

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT TUMC

8:15a Chapel Communion Service

8:45a Childcare all morning

8:45a Coffee & Fellowship

9:00a Sunday School, ages 2-11
Youth Classes, grades 6-12
Adult Classes

10:15a Worshipping God Together
Children & Worship
KIDZ for children 7-11



CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00p Children's Musical
Genesis Bells, then
The Carol Choir presents
*Were You There on that
Christmas Night?*

8:00p The Alleluia Singers and
Celebration Ringers
lead us in a Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

10:30p Musical Prelude by
The Chancel Choir

11:00p Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

*December
and
January*

High Spire

Towson United Methodist Church

◆ **Monthly Newsletter** ◆ **December 2015 & January 2016** ◆ **Volume 56, Issue 12** ◆

Music of the Season

**The Towson United Methodist Church Music Department
presents**

SAY 'YES' TO THE PROMISED ONE

A Service of Choral and Instrumental Music

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 10:15 AM



Joy Singers

Alleluia Singers

Carol Choir

Chancel Choir

Genesis Bells

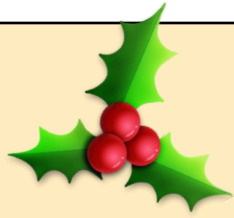
Tower Chimes

Also featuring trumpets, saxophone, flute, clarinet, tympani, and percussion.

Rev. Doug Hollida, Minister of Music

Joyce Keedy, Assistant Pianist

Dee Solomon, Assistant Director



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 13

10:15 AM

Music of the Season

Say "Yes" to the Promised One

A special service of Music and Narration featuring 4 of our Vocal Choirs and 2 of our Handbell Choirs – also Brass, Woodwinds, Tympani, and Percussion



December 24

5:00 PM

Christmas Eve Children's Musical

Were You There on that Christmas Night?

Join with the Shepherds and Angels in welcoming the Holy Babe
Every child present will receive a Holy Family Nativity Scene



8:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Alleluia Singers

Celebration Ringers

Two "World Premiere" Anthems by Joyce Keedy and Doug Hollida



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Musical Prelude begins at 10:30 PM

Worship Service begins at 11:00 PM

Chancel Choir, Piano, and Organ



December 27

8:15 AM – Lessons and Carols with Joyce Keedy and Dee Solomon – Chapel

10:15 AM – Lessons and Carols with Tyler Canonico – Sanctuary

Now in Graduate School, our own Tyler Canonico is already a nationally known concert organist as well as Assistant Organist at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Birmingham, Alabama. He will be playing for the entire service.



January 3

10:15 AM

Special Epiphany / New Year's Communion Service

Communion will be offered at the Communion Rail. The service will be a musical meditation interspersed with readings and the spoken word.

What Gift Will You Bring to the Savior as we start our new year?

A Special Visit from the Three Wise Men



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Register now

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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ALLIE?



Allie Corson arrived in Los Angeles,
California Sept. 26.

Feel free to write letters:

Allie Corson

Youth With A Mission

11141 Osborne Street

Lake View Terrace, CA 91342

Follow Allie's blog at <http://alliesgapyear.blogspot.com/>

Hello Congregation,

I hope everyone is doing well!

Everything is going well here at YWAM LA! The days are long and the weeks are short. I leave for Costa Rica in a few short weeks! The plan is to head out on December 17th! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

XO — Allie

Here's an update from Allie's blog dated 11/29/15:

So I have some news....I'm no longer going to Brazil. We were not able to get visas for our trip. Our leaders tried every possible way to get them, it wasn't possible.

So where am I going.....? Panama!
I'll be going to San Jose, Costa Rica and Panama City, Panama. I leave for outreach in less then three weeks!

Dear TUMC Family,

I was delighted to receive the "Thankful for You" card.

It made me feel so good to be remembered in your thoughts and to have Psalm 129:8 quoted to me.

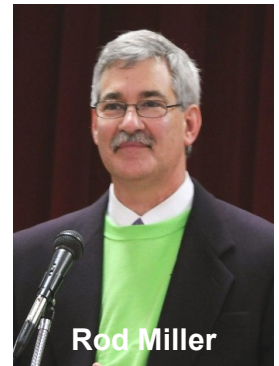
Thank you so much,

Suey McLean

On the cover: *Ilex opaca* 'Satyr Hill' — one of the holly trees in the front of our church. It is the tree that was planted in honor of Towson United Methodist Church's 50th Anniversary, April 2008.

Pastor's Letter

***When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman,
born under the law. —Galatians 4:4***



One of the phrases used about the coming of the messiah, Jesus, is that he came in the “fullness of time”. Which is to say that he came at the right time, when he was most needed, after much prayer and waiting and as the climax to all that had come before him in salvation history.

Fortunately, he did not only come to people back then. He continues to come to hearts who yearn, wait and are open to him. Any time can be the “fullness of time” for it arrives whenever any one realizes their need to receive God and God’s desire to give the gift of Himself.

I want to urge you to make Jesus the center of your Advent and Christmas preparations and celebrations this year. There are so many other concerns which are important and need our attention. But don’t let Jesus get squeezed out of your awareness. Let him come in your own experience to make himself known to you this year. Open the doors of your heart – and then don’t be surprised! Let this be his time for you.



One specific way of making Jesus the center of your thoughts this year is to put up a nativity display in your homes. And then find some way to make Jesus prominent in your display. Some ideas include: placing a blue or purple cloth under the manger, shining a light on him and/or putting his manger on a block to lift him up. Be creative – and let your creativity be a spur to worship and prayer this season. Let him know that you know that he is what Christmas is all about.

Our Advent theme this year is “The Yeses of Advent”. We remember that Mary said yes to the angel. In addition, we can see that a number of people had to say “yes” to God in order for Jesus to come to us as he did. The prophets, Joseph, innkeeper, shepherds, and angels all said yes. When we add our yes, we allow Jesus to come to us and to others in ways that we may not have experienced before. We can say yes even when we are tempted to be cynical, critical, or apathetic. Let us join to say yes to God this season, even when we may not feel like it. For when we say yes, we will find ourselves caught up in a wave of joy which is just waiting to burst forth in us and all around us. Joy to the world – the Lord Jesus is come. Let earth receive her King. And let everyone say YES!

**Our Advent
theme this
year is
“The
Yeses
of Advent”**



On Dec. 13th, we will NOT have KIDZ. Our children, age 7-11, are invited to remain in the worship service and enjoy the music with their families.

**A Special Children's Musical for All Ages
Presented by Our Carol Choir
Christmas Eve
5:00 PM Service**



On Dec. 27th, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (all ages: children, youth, and adult);
NO CHILDREN & WORSHIP
NOR KIDZ during worship.



Dec. 4th- Fun Friday — Movie at TUMC, 7:00PM

Dec. 13th- 11:30AM – 1PM: We shop for a family in need this Christmas! We have SOOO much fun getting what may be the only gifts this family receives under their tree.

Dec. 20th- 11:30AM – 1PM: We wrap the gifts we bought last week and PARTY!

Dec. 27th- NO UMYF

Alert! Alert!

Our UMYF schedule changes in January!!

FUN FIRST WEEKEND: Parents organize fun events offsite. They may be Friday or Saturday, depending on the event. Stay tuned for the details and permission forms.

Jan. 10th- Meet AFTER CHOIR, 6-7:30PM, for discussions.

Jan. 17th- Meet AFTER CHOIR, 6-7:30PM, for games.

Jan. 24th- Meet AFTER WORSHIP, 11:30AM- 1PM-ish, depending on the mission (TBD)

Jan. 31st- Join the church Potluck and children's Rock-a-thon, 11:30AM- 1:30PM

As with all church events, keep our inclement weather policy in mind and check with the person/group organizing your event, if you have questions about weather related cancellations.

Potluck and Rock-a-thon!

January 31st — begins at 11:30 AM

Everyone is invited to a church-wide Potluck lunch and Rock-a-thon after worship on Jan. 31st. The children will form teams to rock in appropriately sized rocking chairs, following lunch (snow date is Feb. 14th). We will be asking you to sponsor the children as they raise funds to help pay for the new warming oven, so stay tuned for the children's pleas for support! Will the teams be able to keep those chairs moving?! Please bring a dish to share and cheer on the children!



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 — Room 115-117

K—2nd grades — Room 311

3rd—5th grades — Room 312

Youth Classes

Middle High — Room 216

Confirmation — Fellowship Hall

High School — Room 317

Adult Classes

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

10:00a Joy Singers rehearsal, 4-6 yr olds —Room 314

10:15a **Worshipping God Together** — Sanctuary
Children & Worship, 4-6 yr olds—Room 314
K.I.D.Z., for 7-11 year olds, begin with your families in worship then when you are excused from the worship service go to **Room 310**



Chrismons created by our children during the Hanging of the Green's Advent Activities.

This beautiful tree may be viewed on the 3rd floor outside the Music Room.

This class is meeting in January and February

We will be offering a **SHORT TERM ADULT CLASS** to discuss the themes and scriptures that are offered during worship in the months of **January and February**. Earl Smith will lead the class in the Chapel during the Christian Connections hour, **9-10AM**, starting **Sunday, January 3rd**. Please contact Earl to register and he can address any questions at [j_earl_smith@verizon.net].

WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

10:30—11:30 AM

**(this class is not meeting in
January and February)**

We invite you to join us anytime as we join together to study the Scripture used in the previous Sunday's worship and close with prayer time. There's a seat reserved for YOU! (actually, there are more than a few seats reserved for whoever would like to join with us, but hey, who's counting!)

One important notice — if you would like to come meet with us, you'd better hurry! We will be meeting until right before Christmas (weather permitting), and then will be taking our "First Annual Winter Break" for the months of January and February. Watch your Sunday bulletin during those months, you never know just what you'll find! Since almost all our members are teenagers (4, 5, 6 times over — well, you get the idea!) and the leader insists she is still 10 years old (over and over and over and . . . well, you get THAT idea, too!), rather than have to deal with less than ideal weather conditions, and cancel class on practically a weekly basis, our leader has decided that we will stay in and be safe during these 2 months.

Our class will resume in March, unless there's a snowstorm then, too! We welcome any or all who would like to join with us. — Joyce Keedy

Missions & Outreach



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 **MISSION / COMMUNION OFFERING**

Imagine No Malaria

Imagine No Malaria is taking a comprehensive and proactive approach in the fight against malaria. Our four-pronged method of prevention, treatment, education, and communications is empowering communities across Sub-Saharan Africa with a diverse set of tools to beat this killer disease.

The people of The United Methodist Church have come together to set an audacious goal – we are aiming to raise \$75 million and impact hundreds of thousands of lives. We intend to be a major partner in ending needless death and suffering from a preventable, treatable, and beatable disease.

Fortunately, we are not alone in the fight against malaria. The United Methodist Church has partnered with organizations such as the United Nations Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight Malaria, Aids and Tuberculosis, and others. Together with leading global health organizations, we are imagining and working to bring about a world with no malaria.

Towson United Methodist Church (through our Church Council) committed to \$9,000 (\$30 for each of our 300 giving units as of three years ago.) Right now, we have sent in just over \$5,000+ to the Conference, leaving us around \$3,000+ short. The children have been helping tremendously by keeping the “change for change” jar on the 3rd floor. Our Communion Offering next Sunday and throughout the month of December will go towards our commitment to help end the spread of malaria.

Make your checks payable to Towson UM Church and note on it that it is for Imagine No Malaria. Thank you!

OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

... will be open to the public

Saturday, December 12

Saturday, January 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 or to make a home delivery, contact Dwight Kines at 410-828-0792.

Alternative Christmas Gifts 2015 **Make a difference ... Give a gift of hope!**

Do you wish you could find a better gift to give?

Here are opportunities for you to give a gift that will impact another person or organization in need. Instead of another Gift Card — if it's not really needed — give your friend the gift of knowing that, because of him/her, someone else will truly benefit. Gifts may be given in honor or in memory of your friends or loved ones. —*The Mission Work Area*

\$_____ Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC)

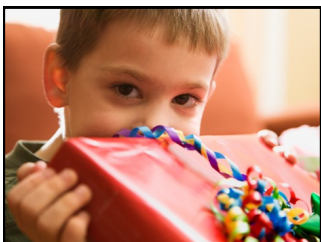
\$_____ Food-4-Thought, feeding children in our local schools on the weekends, we will shop for you

\$_____ Imagine No Malaria

\$_____ Support our Wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, we will do the shopping for you

Send your check to the church office payable to Towson UMC, note that it's for Alt. Christmas Gifts and which mission you'd like to support. Also note how many cards you need in honor or in memory ... we have cards for you to fill-in and sign.

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE



The Outreach Committee's annual toy drive will be held on **December 6 and December 13**. 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 16**.

Thank you, Pat Totzauer 410 938-8699

Missions & Outreach—continued

ANGEL TREE



This Christmas Season's **ANGEL TREE** program, Towson United Methodist Church is partnering with John Wesley United Methodist Church in West Baltimore to sponsor twelve (12) needy families providing clothing, toys, gifts, and a food basket. We will also be including the nine (9) students and their families at Ridgely Middle School who we support through the "Food-4-Thought" program.

Look for the **ANGEL TREE Christmas tree** located in the Church lobby and choose an ANGEL/child's name from the tree.

The ANGEL will have a child's name, gender, gift requests, and sizes.

Return the wrapped and labeled gift by Sunday, December 13th. A team of volunteers will deliver the gifts and food baskets the following Saturday.

For additional information or to help, contact Carol Miller, carol.miller3@verizon.net or 410-733-4465.



Dear Hampton Lane Child Development Center Families and Friends of Towson UM Church, **Our Online Book Fair Runs 11/23— 12/7/2015**

This book fair will be completely online with Children's Bookstore. It's easy to participate and a great fundraiser for our school, a ministry of Towson United Methodist Church.

1. Go to www.childrensbookstore.com
2. Shop for the books you can't wait to read.
3. Enter our unique school code at checkout: **Hampton1** (that's a number one)
4. Enter our code at this page to see our school's page: <http://www.childrensbookstore.com/bookfair/>
5. Books will be shipped to directly to you.

Our school will earn 30% of every book purchase!

There are more than 200,000 books available from baby books to young adult books.



HOUSE OF RUTH
MARYLAND

**Valentines & Socks for the House of Ruth
from January 10 through January 31**

The Hospitality Ministries Committee will be collecting warm socks for the women and boxes of valentines for the children at the House of Ruth .



Place your contributions of socks and valentines in the designated container on top of the Sharing Bins in the foyer.

Please put monetary donations in the large jar on the Welcome Station (make checks out to Towson United Methodist Church, designated to "Hospitality Ministries/House of Ruth.")

Your generous and thoughtful contributions are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Hospitality Ministries Committee—Susan Naeny, Chair



SACRED ANCHORS Women's Retreat 2016

Women's Ministries

What is on your calendar for March 4-6, 2016? We hope you are joining us for our annual Women's Retreat to be held at the Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, Maryland. Invite your friends to join you for the weekend. You will find a Registration Form on the church website at www.towsonumc.org or in the church lobby on the Information Table. **The deadline for registration is January 15.**

Please contact Margery at 410-823-2485 or mschammel@towsonumc.org or Sue LaHatte at slahatte@hotmail.com with any questions.



Here is a sneak peak of the Workshops offered at our 2016 retreat!

Anchoring Daily in Jesus

Prayer and Bible study are two basic ways to stay anchored in Christ, and there are many other "anchors" too. Come learn about ways to stay anchored in Jesus every day as we examine various disciplines that keep us connected.

Prayerful Discernment as a Sacred Anchor in Troubled Waters

"This workshop will look at prayer that "listens" rather than our pleading or telling. It is a way to discern how God is by our side us when we face difficult times. We will use examples from Scripture and our own personal experiences to better understand the Sacred Bridge over and through troubled waters."



Fun and Fitness

For all ages and abilities. We'll have one session for those less mobile, combining elements of yoga and aerobics using balance aids, and another session of Jacki's Fitness aerobics with fun music and moves. Fun and Fitness - come refresh your mind, your spirit, and your body.



Braided Anchor Bracelet

Different colors of hemp cord will be woven together to which a metal Anchor Charm will be attached to create your own Anchor Bracelet.

Drama, Drama, Drama

We will be putting our theatrical creative talents together.

Recipes for Prayer

Creating a "Special Box" to hold:

Prayers, Prayer Concerns, Scriptures, Inspirational Quotes and Prayerful Recipes

Free Time

CHOOSE LOVE

Reconciling and Accepting Methodists ("RAMs") Report

The mission of the RAMs is to promote the welcoming, acceptance and inclusion of all persons in the Towson United Methodist Church. You may know us as the sponsors of the Great Chili Cook-Off or Movie Nights during the summer.

Our next project will be in support of an initiative of the Reconciling Ministries Network, which is a nationwide organization advocating for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender ("LGBT") persons in the life and ministry of the United Methodist Church.

As a practical matter, full inclusion requires changing those provisions of church law which discriminate against LGBT persons. Church law can only be changed by the General Conference, which is an assembly of Methodist representatives from all over the world which meets every four years. The General Conference will next meet in May of 2016 in Portland, Oregon.

In advance of the 2016 meeting of the General Conference, the Reconciling Ministries Network is seeking to register 2,016 new members to demonstrate the commitment of the laity to changing church law. Our RAMs group supports this initiative and encourages your participation. If you believe in full inclusion, this is your chance to stand up and be counted.

Joining the Reconciling Ministries Network is easy: there are no dues to pay and there are no meetings to attend. All that is required is for you to take a few minutes to register - either online at www.rmnetwork.org/join or by filling out a form which we will make available.

The cost of joining the Network is small — just a few minutes of your time. But to your gay brothers and sisters in our congregation — and to the gay members of your own family — this expression of your acceptance, love, and support would be priceless.

Questions? Feel free to contact Kevin Gralley at kevin.gralley@gmail.com.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:34-35

Choose Love!

GOD'S HOLY WORD MADE FLESH (John 1:14)

The prophets sang God's mystery
Unto the longing earth,
Our Savior comes to set us free,
Behold, Incarnate Word!
In mortal flesh, yet still divine,
This day is born to us
The Light that in the darkness shines;
God's holy Word made flesh.

The angels bow in wondered awe
To see this One they love
Now lying helpless in the straw,
The King of Heav'n above!
The holy Lord of time and space
Now comes, this world to bless,
To fill us with His boundless grace;
God's holy Word made flesh!

Now let creation leap for joy,
Ye heav'ns and earth be glad,
Come sinner, in your Lord rejoice,
With His salvation clad.
No longer need you fear the night,
For you, His blood is shed,
Rejoice in Him, your heart's delight;
God's holy Word made flesh.

from AWESOME HOLY NIGHT, (c) 2015
by Joyce Keedy
This is a brand new Christmas song I wrote just this past July. The words and the music will be included in my sixth book, AWESOME HOLY NIGHT, which went to press in November, and should be here before Christmas. This poem speaks of the wonderful holy mystery of Jesus' birth, and our full, complete salvation in Him.



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!



We are very excited to announce that you have contributed \$646,451 through September 30, 2015 to the Growing Forward Capital Journey.

Let's build on our success!

We need you to continue to fulfill your pledges in order to fund future projects. Additional contributions are always welcome.

Below is the information for those interested in making a year-end stock gift as part of your pledge.

Stock Gifts for

Growing Forward Capital Campaign:

Merrill Lynch

901 Dulaney Valley Road, Suite 516

Towson, MD 21204

Telephone: 410-321-4323

Fax: 410-970-4295

DTC #5198

Account # **813-04316** Towson UMC

Please feel free to contact Kim Ayres in the church Business Office with any questions — 410-823-3693 or kayres@towsonumc.org.

Financial Notes

Here is some helpful information from your Business Office! Do you know there are several different ways to send us your contributions? Here is the list of the different ways to send in your contributions:

Cash or Check placed in the offering plate during worship.

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".

Stock Transfer Have your broker transfer stocks and mutual funds to the Towson UMC broker:

Stock Gifts for Annual Church Operating Budget Only:

Merrill Lynch

901 Dulaney Valley Road, Suite 516

Towson, MD 21204

Telephone: 410-321-4323

Fax: 410-970-4295

DTC #5198

Account # **813-04325** Towson UMC

Online-Giving (Credit Cards & 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:

Visit our website at www.towsonumc.org.

Click Here to Donate Online button (at the bottom of the screen). Click on the Create Profile button, then follow the onscreen

instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions. You can also use the QRT code seen above.



All contributions must be submitted to the Business Office by December 31st to receive credit for this year on your contribution statement. As always feel free to contact Kim Ayres in the Business Office (410-823-3693) with any questions or concerns. We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship and 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.

**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



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

FEBRUARY 2016 issue is due

Tuesday,

January 12, 2016

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.

Thank you!

Event photos taken by our church member and church photographer, Steve Houk, may be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/94929393@N05/ great pictures of the church family!

To view your *High Spire* online, go to www.towsonumc.org, scroll to the bottom and click on the icon for the *High Spire*. It will open as a PDF.

Enjoy viewing the article about our church on Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Towson_Methodist_Church

This entry was created and photographed by James G. Howes, member of TUMC since 1972.

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

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.



As you consider final plans for yourself and your family, please remember the Columbarium on the side of our church. Niches are available for purchase by contacting Judy Hobbs at 410-337-9013.

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 (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

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

*Merry
Christmas*



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