

November
2017

TUMC

HIGH SPIRO

Newsletter for Members & Friends of Towson United Methodist Church



Whooo...
ME?

Yes!
YOU.

'Tis the 2017 holiday season. (Can you believe it?) Chances are good, you may be stretched in multiple directions — simultaneously and, sometimes, uncomfortably — these last two months of the year.

Don't let the holiday hoopla drag you down. Stay focused on love, fellowship, and giving rather than commercialism and craziness.

To keep yourself grounded, try posting a ThanksGIVING list at home with some personal mission ideas, such as:

Call a longtime friend. Visit a shut in. Help someone carry groceries. Offer a ride or carpool with folks. Volunteer at a local food pantry. Tutor a child. Make and give "power socks" to the homeless. Bring a friend to church. Donate toys, gifts, money or blood.

ANY missional moment is noteworthy. Need more ideas? Read on. This newsletter is stuffed with seasonal projects and requests. You can't do it all though. Choose wisely.

Pour yourself a steamy cup of cider. Breathe. Sip. Ready? Go!



30 Days of Hands-On Mission

Now that the Growing Forward Campaign is coming to a close, it is time to turn to a different type of giving—one that goes beyond the walls of the church. It is time for November's **30 Days of Hands-On Mission**.

Get involved! Even small contributions of time and energy show support to the mission field.

Let's make a VISUAL display of all our personal mission activities —from one of Towson UMC's missions or one of your own. Here's how you can share your involvement:

Write on a post-it note (found in the back of church). State an activity (or activities) that you will try to accomplish on a designated November date. No need to sign it. Stick it on the calendar. When you have completed your task, place a check mark on the note and/or write a short statement of satisfaction.

To get started, **find the Mission calendar in the back of the church.**



Youth in Action

EMERGENCY FLOOD BUCKETS

The youth would like to extend a thank you to those in the TUMC family who donated materials for the UMCOR Flood Buckets.



We were able to successfully complete 10 buckets! We will de-

liver them to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA. The flood buckets

will be of great help to the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and we

could not have done it without you!



Fall Back: Nov 5th

Remember to set clocks **BACK** one hour Saturday night! That way, Sunday worship is on time!



Thanksgiving 2017

ALL Thanksgiving Basket contributions at Towson UMC this month will be distributed at our very own Emergency Food Pantry on Saturday, November 18. You may prepare or purchase a pre-packed basket OR submit a monetary donation via checks payable to Towson UMC with an "ACTC Thanksgiving" note in the memo line. Monetary donations will be forwarded to ACTC and noted on your annual TUMC contribution statement. See *page 10* for details.

Thank YOU!

Dear Decorating Angel,

Now, we KNOW it is autumn!

Who can resist entering through the front doors of Towson UMC now that the entryway and stoop are filled with festive decorations?! They are gorgeous.

Thanks for making our church an inviting place for members, visitors and guests to gather and worship.

*Sincerely,
— Your Church Family*



HIGH SPIRE

501 Hampton Lane : Towson, MD 21286

410.823.6511

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

Rev. Margery Schammel—Assistant Pastor
410.823.2485 : mschammel@towsonumc.org

Rev. Doug Hollida— Minister of Music
410.823.6519 : musicdirector@towsonumc.org

Rachel Livingston— Director of Youth and
Young Adult Ministries
410.823.3698 : yandya@towsonumc.org

Kim Ayres— Business and Office Manager
410.823.3693 : kayres@towsonumc.org

Bob Ashby— Custodian

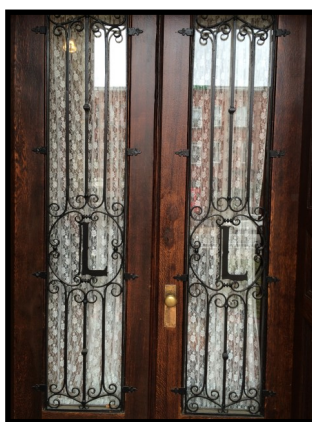
HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Erin Rigley— Center Director
410.825.0008 : 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

TUMC Confirmands Visit Lovely Lane



On October 15th, a small group of confirmands and mentors traveled to Lovely Lane Church in downtown Baltimore for worship and a tour of this historic Methodist church. A great morning for all!



PRAY WITH US

<http://towsonprays.blogspot.com>

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

Next High Spire content deadline: **November 14th** for the combined Jan/Feb 2018 issue. Send photos and copy to: kayres@towsonumc.org

Pastor Mark's Meanderings

Our theological task is to create a faith that is vulnerable enough to be compassionate and grace-filled, but also strongly grounded in the teachings and example of Jesus so we are not torn apart by the strains of life. — Mark Johnson



Dear Friends,

Recently, our grandson sent Sandi and me his senior pictures; and my

favorite shows him with his dog and his guitar. I smiled as I remembered being his age and feeling like the only ones in the world who understood me were my dog and my guitar. Maybe you remember those days, too?

Maybe it was a coincidence that the leader of our church youth group introduced me to a luthier, someone who made and repaired stringed instruments. Being in his workshop was breathtaking. I knew something of working with wood – building fences and cowsheds – but never had I seen the kind of tools used to create violins and guitars. His tools made amazingly precise cuts and created wooden pieces that were perfectly shaped to fit together. He told me that the trick to building an instrument was to cut and sand the wood thin enough to resonate, but braced well enough that the tension of the strings would not pull the instrument apart.

Just as a luthier uses special tools and techniques to create instruments which, in the hands of a skilled musician, can create beautiful music, so every Jesus follower uses a theologian's tools to learn about God, humankind and the relationship between God and humankind. A

luthier seeks to build an instrument that is thin enough to vibrate but strong enough to withstand the tension of the strings. Our theological task is to create a faith that is vulnerable enough to be compassionate and grace-filled, but also strongly grounded in the teachings and example of Jesus so we are not torn apart by the strains of life.

A luthier uses many tools to cut, shape, and fit their instrument but United Methodist theologians, like you and me, use four tools in our theological task. These are sometimes called the Wesleyan Quadrilateral and are based on Dr. Albert Outler's study of John Wesley's theological method. The four tools are: scripture, tradition, reason and experience. (You can use the acronym REST – reason, experience, scripture, and tradition – to help you remember.) Our United Methodist Discipline states: "Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. Scripture [however] is primary, revealing the Word of God 'so far as it is necessary for our salvation.'"

A luthier understands the purpose of each tool he or she uses. United Methodist theologians also understand the uses of our tools:

Scripture, the Bible, is God's printed word pointing to the living Word, Jesus Christ.

Tradition is the way the church has experienced, worshipped and understood the mystery of our Triune God. Foremost in our tradition is the discernment and experience of the Mothers and Fathers of the Church since ancient times. For United Methodists, helpful references include our hymnal, Book of Worship, and Book of Discipline.

Experience is the way we individually, and as a church, experience the Holy in our midst.

Reason is applying the understandings of logic, science, social science and, sometimes, plain old common sense to our theological ponderings.

Our Book of Discipline states that each point of the Quadrilateral is a "source and criteria" for our theological task. That means we can start our theologizing with either scripture, reason, experience or tradition and in the course of our study we include the learnings derived from the other three tools.

The next question is: *Where do we do the work of a theologian?* Where is a theologians workshop? We'll consider that next month. See you in worship! Blessings,

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.

Beginning 10/29/17

SIX-WEEK CLASS SESSION #2

On Answering the Call

Didn't get a chance to participate in this class the first six weeks? Here's another chance.... As Verna is offering her inspiring class for another six weeks! Session #2 begins October 29th and continues for six Sundays, from 9-10:00 AM each week. Meet in the Hoffman Room. Contact Verna Lewis at 410-821.0531 or vernlew8pic@gmail.com for more information.



This month, families will receive a "prayer card" with the name of a child printed on it. The children are from our congregation and from our own Hampton Lane Child Development Center. Please place this prayer card in a location where you will see it every day and pray for that child by name. Pray for continued growth and wellbeing, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Pray that we may be models of Christ's love for this child. Pray for their families, friends, and schools.

Thank you!

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

NOTE: Third graders' Bible Class in Room 314 continues for the first two weeks in November. On Nov. 19th, children will rejoin the Sunday class in

*Note: Enrollment forms are REQUIRED for participation. Find forms online at www.towsonumc.org. Click on "Ministries" then "Towson Youth." Return completed forms to church!

TUMC Youth Scoop

Follow YOUTH GROUP on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/groups/TowsonUMCYouth

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'

- ♦ 11/4 Strawbridge Church Tour in Windsor, MD and lunch together at Baugher's Farm
- ♦ Confirmands will meet with the Sunday School class in Room 216 until January 7, 2018, when confirmation classes begin.

Questions? Contact: Rev. Margery Schammel at 410.823.2485 or Mschammel@towsonumc.org.

*NOTE: Enrollment forms are REQUIRED for participation.

YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS

November and December

11/5 Being Thankful Around the World:
International Foods, 6-7:30 PM

11/18 Serving at Bea Gaddy's Kitchen, 10AM-1PM

11/23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING

11/26 Hanging of the Greens 11:30AM-1PM

12/1 Nerf Wars, 7-9PM



January

26-28 ROCK! In Ocean City, MD

Youth in the 7th grade and older may attend this event with a \$50 deposit. Due NOW! If you want to attend, but have not signed up yet, then please contact Rachel ASAP.

December Holiday Happenings



Place candy here!

Build Your Own Edible Work of ART!

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 to 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.



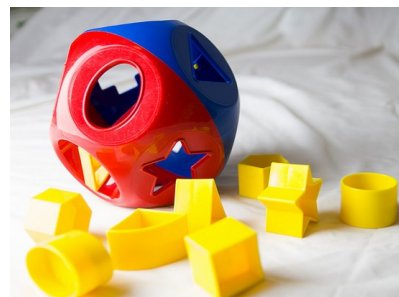
Annual TOY DRIVE to Benefit Baltimore's Children

The Mission Committee's annual toy drive will be held on December 3 and December 10. On those two Sundays, toys will be collected in the foyer for the children of the Homestead United Methodist Church on Gorsuch Avenue in Baltimore city. These toys should be NEW and wrapped in Christmas paper. On the outside of the wrapping, please indicate whether the toy is for a boy or girl and the approximate age of the intended recipient.

The Outreach group at Homestead Church has a Christmas party for their community every year, at which time the toys are distributed. If there are extra gifts, the committee takes them to homeless shelters so that those children will have a toy on Christmas morning too.

Our church members have been very generous in their support of the Toy Drive in the past. Many of our children have brought a gift for a less fortunate boy or girl. If you want to bring an unwrapped toy, I will be glad to wrap it for you. Please contribute a toy to this most appreciative church community before December 12.

Please feel free to contact Pat Totzauer at 410 938-8699 with any questions.



A New Day of Blessings Stewardship Campaign 2017-18

This is a new day of blessings for TUMC!

As the Stewardship Campaign for next year continues with the theme "A New Day of Blessings" based on the passage from Book of Lamentations, Chapter 3, verse 23, the congregation has a great opportunity to show its appreciation of God's daily blessings through contributions of services and resources to your church.



Sunday, October 29th was Commitment Sunday. We are asking each member to prayerfully consider how you can support each "new day" of your church and its future programs as God's blessings and mercies are renewed daily for each of us. If you have returned your commitment card, we thank you. If you have not had the chance to respond, we ask that you consider how you might invest your service and resources in your church's future, and mail the completed card to the church business office.

You're Invited!

Our All Church Conference will be **Sunday, November 19 at 3:30 PM**. Plan to join us as we celebrate our ministry this year and look forward to our future. Among other things, we will approve our leadership for 2018 and the compensation packages for our clergy. All active Professing Members (full members) have voice and vote.

30

Days of Hands-On Mission

In honor of the culmination of our three year "Growing Forward" Endowment Campaign, Towson UMC declares November 2017 as "30 Days of Hands-On Mission". Celebrate with us!!!

Growing Forward B.R.I.D.G.E.



We are pleased to announce — you have contributed \$1,160,054 through September 30, 2017 — to the Growing Forward capital journey. Please continue to fulfill your pledges.

Let's close out the effort with a strong finish!! Please contact Kim Ayres in the Business Office if you need to check on your pledged balance.

— — *Blessings*, The Bridge Team

Simplified TUMC Financial Statement

The leadership of Towson UMC believes in being open, honest and transparent about church decisions and resources. (We all appreciate that some things, like personnel decisions, have to remain confidential.) With that in mind, here is a simplified profit/loss statement for the period January 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017.

These figures assume the same amount of income is received and expenses paid each month. Common sense tells us that is not the case and we know that folks share a significant amount in the months leading up to Christmas. Even with those thoughts in mind, we can see how it is important for each of us to remain mindful and generous in our giving to the ministries of Towson UMC. If you have been especially blessed this year, what better way to thank God than to share extra with the ministries of your church.

		Budget 1/1 – 9/30 2017	Actual 1/1 – 9/30 2017
Income			
	Tithes & Offerings	\$550,875	\$475,863
	Facilities	\$61,350	\$58,584
	Endowment	\$21,818	\$21,818
	Total Income	\$634,043	\$556,265
Expense			
	Personnel	\$374,826	\$344,139
	Administration	\$27,862	\$38,408
	Ministry	\$18,533	\$14,178
	Facilities	\$113,663	\$117,140
	Mission/Outreach	\$105,023	\$104,387o
	Total Expense	\$639,907	\$618,252
Total Income Over/Under Expense		(\$5,864)	(\$61,987)



Music Notes



Join TUMC's Chancel Choir at the International Women's Brass Conference. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to see our very own TUMC choir perform in the community. Support your church friends and a great cause. Buy tickets today!

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.

HOLIDAY BRASS CONCERT

Tuesday, November 28th at 7:30 PM

Cathedral of Mary Our Queen

5200 N Charles Street : Baltimore, MD 21210

Check out the International Women's Brass

Business Office Tips

Here is some helpful information from your Business Office! Do you know there are several different ways to send us your contributions? All contributions must be submitted to the Business Office by **December 29th** to receive credit on your 2017 contribution statement.

Here are the different ways to send in your contributions:

- **Cash or Check** placed in the offering plate during worship. Please consider using an envelope including your name when donating cash.
- **Drop off Donation** in door slot of the main office attention Business Office.
- **Mail check donations** by the US Postal service to Towson UMC attention Business Office
- **Online Banking** you set up online checking with your bank. You control the frequency and amount sent. The bank sends a check to Towson UMC. Set up Towson UMC as a "vendor" and include your envelope number if you have one —and name as "account number."
- **Online-Giving (Credit Cards and Electronic Funds Transfers)** Giving online with credit cards and with electronic fund transfers are easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions. Contributions can now be deducted automatically from your checking or savings account at any time or processed using your credit or debit card. Our electronic giving program offers convenient ways for you to give from any device (computer or phone) anywhere you have access to the Internet.

Simply follow these easy steps for online giving:

- Visit our website at www.towsonumc.org.
- Choose 'Click Here to Donate Online' button
- Click on the Create Profile button, then
- Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and schedule your recurring contributions
- You can also use the church's QRT code.

- **Stock Transfer** Stocks and mutual funds transferred to Towson UMC broker. Details may be obtained from the business office. Please notify the business office of any stock transfers to accounts below.

For Annual Church Operating Budget Only:

Merrill Lynch

901 Dulaney Valley Road, Ste 516

Towson, MD 21204

Telephone: 410-321-4323

Fax: 410-970-4295

DTC #5198

Account # **813-04325** Towson UMC



For Growing Forward Capital Campaign Only:

Merrill Lynch

901 Dulaney Valley Road, Ste 516

Towson, MD 21204

Telephone: 410-321-4323

Fax: 410-970-4295

DTC #5198

Account # **813-04316** Towson UMC

Include the following information with the transmittal from your broker/bank to Merrill Lynch:

Donor Name: _____

Designated to: Towson United Methodist Church

Purpose of Gift: ex. Annual Pledge, Capital Campaign

Everyone is called to be faithful servants. We pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a critical part of how we can make a difference in our church, our community and our world.



As always, please contact Kim Ayres in the Business Office with any questions or concerns: 410.823.3689 or kayres@towsonumc.org.

We're Ready for Your Close Up!

The congregation is invited to pose for photos for our new TUMC Pictorial Directory from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM and following the 10:15 AM service each Sunday for the next few weeks. Just show up. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

Those who cannot attend these times may submit a selfie via email to Kim Ayres at kayers@towsonumc.org.

YES! 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 complete the form at home and bring it to church on Sunday. If you submit a digital photo instead, then you must still complete a consent form and drop it in office mail or the offering plate during worship.

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



PATHWAYS Tutoring Program Turns 12

On October 2, 2017 PATHWAYS Tutoring program began its 12th year as an Outreach of Towson United Methodist Church. We thank the many church members who again gave so generously during Moment on Mission in September. Without such support, the program would not be nearly as strong as it is today.

We have both new and returning tutors, and students from four schools in Baltimore City and County. As of now, 23 students are served. We are very pleased with the start of the school year and anticipate continued successes.

Looking ahead to next year, we know additional personnel support will be needed. If you feel that you would like to be involved in PATHWAYS, please contact Sharon Penhallegon at 410-456-7333.

Women's Retreat February 23-25, 2018



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.

The 2018 Retreat will be held at Skycroft Conference Center in Middletown, MD. We will meet for dinner on Friday, Feb. 23rd, spend the weekend having an awesome time, and leave for home after lunch on Sunday, Feb. 25th. Registration forms are available now. The cost of this year's Retreat is \$215.00 per person. Please make your check out to Towson UMC with *Women's Retreat Scholarship* in the memo line. Venue info at www.skycroft.org.

November Mission/Communion Offering

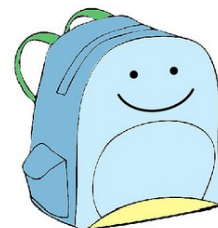
*November Mission/Communion Offering
Sunday, Nov 5 and all month!*

FOOD for THOUGHT Weekend Snack Backpacks for Children at Ridgely Middle School

Our next Communion/Mission Offering is Sunday, November 5th —and throughout the month of November — benefiting Food for Thought, a project through ACTC (Assistance Center of Towson Churches) whose goal is to address student food insecurity in Baltimore County Public Schools. For this program, local churches fill backpacks with nutritious food and send

them home with needy children each weekend. This year TUMC is helping provide nutritious meals and snacks for nine underprivileged children from Ridgely Middle School. The cost to fill each bag is approximately \$10.

Please consider making a monetary donation or donation of food to help support this worthy project. Make your checks payable to Towson UMC and note that it is for "Food for Thought." Send to church by mail or place your check in the offering plate during Sunday worship. Thanks!





FAMILY FUN & FELLOWSHIP for All Seasons

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

POTLUCK LUNCH & HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Sunday, November 12 after 10:15AM service

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 12th**. our second annual combined flea market and bazaar. **Clean** out the closets and attic for those no longer wanted items and/or **create** beautiful things using your remarkable talents!

All donated "fleas" are so appreciated and can be placed in the office by Monday, Nov. 6th.

To reserve a table for your bazaar items, contact Ginny Foster at virginiafoster@comcast.net or 410-296-4780 by November 8. Last year's event was wonderful; let's raise the roof with this one...or at least replace it!!

Bring a favorite dish (salad, soup, entrée, veggie, dessert, etc.) to share with at least four people. Have a relaxing lunch with your church friends while shopping the flea market/bazaar!



Morning Fellowship with Pastor Mark & Friends



Thank you to everyone who has come out to meet and chat with Pastor Mark over the past several months. Some of you have met with Pastor Mark (and sometimes his wife, Pastor Sandi) after worship and some have come to the "Coffee and Conversation" times held at a variety of places. These informal conversations have been well attended and Pastor Mark would like to continue these fellowship times. No need to RSVP. Everyone is welcome. Or, you may call/email him to schedule a time to meet at church.

★ **Meet on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:00 AM**
at Bob Evans Restaurant 1265 E. Joppa Road

Be glad of life because it gives you the
chance to love and to work and to play
and to look up at the stars.

— Henry Van Dyke



Please Remember Towson UMC in Your Will

When you leave a bequest to Towson UMC in your will or estate plan you help to root your hopes and dreams in the bedrock of Christ's Gospel. You also make a good steward's return to God of God's blessings in your life and leave an eternal message of what is important to you. It is easy to include your church in your estate planning by having your advisor include this language in your will or beneficiary designation: "I give, devise and bequeath _____ (insert dollar amount or percent amount) of my estate to Towson United Methodist Church, 501 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286". Questions? Call Pastor Mark and he can connect you with the Planned Giving Committee.

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 are **\$24** at each location.

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 and Send



Operation Christmas Child is underway. Let's spread joy to children all over the world by filling more than 191 boxes this year!

November 12 is the last official delivery date! Any questions, contact John & Nancy Ross at 410.561.8496.

Visit 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. :]

ANGEL TREE

Look for the Angel Tree in the church lobby starting Sunday, November 19. All names on the tree are given to us by a school social worker.

This is an opportunity to provide food and gifts to families in need. Each angel on the tree has a name, gender, age and gift request.

Please return the wrapped gifts by Sunday, December 10. If you are unable to buy a gift, monetary donations will be used for gift certificates and food.

Gifts will be organized by family on Friday, Dec. 15 and delivered on Saturday, Dec. 16.

If you would like to volunteer to help with these tasks, please contact Margie Bandy at 443-417-5878 or marjorie.bandy17@gmail.com.



Food Pantry OPEN : Saturday, **November 18th** from 9:00-10:30 AM



We are always collecting much-needed items to keep our food pantry shelves full. When you bring your donations to church on Sundays, or during office hours, please leave them in the Sharing Bins for future Food Pantry guests.

***** This month, we will ONLY distribute the congregation's generous Thanksgiving Baskets to Food Pantry attendees. ***** Want to help? Contact Dwight Kines at 410-828-0792.

ADVENT 2017



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Our contractors have advised us that the installation for our new sanctuary windows should begin the Monday after Thanksgiving. What that means, of course, is that our sanctuary will look somewhat like a construction site during the Advent season. Isn't it just great? The time we want our church to look its very best, and we will be under construction.

On the other hand – the Advent season (the four Sundays leading up to Christmas) is all about construction and renovation. Perhaps seeing construction in our sanctuary this Advent season will remind us of the renovation work God is doing in each of us and throughout Creation.

The Towson UMC staff is preparing an Advent program called "Advent: Under Construction" that will tie our weekly worship themes to Sunday School lesson plans for those classes who wish to use the material.

Over the four weeks of the Advent Season we will explore how God "re-built" Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary and invite you to consider how God is working in you.

Hanging of the Greens



JOIN US! Celebrate Advent by decorating the Church.

Sunday, November 26 after the 10:15 worship service

While the adults decorate the church for Advent, there will be crafts and activities for the children.

You and your family are invited to join us as we begin the season of Advent with a time of fellowship and fun.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- ALL Nov** Communion Offering: **BACKPACKS**
- ALL Nov** **30 Days of Hands-On Missions**
- ALL Tues** **Meet the Pastor @ Bob Evans, 9:30AM**
- ALL Sun** **Photos for Pictorial Directory**
- Nov 1** **ACTC Thanksgiving Basket Drive Begins**
Bring meals and donations to church
- Nov 4** **Confirmant Trip: Strawbridge Church**
- Nov 5** **Operation Christmas Child**
Bring filled shoeboxes to church
- Nov 5** **Youth Group: Thankful Around the World, International Foods**
- Nov 12** **Food, Fun & Fellowship for All Seasons**
Potluck & Christmas Bazaar FREE!
- Nov 12** **Operation Christmas Child**
Bring filled shoeboxes to church
- Nov 14** **High Spire Deadline for Jan/Feb issue**
- Nov 18** **Emergency Food Pantry OPEN**
- Nov 18** **Youth Group: Serving at Bea Gaddy's**
- Nov 19** **ALL Church Conference, 3:30PM**
- Nov 19** **Angel Tree Project Begins**
Select an ornament from the tree
- Nov 23** **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
- Nov 26** **Hanging of the Greens**
- Nov 28** **Holiday Brass Concert**
- Dec 1** **Youth Group: Nerf Wars**
- Dec 2** **Gingerbread House Workshop**
- Dec 3** **Holiday Toy Drive**
Bring a new toy to church
- Dec 10** **Food, Fun & Fellowship for All Seasons**
Chili & Nativity Chalk Talk FREE!
- Dec 10** **Angel Tree Project Ends**
Bring gift donations to church
- Dec 10** **Holiday Toy Drive**
Bring a new toy to church
- 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

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

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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.

**Give
Thanks
with a
Grateful
Heart.**
— Henry Smith



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



**November
2017**

TUMC