

together we can
Change Lives



TOWSON
United Methodist
CHURCH

2018
Impact Report

Message from Pastor Mark

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your participation in Christ's ministries at Towson United Methodist Church during 2018. Our vibrant congregation welcomed 20 new members + 5 confirmands; and worship attendance increased 15%. Our best estimate is that 200 Towson UMC family members are actively involved in ministry. And, hundreds more are served by our church's mission projects.

Your prayers, presence, service, witness and giving have empowered incredible ministries that — by the power of the Holy Spirit— change lives. Our vital work reaches many different people, not only in our congregation, but also in our community and around the world.

In many ways, Towson UMC — like so many other churches — faces an uphill battle in 2019.

- Perhaps folks are not as inclined to hear the message of the Gospel? But, the good news of Jesus Christ has often been at odds with culture. Paul wrote "For the mes-

sage about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1: 18)



- Perhaps people are tempted to focus on things, ideas and activities that compete with what Jesus identified as our eternal priorities — loving God and neighbor? This dilemma has always existed. (*Matthew 22: 36-40*)

We must remain steadfast in our faith. Like the caterpillar who retreats into a deep transformative chrysalis, we must wait until the future reveals itself. Remember that we serve a God of resurrection, who is constantly making all things new.

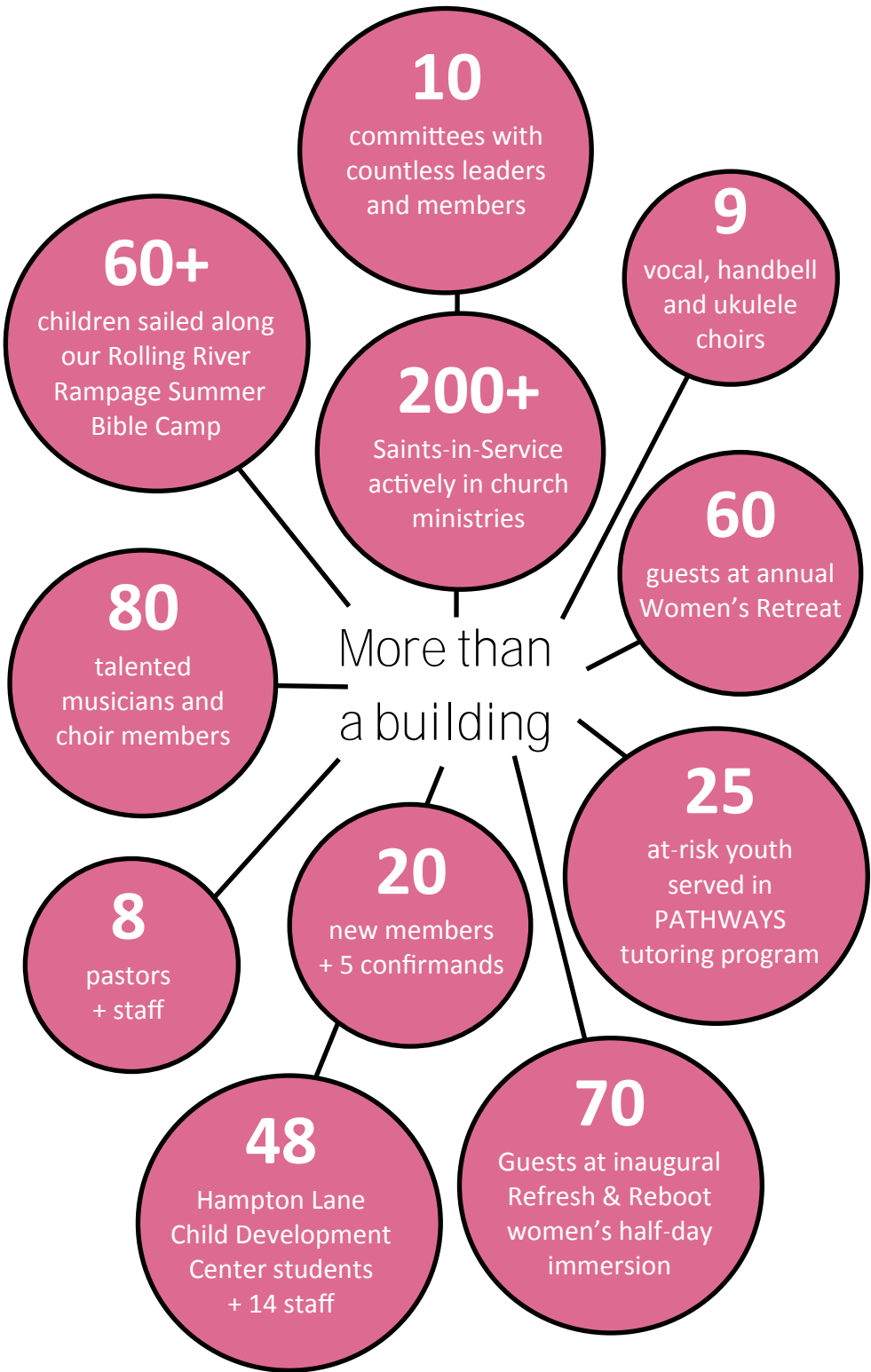
Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Johnson".

Readiness 360 — Survey



We are spiritually resilient, God-seeking, passionate, connectional, honest, messy, inter-generational, rich in difference, and a target (or destination) church.



Introduction

Towson United Methodist Church is a nonprofit, faith-based community of Christ-followers growing in love of God and neighbor. We believe every person is of sacred worth; and 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. And, are dedicated to helping those in need, both locally and globally.


Through engaging worship, diverse music, and rich learning opportunities, we nurture faith formation and self-expression that shape our hearts and minds as we grow into mature disciples of Christ. Our faith journeys are shared and celebrated through various church connections, such as baptism, confirmation, music, Bible study, retreats, seasonal studies, prayer vines, Sunday School and much more.

Through our hands-on ministries and programs, we help countless people achieve their potential each year. Our missions and ministries support and empower some of our community's most vulnerable members, including low-income and homeless families, at-risk youth, disaster victims, and those recovering from addictions—both in America and abroad.

As God loves us, so let us love and serve in the name of Christ.

Top 5 2018 Church Council Vision Points

- **Unify congregation with common goals**
- **Increase attendance and member engagement**
- **Connect with the local community**
- **Match people with missions and ministries**
- **Stay mission-minded in committee work**




Dozens of church members and friends chartered a bus and traveled to Washington, D.C. to “Unite in Love” in peaceful demonstration of kindness during the Unite the Right rally in August. Local Baltimore TV station WBFF covered the story from the church parking lot to share our advocacy adventure and message of Jesus’ love with all.

In February, a neighborhood family stopped by church to share the “give away” portion of their youngsters’ allowance. Two girls, ages 7 and 9 years old, bought and delivered chunky soups and other hearty foods to help fill the bellies of someone in need at our Food Pantry.


Stories of compassion and hope

Across the globe, Baltimore missionaries Nathan and Anna Glenn are sponsored by Towson UMC. They reflected on their work in Liberia to help local farmers and entrepreneurs learn about sustainable agricultural practices and economic small business management: “[We] have been blessed to be here working with...Hope in the Harvest...toward eradication of poverty...[We] have repeated opportunities to share the Word of God and experience and pursue Christ together.”



The weekly Men’s Prayer Breakfast at a local diner is an early-morning wake up call with God. As one member related, “This is a deep dive into the Sunday Gospel message and another way to connect with parishioners ... everyone is welcome for prayer and fellowship.”

The inaugural Refresh & Reboot event in November explored the topic “Living Joyfully in Stressful Times” and brought together women of all ages to relax, learn, and connect. From the superb keynote speaker to the delicious food and loving atmosphere, attendees raved: “This was just what I needed” on life’s journey.



In the summer, an inter-generational group of enthusiastic members joined together to learn and play the ukulele. The new Ukulele Choir became a strumming sensation at Sunday worship and other events. One musician remarked, “I’m so grateful for this choir. As a new member, this smaller group helps me feel more comfortable at church.”

Impact of your generosity



I picked up a blue prayer shawl today and found a good owner for it. At a local farm, I met a lady who survived two kinds of cancer and I felt that I should give it to her. She was so happy and I made her day. Making her so happy made me feel warm despite the cold weather. I wanted to say “thanks” to the Prayer Shawl group—and to whoever made the shawl. I will grab another to give away again. I know someone else who might like it. Thank you! — Sami

Hope you are enjoying Christmas! Thanks so much for your love. I lack strong enough words to say 'Thank You.' The kids are so excited and happy. You have made our Christmas more meaningful and complete. — Stephen

ROCK is a weekend that I look forward to every year, knowing that I get to escape the stresses that come from high school and life, and, instead dig deeper into my faith with some of my closest friends. — Emily

I live on Hampton Garth and drive past your church daily. I noticed the prayer labyrinth sign a few weeks ago; I love walking meditation and have walked labyrinths before. I've visited yours a number of times and wanted to thank you for installing it. It is lovely and I wanted to express my appreciation for the opportunity to walk and pray and contemplate....Peace, Michele

Thank you from the Child of Board Care Auxiliary for your kindness and continued support. — Katherine

I have been on the planning part of the Women's Retreat for 14 years; it's amazing to watch God's hand in the design process. I just love the entire experience! It's a special time to get together with friends, meet new friends, and enjoy fellowship and learning. Life is busy, and, to have that weekend together is exceptional. — Jeannine

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia you sent me for Christmas. Since I am no longer able to attend church, it brought back memories of more than a half a century of glorious Christmas altars enhanced with red poinsettias. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. I wish you blessings and joy in the New Year. — Shirley

New and Refreshed Initiatives



- Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Faith Foundation Classes
- Women's Refresh & Reboot Retreat
- Young Adult Ministry
- Ukulele Choir
- *inSPIRE* e-newsletter
- Bible Storytelling Concert
- Crab Feast
- Community Flea Market
- SmugMug Photo Gallery
- Prayer Labyrinth
- Facebook Page
- 'Tell Me a Story' Summer Worship



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Ministry In Action



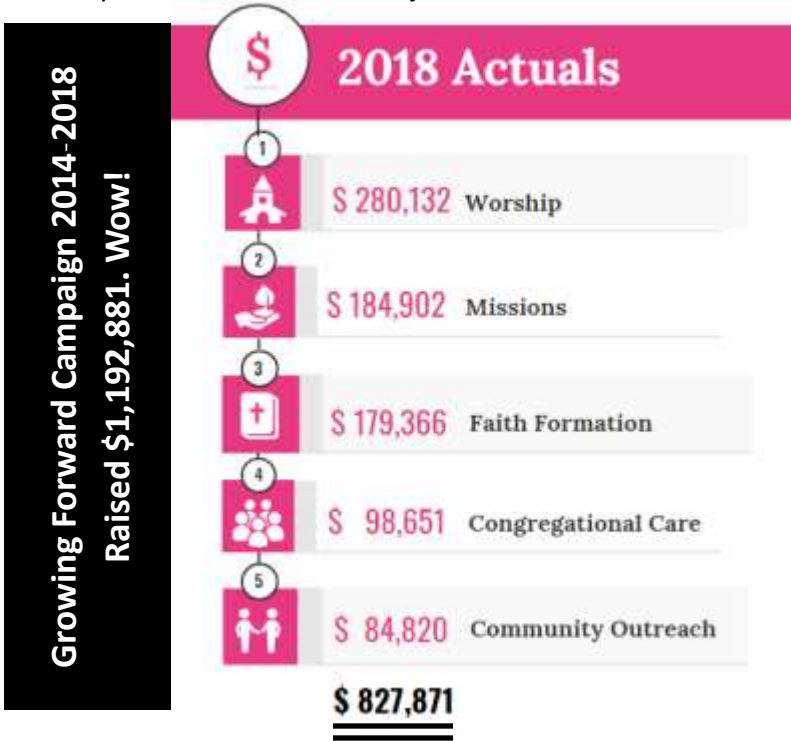


Welcome to
Hampton Lane
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Financials

Our annual Narrative Budget is a broad view of our Church’s ministry priorities each year. This budget shows how funds are allocated. Through Towson UMC, Christ’s ministry and love are vibrant and reach many different people — not only in our congregation, but also in our community and across the world. Rejoice!



May the Lord reward you for your kindness. —[Ruth 1:8](#)

- ## 3 Three Most Popular Giving Methods
- Drop money in collection plate
 - Set up bill pay/online withdrawal
 - Click on website “Giving” link

Our 2018 Ministry Team

MINISTERS & STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mark Johnson— *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Margery Schammel—*Assistant Pastor*

Rev. Doug Hollida— *Minister of Music*

Rachel Livingston— *Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries*

Kim Ayres— *Business and Office Manager*

Erin Rigley— *Director of Hampton Lane Child Development Center*

Maryanne Arthur*—*Director of Marketing and Communications*

Bob Ashby*— *Custodian*

**part-time team member*

LAY MINISTRY TEAM

Alicia Corson — *Church Council Chair*

Carol Caplan — *Church Council Secretary*

Steve Schnur — *Chair of Finance*

Dale Springer — *Chair of Stewardship*

Mike McWilliams — *President of Board of Trustees*

John Engel — *Chair of Property and Maintenance*

Miguel Roberts — *Chair of Staff-Parish Relations*

Kathy King — *Chair of Child Development Center*

Carolyn Schnur — *Chair of Education Work Area*

Gene Bandy — *Chair of Mission Work Area*

Charlie Woodbury — *Chair of Planned Giving*

Susan Brown — *Chair of Worship*

Susan Naeny — *Chair of Hospitality*

Susan Killian — *Chair of PATHWAYS*

Kevin Gralley — *Christian Connections Coordinator*

Jo Miller — *Pray and Play Coordinator*

Lissa O'Donnell — *Cribbery Coordinator*

Bob Kimmons and Stephanie Kimmons — *Lay Leaders*

Kevin Gralley and Fred Cowan — *Lay Members to Annual Conference*

Karen Morris — *Youth Ministry Team Leader*

Sue LaHatte — *Annual Women's Retreat Team Leader*

Liz Neal — *Annual Women's Refresh & Reboot Team Leader*

Margot Gerding — *Usher Team Leader*

TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

501 Hampton Lane : Towson, MD 21286 : **410.823.6511**

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

www.towsonumc.org : **www.facebook.com/towsonumc**

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