

**The
Threshold**

**Towson Unitarian
Universalist Church**

A Welcoming Congregation

UPCOMING SERVICE

**June 2, 2019 - 10:30 AM - Joyce Duncan,
Director of Religious Exploration and the
Youth Religious Exploration Ministry:
*Where Do We Come From? Who Are We?
Where Are We Going?***

Please join us this Sunday as our Youth Religious Exploration classes ask and maybe answer some of these questions. Children and teens will share what they have been doing in the past year. We hope your curiosity will be satisfied as you have a chance to participate in a wide variety of workshops that will range from cooking, justice learning, gardening, and different

ways to express yourself artistically such as mandalas or painting stones. We will gather in community for a short welcome, song, and brief description of each option. Afterwards we will proceed to different rooms or outside locations to join a class and get to know each other while participating in an activity. There will be options suitable for all. Please come dressed comfortably if you think you might participate in an active or messy activity. We look forward to this opportunity for those of all ages to interact!



USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019

| Date | Time | Adults/Children | Choir | Lounge | Total | Visitors Total |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|-------|--------|-------|----------------|
| 5/26/2019 | 10:30 AM | 58/6 | 18 | 3 | 84 | 0 |

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY SUE ROYER, PRESIDENT-ELECT

It was wonderful to recognize new members on May 19 and to see so many of you at the Ice Cream Social after the second service! If you haven't yet viewed the scrolls listing the many, many TUUC volunteers, please do so. The volunteer scrolls are posted on the lower level near the RE classrooms.

The call to our annual congregational meeting, scheduled for Sunday, June 9 at 12 pm has been sent, via postal mail to those who receive church communications that way, and via email to everyone else. Please take time to review the agenda, the slate of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee, the two resolutions, and the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020. We look forward to your participation in the annual meeting as we are true to our 5th Principle—the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

We provided an update on our trial governance during the two Town Hall meetings in April. The slides are posted on the TUUC web site in the Member area under Governance ([here](#)). Jeanette Anders and Todd Robertson each shared a story during the meeting on April 28. Each gave their perspective as a participant in the trial governance organization.

Regarding trial governance, the feedback from Program Council participants has been overwhelmingly positive--that the Program Council is a very effective approach for fostering direct communication, that we are operating as a collective instead of just as individual committees, and that we are building and improving relationships that help us further the mission of our church.

Likewise, the Administrative Team is excited about the trial governance approach: the four member A-Team has made operational decisions in a much more nimble and timely way than our previous structure allowed.

The Board of Trustees reviewed and approved goals from the Administrative Team and the Program Council, in addition to setting its own goals. The Board has also been discussing aspects of governance policy. The Governance Task Force has continued to meet and to serve as a resource to the Board.

The Board, Program Council, and Administrative Team wish to continue utilizing this modified prospective governance structure for another year to refine the prospective governance structure, continue the development of governance policies, and develop Bylaws revisions as needed. We are proposing a transition governance year for 2019 – 2020, to that end. We are planning on calling a congregational meeting for October, 2019, to approve bylaws changes that will jettison the Operations Team (O-Team).

You'll notice a different vibe to the TUUC annual [report](#) this year. Our Church Administrator, Kai Aiyetoro, and Rev. Clare envisioned a report that people would want to read! It's shorter, flows better, and has color and lots of photos. We believe that you'll find this report reads like a cohesive update of the activities of our church during the year, rather than a series of disconnected reports by committee chairs and council heads. Please let us know what you think!

thank you

Twenty years ago this month, the congregation of the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church called the Reverend Clare L. Petersberger to serve as our Minister. Thank you, Rev. Clare, for your caring, your thoughtful sermons, and your leadership! We will be planning a celebration for the fall.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING

SUMMER MUSIC

If you would like to present music in a service this summer, please notify Tracy Hall at music@towsonuuc.org. We are especially looking for pianists and guitarists who can play hymns, but also soloists, bands, and ensembles. You'll get matched with a Lay Worship Associate who is leading a service that seems like a good fit.

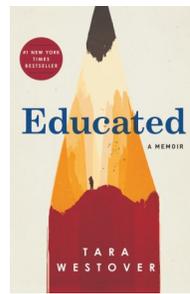
LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP AT AMAZING GRACE, JUNE 2



Please join us this Sunday for a lunch and garden party at Amazing Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Baltimore. Celebrate and learn more about TUUC's urban gardening/food justice partnership with Amazing Grace, while enjoying food and fellowship with community members from both churches (and NO gardening, for just this once!). We will carpool down to Amazing Grace from TUUC after the service, around 11:30. The Green Sanctuary Committee will be providing sandwiches and ice cream, and you are invited (if you feel so moved) to bring a side dish or dessert to supplement the meal. Contact Samantha Saalfield to RSVP or with questions, or

visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2316430418674679/>.

EVENING BOOK GROUP WEDNESDAY JUNE 5 @ 7:30 PM



We will meet downstairs to discuss *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover (non-fiction, 2018, 336 pages). Tara Westover was not your garden-variety college student. She did not see the inside of a

classroom until the age of seventeen, thanks to her fundamentalist/survivalist father who did not believe in public education. It is hard to grasp the level of grit—not to mention intellect—required to pull off what Westover did, earning a PhD from Cambridge University. An inspiring reminder that knowledge is, indeed, power. (From *Amazon Book Review*).

(The book for July 10 is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens (fiction, 2018, 384 pgs.)

All are welcome. Contact Carel Hedlund (info in directory) if questions.

ADORE

Thursday, June 6th at Earl's Place 6:00-9:00. We will share a BBQ dinner and view a TED Talk on Racial Justice followed by discussion.

Please RSVP to adore@towsonuuc.org and include your contribution to our dinner for 25-30. Hamburgers, hot dogs, (no pork)

buns, rolls, condiments, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese slices, potatoes, coleslaw, appetizers, dessert, drinks. Indicate carpool requested.

TUUC RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled **Saturday, June 8th, 2019** for the next TUUC Blood Drive. With June 8th coming up fast, please check your calendar and consider donating blood at our drive. When you see our appointment sign-up sheet in the church lobby, please stop by and select an appointment time between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on June 8th. Contact Clare Flynn-Avallone or Nina Della Vecchia if you have any questions. Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood



GALLERY UNICORN

Gallery Unicorn is pleased to present a *Water/Ways* Art Exhibition and a musical performance related to the water theme at a reception on Sunday, June 2, 2019 from 1:30 to 4 pm. The exhibition featuring work from 15 unique artists will run from Sunday May 19 through July 21. The exhibition is in partnership with the Maryland Humanities, the Historical Society of Baltimore County and the Smithsonian Institution. Gallery Unicorn is located at 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, MD 21093.



Gallery hours are weekdays from 10:30 am to 3 pm and on weekends by appointment. For more information, call 410-825-6045.

Gallery Unicorn also wishes to thank George Harrison and Lisa Lubomski for helping Emily to hang the show, and Diane and Dorothy Hosmer and Kai Aiyetoro for helping her with the publicity.

CALL FOR ARTISTS to apply for a juried exhibition on the theme of Expectation. Gallery Unicorn invites you to submit by June 17, 2019 two jpegs of original wall art related to the theme "EXPECTATION". Send to: galleryunicorn@towsonuuc.org.

Expectation

Selected work will be part of a group exhibition to be held at Gallery Unicorn from July 28, 2019 through September 22, 2019. Entrance fee is \$25 and three cash prizes will be awarded.

Gallery Unicorn is located in the Towson UU Church at 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, MD 21093.

For more information, call Lisa Lubomski, Gallery Curator at 443-869-0508.

ACTC

Many thanks to all those who have been bringing donations. Currently ACTC is in need of plastic grocery bags (used to pack homeless bags). Cereal and soup are in small supply.

EARL'S PLACE: REDUCING HOMELESSNESS ONE MAN AT A TIME

When you donate items such as toilet paper, paper towels, toiletries or laundry detergent

to the bucket for Earl's Place, you are helping change a life. Thank you!

Earl's Place is a recovery-focused, supportive housing program for men experiencing homelessness. Thanks to people like you, the men are able to rebuild their lives and return to society as positive and productive citizens.

Want to learn more – stop by for a visit, Earl's Place is a project of United Ministries, Inc. 1400 E. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21231, call us at 410-522-0225, email sheila@umhousing.org or visit our [website: www.umhousing.org](http://www.umhousing.org).

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Since, on the second Sunday of June (6/9/19), TUUC will hold its annual Congregational Meeting following the service, we will hold our [Social Action Committee meeting on JUNE 16](#) in the open area downstairs. All are welcome.

This summer, *through August*, the Social Action Committee will collect donations of funds and **school supplies** for the Assistance Center for Towson Churches (ACTC). *Monetary donations are preferable, but a box will be in the lobby for School Supplies, with a smaller box beside it for monetary/check donations.*

JUNE ETHNIC LUNCH — VIETNAMESE PHO!

Join us for delicious Vietnamese Pho at 12:30 on Wednesday, June 19 at Pho Dat Thanh – Vietnamese/Pho – located at 510 York Rd, Towson, MD 21204 (410) 296-9118. Please respond by Friday June 14.

All are welcome, however sign ups to Janet Kuperstein at stringirl@gmail.com (note different email address for responses) by Friday, June 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



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GIVE BLOOD



You can make a difference.

June 8, 2019

Appointments between 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Sign up today!

Questions? Contact Clare Flynn-Avallone or Nina Della Vecchia

Expectation

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Gallery Unicorn invites you to submit by June 17th two jpegs of original wall art related to the theme "EXPECTATION" Send to: galleryunicorn@towsonuuc.org

Selected work will be part of a group exhibition to be held at Gallery Unicorn from 07/28/19 through 09/22/19.

Entrance fee is \$25 and three cash prizes will be awarded.

Gallery Unicorn is located in the Towson UU Church 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, MD 21093 Phone 410-825-6045

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Denominational Minute: UU Affiliated Social Justice Organizations

Part 2: The following is a somewhat arbitrary selection of seven UUA Affiliated Social Justice Organizations.

You can find a complete list at (<https://www.uua.org/offices/organizations?page=1>)

The descriptions come from the websites of those selected.

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (info@uusj.org) is rather unique in that it is the only regional organization. My sense is that it is currently not very active.

“Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice of the Baltimore Washington Region (UUSJ) advances the social justice work of UU congregations, organizations, and individuals and increases the frequency, impact, and visibility of UU collaborative social justice efforts in the region of Baltimore, MD; Washington, DC; and northern Virginia. UUSJ offers congregational/organization support by identifying and communicating successful local programs and projects, providing technical support through direct assistance and skill building workshops, facilitating regional communication, offering opportunities for networking, assisting in securing financial resources for social justice work and encouraging and supporting volunteerism. UUSJ offers regional leadership by identifying issues for regional leadership and action, providing project development and management for regional efforts, tracking regional social justice activities, offering educational materials and events, and initiating regional communication “

Unitarian Universalists for Alternatives to The Death Penalty (<http://www.uuadp.org/>)

“One of the most shameful aspects of our current criminal justice system is the death penalty. Studies fail to demonstrate that the death penalty actually deters crime.

Experience shows that judges and juries wrongly convict defendants. Given the number of death row inmates released on account of innocence, it is highly likely that we have executed innocent people and will do so again in the future unless we abolish the death penalty. Through ongoing congregational education, advocacy, and action, we can make good on our Unitarian Universalist heritage and our American promise to be both compassionate and just to all in our society. Through our diligence and perseverance in realizing this promise, we can live the core values of our country and extend the values of our faith to the benefit of others.”

The website points out that the UUA has opposed capital punishment since 1961!

Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry (<https://uuam.org/wp/>)” *Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry empowers individuals, chapters, and congregations to build justice and compassion for animals.*”

“Do you care about animals and the more-than-human world? Does your spirituality connect to the more-than-human world? Are you into wildlife, dogs, cats, humans, horses, pigs, leafy sea dragons, Meatless Mondays, training service animals, rescuing raptors, trying vegetarianism, volunteering at shelters, saving endangered species, or protecting ecosystems? You have found a group of kindred spirits here, and you will

want to learn about Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry (UUAM). “

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (<https://www.uumfe.org/>) “EMPOWERING BOLD, ACCOUNTABLE, FAITH-GROUNDED ACTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE”

Unitarian Universalists are called to bring the interdependent web of life back into balance. Climate justice can be a powerful force when people join together to work for a just and sustainable future for earth. By donating to UUMFE you can empower UUs everywhere to take bold, accountable, faith-grounded action.

Unitarian Universalist Network on Indigenous Affairs

<https://www.uua.org/offices/organizations/unitarian-universalist-network-indigenous-affairs-uunia>

UUNIA is being reorganized after a period of inactivity by Rev. Bob Thayer, who for the last 20 years has devoted sabbatical, discretionary time and money to developing knowledge and contacts with Native people East and West in the USA. UUNIA will reformulate it's goals accordingly to existing outlines in UUNIA brochures to 2000, and according to new directions aimed at education, advocacy and local congregational involvement with local Native issues contact: rthsadhana@aol.com (508) 996-2811

Unitarian Universalist Peace Fellowship (<https://www.uua.org/offices/organizations/unitarian-universalist-peace-fellowship>)

The UU Peace Fellowship (UUPF) envisions a world of justice, peace and freedom. IT is a vision of a beloved community, where diversity is respected, where conflicts are

addresses nonviolently, and oppressive structures have been eliminated. It is a world where we live in harmony with each other, with all sentient beings, and with the earth, nurtured by diverse spiritual traditions that are based on compassion and loving kindness toward all. We are committed to increase public awareness of the philosophy and strategies of nonviolence, especially our rich Unitarian Universalist history of peace activism. We aim to strengthen and support district and congregational activities, in partnership with other faith-based groups, to bring about the psychological, social, economic and religious conditions for peace. Soon, we hope to have a UUPF representative for each congregation. We encourage and support conscientious objection, the personal opposition to war of any kind. Each year, at General Assembly, UUPF presents the Adin Ballou Peace Award, honoring individuals and organizations for their deep commitment to peace and justice. Unitarian Universalists for Justice in The Middle East (<https://uujme.org/>)

“Founded in 1971, UJME is a UUA-related social justice organization of education and advocacy siding with love with the people of Israel-Palestine.” “VISION: A just peace in Palestine-Israel that reflects our UU values of respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every human being and justice, equity and compassion in human relations. MISSION: To work within the Unitarian Universalist community to educate and mobilize individuals, congregations and denominational leaders to recognize and counter inequality and injustice in Palestine-Israel and to support our allies in the global justice and anti-oppression movements.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC THROUGH June 18, 2019 AS OF 05/31/2019

| Date | Day | Event | Location | Start Time |
|---------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1-June | Saturday | Music Rehearsal | Meeting Room | 9:30 AM |
| 1-June | Saturday | Cockeysville Music Recitals | Meeting Room & Lobby | 1:00 PM |
| 2-June | Sunday | Sunday Service | Meeting Room & Lobby | 10:30 AM |
| 2-June | Sunday | Art Exhibition Reception | Meeting Room & Lobby | 1:00 PM |
| 3-June | Monday | Mindful Meditation | Room 7 | 7:00 PM |
| 3-June | Monday | Membership Committee Meeting | Room 6 | 7:30 PM |
| 4-June | Tuesday | Men's Reflection Group | Room 7 | 7:30 PM |
| 5-June | Wednesday | Voice Lesson | Meeting Room | 10:00 AM |
| 5-June | Wednesday | Wednesday Writers | Room 6 | 10:30 AM |
| 5-June | Wednesday | Voice Lessons | Meeting Room | 3:00 PM |
| 5-June | Wednesday | AI-Anon Meeting | Room 6 | 7:00 PM |
| 5-June | Wednesday | Evening Book Group | Lower Level Lounge | 7:30 PM |
| 6-June | Thursday | Voice Lesson | Meeting Room | 10:30 AM |
| 6-June | Thursday | TUUC Choir Rehearsal | Meeting Room | 5:30; 6:45; 7:30 PM |
| 6-June | Thursday | COED: Can We Talk? | Room 7 | 7:30 PM |
| 8-June | Saturday | Blood Drive | Lower Level | 8:00 AM |
| 8-June | Saturday | Zen Community | Meeting Room & Room 7 | 9:00 AM |
| 9-June | Sunday | Sunday Service | Meeting Room & Lobby | 10:30 AM |
| 9-June | Sunday | Congregational Meeting | Meeting Room | 11:30 AM |
| 9-June | Sunday | SAC Meeting | Lower Level | 11:30 AM |
| 10-June | Monday | Mindful Meditation | Room 7 | 7:00 PM |
| 11-June | Tuesday | Aging Together | Lobby | 1:00 PM |
| 12-June | Wednesday | Voice Lesson | Meeting Room | 10:00 AM |
| 12-June | Wednesday | Wednesday Writers | Room 6 | 10:30 AM |
| 12-June | Wednesday | Voice Lessons | Meeting Room | 3:00 PM |
| 12-June | Wednesday | A-Team Meeting | Business Office | 6:00 PM |
| 12-June | Wednesday | IMPROV | Meeting Room | 7:00 PM |
| 12-June | Wednesday | AI-Anon Meeting | Room 6 | 7:00 PM |
| 12-June | Wednesday | O-Team Meeting | Lobby | 7:30 PM |
| 13-June | Thursday | TUUC Choir | Meeting Room | 5:30; 6:45; 7:30 PM |
| 13-June | Thursday | Men's Group Meeting | Room 7 | 7:30 PM |
| 15-June | Saturday | Third Saturday Work Party | Entire Campus | 9:00 AM |
| 16-June | Sunday | Sunday Service | Meeting Room & Lobby | 10:30 AM |
| 16-June | Sunday | Irina Briskin Recitals | Meeting Room & Lobby | 1:00 PM |
| 17-June | Monday | Dragon's Way Qigong Class | Lobby | 6:30 PM |
| 17-June | Monday | Mindful Meditation | Room 7 | 7:00 PM |
| 18-June | Tuesday | Men's Reflection Group | Room 7 | 7:30 PM |



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

Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger
revclare@towsonuuc.org

Leadership

Board of Trustees:

President: Neil Porter (2018-2019)
President-Elect: Sue Royer (2018-2019)
Treasurer: Monica Sweidel (2017-2019)
Secretary: Angela Castillo-Epps (2018-2020)

Trustees-at-Large:

Karyn Marsh (2018-2020)
Art Starr (2018-2020)
John Mattingly (2017-2019)
Luke Williams (2017-2019)

Operations Team:

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

Ministerial Intern

Lora Powell-Haney
lpowellhaney@meadville.edu

Staff

Youth Religious Exploration Director:

Joyce Duncan, Credentialed Religious Educator
tuucdre@towsonuuc.org

Music Director:

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Church Administrator:

Kai Aiyetoro
churchoffice@towsonuuc.org

Administrative Assistant:

Nancy Hannah
assistant@towsonuuc.org

Bookkeeper:

Mary Kay Baker
bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org