



**The
Threshold**

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist
Church**

A Welcoming Congregation

THIS SATURDAY

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Would YOU please help by signing up to make a casserole, buy a Stouffer's party-size lasagna, or donate \$10 for a casserole to be bought in your name? Please bring your casseroles to TUUC **before 8:30 AM on Saturday, June 30.**



SUMMER NEWCOMER POTLUCK



The Membership Committee is sponsoring a newcomer potluck at the home of George and Joan Harrison on **Saturday, June 30** at 6:30 PM. Newcomers and established members are welcome. If you are interested in attending, please contact George and Joan Harrison whose information is in the directory by **June 29.**

THIS SUNDAY

July 1 ONE SERVICE at 10:30 AM
Inevitable Change

There is predictable change, events that happen for a reason and can be reflected upon and reinvented for a later time. And then there is another kind of change ... change that happens regardless of choice. Change that, with the passage of time, will happen whether you want it to or not.

William Pollard said, "Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable." There are several changes that will happen in every human being's life, man or woman, red or olive skinned, Jewish or Pagan ... some things just happen to everyone ... inevitably.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

SUMMER MULTIAGE SESSIONS

NO SESSION THIS SUNDAY due to the long holiday weekend. Summer Multiage sessions will start again on July 8 (see below).

Please join us for "Miraculous Adventures," multiage sessions that will run this summer in Room 5 or the lower level. No registration is necessary.

Children ages 5 to 10 are invited to join us, younger if a parent accompanies them. Older children and teens are welcome as assistants.

Today, participants will talk about the miraculous in nature and everyday life and practice focused attention as a spiritual practice.

Other sessions will include art, science, outdoor time, stories, games and yoga.

Weekly emails will tell you the theme and possible activities for each week. The program will end, like last year, with a hike



to Loch Raven reservoir.

Hope you and your children can join us. We still need volunteer assistants and leaders; please contact Joyce to be sent more details and how to help.

CLARE'S COLLOQUY

Our spiritual question for June was, "What does it mean to be a people of blessing?" The importance of this question has been highlighted for me reading a question from a member on Facebook: "I feel uninspired and unexcited and I don't want to feel this way. What are you excited for?" and another from a colleague on Facebook: "Where are you finding hope and courage these days when hope is hard to find?"

Whether we or family members are facing health challenges reminding us our human vulnerability; whether we are experiencing turmoil in a relationship and realize we

cannot control another person's feelings or actions; whether we see images and hear

the cries of traumatized children separated from their parents or read a comparison of the recent Supreme Court ruling upholding a travel ban with the 1944 Supreme Court Korematsu decision upholding Japanese-American imprisonment---it can be hard to answer the question, "What does it mean to be a people of blessing?" We may feel despair, depression, and powerlessness.

And yet, this week, I have had the privilege of witnessing people being a blessing:

- by being present to a loved one in a hospital room---suing up and

showing up, listening and caring,
loving and laughing;

- by not giving up on a strained relationship---simply stayed connected in ways that the other person would allow without judgment;
- and by donating to organizations seeking to reunite families and by attending rallies to protest injustices and even risking arrest.

We do not have complete control over our lives, our communities, our world. But we can, in the words of the Reverend Dr. Rebecca Parker, “Choose to bless the world.”

An author who guides me to do just that is the late John O’Donohue. He wrote the following blessing, *Beannacht*, for his mother:

*On the day when
The weight deadens
On your shoulders
And you stumble,
May the clay dance
To balance you.*

*And when your eyes
Freeze behind
The grey window
And the ghost of loss
Gets into you,
May a flock of colours,
Indigo, red, green
And azure blue,
Come to awaken in you
A meadow of delight.
When the canvas frays
In the currach of thought*

*And a stain of ocean
Blackens beneath you,
May there come across the waters
A path of yellow moonlight
To bring you safely home.*

(The full poem may be found here:
<https://onbeing.org/blog/john-odonohue-beannacht/> .)

To remind us to be a people of blessing, our Lay Worship Associates have planned for meaningful summer worship services on the theme of Creating Connections and our religious exploration ministry is planning for programming on many of the summer Sundays.

If you are in need of pastoral care, please don't hesitate to call the church office. And our A Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity has planned a wonderful field trip beginning with lunch at Ida B’s before touring the Reginald F. Lewis Museum.

We answer the question, “What does it mean to be a people of blessing?” by intentionally choosing to be a blessing with our presence, curiosity, caring, service, and gratitude. Choose to bless the world. For in the words of The Reverend Dr. Rebecca Parker:

*The choice to bless the world can take you
into solitude
to search for the sources
of power and grace;
native wisdom, healing, and liberation.*

*More, the choice will draw you into
community,
the endeavor shared,
the heritage passed on,*

*the companionship of struggle,
the importance of keeping faith,
the life of ritual and praise,
the comfort of human friendship,*

*the company of earth
the chorus of life welcoming you.
None of us alone can save the world.
Together—that is another possibility,
waiting.*

SCULPTURAL ADDITIONS TO TUUC GROUNDS

Visitors to TUUC will see two new additions intended to enhance the TUUC experience. Sculptures entitled "Balloon Man" and "Hourglass" by Dan Whitmer.

Mr. Whitmer, now retired, states, "I usually try to suggest or imply motion in my work, especially in my abstract pieces. Other than that, I let the work speak for themselves.

"Please thank Salli and Bill Ward for donating these wonderful pieces.

What is breeze? Find out at the end of the newsletter.



MUSIC

SUMMER MUSICIANS NEEDED



Starting June 17, services will be led by Lay Worship Associates for the summer, and we are looking for volunteer musicians. Whether you can provide music on your own, or want to work with someone else, please contact us if you are interested in helping with music for a summer service. Speak with Donn Teubner-Rhodes (Music Committee Head) or email Tracy Hall (Music Director) at music@towsonuuc.org. We'll try to get you on the roster, and matched with a Lay Worship Associate who will work with you to plan the service. Thank you!

SOCIAL ACTION

TIRED OF TRYING TO PIN ON YOUR NAME TAG?

Does it make holes in your clothes? Is it hard to get through the cloth?



The SAC is selling **MAGNETIC** nametag holders for \$2 each. Simply remove the pin and the holder will stick to the back of your nametag. (Put it near the top of the back, so the tag will still fit into the nametag slots.)

See Lorraine or another Social Action Committee member.

ACTC (Assistance Center Towson Churches) ACTC Statistics

Thank you for your continuing support of the center. As summer approaches donations dwindle, but the needs still



exist. Donations of dry cereal and canned meat (Spam, beef stew, and chili) will be greatly appreciated.

ADORE

Our July TUUC ADORE (A Dialogue on Race & Ethnicity) session will be on Sunday, July 8th. A field trip of lunch at Ida B's and a visit to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. Sign up for carpooling from TUUC at noon and to be included in our lunch reservation.

socialaction@towsonuuc.org

All are welcome to join us.

EARL'S PLACE AND PROSPECT PLACE

You can find information about how TUUC members are making a difference on our website www.umhousing.org.

Donations from our wish list are always appreciated, especially toiletries, paper towels, and toilet paper. Also, laundry detergent, twin size sheets and blankets. Please leave items in the church lobby in the buckets under the clothes rack.

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

NOTICES

CALLING ALL ARTISTS & CREATIVES!

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia (UUCC) will be accepting work for their next art exhibit to open September 9 at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center (7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045).

This artwork will illustrate *A Free and Responsible Quest for Truth and Meaning* - the fourth UU Principle. All types of media qualify, including painting, photography,

quilting, mixed media, and the written word. Submitted artwork must fit in a square frame or be mounted onto a square, sturdy backboard. There are no size restrictions.

The **DEADLINE** to submit a jpeg image and application is **August 13**. Approved artwork will be delivered to UUCC by August 26. Email arts@columbiauu.net to request more information and a submission form.

GALLERY UNICORN

The Towson ARTS Collective's 11th Anniversary Members Exhibit will be shown at Gallery Unicorn from June 10th through July 22nd. The exhibit includes works by members of the Collective representing a variety of subjects and media.

An awards reception with curator Peggy Hoffman will be held on Sunday, July 22, 2018 from 1:30 through 3:30 PM.

The mission of the Towson ARTS Collective is to provide a venue for artists while being an

art education center. The organization seeks to promote the growth of greater Towson's art community by combining the knowledge and energy of its residents and students with working professionals.

More information on the Towson ARTS Collective may be found at

www.towsonartscollective.org.

Gallery Unicorn is located at 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, MD 21093. For more information, call 410-825-6045.

USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, June 24, 2018

Date	Time	Adults	Children	Choir	Lounge	Total	Visitors Total
6/24/2018	10:30 am	73	-	2	5	80	5

ONGOING & UPCOMING

SUNDAY SERVICE

July 8, 2018 [ONE SERVICE @ 10:30 AM](#)

Putting Things Together:

A Storytelling Service

Andrew Hager, Lay Worship Associate

The much beloved Storytelling Service returns! TUUC members and friends share personal stories of connection. No notes, just a storyteller and a microphone, connecting with you.

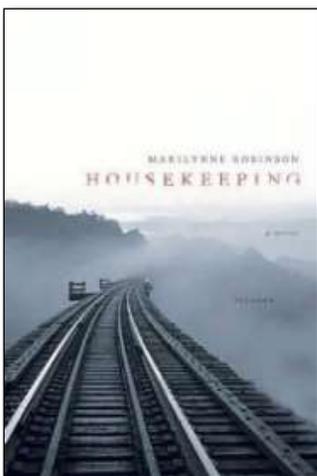
is a very intimate book about two girls who

struggle to adapt to the death of their mother and to life with the errant aunt who comes in to care for them.

It is a lush journey through the eyes of one of the girls, who is drawn to her aunt's unconventional spirit and lust for adventure, even as the town circles with disapproval for a confrontation we know must come.

The novel treats the subject of housekeeping, not only in the domestic sense of cleaning, but in the larger sense of keeping a spiritual home for one's self and family in the face of loss.

[Time](#) magazine included the novel in its TIME 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005.



EVENING BOOK GROUP

Wednesday July 11th @ 7:30 pm

[Note: 2nd Wednesday]

We will meet downstairs to discuss *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson (1980, 219 pages). This

AGING TOGETHER

Tuesday, July 10th | -2:15 PM-ish

Summer Time - and the livin' is easy ? ... worrying? ... fun? ... same ol' ? ... unusual? ... pleasant? ... other?

Let's share our plans or lack thereof for the next couple of months. What are we looking

forward to? Not looking forward to? Is this usually a good time of year for you?

And what was a memorable summer for you in days gone by?

We welcome visitors - please join us if this topic interests you. Chair: Carol Mason

HAPPENING THIS SUMMER!

ARTSCENTRIC AT TUUC FOR SECOND YEAR!



Mirror dance exercise instills discipline and syncopation in a group. One of the many activities the youth of ArtsCentric Summer Institute offers this year at TUUC. This young energetic group made their home at TUUC again this summer through July 13, 2018. They will perform for the TUUC congregation during the 10:30 AM Sunday Service on July 8, 2018. Please attend and make them feel welcomed.

For more information about ArtsCentric - <https://www.artscentric.net/summer-institute>

CREATING CONNECTIONS



The TUUC Lay Worship Associates are geared up for the summer! This year, we're exploring the idea of CREATING CONNECTIONS! How do we build and strengthen bonds with each other and the wider world? Annual favorites such as Storytelling and Poetry return, and there will be services on the inevitability of change, creative jobs, humility, and much more! From June 17- August 19, come connect with us!

Soon to come...a new database system for TUUC.



User-friendly
Simple to use

Watch for an email for BREEZE!

This database will replace Fellowship One.

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 (soon to be breeze) 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 THROUGH JULY 12 AS OF 6/29/2018

01-Jul	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	10:30 AM
02-Jul	Monday	ArtsCentric Summer Institute	Meeting Room & Lobby	1:00 PM
03-Jul	Tuesday	ArtsCentric Summer Institute	Mtg Rm, Rms 4, 5, 6	8:00 AM
03-Jul	Tuesday	Voice Lesson	Room 1	1:00 PM
04-Jul	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Rooms 1 & 2	10:30 AM
04-Jul	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7 PM
05-Jul	Thursday	ArtsCentric Summer Institute	Mtg Rm, Rms 4, 5, 6	8:00 AM
06-Jul	Friday	ArtsCentric Summer Institute	Mtg Rm, Rms 4, 5, 6	8:00 AM
06-Jul	Friday	Men's Breakfast	Garden Café at Edenwald	8:30 AM
08-Jul	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	10:30 AM
09-Jul	Monday	10-Jul	Tuesday	10-Jul
10-Jul	Tuesday	ArtsCentric Summer Institute	Mtg Rm, Rms 4, 5, 6	8:00 AM
10-Jul	Tuesday	Aging Together	Room 7	1 PM
10-Jul	Tuesday	Voice Lesson	Room 1	1 PM
11-Jul	Wednesday	ArtsCentric Summer Institute	Mtg Rm, Rms 4, 5, 6	8:00 AM
11-Jul	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Rooms 1 & 2	10:30 AM
11-Jul	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7 PM
11-Jul	Wednesday	Evening Book Group	Lower Level Lounge	7:30 PM
11-Jul	Wednesday	O-Team Meeting	Lounge	7:30 PM
12-Jul	Thursday	ArtsCentric Summer Institute	Mtg Rm, Rms 4, 5, 6	8:00 AM
12-Jul	Thursday	Men's Group	Room 6	7:30 PM