

April HighSpire



Easter Sunday

March 27

identical services

9:00 & 11:00 AM

What's Inside...

Apr 9	Blood Drive	p. 9
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Towson United Methodist Church

◆ Monthly Newsletter ◆ April 2016 ◆ Volume 57, Issue 4 ◆

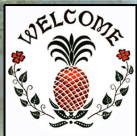
Open the Door

Changing Lives Forever

Easter Season Sermon Series
from the Book of Acts



April 3
Acts 10: 44-48
Reaffirmation of Baptism



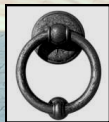
April 10
Acts 15: 22-33
Welcoming Everyone



April 17
Acts 16: 16-34
The Door Opens Both Ways



April 24
Acts 17: 16-33
**The Key is the Death and
Resurrection of Jesus Christ**



May 1
Acts 18: 1-11
One Person at a Time

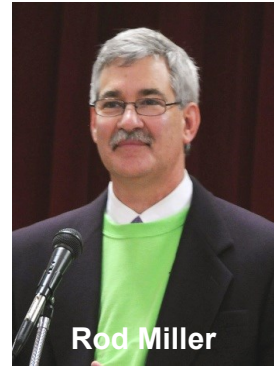


May 8
Acts 27:39-28:6
Fear and Blessing

Pastor's Letter

Artistic Selves

My grandmother, my father's mother, was an artist. A favorite story in my family is that she worked for a china company in Philadelphia — hand painting beautiful roses on fragile tea cups. Each of my siblings and I have her paintings of roses and other subjects proudly hung around our homes. Many are watercolors of summer scenes at the beach and winter scenes in the mountains. One that I have is a delicate arrangement of tiny leaves and flowers. Another of my favorites — which remained a mystery for years — is of a small clown standing on a bumble bee. You may have already guessed what we eventually realized, is that she fancifully copied the joker card from a deck of Bumble Bee playing cards.



Artists have a way of seeing what many of us pass every day and take for granted. They give us a glimpse inside reality and invite us to take in messages of beauty, wonder, longing, humor, serenity, and so much more, by including us in their dance with light, color, line, and texture.

My little granddaughter gives us her paintings and artistic creations every time we see her. She can't get enough of creating from all the resources at her disposal. And of course, every one of them is beautiful. She reminds me that we all have an artist inside us waiting to come out.

I know that many of you are artists and that you express your creativity in varied ways. Painting, photography, home decorating, singing, writing poetry, blogging, cooking, gardening, tinkering, — there are so many ways to engage in our birthing potential.

If we think a moment, we can imagine God as the consummate artist. God not only created all the way back at the beginning - God is continuing to create all around us every day. God's perspective includes every tiny detail as well as scenes of infinite grandeur. The intensely personal and the most public of all. Each of our artistic creations can easily be viewed as co-creations with God. For, by making us in God's image, we are generously endowed with continually discoverable creative gifts by our Creator.

Sometimes we are shy or overly cautious about exploring what is inside us waiting to come out. We hold back our creative urges and hide our gifts under a bushel basket. Jesus said, *"Let your light shine, and let the world see your good gifts so others may see them and also give glory to God."* (Matthew 5:16) *The Message* puts it like this: *"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill... (so) Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."*

So let's open up and share our artistic selves as God does so generously — and let others in to see the creative wonder God has planted in each of us.

Rod

Church Staff
and their responsibilities:

Rev. Rod Miller

Lead Pastor

rmiller@towsonumc.org

410-823-3640 (church)

410-465-2335 (home)

- Preaching, worship, administration, pastoral visitation, visioning, and ministry development

Rev. Margery Schammel

Assistant Pastor

mschammel@towsonumc.org

410-823-2485

- Christian education for children, youth, and adults, and worship leadership

Rev. Doug Hollida

Minister of Music and Organist

MusicDirector@towsonumc.org

410-823-6519

- Children, youth, and adult vocal choirs, handbell choirs, worship accompanist, and composer

Kim Ayres

Business Manager/ Receptionist

kayres@towsonumc.org

410-823-3693

- Financial and office administration and liaison to Finance and Trustees

Cathy Anderson

Director of Communications

communications@towsonumc.org

410-823-3689

- Graphic arts, weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, webmaster, audio and visuals for worship, liaison to missions

Bob Ashby

Maintenance Assistant

- Assists in building cleaning and event set ups

Erin Rigley, Director

Hampton Lane Child Dev. Center

cdcdirector@towsonumc.org

410-825-0008

Christian Education

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:15a Chapel Communion Service — Chapel

8:45a Childcare infants-3s (continuous)—Room 122

8:45a Coffee & Fellowship—Parlor

9:00a **Sunday School**

Preschool ages 2-4, Room 113

K – 2nd Grade, Room 311

3rd – 5th Grade, Room 312

Youth Classes

Middle High — Room 216

Confirmation — Fellowship Hall

High School — Room 317

Adult Classes — Christian Connections

Christians Under Construction—Room 111

Young Parents Class — Room 114

Tower Class — Room 214

Women's Class — Room 212

Adult Bible Study — Hoffman Room 218

Men's Class —Room 310

Short-term classes—Chapel

10:15a ***Worshipping God Together*** — Sanctuary

Children & Worship, 4-6 yr olds—Room 314

K.I.D.Z., for 7-11 year olds, Room 310,

after they are excused from the worship service

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

10:30-11:30 AM

Come try us out —we're very "User-Friendly", and, guess what, you just MIGHT enjoy it so much you want to come back! Hope to see you there!

Thank You!

Dear TUMC,

Once again, the Women's Retreat was an enjoyable and meaningful experience. Thanks to all who helped create a great program! It is always a very special time to share one's faith journey with these remarkable women.

—Sandy Clawson and Lizzy Clawson Miller

Dear Friends at Towson,

Thank you so much for the cards and notes. I am slowly recovering and feel stronger everyday. I look forward to returning to church full-time soon.

— Fondly, Libby Rogers

Noteworthy

From your Finance Committee

We began 2015 with a sizeable negative number and ended the year with a substantial positive number – all thanks to God’s grace, to your cheerful giving, and to the staff who managed expenses. The Stewardship Committee was very successful with 2016 pledges that allowed us to compose a realistic and balanced budget. Now it’s up to all of us to honor those pledges, and we ask that you stay current with your giving throughout this year.

The Trustees, Stewardship Committee, and Finance Committee are in the preliminary phase of implementing a Planned Giving program. We believe that you want to remember your church in your estate, and we want to make it easily available for you. Much more later.....

Plans are to communicate with you at least quarterly about the financial health of your church. Much more later.....

From the “Bridge” Team for Growing Forward

In addition to raising money for much needed building improvements, the Growing Forward campaign has brought together different communities of the church and made our church stronger by building relationships with others through God.

In the last year, a church member who had pledged to the Growing Forward campaign passed away. The heirs made sure that the pledged commitment for Growing Forward would be honored. The family experienced and knew the love the church member had for God and our church and wanted to ensure that love would be carried forward.

Safe Sanctuaries Refresher

Our church’s Safe Sanctuaries policy requires periodic refresher sessions so that we are all reminded of our call to keep our children and youth safe while in our care. **A Session will be held following Worship, Sunday, April 17th**, in the Fellowship Hall. Snacks will be provided for this brief refresher and update. The session is for anyone who is currently active in ministry with children and youth.

TOWSON YOUTH

- April 3: First weekend fun, Spring Break continues
April 10: 6-7:30PM, discussion/prepare for our part in next week’s service!!
April 17: Mission—immersion experience with Compassion, following worship
April 24: 6-7:30PM, Game Night

Summer Fun and Mission:

Fun events in the plans for summer—picnic and hiking; Hershey Park; ice cream and music at a local creamery; Guppy Gulch; paintball; movie and snacks; paint a picture. Stay tuned for details. If you want to help organize a fun event, please contact Margery.

Our summer will be full of mission!

We will be doing one day, hands on missions several times throughout the summer. Examples of missions being planned are helping prepare items for sale at SERV in New Windsor, MD; helping as needed at Mission Central here in MD or in PA; gleaning at First Fruits Farm; serving at a food pantry or shelter; beautifying the garden near Lovely Lane UMC; a “green” mission to help the Chesapeake Bay. Stay tuned for details and dates. If interested, please contact Margery and Cathy Anderson (communications@towsonumc.org)

YOUTH ARE VITAL TO OUR VBC!! Please contact Margery to sign up to help with the children at VBC this year. You could also help with the newsletter, publicity, crafts, games, and more.

ARE YOU GRADUATING?

We want to know who is graduating from High School, technical school, college, and graduate school, since last Spring. We will be recognizing our graduates on Mother’s Day, May 8. Please send details (which school, your degree, and future plans) by contacting the church office via mail, phone 410-823-6511, or email towsonumc@towsonumc.org. Thank you!



Check us out on Facebook.
Questions? Contact Margery at mschammel@towsonumc.org or 410-823-2485.



Help Wanted:

Many skills and abilities are needed to create an amazing Vacation Bible Camp. Your presence and ability may be exactly what is needed.

- ♦ Can you prepare children's crafts?
- ♦ Are you able to help collect and organize supplies in the weeks prior to VBC?
- ♦ Do you have a morning during the week of July 25-29 when you could help prepare and hand out snacks or help eager children make a craft?
- ♦ Are you able to give a couple mornings to show the children a part of our amazing world or lead a small group of children to their activities?
- ♦ Contact Margery to find out how you can be part of the fun 410-823-2485 or mschammel@towsonumc.org

We celebrate our Sunday School teachers who dedicate themselves every week, Sept. – June, to helping our children learn about Jesus by giving them the summer off!!

Sunday Mornings During the Summer

Our Sunday School continues for children, ages 3 (by 1-1-16) to 6 years, who will begin worship with their family and be dismissed to class during our 10:15 worship service.

We need teachers for every week, June 26 – Aug 28. (We do not have Sunday School on Labor Day weekend.) Curriculum and assistance is provided! Help our Sunday School teachers have a wonderful summer by taking your turn teaching our children this summer. Please contact Margery for details and to sign up for your week — 410-823-2485 or mschammel@towsonumc.org.



VACATION BIBLE CAMP

It is that time of year to begin signing up for this summer's camps. Don't forget to add Vacation Bible Camp to your summer calendar!

July 25-29, 2016

9:00a—12 noon

Ages 3 (by 1/1/16) through 2015-16 5th grade

We will have fun and learn at SURF SHACK this year with **Snappy the Crab**.

"Remember that the Lord is great and awesome!"
Nehemiah 4:14b

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 or call 410-823-2485 to find out more about volunteering at VBC this summer, or with any questions about Vacation Bible Camp.



"He's not in there! Oh, wait - he's changed his status to 'risen' "

Getting to know each other through poetry!



WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN

From Revelation 5: 12-13

Hear the song from Heaven's shore praising
Jesus Christ our Lord,
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
"Holy, holy!" is their cry, glory to the Lamb on high,
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!

REFRAIN: Blessing and honor, glory and power,
Riches and wisdom and strength
Be to the precious Lamb evermore—
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!

I would join the angels' song, praise to Him alone
belongs,
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
With my heart and with my soul, worship Him who
makes me whole,
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! REFRAIN

And my spirit, set ablaze, dances in His boundless
grace,
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Jesus, Lord, my strength, my song, my salvation is
become,
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! REFRAIN

When these last words from my lips blend to
Heaven's song of bliss,
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
And I reach my heavenly home, there I'll sing before
His throne,
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! REFRAIN

From STUNNED BY YOUR GLORY, © 2010 by Joyce Keedy
The book of Revelation contains some beautiful, awesome
descriptions of the eternal worship that goes on in Heaven.
This poem is based on those descriptions, and also looks
forward to the day that is surely coming when I will finally be
able to worship my Lord and Savior Jesus the way I long to
worship Him now.

CHRIST HAS RISEN, LET US SING: EASTER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

*"Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of
Nazareth who was crucified... He has been raised; he is
not here... But go... he is going ahead of you..."*

Mark 16:6-7 NRSV

"Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'"

John 11:44b NRSV

Christ has risen, let us sing:
"Easter changes everything!"
Jesus' death – its grief and pain—
strangely gives us life again.
Hatred led Christ to the cross;
Love then triumphed o'er this loss.
Christ has risen, let us sing:
"Easter changes everything!"

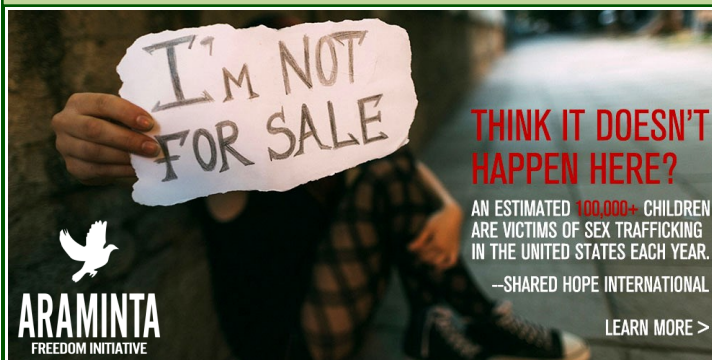
In Good Fridays of our lives
all seems lost; no hope survives.
Though we feel but fear or doom
Christ already burst our tomb!
So, we're freed to serve and love
singing now, and then above:
"Christ has risen, let us sing!
Easter changes everything!"

Words: R. Frederick Crider ©2015. Some rights reserved.

Scripture: Mark 16: 6, 7; John 11: 44

*Inspired by Kathleen Buskirk's, devotional which
appeared in The Upper Room, April 1, 2015*

Missions & Outreach



Araminta Freedom Initiative **April's Communion / Mission Offering** **April 3**

This month's "moment on mission" is for Araminta Freedom Initiative, a local, faith based organization dedicated to eradicating child sex trafficking from the Baltimore region. Araminta's story began almost six years ago when eight people from four different local churches got together and said, "We have to do something." Through a process of prayer and discernment, that small gathering grew to become an organization that believes we all have a duty to fight for justice for the oppressed and freedom for those in captivity. Araminta's vision of seeing every child free from human trafficking was born.

Araminta's mission is threefold:

- To awaken, equip, and mobilize the Church and our community to dismantle child sex trafficking in our region.
- To engage in prevention, intervention and survivor services that bring healing and wholeness.
- To challenge each individual to recognize their

personal contribution to a culture that distorts human dignity and worth.

Your donation to Araminta will help enable their staff and volunteers to:

- Conduct prevention and intervention education in schools and with adults who encounter at-risk children
- Work with hotels to keep trafficking out of their establishments
- Provide mentors and advocates to survivors of trafficking
- Engage local churches to stand against domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST)
- Train and equip more than 160 volunteers each year
- Provide therapeutic and physical needs for survivors

Learn more at www.aramintafreedom.org.

Make your checks payable to Towson UM Church and note on it that it is for Araminta. Collection goes through the month of April. *Thank you!*

OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

... will be open to the public

Saturday, April 30

9:00 to 10:30AM

in Fellowship Hall

Please place canned food donations in the Sharing Bins marked for the EFP in the church lobby. Thank you.

If you would like to volunteer to help Saturday mornings once a month, contact Dwight Kines at 410-828-0792.



**4th Annual
Spaghetti
Dinner
for MS**

**Sponsored by Lissa & Drew O'Donnell and the
Young Adults Sunday morning class**
Saturday, April 16, 2016
5:00—7:00 PM — in Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$12 for everyone age 15+
\$6 for kids age 4-14
Free for children under the age of 4

RSVP: Lissa at 443-655-7656 or LKO1783@gmail.com

Why did we choose this charity? In Lissa & Drew's freshman year of college they met this amazing person named Gary. Gary was quick to become one of their best friends and they

did everything together. Six years ago on his 27th birthday Gary was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. This disease effects the everyday lives of Gary, his wife Sadie, and their now 1 year old son Oscar. When we learned that Gary had been diagnosed with MS we really had no idea what that meant. We knew that when he walked his one leg would sometimes drag a little bit and from time to time he would experience numbness and/or pain throughout his body.

Gary's wife Sadie was looking for people to join Gary's Gang and to walk 50K to raise money and awareness for MS. Lissa figured at the very least, hopefully by her walking and raising money, it would somehow trickle down to benefit Gary and his family.

Gary's Gang has decided this year to join Bike MS where we will bike 69 miles to help raise money for the National MS Society. **Please join us and enjoy some spaghetti while supporting a great cause.** Thank you! It is truly appreciated.



I was reading about eternity on the internet and accidentally hit 'enter.'

Men's Fellowship

Looking for a group of men who share your interests?

You'll find them here at

Towson United Methodist Church!

Our men's fellowship meets once a month right after Sunday worship services (**11:30 AM**) in Fellowship Hall. Look for them **April 10, May 15, and June 12**. The plan is to order food in, so no worries about when-and-what to eat.

Dave Turlington writes,

"It is a men's fellowship group. We are attempting to get to know each other so we can work together and support each other in discovering God's place in our life and how we can use our abilities to show Christian love while bettering our families, fellow Christians, and our community — both as individuals and as a group."



TUMC's Community Blood Drive

Our next Towson UMC Community Blood Drive will be held on **Saturday, April 9th between 6:30am and 12:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. Anyone older than 16 years of age may be eligible to donate. Check the church website for more information or for medical or travel eligibility questions call the ARC at 1-866-236-3276.



Schedule your life-saving donation, call the church office at 410-825-9593 or email TUMCBloodDrive@gmail.com

Music Notes



Rev. Doug Hollida
Minister of Music

**IT'S TIME
TO JOIN THE
YOUTH
OR
ADULT CHOIR!**

Leading up to Easter, our choirs spend a lot of time solely on the Holy Week/Easter music.

That means that after Easter, we more-or-less start from scratch. So it's a great time to get in on learning the music for Spring.

We'll be singing for 2 to 3 more months and have some wonderful anthems planned.

The **youth (Alleluia Singers)** will culminate their year with a lock-in (last year's was the first and the kids can't wait until the this one) and then a full program of music for the Sunday morning service.

Joyful Noise, our occasional "pick-up" choir, can always use more folks. You just show up on Sunday at 9:45 to learn an anthem for that day.

Here's the schedule:

Wednesday, March 30

Chancel Choir – age 19 and up – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 3

Joyful Noise – all welcome – 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, April 10

Alleluia Singers – grades 6-12 – 5:00 p.m.

All rehearsals are in the Music Room, at the top of the main (central) staircase.

Doug

Rev. Doug Hollida
Minister of Music

410-823-6519

musicdirector@towsonumc.org



**Sight and Sound
Millennium Theater
Strasburg, Pennsylvania**

**“SAMSON”
Tuesday, June 28, 2016**

The Sight and Sound Millennium Theater brings to life one of the Bible’s most epic sagas with the all-new adventurous production of “Samson”. One of the most captivating stories in the Bible, “Samson” is filled with colorful characters, extraordinary feats of strength, and amazing special effects that people of all ages will love!

Before the show:

Enjoy a delicious sit-down luncheon at the Greenfield Inn in Lancaster. The restaurant offers you a unique dining experience in a wonderfully restored Pennsylvania stone farmhouse. Please provide a meal choice when making reservations. Your choices are Lemon and Pepper Chicken, Lump Crab Cake, or Baked Salmon. Your meal includes whipped potatoes, green beans almandine, rolls, coffee or tea and chocolate mousse for dessert.

Cost and payment information:

The cost is \$115.00 per person which includes transportation, luncheon, reserved seats for the show, all taxes and tips including the driver. Please make your check payable to **TUMC Senior Adult Council**. **The deadline for this trip is Wed., May 25, 2016.** Include your meal choice, phone number and email address and send to:

Judy Meinhardt
1319 Terry Way, Fallston, MD 21047
Questions or more information—
call Judy at 410-893-5661



TOWSON PRAYS ONLINE

<http://towsonprays.blogspot.com>

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

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.

**CHOOSE
LOVE**



ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT

HIGH SPIRE

MAY 2016 issue are due

Tuesday,

April 12, 2016

All articles need to be on time and either in the marked folder outside Room 315 — OR — you e-mail to Cathy Anderson at communications@towsonumc.org.

Thank you!



WHAT IS THIS? No, it’s not a new stamp from the Post Office ... but it is for your smart phone! If you have an app to scan QR codes, then **HERE IT IS ...** the new

Towson United Methodist QR code. You can donate to the church online from your home or pew using your credit card or online banking! It’s safe and secure.

This includes your Sunday offerings, Capital Journey payments, and monthly mission offerings. For miscellaneous payments & gifts (such as for lunches, VBC, or Alternative Christmas Gifts), click on OTHER, make sure you fill in the memo line.

You can also submit your donations at www.towsonumc.org, scroll down, click on DONATE. Follow the same instructions as above.

THANKS!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AT TOWSON

- 8:15 AM Traditional Service in the Chapel. This service has communion every Sunday and usually piano or organ accompaniment.
- 10:15 AM *Worshipping God Together* in the Sanctuary. This service is blended and richly varied. About twice a month we open with contemporary songs led by our praise band. And, about twice a month we are more traditional, with one of these Sundays including an old-fashioned-hymn-sing. Every Sunday, we hear from the 3,000 pipes of our glorious organ. And, every Sunday we are blessed by one or more of our five vocal choirs or three handbell choirs. You may hear anything from an a cappella anthem in Latin from the 1500s, to a classic with the organ, to a recent song accompanied by our praise band. Communion is offered on the first Sunday of the month, and is open to all.

We have gluten-free bread, too, just ask the server.

See the chart outside the main office door — OR — call the church office at 410-823-6511 to order Flowers to be placed on the Altar and to light the Spire in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Orders need to be placed by Noon Tuesday BEFORE the Sunday.



- ✝ **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** may be given in honor of or in memory of loved ones.
You have a choice when donating flowers for the altar: you may order arranged cut flowers that you take home after the 10:15 service on Sunday for **\$30.00**,
OR — you may consider ordering from *Paul's Flowers*, which could be a lasting shrub or perennial flowers to be planted here at church for **\$55.00**. *Paul's Flowers may be ordered April—Nov., and need a 2-week notice.*
- ✝ If you would like a **rosebud** on the altar announcing the birth of your child or grandchild, please contact the church office at 410-823-6511.
- ✝ Donate to **LIGHT THE SPIRE IN THE EVENING** FOR THE WEEK in honor of or in memory of a loved ones.
Cost is \$30.00. Fill out an envelope with the details of your gift and place in the mail slot in the church office door. Envelopes are with the Flower Chart on the wall outside the church office (or call the church office).

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

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

TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 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

Rev. Margery Schammel, Assistant Pastor

Rev. Doug Hollida, Minister of Music

HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

410-825-0008 cdcdirector@towsonumc.org — **Erin Rigley**, Center Director

A Ministry of Towson United Methodist Church — Child Care with an approved preschool
www.hamptonlanecdc.org

TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**501 Hampton Lane
Towson, Maryland 21286**

410-823-6511

www.towsonumc.org / towsonprays.blogspot.com

Business hours are Monday through Thursday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM