

LORD, what do You want to do through me to accomplish Your will in our church?

# April High Spire

**Towson United Methodist Church**  
◆ **Monthly Newsletters** ◆ **April 2015** ◆  
**Volume 56, Issue 4**

## **APRIL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- Mar 28**    **Emergency Food Pantry**  
**Annual Easter Egg Hunt**
- Mar 29**    **PALM / PASSION SUNDAY**  
**Morning Services, p. 3 & 4**  
              **8:15 in the Chapel**  
              **10:15 in the Sanctuary**  
**Classes at 9:00**
- Apr 2**      **Holy Thursday, p. 3**  
**Communion as a Community**  
              **12 noon & 7:00p**
- Apr 3**      **Good Friday, p. 3**  
**Tenebrae Service of Shadows**  
              **12 noon & 7:00p**
- Apr 5**      **EASTER SUNDAY, p. 3, 4, 6 & 7**  
**Morning Services**  
              **8:15 in the Chapel**  
              **10:15 in the Sanctuary**
- Apr 12**     **Morning Services, p. 3**  
              **8:15 in the Chapel**  
              **10:15 in the Sanctuary**  
**Classes at 9:00**
- Apr 18**     **Spaghetti Dinner for MS, p. 8**
- Apr 19**     **Morning Services, p. 3**  
              **8:15 in the Chapel**  
              **10:15 in the Sanctuary**  
**Classes at 9:00**  
  
**11:30 Special Event, p. 9**  
**followed by Earth Day clean-up**
- Apr 24-25-26** **Women's Retreat at, p. 6**  
**Pearlstone Retreat Center**
- Apr 25**     **Emergency Food Pantry**
- Apr 26**     **Morning Services, p. 3**  
              **8:15 in the Chapel**  
              **10:15 in the Sanctuary**  
**Classes at 9:00**





### THE "JOYS" OF WINTER

Snow and slush and skies of grey,  
Biting breezes, sharp to play,  
Freezing drizzle, ice and sleet,  
Slippery glaze that coats the street.

Stubborn icy spots so thick,  
Nasty ice patches, smooth and slick.  
Slippery slush spread out so wide  
Causing cars to slip and slide.

Skidding cars with spinning tires,  
Sputtering engines, freezing wires,  
Cars that sputter, cars that stall,  
Cars that will not start at all!

Dismal days so raw and chill,  
Nature's silence, deep and still,  
Fingers red and numb with cold,  
Winter landscapes stark and bold.

Trees with branches stripped and bare,  
Snowfall's cold and whitened glare,  
Heavy boots that stamp indoors  
Leaving puddles on kitchen floors,

Gloves and mittens wet with snow,  
Frosty winds that rage and blow,  
With these the joys that winter brings--  
No wonder that we long for spring!

from GOD OUR CREATOR,  
copyright 2013 by Joyce Keedy.  
Written February 7, 1986

Oh, I had fun with this one! Hopefully as we read  
these words, we will be enjoying spring weather.  
Even though this was written nearly 30 years ago,  
somehow it seems to fit perfectly with this past  
winter!

*Train up a child in the way he should go,  
and when he is old, he will not turn from it."*  
Proverbs 22:6

### *Thoughts from a Mother's Heart*

I pray for your communion with God,  
so that you may experience communion with people...  
as an assurance of the faith that is in you.  
God has unconditionally accepted our personages,  
I pray in His communion, we may accept... others  
as they are, for only He can change them.

I pray that you receive your Heavenly Father  
as the authority in your life...  
as a natural progression from parental authority.  
Just as a good parent sets parameters for your safety,  
so may the Ten Commandments be a hedge around you,  
laced with love to clear the pathway in the call of the world.

Just as Jesus felt the loneliness in His prayer,  
wishing His disciples would stay awake with Him...  
I too lay awake missing the loss of your presence.  
I long to walk with you in your joys and sorrows,  
and wrap you in a warm, warm coat  
of love, and compassionate understanding.

When you are sad, I long to use the tears of my sorrows  
to understand your sadness and wash away your tears,  
so that in human love, you may get a glimpse of God's love...  
And when you are joyful, to share in your joy,  
making a joyful noise in songs of praise and thanksgiving,  
for the goodness He has bestowed on us.

I pray that your Pilgrimage flight will be of the finest eagles,  
but not so far removed from His dusty sandals,  
humbly washing His feet from your fountain of tears...  
as you wash others; an adventure of life unlike the world offers.  
In your flight, may you know you can trust  
His Wind under your wings.

As you experience God's grace and forgiveness,  
may we too show mercy for our imperfect natures.

Then no more stones shall be cast...  
The old shall pass away, and become new,  
and neither of us shall walk alone in His love.  
And the fruits of His Spirit shall shine forth.

By Gini Chapman Pielke © 1999.

Both of these writers are members of Towson United Methodist Church  
and have granted permission to print their poetry in this issue of the *High Spire*.  
If you would like to share your poetry, please send it to [communications@towsonumc.org](mailto:communications@towsonumc.org).

## HOLY WEEK & BEYOND

A whole person discerns one's engagement with the world — practices love of self, God, and others

### **Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29**

A whole person lives in developing relationship with people of other cultures and God's creation —

Acts 10: 13-18, 24-28, 34-36; Matthew 5: 38-48

8:15 Communion Service in the Chapel &

10:15 *Worshipping God Together* in the Sanctuary  
"Culture Clash"

### **Holy Thursday, April 2**

12 noon & 7:00 pm

Jeannine Neuen & Margery Schammel are creating a space in Fellowship Hall to re-enact the early church's feeling of community with communion. Join us!

### **Good Friday, April 3**

12 noon in the Chapel & 7:00 pm Sanctuary

Tenebrae Service, a service of lights & shadows.

### **EASTER Sunday, April 5**

A whole person lives a resurrected life — 1 Cor. 15: 1-22

8:15 Communion Service in the Chapel &

10:15 *Worshipping God Together* in the Sanctuary  
"Living Into Wholeness"

No Sunday School nor adult Christian Connections at 9:00 Easter morning. There will be an Easter style light refreshments and coffee at 9:00 for those staying after the 8:15, or coming early to get a parking space for the 10:15 service, or coming to enjoy the fellowship! See page 6 of this newsletter to find out how you can help make Easter morning a celebration.

### **Sunday, April 12 — "The Message"**

8:15 Communion Service in the Chapel &

10:15 *Worshipping God Together* in the Sanctuary  
Galatians 1: 1-9

### **Sunday, April 19 — "Law and Grace"**

8:15 Communion Service in the Chapel &

10:15 *Worshipping God Together* in the Sanctuary  
Galatians 2: 15—3: 4

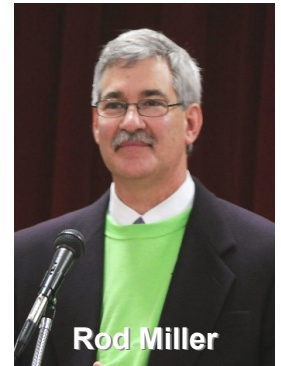
### **Sunday, April 26 — "Promise"**

8:15 Communion Service in the Chapel &

10:15 *Worshipping God Together* in the Sanctuary  
Galatians 3: 5—3: 18

## Pastor's Letter

At long last, some brave crocuses are pushing through the cold earth and the first signs of spring are here. Hallelujah! It is as if the message is — ready or not — we are coming! It is good to know that as long a winter as we have had, as cold and icy/snowy that it has been, spring will not be denied. We have reason to look forward with hope.



Rod Miller

Since I first began attending the extra Holy Week services as a child, I have always found Holy Week and Easter to be moving and powerful. I loved the drama of these special days. But I must confess that it was much later that I came to understand just how important the cross and resurrection are. Somehow in all of the Sunday school lessons and worship services, I missed the importance and impact of death and resurrection in my life. I didn't realize that when Jesus died on the cross and rose again on Easter, he opened up the potential for all of us to die and rise to the life God makes possible for us. He gave us the way to follow — the way of the cross — and so come to live lives of joy, purpose and freedom. And the yearly dying and rising of winter to spring simply give creation's exclamation point to the power of this season.

So I encourage you to come to church this Holy Week and to prepare for these days by praying about how dying and rising are showing up in you. And how the powerful experience of these Holy Days can impact you where you are in your life today.

Finally, I want to draw special attention to our Easter services this year. Our services will be at 8:15 am (with communion) and 10:15 am in the main sanctuary. The opportunity to have the majority of the church together at 10:15 for Easter worship is exciting. I hope you are excited and plan to come and celebrate. We will have refreshments in the parlor before worship — so come a little early and meet and greet one another before we celebrate Jesus' resurrection together.

Happy Easter everyone!

Rod



**Rev. Doug Hollida**  
**Minister of Music**

# Music Notes

*Hi Folks!*

*So much to share with you in this exciting time of Spring!*

*I'll just go in chronological order:*

## **Carol Choir Spring Musical**

If you missed this, you missed a great time! The children got applause all the way through. At the end, the applause went on forever, along with a standing ovation. Our congregation is SO blessed to have such talent along with dedicated parents who bring their children to church. And it couldn't have happened without all the contributions of our staff and many, volunteers. There were well over 30 teens and adults preparing and helping out behind the scenes, not to mention all the Youth Group parents who brought goodies to share. Way to go, everyone!

## **Palm Sunday**

On Palm Sunday, we will have a great handbell prelude plus two magnificent choral anthems: one, combining bells, tympani, and our Chancel and Carol Choirs, and another, an a cappella classic combining three of our choirs: the Joyful Noise, the Alleluia Singers, and the Chancel Choir. We will also hear a special Palm Sunday anthem from our youngest group, the Joy Singers. That's six choirs in just one service!

## **Easter**

Our Easter worship experience will begin with a trumpet prelude and also feature our youth choir—the Alleluia Singers, and our adult choir—the Chancel Choir. And surely we will raise the roof with congregational singing with everyone together in one, combined service. Also, the postlude is one of my very favorite pieces, “Festival Toccata” by Percy Fletcher. It clocks in at around 8 minutes, but why spend that time standing in line to exit? Have a seat and enjoy this glorious piece which sounds fantastic on our wonderful pipe organ. And, for our Easter choral benediction...

## **All are invited to sing the Hallelujah Chorus**

As we did last Easter, we are inviting anyone who wants to come up and sing the Hallelujah Chorus with us to do so. How wonderful it was to see the huge choir up front, including generations of families standing together and praising God with the anthem of all anthems. We will have plenty of extra copies of music. You can even come to a choir rehearsal if you like—contact me about when it would be best for you to come.

## **Try Choir Out for Spring**

We can always use more people in all our choirs. For vocal choirs, just show up. For handbell choirs, contact me beforehand. We particularly want to grow our adult choir this Spring. Yes, they sound great, but it takes a lot of preparation. The point is, don't be intimidated. You don't even have to read music—and many of our members don't. After Easter, we'll have our “Spring Choir.” We will sing until around the middle of June. We will probably stop our rehearsals (Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00) by the end of May. So it's only about a 2 month commitment. And we have a wonderful variety of anthems planned—something for everyone. There is something special about singing a dynamic anthem in worship that no other experience can quite duplicate. Find out for yourself—give us a try!

## **Our New Combined Service**

I've heard so many good comments on our recent services, and not just “good” really, but “emphatic.” We have so much talent here and it's wonderful to see it all come together in one service with everyone there to lift our voices in praise. We will have different music styles coming and going each week. If there's not something that sends you to the moon one Sunday, there will be the following week. The important thing is all coming together as one to glorify God and to experience all the gifts our church can bring to worship. I feel confident that there is not a congregation of our size anywhere in the country that has the rich tapestry of music that we've had during our new combined service. And we'll continue to have it. Discussions are ongoing about more combined choir anthems, choirs singing with the praise band, and Sundays that emphasize our talented young people.

I'm so glad that Spring is here. For one thing, the weather played havoc with our rehearsal schedule. More importantly, the new life of spring reminds us of Christ's resurrection and the new life we can have in him. It is he who empowers our worship and our everyday lives when we let him.

Praying you will let Christ fill you with his love and power this day and this season. — Doug



# PATHWAYS

Dear friends,

Your PATHWAYS tutoring program is about to enter a new phase of its life. As you may now know, Stephanie Kimmons will soon be resigning as Director and Board Chair. Stephanie has done an absolutely exceptional job as the leader of the program for the past several years. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank her for her hard work, determination, creativity, and love that she has shared with these students. Stephanie will still be involved, but her great gifts offered through her service as Director of PATHWAYS will be sincerely missed. Thank you, Stephanie!

**This brings me to the intent of this letter. We are now in the midst of recruiting for new leadership.** Stephanie has passed down a clear vision for the program with well-defined roles and responsibilities for the path forward. What is unclear is who will assume these roles. In an attempt to figure this out, the Board has created a subcommittee consisting of Stephanie Kimmons, Susan Killian, Annie Biser, Liz Neal, and myself. Given that Stephanie had taken so much work upon herself during her term, this subcommittee has determined that it would be better to advertise this as two separate program lead positions—with several duties being delegated to the board—to lessen the burden on the new leaders. The PATHWAYS board will help maintain coordination between these individuals and be responsible for fundraising, finances, church communications, evaluation data, and Safe Sanctuaries compliance. The intent is to create new roles which will not be overwhelming, but rather, will allow the new leaders to focus on their given talents and help the program continue to flourish.

This new vision involves a PATHWAYS **Administrative Director** and a **Program Director**. While it might be ideal, these individuals do not need to be TUMC members. More details on these new roles will follow (see luncheon info below), but basically the Administrative Director will oversee the logistics of the program. This person would ensure that the program has the most basic needs met (e.g. student/tutor recruitment, transportation, student snacks, etc.) in order to maintain normal operations. The second role, the Program Director, will oversee week-to-week operations. This person would ideally be the one interacting with the children, parents, and tutors each week and responsible for academic aspects, curriculum, and special events for the program. Of course, these new

leaders will bring their own suggestions for how the program should grow and the Board looks forward to helping foster these ideas.

I write today to make an appeal to the caring and friendly members of TUMC. If you have any of the skill sets briefly outlined above, please consider this opportunity. When I first considered starting this program roughly 10 years ago, I had a conversation with Rev. David Cooney about the idea. I was an engineering grad student with zero experience in program management, administration, or education. I wanted the program to be created, but my intent was for someone more qualified to lead and I would serve in the background. David told me that if I want the program to exist, then I need to lead it. He recognized I had the passion, but that I also had fear—fear of what I did not know, fear of my own limitations, and fear of the challenge. David recognized from the outset that my inadequacies really didn't matter, and that this would be a lesson in the virtues of Faith. As intimidating as this advice was to me, I had to trust that God would see it through. Today PATHWAYS has grown to a level well beyond my simple vision, not because of anything I did, but because of God's blessing and all the hard work from the scores of people who help to make things happen. From my experience, serving as the lead for PATHWAYS was a deeply rewarding and life changing experience, and I know Stephanie feels the same. Please let us know if you have an interest, or know of someone who might have potential—even if that interest is clouded by reservations about the role. I promise that God will equip you adequately and your friends at PATHWAYS will eagerly help.

Please consider volunteering, or encouraging ones you may know (even outside of TUMC), to help lead PATHWAYS and the children we serve into the next phase of their lives.

Thanks for all you have done as a congregation, and will continue to do, to support this program.

Sincerely,

Justin S. Jones, 2006-2008 PATHWAYS Director

***To find out more about this exciting opportunity, please join us for a light lunch on Sunday, April 12, from 11:30-1:00 PM. This will be an opportunity to share and discuss these ideas for leadership in more detail. Please contact Susan Killian if interested in this event: (410) 236-9785.***

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



# TOWSON YOUTH

Fun activity coming up:

## Retreat at Mr. Craig Little's new church!

Mr. Craig is a Lay Pastor, assigned by the Bishop to a 2-church charge:  
Deer Creek UMC in Forest Hill and  
Mount Tabor in Bel Air.  
Keep alert for details.

The youth will be offering their talents and skills on **May 17<sup>th</sup> at the 10:15 service**. Youth with a heart for scripture are needed to bring the Fruits of the Holy Spirit to our congregation in our own way. Please contact a youth leader to sign up!

## Sunday morning classes @ 9:00 include:

Middle School - Room 216  
Confirmation - Fellowship Hall  
High School - Room 317

**UMYF (youth group):** meets Sundays 6:00-8:00p in Fellowship Hall; begins with a supper.

If you are interested in planning and implementing an idea for the youth ministry, especially if you **ARE A YOUTH**, please contact Margery, 410-823-2485. [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org).

## HELP WANTED:

A part-time, paid position is available, caring for children ages infant-4 in the Towson UMC cribbery. This position is mainly on Sunday mornings, 8:30 – 12:30, although there is opportunity for childcare during certain activities. A cribbery caregiver provides a warm, nurturing, safe, and loving Christian environment for children attending the cribbery. The caregiver should be a caring person of good moral and Christian character, have graduated high school or received the GED equivalent, and have a background in infant or early childhood care. If hired, the caregiver will submit to TUMC's training and background checks. To submit your resume or for questions, please contact Margery Schammel at [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org) or 410-823-2485.

## EASTER MORNING — HELP NEEDED:

The Hospitality Ministry is hosting an Easter Coffee Hour on Easter, 9-10AM. We will have Easter eggs, pastries, and more. Come join us before the worship service to have light refreshments amid lovely Easter decorations! If you are able to bake for this celebration, contact Margery Schammel [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org) AND Susan Naeny [smnphoto78@gmail.com](mailto:smnphoto78@gmail.com) or 410-561-8359.

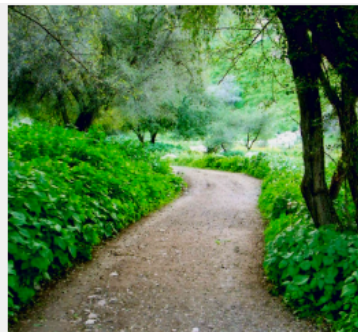


Easter morning will be a wonderful morning with many people visiting to celebrate the Lord's resurrection! With our service at 10:15, additional family, and guests, we will need some **help with parking that morning**. If you are able to help people with parking on Easter morning, please contact the church office, 410-823-6511.



Walk with Jesus...  
All my LIFE

Women's Retreat  
April 24 - 26, 2015



64 women will be attending this year's retreat at the Pearlstone Center. We look forward to a wonderful weekend of fun, fellowship, and learning. Please keep the Design Team, Small and Large Group Leaders, Workshop Leaders and all those attending this year's retreat in your prayers. —Design Team 2015

## Compassionate Caregiving — A New Way of Being

### Retreat for Caregivers

Saturday, April 25 — 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Inspirit Counseling is offering this retreat for professionals and non-professional caregivers to share experiences under the guidance of 3 therapists.

More info [www.inspiritmaryland.org](http://www.inspiritmaryland.org) -or- 800-427-4027 x 140.

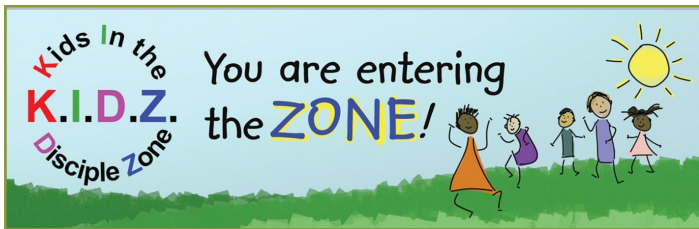


YOGA  
wellness  
4 LIFE

[Dmalloy731@gmail.com](mailto:Dmalloy731@gmail.com)

Denise Malloy  
Kripalu Certified Instructor  
410-967-4387

Wednesdays  
April 8—April 29  
6:45—7:45 PM  
Room 314  
\$40.00



### Easter Sunday schedule for children

The children will not be meeting for Sunday school on Easter. At 10:00 AM children Birth - 3 will be in the Cribbery – Room 122 and children ages 4 - 6 may go to Room 314 for Children and Worship. **K.I.D.Z.** at 10:45 AM will not be meeting on Easter.

### K.I.D.Z.

Beginning on April 12, the children in **K.I.D.Z.** at 10:45 AM will explore the Fruits of the Spirit, Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control, in an exciting Bible Adventure!

### Sunday School



Our Sunday school lesson for April 19 is **Breakfast on the Beach**. What better way to learn the lesson than eating BREAKFAST at church. Children's classes age 2 – 11 will be having breakfast at the 9:00 AM Sunday school hour. What is on the

menu? Bagels/cream cheese, muffins, donut holes, fruit and juice.

### Children's Penny/Coin Collection continues ... Saving Change to Make Change – Imagine No Malaria.

The coins in the jar have been counted. The children have collected as of March 2015 \$1,549.00. WOW! Let's begin filling the empty 3<sup>rd</sup> floor jar. Save those pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Thank you for your support!

### VACATION BIBLE CAMP



Hi!  
I am Checkers and  
I am looking forward  
to meeting you at  
VBC at Towson UMC  
this summer!

### G-FORCE — God's Love in Action

Dates: July 27 – 31

Time: 9:00 AM – Noon

Ages: 3 years old (by 1/1/2015)  
through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in 2014/2015

#### Day 1: MOVE!

**Faith Fuel:** God Calls Moses

**Velocity Verse:** "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6: 8b

#### Day 2: ACT!

**Faith Fuel:** Solomon Builds the Temple

**Velocity Verse:** "I'll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action." James 2: 18b

#### Day 3: CARE!

**Faith Fuel:** Four Friends Help

**Velocity Verse:** "Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

#### Day 4: FOLLOW!

**Faith Fuel:** Healing of Bartimaeus

**Velocity Verse:** "Come, follow me." Matthew 4: 19a

#### Day 5: SHARE!

**Faith Fuel:** Women Find the Empty Tomb

**Velocity Verse:** "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations." Matthew 28: 19a

It takes many volunteer staff members to make Vacation Bible Camp a meaningful week for the children. Please contact Margery Schammel by email at [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org) or call 410-823-2485.



### DUE DATE FOR ARTICLES IN THE NEXT HIGH SPIRE

MAY 2015 issue is due Tuesday, April 14, 2015

All articles need to be on time and either in the marked folder outside Room 315  
— OR — you may e-mail to Cathy Anderson at [communications@towsonumc.org](mailto:communications@towsonumc.org). Thank you!

# Missions & Outreach

## ***Wesley Choral Festival to Benefit Imagine No Malaria Set for May***

Nashville, Tenn.: Save the date for the 2015 Wesley Choral Festival when choirs and individual choral singers participate in a four-day event in Washington, D.C., that culminates with a gala concert to benefit Imagine No Malaria. The 2015 Wesley Festival will be held May 21-24, 2015, in Washington, D.C.; the gala concert will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. Tickets for the gala concert go on sale March 23.

Approximately 250 singers from across the nation are set to perform at the May 23 concert. One hundred percent of ticket proceeds from the concert will be donated to Imagine No Malaria, an initiative by The United Methodist Church to reduce preventable deaths from malaria.

"Though malaria is treatable and preventable, it is surprising to learn that more than 600,000 people die each year from the disease," Ramsey says. "Because of The United Methodist Church's Imagine No Malaria initiative, lives are being saved and communities are being transformed through bed net distributions, health worker education and life-saving medications and diagnostic kits. Imagine No Malaria's impact is being seen all across Sub-Saharan Africa and we are honored to help support the work through the Wesley Choral Festival."

Individuals may participate in the Wesley Festival in various ways: by joining the choir, purchasing tickets to the gala concert (tickets go on sale in January), or by attending as Wesley Festival pilgrims, non-performance participants who take part in four days of activities, including tours of Washington, D.C.



### **SERVING AT SERV**

Mission Work Area planned a service day at SERV in New Windsor Saturday, March 7. Pictured above, they checked, tagged, and repacked items made by Third World Countries. Sales of these items will give the creators an income they would not have otherwise.

## **THANK YOU!!**

To all of the donors and volunteers  
who participated in our recent  
**American Red Cross Community Blood Drive**  
**We had 35 donors and collected 31 units!!**

The donation of your blood and time helped to make this event a success and will go to help over 100 people in need! We could not have done this without you!

**Save the date!**

**Our next blood drive is  
Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015  
Hope to see you then!**

## **Thank You!**

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you for your love and prayers that were answered during my recent illness. The cards brought pleasure, the visits from Pastor Rod, Carolyn Eckes, and others brought smiles and blessings. Harvey, our son David, and I thank you (especially members of the Sojourner Sisters) for the delicious meals made with love. This held the fort together. I am now home convalescing and will return to church when able.*

*God Bless, Dot Refo*



***YOU EAT IT UP AND I WILL WALK IT OFF.***

***Come out to my 3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner  
and help me in the fight against MS.***

***This will be my 3rd year walking 50K to help bring  
awareness to, and to find a cure for MS.***

**When: Saturday April 18 5-7pm**

**Where: TUMC Fellowship Hall**

**Cost: \$6 for kids ages 3-12 — \$12 for anyone over 12  
free for anyone under 3**

**RSVP: Contact Lissa O'Donnell  
443-655-7656 or [lko1783@gmail.com](mailto:lko1783@gmail.com)  
to reserve your spot today.**

**Info: Dinner will include, spaghetti, side salad, bread,  
and light refreshments.**

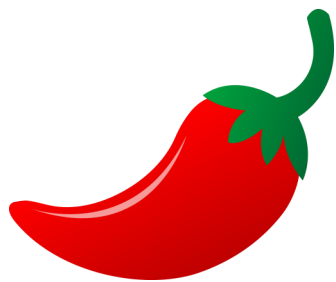
**There will be a dessert bake sale to take some  
yummies home with you.**

**To find out more about MS or why I walk feel free to  
reach out to me directly. Thank you in advance for your  
support of such a worthy cause. —Lissa**



2015 Reconciling & Accepting Ministries Team & Green Team present ...

# CHURCH FAMILY EVENT



**Sunday, April 19**  
**Begins at 11:30**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**JOIN THE FUN**

**TICKET DONATION** — *All proceeds benefit Fellowship Hall's kitchen makeover!*

\$4 early birds on 4/12; \$20 family maximum

\$5 at the door on 4/19; FREE kids up to age 5

**Check your Sunday bulletins for details!**



**AND**

## **EARTH DAY** **CLEAN UP**

This is FREE. Bring your old clothes, boots, and work gloves to church. With trash bags in hand we will go around the outside of the church to pick up unwanted items, throw out or recycle what we find. And don't forget, the wooded area beyond the church parking lot belongs to the church, too!

The bowls and napkins we use earlier in the day will be compostable. We will learn more about what this means.

There will be a scavenger hunt format for families with children to learn more about Earth Day, the church grounds, and recycling.

awards \* drinks \* kids activities \* clean-up outside \* more awards

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**Following all this fun, at 2:00 PM — “March and Dance”**

Featuring TUMC member Tyler Canonico & Jordan Markham

Music for Four-hands and Organ/Piano Duets — Mendelssohn, Schubert, Dvorak and more!

“They bring a life and excitement to the traditional world of classical organ and piano music while entertaining audiences with a unique flare.”

Relax and enjoy at Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21212  
(A free-will offering will be collected) (Tyler is finishing his 1<sup>st</sup> year in the Master's program at UA)

## WHY DO YOU PRAY?

### BEARERS OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

You are invited to come and participate in our gathering for contemplative prayer which we are calling **Attentional Prayer** every Tuesday night at 6:00 PM in the chapel.

### Would You Like Individual Prayer Sunday Mornings?

Meet a member of the congregation in the back corner of the sanctuary after worship Sunday morning if you would like someone to be in prayer with you.

**UPPER ROOM** — devotionals are available in regular and large print. You can find them on the credenza under the pictures of the church's stained glass windows in the main lobby.

### Aurora's Prayer Garden

Aurora's Prayer Garden is located on the west side of the church, facing the afternoon sun. A perfect place to gather your thoughts, read, write something in your journal, or take pictures.

### TOWSON PRAYS ONLINE

<http://towsonprays.blogspot.com>

Prayers and thoughts written by friends at church!  
Make this a "favorite" and join us in prayer.

### Would you like to write a prayer for our prayer blog once a month?

Please consider this blessed opportunity!  
Contact Rev. Margery Schammel at  
[mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org)

### You are invited to join our Wednesday morning Bible Study class.

We meet in rooms 214-216  
from 10:30-11:30 each Wednesday.  
Our format is simple.

We use the Scripture selection(s)  
from the previous Sunday for our lesson,  
beginning and ending with prayer.

We welcome anyone who would like to join with us,  
whether or not you are able to attend every week,  
less frequently, or just whenever you can be with  
us. We look forward to seeing you.

### Want a fast way to discover your SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

The United Methodist Church has taken our 200  
statement inventory to **21**. There are 20 Gifts of the  
Spirit. Find yours. Go to [www.towsonumc.org](http://www.towsonumc.org), click  
on "About Us" and click on "Find Your Place."

It's fast, easy, and online!  
Don't forget to include us in the email at the end.

## Check Out This New Website

*Bible Odyssey*, a new website at [www.bibleodyssey.com](http://www.bibleodyssey.com), can become an important part of our Bible study. It is the work of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), a professional organization of professors of Bible and related topics in colleges, universities, and seminaries. This website was created for ordinary people to benefit from the work of scholars without having to adopt scholarly technical language. It is written to be accessible to undergraduate college students, and so should be accessible to us as well. It is nice to have Bible information available on the web that is not overloaded with a highly conservative approach.

The official description from the SBL: The Bible Odyssey Website (BOW), is a media-rich site that includes over 300 articles, 60-plus expert videos, as well as timelines, maps, three Bible translations, even games. Many SBL members have participated in the creation of Bible Odyssey, and we are proud that the site reflects a range of academic research and interests from around the globe. SBL members have guided the intellectual framework of the site and have contributed fascinating and accessible articles and videos.

### **Here is just a snapshot of *Bible Odyssey* statistics from last September:**

- Besides many visitors in North America and Europe, it has strong traffic from Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Israel.
- The site is averaging more than 200 visitors per day—and rising.
- Visitors are especially drawn to video content.
- People are very interested in "life in first century Galilee" and "how the Hebrew Bible relates to the ancient Near East," as well as "the binding of Isaac" and "the woman caught in adultery." Folks find their way to big questions, such as "how the Bible was written and transmitted."
- Top visits from academic institutions include Baylor, Notre Dame, Belmont, College of the Holy Cross, Emory, Catholic University of America, and Duke.

### **Coollest of all, however, is the "Ask the Scholar" button. Some of the questions sent in are:**

- Why does God speak in the plural in Genesis?
- Was John the Baptist an Essene?
- How many scholars believe that Q existed as a source for Matthew and Luke?
- Has the biblical figure of Satan evolved?
- Why is 'almah in Proverbs 30:19 translated differently?
- How does domestic architecture vary in the Second Temple period?



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*

The **MISSION** of Towson United Methodist Church is to **PLANT SEEDS of Christian faith by equipping, training, supporting, & *freeing* people to LIVE their faith in the world.**

## TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

501 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland 21286 . 410-823-6511 . 410-823-8916 Fax

Office hours are Monday through Friday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

[www.towsonumc.org](http://www.towsonumc.org) / [towsonprays.blogspot.com](http://towsonprays.blogspot.com)

### MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews, Resident Bishop

Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Superintendent, Baltimore Metropolitan District



**Carole Dean**, TUMC’s Church Lay Leader

**Rev. Dr. Roderick J. Miller**, Lead Pastor  
[rmiller@towsonumc.org](mailto:rmiller@towsonumc.org);  
410-823-3640 (church); 410-465-2335 (home)

**Rev. Margery Schammel**, Assistant Pastor  
[mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org); 410-823-2485

**Rev. Doug Hollida**, Minister of Music  
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### HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

410-825-0008 [cdcdirector@towsonumc.org](mailto:cdcdirector@towsonumc.org)

A Ministry of Towson United Methodist Church  
Child Care with an approved preschool  
[www.hamptonlanecdc.org](http://www.hamptonlanecdc.org)