

The Threshold

Towson Unitarian
Universalist
Church

A Welcoming Congregation

What Does It Mean to be People of Balance?

Andrew Hager, Lay Worship Associates

SUNDAY SERVICE – March 25 – 9:30 and 11:15 AM



Where Do I Begin? How do we right ourselves after we've lost our sense of balance? How do we not only learn to walk again but also learn to fly? Today, Lay Worship Associate Andrew Hager considers these and other questions with the help of Tony Bonta and friends, who pay tribute to the music of the Foo Fighters.

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

This month, we are reflecting on the question, "What does it mean to be a people of balance?"

On March 4, I focused this question in a specific way with the Committee on Ministries: "What does it mean to be a people of balance in an election year when many candidates are requesting to speak at TUUC?"

My experience tells me that in the best of all possible worlds, we would offer a space for a forum for all candidates much like the forums hosted by the League of Women

Voters. But this is not the best of all possible worlds. Furthermore, we are not the League of Women Voters.

We are a religious community. We cannot and do not advocate for particular candidates or political parties. I have intentionally not labeled our speakers candidates for a particular office.

That said, we are not ignorant of moral issues and how our democracy is a tool for addressing them. Someone asked, "Are these candidates making the rounds at all

the churches in Maryland?” My best guess is, “No.”

I think their request to address us comes from some similar ethical concerns and moral values. That said, it is always wise to educate oneself about a candidate’s views on all moral issues that are important to one.

The candidates who have spoken at TUUC this year have intentionally addressed our Soul Matters spiritual questions about what it means to be a people of courage, of perseverance, and of balance.

The feedback I’ve received is that some TUUC members and friends have been uncomfortable with the presence of politicians in worship. Others have expressed appreciation for having been

enlightened and inspired by the courage, energy, and vision it takes to run for political office.

Our Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes encourage us to affirm and promote the democratic process in society at large. So I am seeking to accommodate those running for office who have a particular moral issue they would like to address with us.

The COM did advise me to publicize that most politicians choose to speak at only the 11:15 service. So for those who are uncomfortable welcoming a candidate in worship, please know the 9:30 service will be for you! Perhaps this will help us to balance attendance at our services!

---Rev. Clare

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Thank you to the families that donated money and ingredients for our YRE Build a Lasagna day and to all of you who helped out by taking a tin home to bake and freeze. Please bring them back this Sunday and place them in the freezer in the choir closet located at the back left of our meeting room.

We made 25 tins that will be donated to Our Daily Bread.

The 2nd/3rd grade class is also planning to visit Our Daily Bread in April to see where the tins they helped to make go.

We will start out upstairs for our usual song, chalice lighting, welcome, and then a story.

Classes K/1st through 6th/7th will participate in the Passover Seder that will include traditional food and song today, downstairs in the open area at 11:15 am. Parents are invited to join us for this.

YRE ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018 11:15AM (Children/Teachers)

Nursery	K - 1 st	2 nd - 3 rd	4 th - 5 th	6 th - 7 th	7 th - 8 th (OWL)	YRUU	TOTAL CHILDREN
3	12/2	7/2	5/1	7/2	9/3	4/2	44

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



Final Stewardship Team Update

Thank you for “Banding Together” for TUUC! We have brought our stewardship team competition to a close. We are still waiting for about 42 pledges to come in. Our current total for pledges for the 2018-19 fiscal year is \$276,528.22. We should be able to go over \$300,000 if we hear from everyone. If you have not yet pledged, please do so soon. Knowing how much we can count on from you is critical in drafting the budget for the next fiscal year. That process is underway and needs to be completed by early April. You may send any pledges or questions to stewardship@towsonuuc.org, drop it in the box at church or mail it in. If you have not pledged yet, a member of the stewardship committee, not necessarily your team captain, will contact you. Here are the team standings as of March 21:

1. Red Team	94%	5. Pink Team	75%
2. Purple Team	87%	6. Orange	64%
3. Yellow Team	84%	7. Blue Team	61%
4. Green Team	77%		

Thank you to all of you who have given of your treasure and “banded together” in this stewardship campaign. We will continue to update you on the total amount from our pledges.

FUN!!! RAISING

Wines from Around the World - Saturday, April 7, 5:30 – 7:30 PM, at TUUC

Interested in reasonably priced wines that are favorites of TUUC members with tastes like yours? This wine tasting event will include 24 wines from 4 different regions in the \$10 - \$18 price range. Carel Hedlund/Len Fass are tasting Europe, Alta and Jim Haywood are tasting the US West Coast, Paul & Susan Konka are tasting Australia & New Zealand, and Marilyn Maze/Holland Ford are tasting Chile/Argentina. Each family has agreed to find the 3 best reds and 3 best whites (including one Chardonnay) in the region in

this price range. Such a terrible responsibility!!!

What would a wine tasting be without great food? Elegant hors d'oeuvres will include exotic cheeses, Pintxos (Basque open-faced sandwiches), crudités, French terrines, and more. Take your time tasting and enjoying good food with friends. Tasting will end at 7:00 and all remaining wine will be available for your consumption.

Many people purchased this event at the Auction, but there are still places available for members and non-members. Tickets \$40 each. Contact Marilyn Maze for tickets.

UUS AND THE MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

Led by the students from Parkland, FL, the March For Our Lives on Saturday, March 24, is a national mobilization to end gun violence and school shootings.

The All Souls Youth Group, Music Ministry, and Social Justice Ministry, in collaboration with the UU Church of Arlington and Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ), have partnered on a series of events.

First, there's March Tips 101 and sign making at Arlington Signs and Song on Friday evening, March 23. Come meet other youth and adult UUs from the Washington area and across the country, make signs for the March, and raise our voices in song!

Reception and Sign-making 6:00-9:00 PM.
Family-friendly Singing for Our Lives
Concert and Community Sing 7:00-8:00 PM.

On Saturday March 24, everyone is invited to meet at All Souls in the 9:00-10:15 AM range for solidarity, a light breakfast, and additional sign making. There will also be a gathering place for UUs at the March itself - Indiana Ave NW & 7th St NW (Corner of Starbucks & Potbelly) - near the Archives Navy Memorial Metro Station Area (Green & Yellow Lines).

The March is currently scheduled to begin at Noon on Pennsylvania Ave NW. Please visit bit.ly/UUMFOL for more information, and to RSVP to any of these events!

HOUSE AND GROUNDS

**MARCH WORK DAY HAS BEEN
RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 24!**

Our first spring workday.

Outdoors

- Invasive species survey, education and removal (if necessary)
- Flower garden prep or planting
- Playground Maintenance
- Creating Brush piles for wildlife

-Parking Lot clean up

Indoors

- Organizing
- Cleaning
- Minor repairs
- Tasks for all skill and fitness levels.

Childcare MAY be offered if demand is sufficient. Please let me know immediately if you might make use of child care.

For questions, information or special requests please contact Todd Robertson at houseandgrounds@towsonuuc.org

CARING MINISTRY

When necessary, while preserving the anonymity of those in need, the Caring Ministry aids the TUUC community in varying ways by: assisting at memorial services, making phone calls to shut-ins,

arranging rides for those who seek them, as well as preparing meals for those in need. If you would like to assist in TUUC's "caring" community or if you presently know of a person(s) in some form of physical need, please contact our minister, Rev. Clare

Petersberger, at the church office (410-825-6045 / churchoffice@towsonuuc.org); through the Caring Committee email address (caringministry@towsonuuc.org),

or contact in person its chairperson, Lisa Lubomski, as well as any of the present committee members: Jen Larson, "Spice" Kleinman, and Michael Magrogan.

RALLY TO END RACISM

APRIL 4, 9 AM - 4 PM ON THE NATIONAL MALL

This event marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968. It is sponsored by over 36 religious groups/affiliations. Check the website www.rally2endracism.org .

The stated purpose is to "commit to finish the work of dismantling racism in criminal justice, education, jobs, health care, voting, and environmental justice." At TUUC the

event is endorsed by the Board and the Social Action Committee.

The problem is, April 4 is on a Wednesday and is only 11 days after the March for Our Lives rally. Otherwise, we could probably have several busloads of TUUCers, but as it is, we can organize ride sharing for April 4: Contact George Harrison or Sheila Malensky.

MUSIC



SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

Mark your calendars for the show! Also, we could use assistants for set

building, costuming, and general production work. The show will be on the weekend of April 13 and 14. It's a fun and beautiful show; you don't want to miss it!

MUSIC THEORY BASICS

For adults who have some previous knowledge or experience with reading

music, Alta Haywood--a retired public school music teacher--is offering sessions about music theory and sight singing. On Thursday evenings of March from 6:45 to 7:15. Please RSVP to Alta Haywood if you are interested in participating, so that she can learn about your previous music experience. Her contact information is in the church directory.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We continue to meet downstairs each Sunday from 10:40 to 11:10. New folks from Grades 2 to 7 are welcome!

SOCIAL ACTION

ACTC

Assistance Center of Towson is running low on dry cereal and canned meat (i.e. chili and Spam.) There is an oversupply of macaroni and cheese, and plastic bags. For further information, contact Sue or Herb Shankroff.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

March is a month with a 5th Saturday, so the TUUC community is asked to be generous and help feed the many hungry people who come daily to Our Daily Bread for a hot noon meal. We are committed to providing AT LEAST 60 casseroles.

Please sign up to MAKE a casserole, or BUY a Stouffers party size Mac & Cheese or DONATE \$10 the Social Action Committee to buy a casserole in your name.

Casseroles can be brought to TUUC at any time and stored in the freezer in the closet next to the choir.

Please bring casseroles to TUUC by 8:30 am on Saturday, 3/31/18.

UNITED MINISTRIES

Earl's Place and Prospect Place

Donations from our wish list are always appreciated, especially toiletries, paper towels, and toilet paper. Also, laundry detergent, twin size sheets and blankets.

On behalf of all us at Earl's Place and Prospect Place, thank you. Sheila Helgerson, Executive Director United Ministries, Inc.

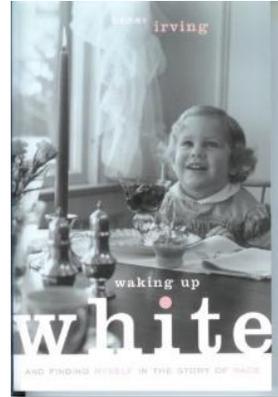
WAKING UP WHITE

A Discussion of Race for People Who Don't

Have to Think about It

Dear Members and Friends,

The Tuesday discussion session four that was cancelled due to weather is rescheduled for



Tuesday, April 3rd from 7:30 to 9:00.

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Social Action Committee (SAC) meets the second Sunday of the month, after the first service, at approximately 10:15 – 11:15. **The next meeting will be on April 8, 2018, in the open area downstairs.** An agenda will be sent to members before the meeting.

NOTICES

FROM OUR BOOKKEEPER

Since February 2016 we've earned \$528.36 through the Amazon Smile program with payments posted quarterly. The last payment we received was \$82.37 in February 2018. If you're not part of the program, I'm including a link to the Amazon website

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customers/display.html?nodeId=201365360>.

Amazon Smile is an easy way to support TUUC financially with your Amazon purchases with no cost to the participant. Help us creep past \$100.00 per quarter by signing up for Amazon Smile.



Now your support goes 3 times as far

From Mar 12 – 31, Amazon will triple the donation rate to 1.5% on your first eligible purchase at smile.amazon.com.

amazon smile

3x your impact! Amazon is **tripling the donation rate** on your first smile.amazon.com purchase - through **March 31!** Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0801834 and Amazon donates to **Towson Unitarian Universalist Church.**



WANTED

Someone to teach a class or classes on medical ethics as part of ARE (Adult

Religious Exploration), either in the spring or fall. If interested, please contact Art Starr, contact info in directory.

GALLERY UNICORN

Gallery Unicorn is pleased to announce an exhibition of dynamic landscape paintings by **Cheryl Milligan** and multimedia constructions by **Linda Popp**.



The exhibition “Personal Views” The show will run through April 15, 2018.

Thanks to the artists, Cheryl and Linda, and to Carol Watkins, Michelle List, and George Harrison for

their much appreciated assistance with the show. Thanks also to Dianne and Dorothy Hosmer and Kai for publicity.

We also acknowledge and appreciate at the reception, help from Carol Horst, Len Proctor, Michael Magrogan and Bonnie Fous Reynolds as well as Carol Watkins who made a delicious quiche and cheesecake.

GA (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

Registration for General Assembly in June in Kansas City is now open. But first you may want to register to serve as a volunteer. Search for GA Volunteer Application on the UUA.org website. If you are applying to work as a volunteer you will work 18 hours and your cost for registration will be covered. Do not register until you

have been contacted about volunteering in April. I have worked three years in registration. Other jobs, include ushering, helping with accessibility, Cyber Cafe and more. If you have questions, I may be able to help. -Marti MacKenzie

JOYFUL NURSERY COMMITTEE FORMING!

Be JOYFUL! Please join our new Nursery Committee. All are welcome; you don't need to be a parent-figure of young children. Please sign up in the Nursery, Room #3.

Or contact Margee Bailey. We will plan a meeting soon based on availability of days/times and meeting space.

Thanks so much!

Green Sanctuary Meeting, March 25

The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet this Sunday, between services downstairs. All are welcome.

First Week of Spring, Pre-Easter Fair Trade Chocolate Sale, March 25 (after second service)

Celebrate Spring with some fair trade treats! Stop by the Green Sanctuary Committee's table in the lobby after the second service to purchase organic, fair trade chocolate. Your purchases support fair compensation and sustainable farming and fund TUUC Ground projects as well as the fair trade coffee served during Sunday coffee hour.

USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, March 11, 2018

Date	Time	Adults	Choir	Lounge	Total	Visitors Total
3/18/2018	9:30 am	29	17	3	49	↓
3/18/2018	11:15 am	72	20	2	106	9

SUNDAY SERVICE

APRIL 1 - 9:30 and 11:15

EASTER SUNDAY - Holy Fools

Rev. Clare Petersberger, Joyce Duncan,
Tracy Hall

This year, Valentine's Day fell on Ash Wednesday and Easter falls on April Fool's Day. This confluence of the sacred and secular has not escaped the notice of as venerable a journal as *The Christian Century*. Today we explore the tradition of the holy fool who reminds us how often truth appears in unexpected places and that love gets the last laugh. Happy Easter!

TUUC WEBSITE

The New TUUC Website is up and running! Check it out at towsonuuc.org when you get a chance. In addition, the email addresses for church functions (socialaction@towsonuuc.org, membership@tuuc.org and so on) have been re-created on the new site and should now be forwarded to the personal email addresses of the activity organizers. All TUUC members and friends should have received in recent days an email inviting you to join the email bulletin board if you'd like (the address is still bulletinboard@towsonuuc.org).

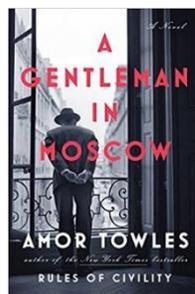
If anyone runs into technical glitches or has questions, just drop a line to Kai Aiyetoro (churchoffice@towsonuuc.org) or Scott Shane (shane@nytimes.com). And whenever you take a good photo of a church-related event or just the nature that surrounds us, send it along to webmaster@towsonuuc.org, and you'll soon see it on the site.

Finally, HUGE thanks to Webmaster Emeritus Jeff Savoye, who put in many years creating and maintaining the old website and all its related wizardry.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

FROM WHERE DO OUR BELIEFS COME?

How did each of us come to our individual beliefs will be examined by expressing those beliefs and what made each of us decide upon them. Examples of areas of discussion might include whether there is a god or not; animals and plants have souls; whether good behaviors are rewarded or not; reincarnation; afterlife communication; E.S.P.; free will, and, finally, love. Two seminars—April 15th and May 16th—will take place in Room 5 (downstairs) from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Presenter: Harold Zeckel



EVENING BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, April 4
@ 7:30 PM

We will meet downstairs to discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel* by Amor Towles (468 pages). Wealthy Count Rostov lives under house arrest in The Metropol, famous Moscow hotel. Despite being confined to the hallway of the hotel, the Count lives an absorbing, adventure-filled existence, filled with capers, conspiracies and culture. Per Ann Patchett: "The book is like a salve. ... [T]he world feels disordered right now. The count's refinement and genteel nature are exactly what we're longing for." (The book for May 2nd is *The Power* by Naomi Alderman (400 pages)). If questions, please contact Carel Hedlund (info in directory).

MUSIC IN THE GREAT HALL

On Sunday, March 25, 2018, Music in the Great Hall will be presenting "Cellobration", a program of cello music featuring the renowned cellist, Amit Peled and his 'cello gang' of six students. They will perform works by Boccherini, Handel and Haydn among others. The concert is free to TUUC

members, but modest donations are always welcome. The concert begins at 2 p.m.

The Women's Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday March 27 at 11:45 am in the Cafe at Edenwald. Contact Sue Shankroff for reservations on or before March 26.

TUUC values the internet privacy of our members, so we do not publish emails or telephone numbers in our newsletter. If you are a member, please consult the online Fellowship One program for those details about a member, or contact the office during weekly hours to obtain the necessary number or email. Thank you for understanding our efforts to safeguard your information.

What's happening at TUUC as of 03/22/2018
March 22 through March 31

Date	Day	Event	Location	Start Time
22-Mar	Thursday	Music Theory	Room 5	6:45 PM
22-Mar	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room	6:45 PM
22-Mar	Thursday	Celtic Spirituality	Room 1	7:30 PM
22-Mar	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	Room 7	7:30 PM
23-Mar	Friday	Piano Tuning	Meeting Room	6:30 AM
23-Mar	Friday	OWL Overnight Retreat	Lower Level Lobby/Kitchen	6:00 PM
24-Mar	Saturday	OWL Overnight Retreat	Lower Level Lobby/Kitchen	12:00 AM
24-Mar	Saturday	Third Saturday Work Party	Entire Campus	9:00 AM
24-Mar	Saturday	Spring Musical Rehearsal	Meeting Room	1:00 PM
24-Mar	Saturday	Auction Event - Anita Cox	Lower Level Lobby	4:00 PM
25-Mar	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room and Lobby	9:30 & 11:15 AM
25-Mar	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Meeting	Lower Level Lobby	10:30 AM
25-Mar	Sunday	Children's Choir	Room 5	10:40 AM
25-Mar	Sunday	Music in the Great Hall	Meeting Rm/Lobby/Rm 7	2:00 PM
25-Mar	Sunday	Tau Delta Omega	Rooms 1 & 2	6:00 PM
25-Mar	Sunday	Memorial Service - Bruce	Meeting Room and Lobby	7:00 PM
26-Mar	Monday	CHADD	Room 7	12:00 PM
26-Mar	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room and Lobby	6:00 PM
26-Mar	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
26-Mar	Monday	Chalice Circle w/Michael Magrogan	Room 6	7:30 PM
27-Mar	Tuesday	Chalice Circle w/Mary Beth Brizzolara	Room 7	7:30 PM
28-Mar	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
28-Mar	Wednesday	Chalice Circle w/Marcia Brooks	Room 7	12:30 PM
28-Mar	Wednesday	Al Anon	Room 6	7:00 PM
28-Mar	Wednesday	IMPROV	Rooms 1 & 2	7:00 PM
28-Mar	Wednesday	Spring Musical Rehearsal	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
29-Mar	Thursday	The Veridical - tentative	Rooms 1 & 2	6:30 PM
29-Mar	Thursday	Music Theory	Room 5	6:45 PM
29-Mar	Thursday	TUUC Choir Rehearsal	Meeting Room	6:45 PM
29-Mar	Thursday	Chalice Circle w/Robin Sinn	Room 7	7:30 PM
29-Mar	Thursday	VOSCA	Meeting Rm/Lobby/ Lower Level	10:30 PM/ overnight
31-Mar	Saturday	Spring Musical Rehearsal	Meeting Rm/Room 1	1:00 PM
31-Mar	Saturday	Singles Fellowship	Lobby and Kitchen	6:00 PM