



SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024 AT 10:30 AM—SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY: MAKING COMMUNITY OUT OF DISPARITY— TRACY HALL, MUSIC DIRECTOR, TUUC CHOIR, DRUMMERS, AND ADDITIONAL TUUC & GUEST MUSICIANS

On Sunday, January 7th of this year, Rev. Clare preached inspiringly about liberating love, and on explorations of this topic by author and social critic Bell Hooks. While we all hope for this type of love to become widespread, people in our country and far beyond keep bumping up against differences in our understandings of culture, religion, sexuality and gender, personal and artistic expression, politics, and family dynamics. Today we'll explore, through a variety of music, how we might make a difference; how we might listen for common ground, and turn ourselves towards better connecting with differing factions of people.

SUNDAY, MAY 19 ONLINE SERVICE INFORMATION

Topic: Sunday Service

Time: May 19, 2024 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98520233590?pwd=cVMrV3Y5SWFyU2FOR1lqMUzRVBNUT09>

Meeting ID: 985 2023 3590

Passcode: 944216

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION—DONATIONAL CALL!

YRE is in need of:

- Magazines and other Print Media that feature racial diversity
- Yarn of all lengths: thicker is better
- Legos of any size or color
- Outside Activities like hula hoops, bubbles, etc. for summer programming.

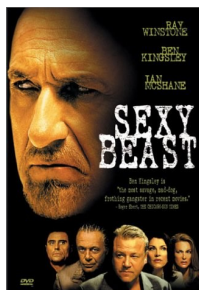
Thank you! Please drop off at the RE Office.

CABIN FEVER

Sexy Beast

Sunday, May 19

4:30 PM



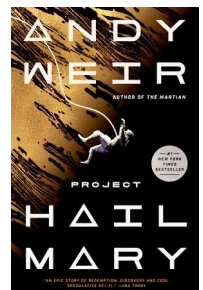
BOOK CLUB

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 TOWN HALL, THIS SUNDAY, MAY 19 AT 12:15PM

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.

Join us this **Sunday, May 19th, at 12:15 PM for a Town Hall Meeting**. 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=N2RjTXl1SWNOcDcwU3FMbXU2YzI1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 950 3480 6885

Passcode: 286973

Other ways to see the architectural drawings and learn about the project:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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!)

Thank you!



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

Do your laundry in a more Earth-friendly way by taking a few easy steps: Try using detergent sheets instead of liquid detergent from a plastic jug. They are lightweight and easier to store and use. In the dryer, use wool balls instead of dryer sheets. Hang your clothes to dry on a drying rack or clothesline. And check your dryer's lint screen occasionally - if water can't pass through it, neither can air. Clean it with a soft brush, and your clothes will dry faster



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.

SOCRATES CAFÉ TO DISSECT THE PROS AND CONS OF STEM EDUCATION ON MON, MAY 20

We fellow "searchers for truth" will assemble for the **45th TUUC Socrates Cafe this coming Monday evening, May 20th, from 7:30-9:00 PM, on Zoom.** To add your email address to our list, send an email to socratescafe@towsonuuc.org, and you will be emailed the Zoom Invite Link the day before the session.

After our April 15th discussion about Artificial Intelligence (AI), Jeff Savoye suggested the following question for the May 20th exchange of ideas, as Socrates would have us do: **"Is the strong emphasis on STEM in education a mistake?"**

Please bring your thoughts and opinions on the 20th; in preparation, Googling and watching a few short YouTubes may help with the thought process: is **STEM** a mistake or has it enhanced learning? Does it have its place? Is it too science-oriented? Or just the right path for a good many students?

Now there's **"STEAM"** which adds the **Arts** to the **STEM** curriculum. Is **STEM** or **STEAM** just what our educational system needs at this time? Apparently, **STEM** can be somewhat controversial. Is this why they came up with **STEAM**? Is it, too, controversial? Perhaps balancing **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics with Arts** was deemed necessary? Regardless...

Examples of insightful short YouTube videos include: (11:57) ["The future of STEM education,"](#) a TEDx Talk by Roni Ellington, and (11:37) ["How STEM Education Might Be Failing Kids in America,"](#) produced by Memoria Press. Another TEDx Talk, (21:08), with Dr. Bal Chandra Luitel of Kathmandu University, is entitled: ["STEAM education for social transformation."](#) If you watch these, or others of your own choosing, you'll undoubtedly find yourself forming an opinion. I know I will! Our sharing next Monday evening will surely enlighten us all!

LWA INTEREST MEETING—SUNDAY, MAY 26 AT 11:45 AM

Anyone interested in assisting with a summer lay-led service or in the process of lay-led worship is invited to attend a general interest meeting downstairs in **Room 6** after the May 26 service at 11:45 AM. If you are interested but unable to attend, please contact Dominique Hall to get involved.

TUUC DRUM CIRCLE ON SUNDAY MAY 26TH AT 3:00 PM

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.

CALLS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO JUNE 16 SERVICE

The Lay Worship Committee is working on collecting meditations and reflections from and about fathers for a Father's Day-themed service on June 16.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts on fatherhood or have a favorite reading or memory of a father figure, please contact Dominique Hall through Breeze to contribute to this service.

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 Plate Collection
- Give to Religious Education Registration
- Give to Restricted Fund
- Give to Social Action Collection

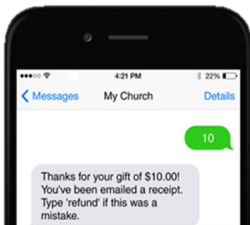
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

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

17 May	Friday	COA Credo Retreat	6:00 PM
18 May	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	9:00 AM
18 May	Saturday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM
19 May	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
19 May	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	10:45 AM
19 May	Sunday	Townhall Meeting	12:00 PM
19 May	Sunday	Our Journeys	12:00 PM
20 May	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
20 May	Monday	Cabin Fever—Sexy Beast	7:30 PM
21 May	Tuesday	Women’s Group Meeting	7:30 PM
22 May	Wednesday	Book Group—Project Hail Mary	7:30 PM
23 May	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
24 May	Friday	Writing As a Spiritual Practice	1:00 PM
25 May	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Group	6:00 PM
26 May	Sunday	Sunday Service	10:30 AM
26 May	Sunday	YRE—Making Faith	10:45 AM
26 May	Sunday	Lay Worship Associate Interest Meeting	11:45 AM
26 May	Sunday	TUUC Drum Circle	3:00 PM

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
05/12/2023	10:30 AM	125 / 16