



The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

THIS SUNDAY

SUNDAY SERVICE

September 16 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

RETURN TO TWO SERVICES

Vision and Divine Sight

Rev. Clare Petersberger

For several weeks this summer, the walls of the TUUC meeting room were bare. Many noticed the absence of visual artwork. I was reminded of the importance of images in the Hindu tradition.

Diana Eck writes, "In the Hindu ritual tradition, *darshan* refers especially to

religious seeing, or the visual perception of the sacred. When Hindus go to a temple, they do not commonly say, "I am going to worship," but rather, "I am going for *darshan*."

They go to "see" the image of the deity. . . . Beholding the image is an act of worship, and through the eyes one gains the blessings of the divine." Today we welcome our third annual Gallery Unicorn art show on the theme of vision. And we reflect on what it means to encounter the sacred in images.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

The YRE ministry is excited to remind everyone that **classes start this Sunday, September 16, at the 11:15 service.**

We will offer classes for PreK/K in Room 4, 1st/2nd grade in Room 3, 3rd-5th in Room 1, 6th-8th in Room 6, and YRUU for those in 8th-12th grade in Room 7. The Nursery is now in Room 5, closest to the playground.

If you are a parent, please watch for an email confirming what class each child is in this year along with more important information.

If you are not a parent but would like to be part of our upcoming year by sharing your gifts with us in any way, please contact Joyce at tuucdre@towsonuuc.org.

Teaching teams were energized at the Teacher Orientation last Saturday and both experienced and new teachers are

ready to meet classes. We hope you will join us! We look forward to seeing you soon.

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Our spiritual question this month is, "What does it mean to be a people of vision?" Margaret Wheatley answers that it means asking "What's possible?" more than once and assuming that others share your dreams.

Last spring, I received a "What's possible?" e-mail from The Reverend Dr. Carl Gregg who is serving the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick. He was wondering if The Towson Unitarian Universalist Church would consider becoming "a teaching congregation" for a ministerial intern? Lora Powell-Haney, who served as Director of Religious Education with FUUC, had just completed her first year at Meadville Lombard seminary and was seeking a congregation in which to serve as a half time ministerial intern while continuing her studies.

A ministerial internship is a requirement by The Unitarian Universalist Association as part of training to be a religious professional. Lora was looking at other congregations in the area and wondered if TUUC would consider becoming a teaching congregation.

What does it mean to be a teaching congregation? The congregation is expected to give the intern direct ministerial responsibilities, as if they were an assistant minister or chaplain, and engage the intern in a wide range of ministerial duties, including worship, religious education,

pastoral care and counseling, programming, institutional management and finance, program development, and community and social action.

The Board supported this vision and in June approved inviting Lora as the half time ministerial intern of our congregation. The one concern the Board had was paying a stipend since this position was not in the budget for the coming year. We are going to continue to ask, "What's possible?" when it comes to funding this position.

Last Sunday, we welcomed Lora as our half time Ministerial Intern. In the coming weeks, the Board will form a learning agreement with Lora and appoint a Ministerial Intern Committee. Lora and I will be meeting weekly and Lora will be meeting monthly with the Ministerial Intern Committee for support. At the end of the year, we will be responsible for giving feedback to the Unitarian Universalist Association's Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

Let's continue to ask "What's possible?" and share our dreams with one another as we grow in becoming a teaching congregation and mentor Lora on her journey to ordination. It is an honor to be a teaching congregation engaged in ministerial formation. It is a genuine pleasure to welcome Lora to TUUC!

---Rev. Clare

FROM LORA POWELL-HANEY, TUUC MINISTERIAL INTERN

Greetings and Bright Blessings y mucho gusto. I am so excited to be your student/intern minister for the next two years and look forward to all the learning we will do together!

I was born in Portsmouth, NH, in sight of Star Island, a Unitarian Universalist conference center and camp. My father was in the Air Force until I started high school, so many of my early memories are of always being the new kid; as many of my classmates were also children in military families, this was a shared experience. I was also shy, so my father, mother, and sister were “home” wherever we were. I don’t have a lot of vivid childhood memories; I suspect that is because I lived in the books I read. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* inspired my inner landscapes at 11 and 13 or so, and those were as real as wherever I lived and whoever I knew in my daily life.

My parents, now both in their 80s, live not far away. My younger sister and her family (husband and four sons) live only about a mile from our parents.

My family and I live in a small brick house on the main street of a small town in Central Maryland. We are a five-member family: myself, my husband Charles, Charles’ son and my stepson, Neil; my sons and Charles’ stepsons, Owen and Ethan. Neil attends the

University of Utah in his sophomore year. Owen completes an Associate degree at the local community college at the end of this year, and then plans to transfer to a 4-year institution. Ethan begins his junior year of high school this year.

Fifteen years ago, the minister of my home congregation, where I subsequently served as the Director of Religious Educator for the ten years, asked if I would join a new project, lay worship leaders or Worship Associates. I was astonished! I had been telling the story on Sunday mornings but that was still a new thing, the first public speaking of my forty plus years of life.

I said yes.

The minister moved on to another congregation six months later; that group of lay worship leaders created and led services, preached, and supported interim, contract, and settled ministers. I grew deeply into a love for creating faith formation opportunities in worship, religious education, full week faith, spiritual practices, social justice, and multicultural engagement.

I look forward to what we will create, together!

Blessed be the work, and those who attempt it.

Lora

TUUC AUCTION IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17!

It's never too early to save the date for the fun-filled, family-friendly TUUC Auction which starts at 5 PM on Saturday, November 17. Stop by the Auction table in the lobby during either coffee hour on coming Sundays to make your donation or to simply learn more about the plans for this all-important annual fundraising event. We're counting on you to help make it a success!

AMONG OURSELVES

JOAN KOLOBIELSKI, a charter member of TUUC, is now recovering at a rehabilitation unit on the GBMC campus on Charles Street in Towson. She welcomes cards and calls @ 443-849-6033.

Just two weeks after her 92nd birthday, Joan fell at home and fractured her femur. The surgery was successful and without incident. She is now making good progress

at the Gilchrist subacute rehab unit, room 5433. She expects to be discharged to home around September 19.

FYI: Therapy sessions take place six days a week. Saturday or Sunday is a day off, but is not determined before late Friday at the earliest. For additional information, you may text/call Joan's son Andrew @ 443-890-4483 or email elandrewsob@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTION

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Social Action Sunday Service will be September 23. We will feature a speaker from Out for Justice, a new SAC Community Partner. It is a member-led organization, which promotes just treatment of ex-offenders, who have paid their debt to society, but are still stigmatized in such areas as employment, housing, and government assistance; this makes it very difficult to pursue the normal life which they desire after imprisonment.

EARL'S PLACE AND PROSPECT PLACE

On behalf of all us at Earl's Place and Prospect Place, thank you!

Recently, one of the current residents said, "Earl's Place fosters a very positive aura and positive influences. It has helped me with my self-esteem and self-confidence. Earl's Place is a stable home at this point in my

life. The atmosphere is comfortable; it nurtures peace of mind, but not complacency. It is almost a magical place." - Steve T.

We are grateful for your continued support. Donations from our wish list are always appreciated. Currently we are especially in need of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, bath towels, washcloths and twin-size blankets.

You can find information about how TUUC members are making a difference on our website www.umhousing.org. Together we are changing lives. Thanks again, Sheila Helgersen, Executive Director, United Ministries, Inc.





EARL'S PLACE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION – OPENING DOORS

October 4, 2018, 6 pm – 10 pm at the Boumi Temple, 5050 King Ave., Baltimore (White Marsh area)

Tickets are now on sale. The Keynote Speaker will be Clarence M. Mitchell, IV ("C4"), WBAL radio host and former elected official who served in the Maryland Senate and the Maryland House of Delegates.

Tickets are priced at \$65/person for a table of 8 *when purchased before Sept 10*. For the last few years, TUUC has organized several tables. The preferred way to take advantage of the per table price is for you to mail a check for \$65 per person directly to Earl's Place and indicate TUUC in the subject line. Also, please inform Sue Royer and Sheila Malenski that you have done so.

Make checks payable to United Ministries, Inc. and mail to:

United Ministries, Inc.
1400 E. Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21231

Silent auction item donations are being accepted until September 22 and ads or sponsorships until September 10.

Those who wish to purchase an ad for the program book, or donate an action item, please contact Sue Royer.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY



September is a month with a 5th Saturday, for the TUUC Community has pledged to provide AT LEAST 60 casseroles for

Our Daily Bread. Our Daily Bread serves a hot lunch every day, 365 days a year, to people in need! Will YOU help? There are 3 ways to participate.

You can make a casserole and bring it to church before 8:30 am on Saturday, 9/29/18. There is room in the freezer in the Choir Closet to store your casserole.

You can buy a Stouffer's party size Mac & Cheese and bring it to church by the deadline, or you can donate \$10 and a casserole will be purchased and delivered in your name.

PLEASE HELP, THE HUNGRY PEOPLE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

HELP THE WORLD SEE BETTER BY DONATING YOUR USED GLASSES



Two billion people worldwide do not have access to much-needed eyewear due to income, distance or disaster. Through Eye Make a Difference, a VSP Global Eyes of

Hope program, your gently used glasses can give someone in need a new outlook on life. In 2017, nearly 12,000 gently used glasses donated by doctors, clients, and members were provided to VSP network doctors and optometric organizations for global mission trips. In addition, Marchon Eyewear donated 391,000 optical frames and sunglasses to charitable organizations in the U.S. and globally. Bring your unneeded prescription glasses, sunglasses or readers and drop them in the blue-labeled box in the lobby, and help someone in need. If you have questions, contact Monica Sweidel.

EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP COALITION

Mon, September 17, 2018, from 7 – 9 PM in Room 7 at TUUC.

All TUUC members and friends are invited to join the Social Action Committee (SAC) partner, ESI, for our monthly meeting (right here at TUUC)!

Our goal is to achieve economic justice through employee ownership of businesses and to focus on education.

We are presently planning our initiative here in Maryland, working in coalition with similar initiatives in other States, and highlighting the latest updates and volunteer opportunities.

All are welcome! Contact: Nina Della Vecchia (nina@esint.org) to RSVP and/or for more information.

CHALICE CIRCLES

Chalice Circles are TUUC's form of small group ministry. Once groups are formed, they (generally) meet twice a month to share their thoughts on a given topic. The goal of the groups is to meet and learn about your fellow congregants, as well as to provide you the space to think deeply about many different topics.

Past topics include memory, your favorite childhood book, forgiveness, and how vacation benefits you. Each group is

encouraged to choose and participate in a service project.

Signups will happen after September services, in the lobby.

Chalice Circle sessions start in October and run through January (only one session in December). Questions can be directed to Robin Sinn (RNSLIB@yahoo.com) or MaryBeth Brizzolara (marybethbrizz@gmail.com).

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SESSIONS

Are you interested in deepening your relationship with Towson Unitarian Universalist Church? On the second Sunday of every odd month (see schedule below), the Membership Committee offers a one-hour session on membership at TUUC, which includes a brief discussion of UU theology and history and a light lunch.

The sessions start at 12:45 PM. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to membership@towsonuuc.org.

November 11, 2018

January 13, 2019

March 10, 2019

May 19, 2019 (Third Sunday due to Mother's Day)

MEMBERSHIP

MUSIC

TUUC CHOIR TO RESUME



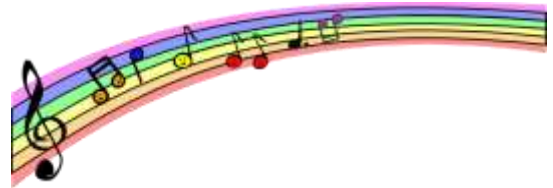
Choir rehearsals have begun for the year on Thursdays at 7:30 PM. If you've been thinking

of joining, September is a great time to start! If you are interested in singing and have questions, feel free to email Tracy Hall, Music Director, at music@towsonuuc.org. There are already some special singing events planned for the Fall.

TUUC CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND TEEN ENSEMBLE

This year, the Children's Choir will continue to meet on Sunday mornings between services, but not every single week.

There will be a schedule published soon for the various age groups to prepare specific pieces at certain times of the year. The first rehearsal will be on Sunday, September 16, at 10:40 AM.



HOUSE AND GROUNDS

UPCOMING WORK PARTIES



Please save at least one of the following dates to help clean, maintain and improve our spiritual home. Please note that, while the 3RD

SATURDAY is standard for the work parties, there have been some changes due to conflicts with other events.

September 22, 9:00 AM -12:00 PM
October 20, 9:00 AM -12:00 PM
November 10, 9:00 AM -12:00 PM
7th Annual Black Friday Work Party
November 23, 9:00 AM -???
December 15th, 9:00 AM -12:00 PM

All workdays are rain or shine with indoor and outdoor activities for all fitness, knowledge and skill levels.

Childcare available with 1-week notice.

Please RSVP and send questions or comments to houseandgrounds@towsonuuc.org



NOTICES

AVAILABLE LIGHT

It's fun! It's free! It's the First Friday Film Series!

The Available Light film series is on! And so is Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing!* Yes, *Do the Right Thing* went missing for September, but *Fires in the Mirror* was waiting in the wings and admirably stood in. But *Do the Right Thing* on tap for **October 5**, and everyone is invited to come to view this important film.

Critic Roger Ebert wrote of *Do the Right Thing*: "I have been given only a few film-going experiences in my life to equal the first time I saw *Do the Right Thing*. Most movies remain up there on the screen. Only a few penetrate your soul. In May of 1989, I walked out of the screening at the Cannes Film Festival with tears in my eyes. Spike Lee had done an almost impossible thing. He'd made a movie about race in America that empathized with all the participants."

Do the Right Thing is a big movie, panoramic in scope, often extremely funny. Discussion will follow the movie. Do the right thing! Bring a snack to share and join us in the meeting room for an evening of memorable cinema.

This event is co-sponsored by the ADORE group.

GALLERY UNICORN

Gallery Unicorn is pleased to announce the 4th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, "*Vision*".

Twenty-nine artists are represented, with work in a variety of mediums. The juror for the show is Laura Amussen, former Director of Art Exhibitions at Goucher College, prize

winning artist, and adjunct professor of art at Towson University.

The exhibition will open on Sunday, September 16, with a reception from 1:30 to 4 PM. It will run through October 21, 2018.

Gallery Unicorn is located within the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church: 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, MD 21093.

For more information call 410-825-6045.

Gallery hours are weekdays from 10 am to 3 pm and weekends by appointment.

Contributing artists are: Shelley Amsel, Cynthia Bearer, Elizabeth Cadwalader, Erika Clark, Donna DiSciullo, Mike Edgar, Elizabeth Elder, Felisa Flecker, Gemma Frost, David Horst, Dianne Hosmer, Dorothy Hosmer, Claire Jefferson, Pamela Kostmayer, Helmut Licht, Bruce Lily, Joyce Lister, Ann Longan, Mary Maginnis, Catherine Mahan, Cheryl Milligan, Desh Mittal, Linda Popp, Rhoda Seiden, Peter Stern, Nan Thompson, Anne-Steuart Vaughan, Britnie Walston, Lois Wolford.

MEDICAL ETHICS SEMINARS



I will be doing a 4 part series of talks on the subject of Medical Ethics at TUUC.

The seminars are scheduled to take place on Wednesday evenings (in room 7) starting on September 26 and going for 4 weeks.

Everyone is welcomed to attend, so please join us!

John LaFerla

PROTEST BUTTONS DISPLAY AND TALK



On Thursday, October 18, at 7:30 PM Professors Fred Pincus and Natalie Sokoloff will present a talk entitled

"Social Movements through Political Buttons 1960 -1990". Pincus, who has been collecting buttons since the 1960s, will display a portion of his 1500 button collection from 7:30 – 8:00 PM in the lower level of TUUC. This will be followed by an 8:00 PM talk in Room 6. Professors Pincus and Sokoloff are sociologists who have been active in a variety of social movements over the years. For additional information, contact Art Starr, contact info in the directory.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST?

New and Prospective Member Orientation

Four days from 7:15-8:45 pm Thursdays, October 25, and November 1, 8 and 15, 2018.

If you have been visiting the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church and would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and the vision, mission and practices of our congregation, then these four sessions are for you. Or perhaps you have been a member for a while but would like to investigate those same topics more deeply in a small group. Then these four sessions are for you.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and converse with our Minister, Director of Religious Education, leaders of our congregation, and Board members.

Please register by October 18 at adultre@towsonuuc.org. Topics we will explore in this workshop include:

October 25

1. Theology and Worship

November 1

2. Where Do We Come From?

Unitarian Universalist Roots

November 8

3. How We Grow in Faith – Philosophy of Religious Education

Social Justice Philosophy and Practice

November 15

4. How Are Decisions Made? Governance and Polity Membership

Questions? Registration? Please email adultre@towsonuuc.org or call the office at 410-825-6045.

Please feel free to contact the coordinator for the session, Jane Selewach.

Her phone number and email can be obtained from the church office also.

(We are looking for at least four participants in this workshop, so please register early. If there are not four participants by October 18 then the sessions will be postponed for a later time.)

BREEZE

Need help getting connected? Contact Kai at churchoffice@towsonuuc.org.



NEW TUUC WIFI LOGIN!

User name: TUUC Guest

Password: 1allone1

ONGOING & UPCOMING

TUUC MEN'S GROUP

Next meeting September 13 @ 7:30 PM

TUUC Men's Group meets the second and fourth Thursday from 7:30 – 9 PM. If you would like to attend one of our meetings please contact Art Starr, Harold Zeckel, or Michael Magrogan (contact information in the directory) so that one of them can meet with you prior to the meeting.

ETHNIC LUNCH

September 19 @ 12:30 PM

September Ethnic Lunch features Indian/Nepalese cuisine! Join us for a taste of delicious Indian and Nepali cooking at 12:30 on Wednesday, September 19 at **Namaste**, 413 W. Cold Spring Ln., Baltimore, MD 21210. (410) 889-2233.

All are welcome; however, sign-ups to ethniclunch@towsonuuc.org by Friday, September 14, are a must so we can be sure to have a large enough table to accommodate the group. Hope you will be able to join us!

Janet Kuperstein and Monica Sweidel

SUNDAY SERVICE

September 23 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

Do We Treat Those Coming Out of the "Justice System" With Justice?

Today, we will address the need for reform of policies that adversely affect treatment of ex-offenders. Those coming out of imprisonment, after paying their debt to society are still met with barriers of stigma in employment, housing, and governmental assistance. This makes it difficult for them to pursue the normal lives they desire after incarceration.

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP POTLUCK

Saturday, September 29, at 6 pm

Join the Singles Fellowship Group for a potluck with good food and conversation at one of our homes. We offer an atmosphere for fellowship and friendship among TUUC single adults. We range in age from the 60's to 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.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

October 3, 2018, @ 7:30 PM



We'll meet downstairs to discuss *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng (2017; 348 pages, fiction). From the Boston Globe: "Delectable and engrossing...A complex and compulsively readable suburban saga that is deeply invested in mothers and daughters... What Ng has written, in this thoroughly entertaining novel, is a pointed and persuasive social critique, teasing out the myriad forms of privilege and predation that stand between so many people and their achievement of the American dream. But there is a heartening optimism, too. This is a book that believes in the transformative powers of art and genuine kindness — and in the promise of new growth, even after devastation, even after everything has turned to ash."

(The book for November 7 is *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice* by Bill Browder (2015, 417 pages, non-fiction)).

USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT

USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, September 2, 2018

Date	Time	Adults	Children	Choir	Lounge	Total	Visitors Total
9/2/2018	10:30 am	98	11	26	5	140	4

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26 AS OF 9/14/2018

14-Sep	Friday	Ethnic Lunch	Namaste	12:30 PM
15-Sep	Saturday	Grounds Work	Parking Lot	8:30 AM
16-Sep	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room	9:30 AM
16-Sep	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room	11:15 AM
16-Sep	Sunday	Gallery Unicorn	Meeting Rm and Lobby	1:30 PM
17-Sep	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Rm and Lobby	6 PM
17-Sep	Monday	Employee Ownership Meeting	Room 7	6:45 PM
17-Sep	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 6	7 PM
17-Sep	Monday	Board Meeting	Rooms 1&2	7:30 PM
18-Sep	Tuesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	11 AM
18-Sep	Tuesday	Buddhist Book Group	Room 6	7:30 PM
19-Sep	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
19-Sep	Wednesday	Al-Anon	Room 6	7 PM
20-Sep	Thursday	Choir Set-up	Meeting Room	5:30 PM
20-Sep	Thursday	Lay Worship Associates	Minister's Office	6:30 PM
20-Sep	Thursday	TUUC Vocal Ensemble	Meeting Room	6:45 PM
20-Sep	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room	7:30 PM
21-Sep	Friday	Men's Breakfast	Edenwald	8:30 AM
22-Sep	Saturday	3 rd Saturday Work Party	Entire Campus	9 AM
23-Sep	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room	9:30 AM
23-Sep	Sunday	YREC Meeting	Room 7	10 AM
23-Sep	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room	11:15 AM
24-Sep	Monday	CHADD	Room 7	12 PM
24-Sep	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room	6 PM
24-Sep	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 6	7 PM
25-Sep	Tuesday	Voice Lesson	Meeting Room	11 AM
25-Sep	Tuesday	Women's Lunch Bunch	Edenwald	11:45 AM



1710 Dulaney Valley Road
Lutherville, MD 21093-9705
Phone: 410-825-6045

Email: churchoffice@towsonuuc.org

Website: www.towsonuuc.org

Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 10AM – 3PM

Our Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger
revclare@towsonuuc.org

Our Leadership

Board of Trustees:

President: Neil Porter
President-Elect: Sue Royer
Treasurer: Monica Sweidel
Secretary: Angela Castillo-Epps

Trustees-at-Large:

Karyn Marsh (2018-2020)
Art Starr (2018-2020)
Carol Watkins (2017-2019)
Luke Williams (2017-2019)

Operations Team:

Communications Council: Patty Berry
Finance Council: Jasmine Faelyn
House and Grounds Council: Todd Robertson
Inner Life Council: Jeannette Anders
Outreach Council: Jane D'Ambrogio
Religious Education Council: Larry Magder
Sunday Service Council: Andrew Hager

Our Staff

Youth Religious Exploration Director:
Joyce Duncan, Credentialed Religious Educator
tuucdre@towsonuuc.org

Music Director:
Tracy Hall
music@towsonuuc.org

Church Administrator:
Kai Aiyetoro
churchoffice@towsonuuc.org

Administrative Assistant:
Nancy Hannah
assistant@towsonuuc.org

Bookkeeper:
Mary Kay Baker
bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org