



A Guide to Reverend Clare Petersberger's Sabbatical January – May, 2012

In her thirteenth year of service to our congregation, our minister will take a sabbatical from January 1-May 31, 2012. Sabbatical leave is a tradition for UU clergy, providing time for study, reflection, writing, rest and renewal. It offers the staff and congregation exposure to new speakers within the congregation and community.

PLANNING THE SABBATICAL

Knowing that a sabbatical leave was part of the congregation's letter of agreement with Clare as our Minister, the Committee on Ministry proposed the sabbatical timing last spring, and the Board of Trustees approved the sabbatical for this spring. Since then, the Committee on Ministry and other committees of the church have been working to insure that during the sabbatical, Sunday services will be of high quality, with stimulating pulpit guests, that pastoral care and rites of passage will be available for members and friends, and that administrative operations will run smoothly, with a clear delineation of responsibilities.

SUNDAY SERVICES

During the sabbatical, Sunday services will be varied and diverse.

SUNDAYS DURING THE SABBATICAL	
January 1	Michelle Collins
January 8	Dr. Joseph Gascho, Joyce Duncan
January 15	Scott Shane
January 22	Paula Cole Jones: Social and Racial Justice, JPD
January 29	The Rev. Dr. Stephan Papa, UUA
February 5	TUUC Youth Group
February 12	Paul Konka: Stewardship Sunday
February 19	TUUC Members: Imbolc
February 26	UU minister (TBA)
March 4	Dr. Rebecca Elon
March 11	Greg Koren
March 18	Joan Kolobielski and Aynsley Hamel
March 25	Joe Gascho: Special Music Sunday
April 1	Michelle Collins
April 8	Michelle Collins: Easter
April 15	The Rev. David MacPherson
April 22	TUUC Green Sanctuary: Earth Day
April 29	Aynsley Hamel and TUUC Youth Group – Seniors Bridging
May 6	Union Sunday at First UU Baltimore
May 13	John Mattingly: Mother's Day/Flower Communion
May 20	RE Ministry Sunday
May 27	Tim Boniface

TUUC Worship Associates, under the leadership of co-chairs Tara McIntyre and Aynsley Hamel, will have overall responsibility for the services. Dr. Joseph Gascho will continue to provide quality music. Joyce Duncan, our Credentialed Religious Educator, and Wendy Werkheiser will provide resources for worship for all ages.

PASTORAL CARE

Lay Pastoral Associates extend the care of the church through a ministry of presence to and hearing the spiritual needs of individuals experiencing:

- Major life changes, such as birth, adoption, loss of job, divorce, retirement; death of a family member or friend.
- Health problems, illness, or hospitalization.
- Isolation because of age or caring for aging parents.

TUUC's Lay Pastoral Associates are:

Adan Ayala, Mary Beth Brizzolara, Jan Chapin, Amanda Kilian, Pete Talley, and Emily Tarsell.

If you would like to speak with a Lay Pastoral Associate, please call the **Church Office 410- 825-6045**, and Mickie Grover will connect you.

The TUUC Caring Committee extends the care of the church through a ministry of action. The committee provides cards of care and sympathy to congregants and, on a time-limited basis, provides meals, helps with shopping, provides transportation to and from the doctor's office, runs errands, and makes phone calls. The Caring Committee also hosts receptions for memorial services.

rites of passage

To schedule a wedding or service of union, please contact Mickie Grover, TUUC Church Administrator, 410-825-6045. Mickie will have a list of UU clergy and seminarians who can perform weddings and gay/lesbian holy union ceremonies for both members and nonmembers. Dedication of children to the care and nurture of TUUC will resume in June.

In the event of the death of a TUUC member, Clare will return to officiate at the memorial service. In the event of the death of a non-TUUC member, The Reverend Terry Ellen has agreed to officiate.

Church Operations

The TUUC Operations Team manages the day to day operations of our shared ministries. Paul Konka is Chairing the Operations Team. Church Administrator, Mickie Grover, will be able to connect you to the appropriate staff person or volunteer.

WHOM DO I CONTACT WHEN I NEED...?

410-825-6045

Mickie Grover, Church Administrator

Nancy Hannah, Administrative Assistant

Mickey and Nancy can assist you or direct you to the appropriate staff member or church volunteer to answer your question. This guide will also help you to find the right person.

- TUUC Board: Melissa Reuland
- TUUC Operations Team: Paul Konka
- Communications Council: Al Peabody
- Finance Council: Paul Konka
- House and Grounds Council: Jay Hauf
- Inner Life Council: David Sumler
- Outreach Council: Salli Ward
- Religious Education Ministry Council: Robin Sinn
- Sunday Services: Tara McIntyre

STAFF

Mickie Grover

Nancy Hannah

Joe Gascho

Joyce Duncan

Mary Kay Baker

Church Administrator

Administrative Assistant

Music Director

Director, Youth Religious Exploration

Bookkeeper

WHAT WILL CLARE BE DOING ON HER SABBATICAL?

Reverend Clare will be working on meditations on how we face our finitude when we know that time in our bodies is short; how we help loved ones who are dying; what we say and do after a death; and the journey of grief. She also plans to take continuing education classes and to make a journey to see the cosmos without light pollution.

HOW CAN I CONTACT CLARE?

Clare's sabbatical is a time for study, reflection, relaxation, renewal ... and a complete break from her duties as our Minister. We all must help her make the fullest use of her sabbatical time.

Mickie Grover, our Church Administrator and Robert Canosa, our Committee on Ministry Chair, will be able to contact Clare in case of an *extremely serious emergency* that requires her attention. Should it become necessary for her to return to Towson Unitarian Universalist Church in such a case, then the expenses of her trip will be paid by the church or the persons involved, whichever is appropriate. During the sabbatical, Reverend Clare will be sending reports to the *Threshold* and the sabbatical link on the web site.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

If you have comments or questions about the sabbatical, please contact any member of the Committee on Ministry, listed below:

Robert Canosa, Chair
Eric Beatty
Alan Foote
Claire Hruban
Neil Porter
Victor Rodriguez