessary.

ETHNIC LUNCH—WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 AT 12:30 PM

In May Ethnic Lunch is going to Koba, a Korean restaurant in Belvedere Square off York Road. We will not be doing the barbecue option, but there is a full menu of other Korean specialties, including really great mandu dumplings.

Join us on Wednesday, May 15, at 12:30 PM, 510 E. Belvedere Avenue, Baltimore 21212. Please RSVP at ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org.

OUR MESSY LIVES TO DISCUSS THE WORD IMPERMANENCE—THURS, MAY 16 AT 3 PM

At our upcoming **Our Messy Lives** discussion, **Thursday, May 16th, from 3:00-4:00 PM**, on Zoom, we will examine the word **IMPERMANENCE**. To join, send Nancy Caswell, the facilitator, an email...her email address can be found on Breeze, our church directory. You will receive the Zoom Invite Link the day before. We wholeheartedly welcome new participants!

IMPERMANENCE: what does it teach us? It may cause us despair when we think of the fragility of life...that everything comes to an end....the ongoing process of living and dying....or, because of our awareness of it, we may find ourselves living more fully. The inspiring Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh, Father of Mindfulness, has said, "When we practice mindfulness of **IMPERMANENCE**, we become fresher and more loving...and because of **IMPERMANENCE**, we are reminded to appreciate the marvelous reality of life, every moment of our daily lives." We who gather on the 16th, on Zoom, look forward to sharing thoughts and reflections about this complex word.

SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY ON MAY 19TH

Sunday, May 19th will be our annual Special Music Service. You'll hear music from the TUUC Choir of many genres, additional TUUC musicians, guest musicians, unusual instruments, some great sing-along music, and lots of drumming, all tied together with some thoughts on how we can better connect to others who might be different from us. Featuring music by Eric Hutchinson, Kyle Pederson, Alan Hovhaness, Amado Ohland, Brandi Carlisle, Joan Szymko, and more. Hope to see you there!

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK—SATURDAY, MAY 25 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, MAY 26TH

Periodically we invite everyone to participate as a choir for the Sunday service, with only a rehearsal on the Sunday morning of the service. We'll be doing that on May 26th, Memorial Day weekend. While generally Community Choir is for all ages, this might not be the best occasion to have young children singing, due to the challenging topic. The service will be about war and peace, and will likely include some sensitive content. Adults and teens, feel free to join us. We'll rehearse beginning at 9 AM that morning, and sing in the Sunday service.

TUUC DRUM CIRCLE ON SUNDAY MAY 26TH

TUUC Drum Circle will meet Sunday, May 26th from 3:00 to 4:00 in the Meeting Room. Join in the rhythm! Bring a djembe or other hand drum if you have one! All ages welcome.



SOCIAL ACTION

OUT FOR JUSTICE BACK IN OPERATION

Good news! Our community partner Out For Justice is back in operation after a brief hiatus. They are still very much in the process of reorganizing their operation and setting a direction for their areas of focus going forward. At their first meeting since they resumed operation, on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, they introduced OFJ's returning Executive Director, OFJ founder Trina Selden.

According to Trina, OFJ will be shifting its focus back to their original emphasis on engaging, educating, and empowering people to work toward the organization's mission, rather than providing direct services.

They will also remain active in their legislative advocacy role. A link to their recap of how their legislative priorities fared in the 2024 session, and their plans for the 2025 session, can be found at <https://davehaupt.files.wordpress.com/2024/05/ofj-4-26-email.pdf>.

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.actcserves.org/donate-to-actc/> You can also donate to TUUC and write ACTC in the memo line.

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 Plats Collection

Give to Religious Education Registration

Give to Restricted Fund

Give to Social Action Collection

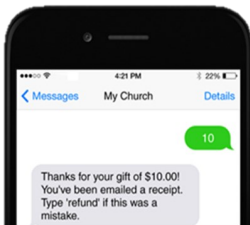
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

10 May	Friday	Writing As a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
11 May	Saturday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM
11 May	Saturday	Merlin's Magic House—YRE	12:40 PM
12 May	Sunday	Coming of Age	10:00 AM
12 May	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
12 May	Sunday	YRE – Making Faith	10:45 AM
12 May	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:15 PM
13 May	Monday	Cabin Fever—How to Please a Woman	7:30 PM
14 May	Tuesday	Aging Together	1:00 PM
14 May	Tuesday	Birds of Gaza Community Art Project	7:00 PM
14 May	Tuesday	Makers' Meetup	7:00 PM
15 May	Wednesday	Hope Well Cancer Support	6:00 PM
16 May	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
16 May	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
17 May	Friday	COA Credo Retreat	6:00 PM
18 May	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
19 May	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
19 May	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
05/05/2023	10:30 AM	93 / 22