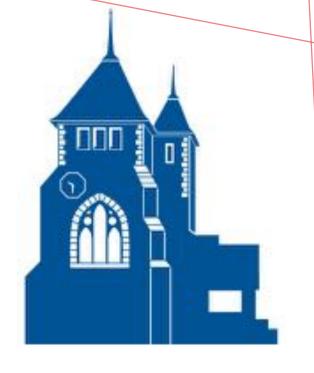
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, UU



# OUR TRIP TO TORDA, ROMANIA

MAY 2023

# Strada UNITARIANA

MAY 8 – MAY 18, 2023

### OUR ITINERARY:

| • Ma | ay 8       | Depart Boston in the evening  |
|------|------------|---|
| • Ma | ay 9       | 1 <sup>st</sup> group Arrives Kolosvar in the afternoon   |
| • Ma | ay 10      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> group Arrives Kolosvar. We meet Rev. Lojas Jozsa and his wife Emesa and travel to Torda by passenger van. We visit Torda Museum |
| • Ma | ay 11      | Tour Kolosvar, Tour Church and seminary there and visit Unitarian Church Headquarters   |
| • Ma | ay 12      | HikeTorda Gorge, Visit Meszko Unitarian Church and the Balazs Ferncz Center<br>VisitTorockó and Museum (in the mountains)                       |
| • Ma | ay 13      | Visit to the Citadel in Alba Iulia and Deva Castle  |
| • Ma | ay 14      | Attend Sunday Service of the Torda Church and then visit the Torda Salt Mines   |
| • Ma | ay 15      | Depart Depart Torda for Budapest, Boston and Venice   |
| • Ma | ay 16 — 17 | Tour of Budapest, Hungary (for six of us)   |
| • Ma | ay 18      | Depart Budapest for Boston and elsewhere  |
|      |            |   |

#### ARRIVE IN KOLOSVAR

aka Kluj-Napoca, Romania

- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Romania
- Traditional capitol of Transylvania
- Population ~ 295,000



#### TURDA / TORDA

- Population of ~ 44,000
- Ancient history as a regional fort and salt mine for the Roman Empire (Potaissa).
- Site of the famous Edict of Torda, one of the First Declarations of Religious Freedom, in 1568
- Dirk and Larry Coburn attended the 450<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Ceremony of the Edict, in 2018







MONUMENT CELEBRATING THE 450<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDICT OF TORDA, INSTALLED IN 2018



FROM BARS TO BIRDS...

SCULPTURE
COMMEMORATING
THE 450TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
EDICT OF TORDA





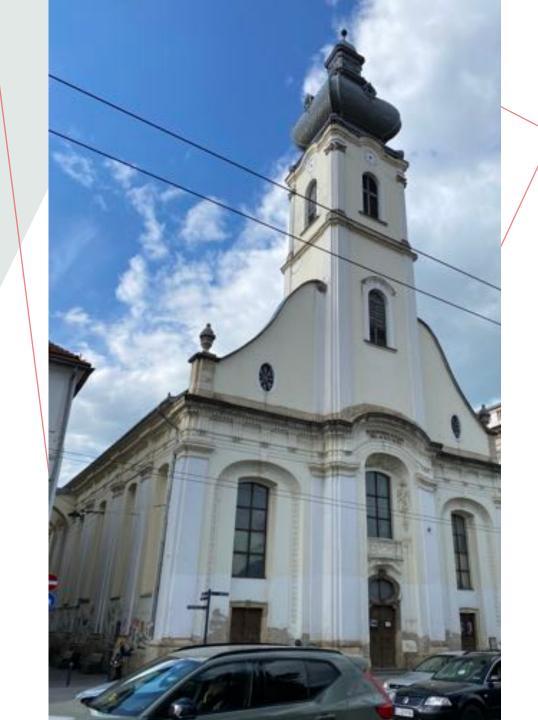
IN TORDA,
WITH THE
UNITARIAN
CHURCH
STEEPLE IN
THE DISTANCE



*KOLOSVAR* 

ST.
MATTHIAS
CHURCH

## KOLOSVAR UNITARIAN CHURCH





STATUE OF FRANCIS DAVID NEXT TO THE *KOLOSVAR* UNITARIAN CHURCH





#### VISIT WITH THE BISHOP

Rev. Istvan Kovacs with the Rev. Lojas Jozsa



TORDA GORGE









JEFF TRYING
OUT A
TRANSYLVANIAN
PULPIT IN
MESZKO



## TOROCKO



FormerTextile
Center
Current tourist
destination in the
mountains







# REPLICA OF THE HUNGARIAN CROWNANDORB

AT ANOTHER MUSEUM IN TOROCKO









BACK AT THE PARISH HOUSE THAT NIGHT:

A SING-ALONG AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE











STAIRWAY
TO DEVA
FORTRESS



DEVA FORTRESS SITE WHERE FRANCIS DAVID WAS IMPRISONED AND DIED



## CAREFUL OF THOSE ROMANIAN SNAKES!





CASTLE CORVINILOR







"JUMP, JUMP, JUMP..."

THERE IS A
VIDEO
SOMEWHERE OF
A GROUP DANCE...





TORDA CHURCH SERVICE, SUNDAY MAY 14TH



REV. LOJAS JOZSA PRESIDING REV. JOSZA GIVING
HIS SERMON IN
HUNGARIAN AND
THEN TRANSLATED
INTO ENGLISH



### PLAQUE IN TORDA CHURCH LOBBY

BUILT 1791

STEEPLE ERECTED 1801-09



# AKEILAJOS MÜEPITESZ FERVESZERINI KJR ALYJOZSEF FRITOMESTERALIAL

Templomunkat javítottuk az
Úrnak 1999-ik esztendejében
dr.SZABÓ ÁRPÁD püspöksége.
FAZAKAS FERENC lelkészsége.
FODOR BÉLA gondnoksága
idejében az északamerikai
WESTON testvér gyűlekezet és
híveink áldozatos hozzájárulásával.
2000 majus 21.

PLAQUE IN TORDA CHURCH ENTRANCE







### TORDA SALT MINE

### LAST DINNER IN THE PARISH HOUSE WITH OUR HOSTS





# DEPARTING TORDA ON MAY 15









### NAGYON KÖSZÖNJÜK ÉS VISSZATÉRÜNK!





MANY THANKS AND WE'LL BE BACK!

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### HUNGARIANS LIVE IN MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

- As a result of the vagaries of history (including two World Wars), there are ethic-speaking Hungarians living in western and central Romania (i.e., Transylvania) on lands that formerly were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
- Approximately 1 million people out of Romania's total population of 19 million are ethnic Hungarians.
- In 2010 when Victor Orbán was reelected as Prime Minister in Hungary, he granted citizenship to ethnic Hungarians living in Hungary's border states.
- Romania's million-strong Hungarian minority suddenly became voting participants in Hungarian elections. Since then, Transylvanian Hungarians have returned Orbán's favor. More than 95 % of them cast votes for his party in the last three elections.
- In 2021 alone, the government allocated 250 million Euros to Hungarian communities in Transylvania. Orbán used the money to close schools and organizations that he could not directly control—and then open new ones whose funding comes directly from his office.

