



# The Threshold

Towson Unitarian  
Universalist Church

*A Welcoming Congregation*

## UPCOMING SERVICE

**JUNE 30 - 10:30 AM**

### *The Art of Storytelling*

Storytelling has earned its place as the most important tradition humans possess. The most important reason for this being that every story contains a lesson to instruct the audience. Stories teach us to love, to forgive others, to be just and to strive for better than we have.

Storytelling describes the social and cultural activity of sharing stories, sometimes with improvisation, theatrics, or embellishment. Every culture has its own stories or narratives, which are shared as a means of entertainment, education, cultural preservation or instilling moral values.

During this service we will learn more about the art of storytelling and share some of our own stories with you.

## YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

### **SUMMER ADVENTURES**

TUUC Summer programming for children starts at 10:30, ends at 11:40 am on the lower level, Room 3 beginning June 16 through July 28 (no session on July 7)

Adults from the congregation are sharing their passions this summer with our youth in multi-age programming. Nursery care is also available.

Session is geared toward children ages 6 to 10 but older children and teens are invited to participate as assistants.

June 30 — Stephanie Yoo — Nature and crafts, part two!

July 7 — No session due to holiday weekend. (Nursery care is available.)

July 14 — Kathy Ramirez — Scavenger hunt and outdoor fun.

July 21 — Lora Powell-Haney — Join us to learn about and make dream-catchers.

July 28 — Angela Castillo-Epps — Yoga and mindfulness, wear comfortable clothing.

## ONGOING AND UPCOMING

### HELP PLEASE - FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Even though the weather has turned warm and summer is here, the homeless and poor people of Baltimore are still hungry every day! June has a 5th Saturday, so the TUUC community has a commitment to provide **AT LEAST 60 casseroles** for the hot lunch that is served at Our Daily Bread every day, 365 days a year!

Please sign up to make a casserole, buy a Party Size Stouffer's Mac & Cheese or donate \$10 for a casserole to be bought in your name. Casseroles can be brought to TUUC anytime in June and stored in the freezer in the closet next to the choir area.

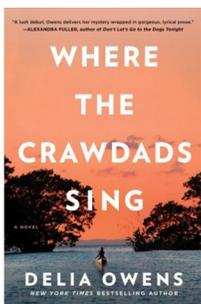
**Casseroles are due at TUUC by 8:30 am on Saturday, June 29.**

### EVENING BOOK GROUP

#### WEDNESDAY JULY 10 AT 7:30

**(NOTE: change of date due to July 4th holiday)**

We will meet downstairs to discuss. Where The Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens (fiction, 2018, 384 pages)



The novel is set in the 1950s and revolves around a young woman named Kya Clark, who is from extremely rural North Carolina. Known by others as the Marsh Girl, she lives alone in nature—but the draw of

other people, and specifically love, brings her into contact with the greater world. This novel has a mystery at its core, but it can be read on a variety of levels. There is great nature writing; there is coming of age; and there is literature. *Crawdads* is a story lovingly told—one that takes its time in developing its characters and setting, and in

developing the story.

(The book for the August 7th meeting is The Death of Mrs. Westaway by Ruth Ware)

All are welcome. Contact Carel Hedlund (info in Breeze) if you have any questions.

### ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES (ACTC)

In 2018 ACTC assisted 31,000 people by distributing 337,400 pounds of food and providing \$27,000 in financial assistance. It is currently running its annual matching fund drive. If you wish to contribute, send a check to ACTC, 120 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Towson, MD 21286. Please write "Towson Unitarian Universalist" on the memo line.

### FILM — "MAKING A KILLING"

On Sunday, June 30 at 11:45 there will be a film shown in the meeting room entitled, "Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA.". This is in honor of National Gun Violence Awareness Day. It will be followed by a short discussion with suggestions for ways to encourage our representatives to enact more sensible gun control legislation.

I'll bring some cheese and crackers to tide you over 'til lunch. — Alta Haywood



### AGING TOGETHER

In this past month's meeting (Tuesday, 6/11), group members talked about their changing identities through the years.

The Group also decided to combine a facilitator and volunteer model for future meetings: someone (presently, Michael

Magrogan) will facilitate the meeting, but a member of the group will volunteer to introduce the subject of the month.

Next month's topic (the 2nd Tuesday in July-7/9) will be introduced by Irv Greif. We Unitarians have a principle--"The interconnectedness of All Things," and Irv will

talk about our age as the "Age of Interconnections." After a brief introduction of the topic, we look forward to ideas on this subject from group members.

All are welcome in our pursuit of topics related to "aging."

## UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual congregational meeting on June 9.

Board President Neil Porter called the meeting to order after members had checked-in and received a paddle for voting. Rev. Clare Petersberger delivered a chalice lighting to set the tone. Neil recognized outgoing leaders and thanked them for their service, including committee leaders who were stepping down.

After a brief review of parliamentary rules by Moderator Jason Braspennickx, George Harrison, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced the nominating slate. All positions were uncontested and everyone was elected. Neil Porter will be serving a second year as President and Sue Royer will be serving a second year as President-Elect. Samantha Saalfield was elected to serve as a Trustee-at-Large. John Barry will be joining the Endowment Committee. Ann Beezley and Marie Razulis will be joining the Nominating Committee.

President-Elect Sue Royer presented an update on the trial governance year and introduced the Governance Transition Year resolution. This resolution passed.

Finance Council Head Joe Tumbler presented the proposed budget and a resolution for forgiveness of the roof loan. After discussion on the matter, a vote was taken and the resolution to forgive the roof loan was approved. After discussion on the budget, a vote was taken and the budget was approved. The meeting was adjourned before 2 pm.

As a reminder, the call to the meeting, which included the nominating slate, resolutions, and proposed budget were emailed to all members on May 21.

Please save these dates on your calendar for congregational meetings in the next church year:

Sunday, October 27, 2019

Sunday, June 14, 2020

## USHER ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR SUNDAY, June 23, 2019

Date	Time	Adults/Children	Choir	Lounge	Total	Visitors Total	Nursery
6/23/2019	10:30 AM	65/0	0	5	70	3	-

## REFLECTIONS ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June is becoming my holy month because it is the month that I attend the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). As Stephen Finner explained in the June 7 and 14 issues of the *Threshold*, members of UU congregations from across the United States and Canada meet every year not only to address UUA business, such as bylaws revisions, but also to connect with each other. With each passing year, I find General Assembly to be even more helpful in building my skills and strengthening my relationships with other UUs.

The theme of this year's GA, "Power of We", gave me and all of the participants much room for thought and reflection. Over the last six years of attending General Assembly, I have noticed a definite shift in our denomination from liberal religious in name to liberal religious in action. Events outside our church walls, such as the numerous police shootings of people of color, have precipitated much of this shift by forcing the UUA and individual UU congregations to look inward at ourselves first and foremost. This self-examination has revealed the cognitive dissonance within the Unitarian Universalist movement. In other words, we say we care about racial equity and social justice, but all too often, our behavior belies such professions of faith.

Ignorance of our implicit biases and of white, heterosexual male privilege has stood in the way of harnessing the "Power of We" as the Reverend Marta I. Valentín noted in her Sunday sermon. Too often, members of marginalized communities "experience a kind

of Unitarian Universalism that is neither what we are told it is, nor how we know it could be." (Rev. Valentin, <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2019/worship/sunday>.)

Yet, there is reason for hope. This year, the delegates approved with minimal acrimony a Statement of Conscience on the Corruption of Democracy and three Actions of Immediate Witness: Building the Movement for a Green New Deal, Supporting Our First Amendment Right to Boycott, and Protesting the Current Administration's Policies on Immigration and Asylum. Moreover, there was more time set aside for small group conversations on what lies at the heart and redeeming the promise of Unitarian Universalism. See <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2019/business> for more details.

There is more work to do, of course, and the bulk of this work must be done in UU congregations, like TUUC. However, I came away with the sense that many UUs now understand the kind of action we must take to generate the change we want to see in the world. That action includes being "archeologists of our collective hearts and delicately sift through the blood-soaked rubble" of our past errors and failings, as Rev. Valentin urged. We must continually question the paradigms and assumptions that we have embraced in order to unearth those sacred stories that will sustain us and allow us to create a culture centered on community and welfare of all. The time is now. Together we can.

Bright blessings,

Karyn Marsh, TUUC Board Member at Large

Watching some of the events at GA brought to mind the email list for those interested in GA which in turn reminded me that the UUA maintains over 300 discussion email lists.

As stated on the website <https://www.uua.org/connect/lists> “The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) email lists is to provide a way for groups of Unitarian Universalists (UUs) and like-minded individuals to communicate via email on issues relating to Unitarian Universalism, the UUA, and UU congregations and districts.

Email lists are a great way to receive announcements or participate in online discussions. The UUA sponsors over 300 different mailing lists and participation is free.”

#### Most Popular Lists, Annotated & Sorted All UUA.org Lists

The UUA goes on to note: “Although the messages exchanged in these mailing lists are not reviewed or approved by the UUA, the lists have gone through an application and approval process for sponsorship by our organization “

That is followed by links to a subscriber guide and the guide for those who manage specific lists.

Most lists are public. That is, anyone may join whether they are members of a UU affiliated congregation or not. Some are open only to members of a UU affiliated organization such as religious educators or music directors.

However, as helpful as these lists are, they slowly are being phased out in favor of other forms of social media communication, such as Facebook groups (like TUUC’s). Therefore, the UUA ceased accepting applications

for new email discussion lists as of January 2017.

To join a UUA maintained email discussion list, go to one of the links cited above, and click on the name of the list to which you want to subscribe. You will be taken to a page for enrollment in the list.

Following are just a few examples of the most popular UUA sponsored email discussion lists:

UUHS-Chat: discussion of UU history and historical research

Global Warming: to help UUs share technical information about the causes and implications of global warming so we can develop appropriate strategies for individuals and congregations to combat its dangers

Green Sanctuary: for individuals and congregations who are interested in or engaged in the Green Sanctuary Program

BGILT-News: bisexual, gay, intersex, lesbian, transgender, etc. news postings

Antiracist-UU: to encourage dialog and sharing of information about racism and its elimination in an environment of mutual respect while upholding UU principles and purposes

UU-Money: information sharing among society finance leaders

UU-Leaders: sharing information & support among UU lay leaders

Our next denominational minute will explore UUA maintained blogs.

# Social Action **5**<sup>th</sup> Sunday

- June 30th
- Entire collection plate is designated for the Social Action Committee.
- Launch of summer donation drive of money and school supplies for ACTC.

A member of the SAC will make the collection plate announcement.

HAPPY  
SUMMER

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC THROUGH July 17, 2019 AS OF 06/28/2019

Date	Day	Event	Location	Start Time
28-June	Friday	Wedding Setup	Meeting Room & Lobby	10:00 AM
29-June	Saturday	Wedding—Debra & Amanda	Meeting Rm, Lobby & Kitchen	11:00 AM
30-June	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	10:30 AM
1-July	Monday	Dragon's Way Qigong	Lobby	6:30 PM
2-July	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	Room 7	7:30 PM
3-July	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
3-July	Wednesday	Voice Lessons	Meeting Room	3:00 PM
3-July	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
3-July	Wednesday	AI-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7:00 PM
4-July	Thursday	OFFICE IS CLOSED	————	All Day
6-July	Saturday	Zen Community	Meeting Room, Room 7	9 AM—6 PM
7-July	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	10:30 AM
8-July	Monday	Arts Centric	M.R., Lobbies, Rms 1,2,3,4,7	7 AM—5 PM
8-July	Monday	Dragon's Way Qigong Class	Lobby	6:30 PM
9-July	Tuesday	Arts Centric	M.R., Lobbies, Rms 1,2,3,4,7	7 AM—5 PM
10-July	Wednesday	Arts Centric	M.R., Lobbies, Rms 1,2,3,4,7	7 AM—5 PM
10-July	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
10-July	Wednesday	Voice Lessons	Meeting Room	3:00 PM
10-July	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
10-July	Wednesday	AI-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7:00 PM
10-July	Wednesday	Program Council Meeting	Lobby	7:30 PM
10-July	Wednesday	Evening Book Group	Lower level lobby	7:30 PM
11-July	Thursday	Arts Centric	M.R., Lobbies, Rms 1,2,3,4,7	7 AM—5 PM
11-July	Thursday	Men's Group	Room 7	7:30 PM
12-July	Friday	Arts Centric	M.R., Lobbies, Rms 1,2,3,4,7	7 AM—5 PM
14-July	Sunday	Sunday Service	Meeting Room & Lobby	10:30 AM
14-July	Sunday	Social Action Committee	Rooms 1 & 2	11:30 AM
15-July	Monday	Arts Centric	M.R., Lobbies, Rms 1,2,3,4,7	7 AM—5 PM
15-July	Monday	Dragon's Way Qigong	Lobby	6:30 PM
15-July	Monday	Mindful Meditation	Room 7	7:00 PM
16-July	Tuesday	Arts Centric	M.R., Lobbies, Rms 1,2,3,4,7	7 AM—5 PM
16-July	Tuesday	Men's Reflection Group	Room 7	7 PM
17-July	Wednesday	Arts Centric	M.R., Lobbies, Rms 1,2,3,4,7	7 AM—5 PM
17-July	Wednesday	Wednesday Writers	Room 6	10:30 AM
17-July	Wednesday	Voice Lessons	Meeting Room	3:00 PM
17-July	Wednesday	IMPROV	Meeting Room	7:00 PM
17-July	Wednesday	AI-Anon Meeting	Room 6	7:00 PM
17-July	Wednesday	Board Meeting	Rooms 1 & 2	7:30 PM



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Website: [www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org)  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 10AM—3PM

### **Minister**

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger  
[revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto: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](mailto:lpowellhaney@meadville.edu)

### **Staff**

#### Youth Religious Exploration Director:

Joyce Duncan, Credentialed Religious Educator  
[tuucdre@towsonuuc.org](mailto:tuucdre@towsonuuc.org)

#### Music Director:

Tracy Hall  
[music@towsonuuc.org](mailto:music@towsonuuc.org)

#### Church Administrator:

Kai Aiyetoro  
[churchoffice@towsonuuc.org](mailto:churchoffice@towsonuuc.org)

#### Administrative Assistant:

Nancy Hannah  
[assistant@towsonuuc.org](mailto:assistant@towsonuuc.org)

#### Bookkeeper:

Mary Kay Baker  
[bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@towsonuuc.org)