

# HIGH SPIRO

October  
2017

TUMC

Newsletter for Members & Friends of Towson United Methodist Church



## Service with a **SMILE**

At TUMC, our outreach programs are robust. Whether you like to educate children, renovate gardens or housing, serve food, stitch blankets, visit sick parishioners, chair a committee, spread God's word, or donate money, there is something for everyone here. — a place where we can "serve one another humbly, in love" (Galatians 5:13).

But, life is busy and we are all idiosyncratic. So, how do we find ways to connect?

Well...for starters, no one likes a grump. Most of us avoid cranky people; and spend time with those who inspire us to be the best versions of ourselves.

We can do the same for others, simply by making a SMILE. Try it. Right now, while you are reading. SMILE! Bet you can't help feeling happy.

Imagine sharing happiness as you serve others. — in our church, your home, the community!

Just start with a smile. Be happy. And, pass it on.

## 2017-18 Stewardship News

TUMC's 2018 Stewardship Campaign is set — with the theme *A New Day of Blessings*, rooted in scripture from the Book of Lamentations, 3:23: Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day.

TUMC continues to be blessed. This year, we've received a new lead pastor, Rev. Dr. Mark Johnson, and a new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Ms. Rachel Livingston. Also, a new modern entry way is under construction. Taken together, we can say this is a "new day" for our church. Given God's promises

and the many blessings we've received, we, too, start each new day with renewed hope, in a spirit of thanksgiving and service. Trusting in God's faithfulness each new day makes us confident for the future.

For the New Day of Blessings campaign, we are asking each member to consider how you can participate further in many future such days for our church and community.

More details will be sent out soon, leading up to Commitment Sunday on October 29th. With God's help, we can enjoy each "new day" together.

## Serving the Community through ACTC Partnerships

Bear one another's burdens.  
— Galatians 6:2

### DID YOU KNOW?

The **Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC)** is a consortium of 50 churches that leads an outreach program, providing help to poor and needy families in our community.

This effort began in 1985 when 14 churches joined together to open the Assistance Center to give *emergency assistance*, including food, eviction and utility cutoff prevention, payment for prescriptions and lunches for the homeless.

Today, ACTC serves countless individuals and families in 21 Baltimore County zip codes.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

One of the group's largest fundraising/donation efforts is annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive. Each year, local ACTC church members prepare food bags — with generous Thanksgiving meals tucked lovingly inside. You can participate in this project in many ways:

- ♦ Donate money to fill baskets or buy gift cards for turkey purchases
- ♦ Visit a local, participating supermarket and buy pre-packed meal bags at the Customer Service counter

- ♦ Shop for deals and prepare your own bags to donate.

### WHERE DO DONATIONS GO?

All monetary donations should be submitted to TUMC via checks payable to Towson UMC with an "ACTC Thanksgiving" note in the memo line. This donation will be forwarded to ACTC and noted on your annual TUMC contribution statement.

ALL Thanksgiving Basket contributions will be distributed at our own Emergency Food Pantry. See page 10 for specific basket details.

*Continued on page 10*

## Thank YOU!

*Dear Donor Family,*

*Thank you for the gorgeous, sustainable benches, donated in memory of your loved one.*

*Other families may visit the Columbarium and sit peacefully for prayer and reflection.*

*Perhaps you'll also be glad to know that TUMC plans to move the previous hardwood seats to the labyrinth path — when that area gets a makeover next spring!*

*Sincerely,  
— Your Church Family*



## TUMC Friends Visit with Ruth Steer



\* Yum!  
Fruity  
'Ruth's'  
homemade  
party cake.

\* Liz Neal reports, "Several of us had a wonderful visit with Ruth Steer!".



## PRAY WITH US

<http://towsonprays.blogspot.com>

Upper Room devotionals (in regular and large print) available in the lobby

Next High Spire content deadline: October 17, 2017.  
Send photos and copy to: [kayres@towsonumc.org](mailto:kayres@towsonumc.org).

# HIGH SPIRE

501 Hampton Lane : Towson, MD 21286

410.823.6511

[www.towsonumc.org](http://www.towsonumc.org)

Business Hours: Mon-Thurs 10:00 AM-3:00 PM  
Sunday Worship Services: 8:15 AM and 10:15 AM

## MINISTRY TEAM

**Rev. LaTrelle Easterling**—Resident Bishop

**Rev. Dr. Wanda Duckett**—District Superintendent,  
Baltimore Metropolitan District

**Bob Kimmons & Stephanie Kimmons**—  
TUMC's Church Lay Leaders

**Rev. Dr. Mark Johnson**— Lead Pastor  
410.823.3640 : [leadpastor@towsonumc.org](mailto:leadpastor@towsonumc.org)

**Rev. Margery Schammel**—Assistant Pastor  
410.823.2485 : [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org)

**Rev. Doug Hollida**— Minister of Music  
410.823.6519 : [musicdirector@towsonumc.org](mailto:musicdirector@towsonumc.org)

**Rachel Livingston**— Director of Youth and  
Young Adult Ministries  
410.823.3698 : [yandya@towsonumc.org](mailto:yandya@towsonumc.org)

**Kim Ayres**— Business and Office Manager  
410.823.3693 : [kayres@towsonumc.org](mailto:kayres@towsonumc.org)

**Bob Ashby**— Custodian

## HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**Erin Rigley**— Center Director  
410.825.0008 : [cdcdirector@towsonumc.org](mailto:cdcdirector@towsonumc.org)

A ministry of Towson United Methodist Church, Hampton Lane Child Development Center is a licensed childcare center with approved preschool for ages two (2) through pre-kindergarten.

[www.hamptonlanecdc.org](http://www.hamptonlanecdc.org)

# Pastor Mark's Meanderings



*Dear Friends,*

As I write this, Hurricane Maria is pummeling Puerto Rico following the destruction

caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Jose only a few weeks ago. There are also reports of a second major earthquake in Mexico as well as dozens of wildfires in Montana, Idaho, Oregon and California. Where, one might ask, is God?

As Harvey was flooding Houston, one former child television star turned self-proclaimed religious leader published on social media that the hurricane was a means for God to teach people humility through suffering. Other religious leaders of dubious authority proclaimed that the hurricanes were the work of a wrath filled God punishing the United States for an assortment of laws with which the religious leaders disagreed. Could it be? Does God use natural disasters to punish people or as a teaching tool so people can learn some spiritual lesson?

It is natural for people to want a reason when tragedy befalls them. And often times, heartbreaking situations beg quick

answers. Those quick answers do not usually hold up under deep reflection and prayer but by the time one can take a deep breath, pray, and think deeply about where God is in whatever has occurred the damage has already been done. Years ago, a young woman died leaving four young daughters. A well-meaning adult tried to explain the woman's death by telling her grieving daughters "God must have needed your Mommy more than

Well, true, there are professors of theology to be found in universities and seminaries who think deeply, write and teach. (They are not all grey headed, however.) But really, the best place to find theologians is in your church.

"Oh, you mean the Pastors."

Well, yes, but there are many more. At our church, Towson UMC, there are several hundred theologians in church most Sundays who seriously engage in the

theological endeavor of studying God, humankind and the relationship between God and humankind. For United Methodists, church is not the place where someone in a black robe tells you what to believe. Instead, church is where Jesus followers

*Church is where Jesus' followers are trained to use a theologian's tools to construct a Christ-filled life of meaning, love, peace, service, and grace.*  
— Mark Johnson

you do." To this day, that young daughter not only grieves her Mother's death but is angry at God for being so selfish. Bad answer. Bad theology.

So, where does one find real answers that make sense spiritually and practically? From a theologian, of course. "But" you say "where do I find a theologian when my life is turned upside down? Do I do a Google search? Do I go to Craig's List? Aren't theologians grey headed academics who sit in ivory towers and spend all day pondering the imponderables?"

are trained to use a theologian's tools to construct a Christ-filled life of meaning, love, peace, service and grace. In this way, Jesus followers do not have to rely on quick and easy -- but ultimately false -- understandings of God.

So how do you "do" theology? In this space next month, we will talk about how to use the tools of a United Methodist theologian -- scripture, tradition, reason and experience. See you Sunday!

Blessings,

*Pastor Mark Johnson*

Towson United Methodist Church is a community of Christ-followers growing in love of God and neighbor. This is what we at Towson UMC believe Christian discipleship is, what we are to be, and what Jesus meant when he sent his followers to "make disciples" —

We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God's image. We commit to Jesus' example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective. We respect our diversity of opinion and expressions of faith. Therefore, as God loves us, so let us love and serve in the name of Christ. — adopted by the TUMC Church Council February 2, 2015



# Adult Learning

Join us for Sunday Morning Adult Classes. Check out this lineup of possibilities. Everyone is welcome!

\*\*\*ALL CLASSES ARE ON SUNDAYS 9-10 AM\*\*\*

Christians Under Construction : Room 111  
Topical and Bible studies

Young Parents' Class : Room 114  
Support to rear children as Christian parents

Tower Class : Room 214  
Current topics from a Christian perspective

Women's Class : Room 212  
Learning and support to live as Christian women

Adult Bible Study : Room 218  
Studies of various books of the Bible

Men's Class : Room 310  
Learning and support to live as Christian men

NO ENROLLMENT NECESSARY! MEET IN THE DESIGNATED ROOMS TO JOIN A CLASS.

**Tell me and I'll forget.  
Show me and I may remember.  
Involve me and I learn.**

—Benjamin Franklin,

9/17-10/22 2017

## SIX-WEEK CLASS

### On Answering the Call

God calls each of us many times and in many ways in life. This class will look at Old and New Testament people whom God called to carry out His will. The answers varied — 'Yes', 'No', and 'Maybe'. And, the ways in which the calls were given varied as well. After discussing the Calls of the Week, this group will discuss when and how group members have felt 'called', including each person's responses and the life outcomes. This class may help you be better "tuned in" as you are being called. To register or gain more information about this short-term class, contact Verna Lewis at 410-821.0531 or vernlew8pic@gmail.com.



# Infants, Toddlers and KIDZ

Prefer childcare during the worship service? We have your family covered from infancy through age 11!

Safe-sanctuary, approved adults are available on Sunday mornings to spend quality time with your little ones in the Cribbery downstairs and to host a variety of fun, social and educational activities in church classrooms.

Childcare in the Cribbery\* : Room 122

Children: Infants-Age 3

Open: 8:45 AM through the 10:15 AM service

Pray and Play\* : Room 314

Children: Ages 4-6

Open: 10:15 through the entire worship service for learning, fun and song.

Kids in the Disciple Zone (KIDZ)\* : Room 310

Children: Ages 7-11

Open: Part-way through 10:15 service. Children begin in the worship service and leave for learning and fun when dismissed.

## Kids' Sunday School



Children of all ages are invited to join a Sunday School class to learn and grow in faith with one another. Classes are taught by TUMC safe-sanctuary, approved adults.

\*\*\*ALL CLASSES ARE ON SUNDAYS 9-10 AM \*\*\*

Preschool\* : Room 311

Children: Age 3-Kindergarten

Elementary\* : Room 312

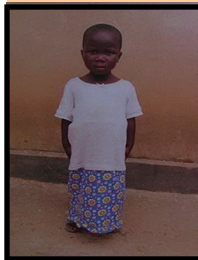
Children: Grades 1-5

Third graders receive their Bibles on Oct. 15th and will meet in a separate class in Room 314 from Oct. 22nd to Nov. 12th to learn about their new Bibles. On Nov. 19th, they will rejoin the class in Room 312.

\*Enrollment forms are REQUIRED for participation. See Page 6.

# TUMC Youth Scoop

Follow YOUTH GROUP on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/groups/TowsonUMCYouth](http://www.facebook.com/groups/TowsonUMCYouth)



## Happy Birthday, Claudette!

In summer 2016, our TUMC Youth made the commitment to sponsor Claudette, a child in Rwanda — who just turned five years old!

*Please pray for Claudette, that she may be healthy and strong and that her family may be able to provide food and shelter for all the care that she needs. May she know the love of God every single day.*

## Sunday School for Middle/High School Youth, 9-10 AM

Middle School\*: Rm 216  
 Youth: Grades 6-8

High School\*: Rm 317  
 Youth: Grades 9-12

### Confirmation 'Class of 2018'

- ♦ 10/15 Lovely Lane UMC Worship Service and Tour of the Mother Church of Methodism in America
- ♦ Confirmands will meet with the Sunday School class in Room 216 until January 7, 2018, when confirmation classes begin.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please complete registration forms for all children and youth activities as soon as possible. You need: Parent Information form, Registration form for the appropriate age (cribbery/infant, children, youth), Parent Medical Release form, a Covenant of Behavior for youth. Find forms on our website, on the third floor table near Rachel's office, and from Rachel, Margery or Doug. **Return all forms to Doug, Rachel or Margery ASAP.** They will be scanned; and copies given to your child/youth's teacher. These forms are for the safety of all our children and youth.

Questions? Contact: Rev. Margery Schammel at 410.823.2485 or [Mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:Mschammel@towsonumc.org).

\*Enrollment forms are REQUIRED for participation.  
 See Page 6 (next page) for details.

## OCTOBER MISSION PROJECT: UMCOR Flood Buckets

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, the youth will prepare buckets to support victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. And, we need your help! Please send donations of the following materials to Rachel Livingston at church by October 5<sup>th</sup>



- \* 5 gallon buckets w/ re-sealable lid
- \* liquid laundry detergent (50oz or 25oz)
- \* dish soap (16-28oz)
- \* clothespins
- \* cotton or plastic clothesline (100ft or 50ft)
- \* sponges (no cellulose sponges)
- \* heavy trash bags (33-45 gallon)
- \* handi-wipes or reusable wipes
- \* air freshener
- \* insect repellent spray (6-14oz)
- \* dishwashing gloves
- \* work gloves
- \* scouring pads (no stainless steel, Brillo pads, or SOS pads)
- \* scrub brush
- \* dust mask

### October Events\*

- 10/8 Mission— Flood Buckets for UMCOR, 6-7:30 PM**
- 10/15 Bible Study/Evening with Pastor Mark, 6-7:30 PM**
- 10/22 NO YOUTH GROUP**
- 10/29 Trunk or Treat 3-5 PM; Monster Mash 5-7 PM**

Need more info? Contact Rachel Livingston at 410.823.3698 or [yandya@towsonumc.org](mailto:yandya@towsonumc.org).

## CHILDREN & YOUTH Upcoming Events & Retreats

	<b>TRUNK OR TREAT with Towson Children</b> — Open to community members, this event features costumes, candy, and decorated car trunks. <b>Sunday, October 29th from 3-5 PM. All</b>
	<b>MONSTER MASH with TUMC's Youth Group</b> — Stick around for some ghastly FUN... if you dare. Costumes (friendly and appropriate — NO GORE!), potluck dinner, games, crafts and spooky music. Bring a friend. <b>Sunday, October 29th from 5-7 PM. Grades 6-12.</b> Sign Up here: <a href="http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0549ada923a2f58-monster1">www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0549ada923a2f58-monster1</a> .
	<b>ROCK is ON again this winter — January 26-28, 2018</b> — down the ocean, Hon! Hosted for YOUTH by the United Methodist Baltimore-Washington Conference. Register by Oct 27 with a \$50 deposit, payable to TUMC Youth c/o Rachel. Grades 7+.

# Women's Retreat News

## February 23-25, 2018

**Enroll Now**

Our annual Women's Retreat has been a source of renewal, friendship, and grace for several years. Women have fun, learn, grow in their relationships both with God and with one another —and have more fun.

For some women, this opportunity would not be possible without the Jeannine Neuen Scholarship Fund. This Fund is supported fully by donations from our women, our congregation, and our friends; no money comes from the church budget or from the fees charged for attending the Retreat.

*We are asking for donations for the Jeannine Neuen Scholarship Fund, so that we can continue to offer a fantastic weekend to every woman.*

The cost of this year's Retreat is \$215.00 per person. Any amount you can give would be gratefully accepted. Please make your check out to Towson UMC with *Women's Retreat Scholarship* in the memo line.

The 2018 Women's Retreat will be held at Skycroft Conference Center in Middletown, MD. We will meet for dinner on Friday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, spend the weekend having an awesome time, and leave for home after lunch on Sunday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Registration forms will be available by mid- October. Check out Skycroft Center at [www.skycroft.org](http://www.skycroft.org).



## TWO Great Youth Events! ONE Sunday - October 29th.

### MONSTER MASH

5:00-7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall  
(Ages: Grades 6-12)

Stick around for some ghastly FUN... Costumes (friendly and appropriate — NO GORE!), music, crafts, potluck dinner, and more. Friends and younger siblings welcome; no babysitting! Sign up at: [www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0549ada923a2f58-monster1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0549ada923a2f58-monster1)

### TRUNK or TREAT

3:00-5:00 PM in the church parking lot.  
(Rain location — Inside church)

Decorate your trunk and come ready to be visited by children from our congregation and the community. The event is open to all. Invite your friends! Info? Contact [Carolyn.schnur@comcast.net](mailto:Carolyn.schnur@comcast.net) or 410-510-7433 to reserve a parking spot for your decorated vehicle!



Registration forms are required for all TUMC church activities that involve infants, children and youth — including choir, youth group, cribbery and Sunday School. This is for the safety of all our children!!!

UPDATED FORMS are needed for each family/child every year. Please complete ALL forms and mark all applicable groups.

#### **2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR FORMS NEEDED**

- **ALL Children and Youth:** Parent Information Form. Complete one form per family.
- **Infants-Age 3:** Cribbery Registration Form
- **Ages 3-11:** Children's Registration Form
- **Ages 12-18:** Registration Form, Parental Release and Medical Form AND Covenant of Conduct (with youth and guardian signatures required).

**STEP #1 Seek Forms** Go online and complete digital forms at [www.towsonumc.org](http://www.towsonumc.org). Click on "Ministries" then "Towson Youth." OR — get a paper copy from the 3rd floor wall rack or Margery Schammel, Doug Hollida or Rachel Livingston.

#### **STEP #2 Complete & Submit**

Be sure to complete and sign ALL necessary forms by 9/10/17 (See 'Forms Needed' above.) Submit online or in person to Margery, Doug or Rachel.

#### **STEP #3 Attend Class and/or Activity**

Have FUN!



# **Music Notes**



Since 1992, the International Women's Brass Conference has performed community concerts as fundraisers for the organizations and as showcases for talented women brass musicians. In 1993, the first Holiday Brass Concert was performed in St. Louis, Missouri. Later expanding to Houston, Texas, Los Angeles, California — and now Baltimore, Maryland, these concerts are sacred and festive events that bring together women and men to highlight brass, bagpipes and song — including a sing-a-long!!

This year's concert includes TUMC's Chancel Choir!!! Don't miss this amazing opportunity to see our choir perform in the community. Support your church friends and a great cause. Buy tickets today!

## **HOLIDAY BRASS CONCERT**

**Tuesday, November 28th at 7:30 PM**

Cathedral of Mary Our Queen

5200 N Charles Street : Baltimore, MD 21210

Please contact Ginny Foster to purchase TUMC's group-rate ticket for \$20. Make all checks payable to IWBC and deliver to TUMC.

Call or write Ginny to receive more information 410.296.4780 or virginiafoster@comcast.net.

Check out the International Women's Brass Conference website at: [www.myiwbc.org](http://www.myiwbc.org).



## **Excitement is Building....**

Imagine your artwork on this Gingerbread House!!!

SAVE the DATE for the annual PATHWAYS Gingerbread House Workshop.

**Saturday, December 2, 2017 : 1 to 3 PM : \$40/house : Children ages 5-105**

Build onsite or take a kit home . Eat or use as a holiday table centerpiece.

This event sells out quickly! Call Susan Killian for reservations 410-238-4766.

# 30

## **Days of Hands-On Mission**

In honor of the culmination of our three year "Growing Forward" Endowment Campaign, Towson UMC is declaring November "30 Days of Hands-On Mission". Be on the lookout for more details.



## **Mornings with Pastor Mark & Friends**



Join Pastor Mark for coffee/tea & conversation at the following offsite locations. Everyone is welcome. Or, call or email him to set up a time to meet at church.

<b>10/12</b>	Thursday	Corner Bakery Café	823 Goucher Blvd : Towson, MD
<b>10/17</b>	Tuesday	Bob Evans	1265 E Joppa Rd : Towson, MD
<b>10/26</b>	Thursday	Corner Bakery Café	823 Goucher Blvd : Towson, MD
<b>10/31</b>	Tuesday	Bob Evans	1265 E Joppa Rd : Towson, MD

**All gatherings are from 9:30-11:00 AM.**

# Say "Cheese"!



Our new TUMC Pictorial Directory is underway! And, the congregation is invited to pose for photos from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM and following the 10:15 AM service. Just show up. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

## CONSENT FORMS NEEDED

You must complete a photo release form to give TUMC authorization to publish your photo and information in BOTH the print and online (TUMC website) versions of the church directory. You will find this form posted on the TUMC website or at the photo booth on the day you sit for pictures. If you choose to SAVE TIME, then you may take your own digital photo and send it to Kim Ayres via email. But, you must still complete a consent form and drop it in office mail or the offering plate during Sunday worship.

Any questions? Want to help with this volunteer project? Contact Tom Edel at 410.262.9245 : tcharlesedel@gmail.com.

## Find Directory Photo Release Forms

- ◆ Online at [www.towsonumc.org](http://www.towsonumc.org)
- ◆ Onsite at each photo shoot

## Holy Land Pilgrimage

Coming Soon: March 2018



Pastors Mark and Sandi Johnson will lead a 10-day Holy Land pilgrimage in spring 2018; and all are welcome to attend. The group will journey to many traditional sites of Jesus' ministry including Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee and many others. Participants will be able to reaffirm their baptism in the Jordan River and partake in communion in the Garden Tomb.

The estimated cost of this pilgrimage is \$3,500 per person (double occupancy) not including incidentals. If you are interested, please talk with Pastor Mark or attend the upcoming information meeting TBD.

## October Mission/Communion Offering

*October Mission/Communion Offering  
(and throughout the month of October)*

### **BLANKETS for Disaster Relief** UMC Global Ministries Board + Church World Services

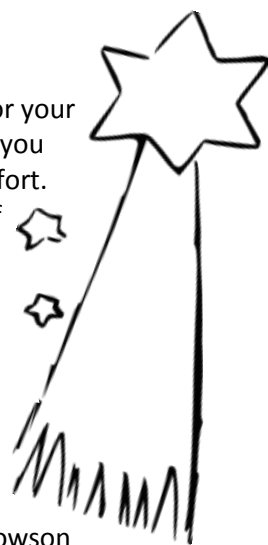
Our United Methodist Church's Board of Global Ministries is partnering with Church World Services' to gather and distribute BLANKETS for disaster relief. FLOODS, TORNADOES, HURRICANES, EARTHQUAKES, REFUGEES, HOMELESS SHELTERS ... whenever families are evacuated from their homes and UMCOR or CWS are present, blankets are too.

What can you do with a blanket? They transform into a cape, a pillow, a mattress, a suitcase, a tent, a

stretcher to carry the sick, covers for your head . And, oh yeah, blankets keep you warm when you sleep or need comfort. A \$10 donation "covers" the cost of one blanket, either the 30% wool/70% synthetic grey or yellow thermal fleece, depending on the climate.

Thank you very much for your kindness and generosity in supporting a program that does make a difference all across the world!

Please make checks payable to: "Towson UMC" and write "BLANKETS" in the memo spot. Send donations to church via mail or online transaction. Or, place your check in the offering plate during Sunday worship. It's another tool for the unexpected!



# SUPPORT

## TUMC

### There are several ways you can support Towson United Methodist Church.

- ◆ Become a sustaining member.
- ◆ Remember us in your will or purchase a niche in our Columbarium.
- ◆ Place your check or cash in the offering plate during worship.
- ◆ Choose TUMC for direct deposit from your bank account.
- ◆ Visit our website and select 'Donate Online' to schedule credit/EFT contributions.





For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them. — Matthew 18:20

## FAMILY FUN & FELLOWSHIP for All Seasons

October 8	<b>Harvest Soup &amp; Heyday</b> JOIN U!! Soup, salad, games and fun in Fellowship Hall, immediately following the 10:15 AM worship service. Food donations and free will offering accepted.
November 12	Potluck & Christmas Bazaar
December 10	Chili & Nativity Chalk Talk
January ?	TBD — Interested in hosting? See below.

Mark your calendars to mingle in Fellowship Hall, following the 10:15 AM worship service for each of the dates listed above. Free-will offerings graciously accepted to benefit TUMC.

More information? Want your TUMC group to host an event in 2018? Contact Ginny Foster at 410.296.4780 or virginiafoster@comcast.net.

In October, have a bowl of delicious soup and a salad at our *Harvest Soup & Heyday* event. Then join in games

for adults. (We guarantee laughs!) And games for kids. (Have you ever bowled with pumpkins?).

Here's what we need for October 8th:

- ♦ A pot of soup (does not have to be home made). But, if do make a batch ahead of time, then we can keep it in the freezer at church.
- ♦ Real and/or fake pumpkins – large, medium, small, smaller.

## HANGING AROUND TUMC

Can find these spots outside church?



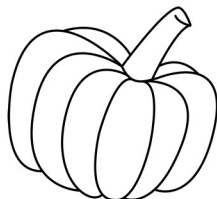
## ACTC Thanksgiving Baskets

### HERE'S HOW TO STUFF A BAG!

Be sure to include **ONLY** the following items in each bag:

- 1 can sweet potatoes/yams (23-29oz can)
- 2 cans meat/main dish (example: beef stew or chili, 15-24oz cans)
- 1 large can fruit (20-30oz can)
- 4 cans vegetables (example: green beans, peas, or corn, 15oz cans)
- 1 cranberry sauce
- 2 pkgs. macaroni & cheese
- 1 box instant mashed potatoes
- 1 cake or brownie mix
- 1 bag or box of stuffing mix
- 1 lb. bag or box of rice

**NOMONEY OR GIFT CARDS IN BAGS!**



**TIPS FOR PACKING:** Pack large cans on bottom & lighter items on top. If possible, use a Reusable Grocery Bag /OR a double brown grocery bag inserted in double plastic bag. Mark bags as **COMPLETE** or **INCOMPLETE** (and list what is missing). —OR— Beginning November 1st, purchase pre-packed Thanksgiving Baskets from local supermarkets. All bags are packed in advance at each of the stores listed below. Pick up at the Customer Service counter. To purchase multiple bags, call in advance.

Thanks to the following supermarkets for participating!  
Bag prices may vary, but are very reasonable.

**Giant Supermarket** (across from the Fairgrounds)  
2145 York Road, 21093 : 410 308-3868  
Kimberly Carr – Manager; Lynne Freeman

**Giant Supermarket** (across from Drumcastle Center)  
6340 York Road, 21212 : 410-377-2673  
Judy Simon, Manager

**ShopRite**  
37 Aylesbury Road, 21093 : 410-308-8700  
Steve Starzynski – Manager

## Easy Shoe(boxes) to Fill

**Operation Christmas Child** brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through simple, gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's Love through Jesus Christ.



Each year, our TUMC congregation fills stacks of shoeboxes for anxiously-awaiting children. In 2016, we donated 191 shoeboxes. Let's beat that number!!

Your love for reaching children around the world with the gospel can have even greater impact than you realize. Every shoebox you pack represents an opportunity to share the gospel. Each box is a missionary.

Here's how you can help:

- ★ Pick up your **EMPTY** shoebox(es) with label, rubber band, envelope, and a list of gift possibilities on **Sundays** October 22 and 29 and November 5.
- ★ Shop the sale bins! Purchase little toys and items. Draw a picture. Write a note. Fill the box. Need gift ideas. Go to [www.samaritans-purse.org](http://www.samaritans-purse.org).
- ★ Deliver your **FILLED** shoebox to church on **Sundays**, November 5 and November 12.

**October 15 is the first official distribution date!** Any questions, contact John & Nancy Ross at 410.561.8496.

Visit [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org). Select "What We Do", then "Operation Christmas Child" to learn more about the program and to find tips for packing your box.



Thank you for your prayers and generosity for children around the world. :]

## Food Pantry OPEN : Saturday, October 28th from 9:00-10:30 AM



We are collecting much-needed items to keep our food pantry shelves full. Please bring your donations to church on Sundays or during office hours and leave in the Sharing Bins located in the kitchenette. Suggested items are: \* cereal \* beef stew \* canned ravioli \* pork and beans \* pasta noodles \* canned chili \* chunky soup 10oz. Soups \* pasta sauce (cans/no glass) \* green beans

Want to volunteer to help once a month at our Emergency Food Pantry?  
Please contact Dwight Kines at 410-828-0792.



## TAKE A PEEK



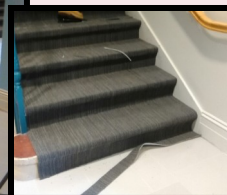
Goodbye, checkered tile and plain color palette.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Special thanks to our lobby angel, who donated funds for all supplies and labor for this project!



Hello, blue, bright lights, modern tile and soft grey carpeted stairs.



## TUMC'S FRONT LOBBY 2017 RENOVATIONS

### FALL Cleanup...

It's time to spruce up God's house . JOIN US!

**Friday and Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 AM -2:00 PM : Meet in the Parlor**

Bring a bucket, stepladder, — and the whole family! Choose your own chore. Cleaning fluids, rags, provided. Contact Ginny Foster [virginiafoster@comcast.net](mailto:virginiafoster@comcast.net)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**8:15 AM and 10:15 AM**

- Oct 1** Communion Offering: **BLANKETS**
- Oct 8** Food, Fun & Fellowship for All Seasons  
*Harvest Soup & Heyday FREE!*
- Oct 8** Youth Group Mission: Flood Buckets
- Oct 12** Meet the Pastor @ Corner Bakery Cafe
- Oct 15** Confirmand Trip: Lovely Lane UMC
- Oct 15** Youth Group Bible Study/Pastor Chat
- Oct 15** Operation Christmas Child Begins  
*Pickup shoeboxes*
- Oct 17** Meet the Pastor @ Bob Evans
- Oct 21** Senior Adults BUS TRIP
- Oct 22** Operation Christmas Child Begins  
*Pickup shoeboxes*
- Oct 22** NO Youth Group
- Oct 26** Meet the Pastor @ Corner Bakery Café
- Oct 27-28** Fall Cleanup at TUMC
- Oct 28** Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
- Oct 29** Trunk or Treat & Monster Mash
- Oct 29** Operation Christmas Child Begins  
*Pickup shoeboxes*
- Oct 31** Meet the Pastor @ Bob Evans
- Nov 1** ACTC Thanksgiving Basket Drive Begins  
*Bring meals and donations to church*
- Nov 5** Operation Christmas Child  
*Bring filled shoeboxes to church*
- Nov 12** Food, Fun & Fellowship for All Seasons  
*Potluck & Christmas Bazaar FREE!*
- Nov 12** Operation Christmas Child  
*Bring filled shoeboxes to church*
- Nov 28** Holiday Brass Concert
- Dec 2** Gingerbread House Workshop
- Dec 10** Food, Fun & Fellowship for All Seasons  
*Chili & Nativity Chalk Talk FREE!*
- Jan 26-28** Youth Group ROCK in Ocean City, MD
- Feb 23-25** Women's Retreat in Middletown, MD







TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
501 Hampton Lane : Towson, Maryland 21286

**410.823.6511 : [www.towsonumc.org](http://www.towsonumc.org)**

Business Hours: Mon-Thurs 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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LUTHERVILLE, MD

RESIDENT or



### SUNDAY MORNINGS AT TUMC

- 8:15 AM**      **Traditional Service in the Chapel**  
Communion every Sunday with piano  
or organ accompaniment.
- 8:45-10 AM**      **Coffee Hour in the Parlor**
- 9-10 AM**      **Educational Classes & Programs**
- 10:15 AM**      **Worship Service in the Sanctuary**  
Communion on the first Sunday of each  
month — open to all — with a richly varied  
service that blends vocal and handbell  
choirs, praise band, traditional and  
contemporary song, old-fashioned hymns,  
and glorious 3,000-pipe organ music.

*Yes! Gluten-free bread is available.*



**Hampton Lane**  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
*of Towson United Methodist Church*

Licensed childcare and pre-school  
ages 2 through pre-kindergarten



410.825.0008 [www.hamptonlanecdc.org](http://www.hamptonlanecdc.org)

**October  
2017**

**TUMC**

