

# December & January HighSpire



**Joy Singers**  
Dedicating our Greens on  
November 27 (right)

The Joy Singers will be singing for us  
December 11 at 10:15

**Alleluia Singers**  
Singing an anthem November 27  
(above)


The Alleluia Singers will be singing  
December 11, 18, & 24



Towson United Methodist Church

◆ Monthly Newsletter ◆ December 2016 & January 2017 ◆ Volume 57, Issue 12 ◆





*Sunday  
December 11, 2016  
10:15 AM*

*The Christmas Story  
in Music*

*An All-Music  
Christmas Service*

*Featuring TUMC choirs:  
Joy Singers, Carol Choir,  
Alleluia Singers, and Chancel Choir*

*Along with our Tower Chimes Bell  
Choir, Flute, Saxophone, Recorder,  
Tympani, and Percussion*

*Soup-R Lunch and  
Christmas Bazaar following*

**"SOUP'R" LUNCH  
& CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**DECEMBER 11**

**11:30**

**Following the All-Music  
Worship Service**

***SOUP & COOKIES —***

- After you have enjoyed the tasty soup ... take the mug home with you!

***VENDORS, ITEMS FOR SALE —***

- Crafters: Baking, knitting, decorations, drawing/painting...
- Re-giftables and special items sellers no longer want in the "mini-resale boutique."
- Fresh Christmas arrangements, decorated & wrapped gingerbread men, butter-almond crunch candy by Shirley Derksen
- Jam, pot holders, bibs, pillows, placemats, Ravens items, tissue covers, and more by Janice Smart
- Painted drinking glasses and crocheted items by Liz Clasing
- Stained glass creations by Roy Bopst
- Jams, pastries, apple sauce, and good books by Maria Springer
- Mary Carroll Peters will have beautiful American Girl doll clothes for sale.
- And place settings of TUMC china—real cheap!

The end result will be fabulous food, fun, and fantastic fellowship!

Money raised will go toward our future new sanctuary windows.

See you on the 11th of December!

*Saturday, December 24*

## **Christmas Eve**

**5:00 PM Children's  
Christmas Eve Service**

**The Carol Choir  
presents  
"Journey to the Light"**

**Prelude by  
The Genesis Bell Choir**



**8:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
Featuring The Alleluia Singers  
and The Celebration Ringers**

**10:30 PM Prelude to the Candlelight  
Service by The Chancel Choir**

**11:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**



*Sunday, December 25  
Christmas Day*

**One Worship Service  
at 10:15 AM**

No Sunday School.

Come as you are and  
help create an impromptu  
Manger Scene with us.

"Basking in the Light"

John 1: 1-14



*Sunday, January 1  
New Year's Day*

**One Worship Service  
at 10:15 AM**

New Year's Day Service.

No Sunday School.

Come to Fellowship Hall  
(not the Sanctuary)

The Hospitality Committee  
is providing a full  
breakfast with delicious food.

Communion around the table  
with your church friends  
and family.

Come "Ring in" the New Year!





**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  
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**December & January Calendar**

- Dec. 1 Advent Study begins, p. 9
- Dec. 4 "Name the Child," Isaiah 7: 10-17, Matthew 1: 18-25  
Annual Toy Drive & Angel Tree begins, see p. 7
- Dec. 10 Emergency Food Pantry, see p. 7
- Dec. 11 Christmas Musical "Soup'R" Lunch Christmas Bazaar, see p. 2  
Annual Toy Drive, see p. 7  
Angel Tree Gifts (Last Day), see p. 7  
Poinsettia Orders for Christmas due today, see below!
- Dec. 13 Annual Toy Drive (Last Day), see p. 7
- Dec. 17 Still have Wrapped Toys marked for children? See p. 7
- Dec. 18 "Hope for the Child's Future," Micah 5: 2-5a, Luke 1: 26-38
- Dec. 21 Alternative Christmas Gifts due, p. 8
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services, see p. 3  
5:00p 8:00p 10:30p Choral Prelude 11:00p
- Dec. 25 No Sunday School. Church service at 10:15 only in the Sanctuary;  
come as you are, see p. 3
- Jan. 1 No Sunday School. New Year's Day 10:15  
service only, in Fellowship Hall with food
- Jan. 8 Epiphany Celebration,  
communion at the rail.  
Collecting Socks for House of Ruth, p. 14
- Jan. 15 Genesis 1
- Jan. 22 Genesis 2
- Jan. 28 Emergency Food Pantry, see p. 7
- Jan. 29 Genesis, Abraham  
Last Day to bring in your Socks, p. 14  
Last Day to register for  
Women's Retreat, see p. 11



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA 2016**

**Price for each plant: \$15.00**

The men of Towson United Methodist Church have arranged for you to have a poinsettia in the Chancel area of our church during the Yuletide Season in honor or memory of a loved one. A complete listing of plant gifts will be available Sunday, Dec. 18 and at the Christmas Eve Services. If your order is received on or before **December 11, 2016**, your request will be listed.

Complete this form and mail to:

**Towson United Methodist Church**  
501 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland 21286  
Make your check payable to: **TUMC**

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

IN LOVING MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN LOVING MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your choice:

PLEASE SEND MY PLANTS TO A SHUT-IN

YES NO

I WISH TO PICK UP MY PLANT AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00 PM SERVICE

YES NO

## **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 & 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 Development Center**

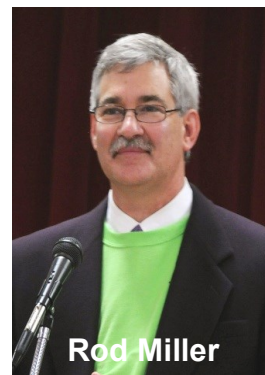
cdcdirector@towsonumc.org

410-825-0008

## **Pastor's Letter**



### *Observing Advent*



**Rod Miller**

This is a glorious time of year when the leaves are at their height. Sitting at my desk this morning, the closest tree I can see is a maple splattered with green and yellow leaves. A river birch with its scraggly bark shoots up to the right. A little further off, the sun is shining so brightly on the bark of an oak tree that it looks almost white. It is set off by on the left by a white pine and by a deep green spruce on the right. A little further off, an orange red ironwood beckons with a red maple to the side. All are framed by a stunningly bright blue sky which looks so close I could touch it. Meanwhile, a pair of squirrels are scampering around the fallen leaves, finding and hiding black walnuts in their own secret places.

An artist friend tells me that one of the tricks of the trade is to squint when you look at an object in the sunlight. When you do that, allowing your mind to see something that it does not already assume that it knows, you may see even more colors than before. My squinting this morning is turning up some red, blue, pink, white, and purple that were not already obvious.

This season moving from Thanksgiving to Christmas and the coming of 2017, is one that invites closer inspection. It is not the usual "ordinary time" that characterizes many of our days. This is not a time to simply go through the motions as if being "adult" is about ignoring the invitation to wonder. Up close, we are aware that this is a time of plans and preparation. We smile at the children's excitement and groan at hearing Christmas music in every store. And then I invite you to look further. What else do you sense taking place? People are reaching for a smidgeon of peace in the swirl of their lives. Past the rush, there is a hunger for meaning and stability. Might there be enough grace to go around for everyone this year? I believe there is.



This year, I invite you to be a keen observer of what is going on around you and in you about the coming of the Christ Child. He is behind and within all that we will be doing! He makes all of the colors more vivid and the music more stirring. Try squinting – and observe what else may be coming into view for you this Advent and Christmas. Don't be surprised if you are surprised!

May your Advent and Christmas season overflow with blessings.

*Rod*

# Thank You Notes

Thank you for all the cards, calls, and prayers during my recent illness and recovery at Rehab.

I am very grateful to be part of such a wonderful, caring church community.

— Tom Meinhardt



Thanks to you, the congregation, as 191 Samaritan Shoeboxes and \$40 in donations were collected for the youth of the world. A

Special Thanks goes to those of you who filled multiple shoeboxes. Each of you who filled the Shoeboxes are helping to introduce children of the world to Christianity and Jesus. We would like to thank Pastors Rod & Margery and also Cathy, Kim, & Bob for their help and support.

Please maintain a lookout for after Christmas Sales for items for your 2017 Samaritan Purse Shoeboxes.

—John & Nancy Ross

The PATHWAYS Board of Directors THANKS you ALL for your continued support of the PATHWAYS tutoring program. You gave to the offering on Communion Sunday in early November; you came to the Gingerbread House Workshop or bought a kit, gave a donation of candy, built the houses for the children to decorate, or gave a donation to our annual fundraiser; and you encourage us on a regular basis in so many ways. The many tutors and children benefitting from this mission program feel your love. THANK YOU!



The Servants in Service team of TUMC's Staff Parish Relations

Committee (SPRC) is pleased to THANK all of you for what you do to make TUMC a vibrant, caring church! We thanked many at our Giving Thanks Sunday

service on November 20<sup>th</sup>. There is a mailbox in the entry hall where you can deposit a THANK YOU note at anytime. This is an ongoing opportunity. Please take advantage of writing a simple note when someone makes a difference for you and "mail" it in our own mailbox!! SPRC will see that your note is delivered to the recipient or, if it's addressed to a group or an individual who you don't know by name, it will be posted on the hall bulletin board outside the Chapel. THANK YOU!

It's an Attitude of Gratitude developing at TUMC! You can write a note of Giving Thanks at ANY time, on ANY paper, to ANY one who impacts you in ANY way! There is a little mailbox on the table in the entry hall of our church where you can deposit the note. SPRC will see that the notes get delivered. Thank YOU!

To the Church Members,  
...for being so thoughtful.

I would like to thank the members of the church for their prayers and cards during my recent illness, and visits from Pastor Rod.

— Barbara Mann



The 2017 Stewardship Campaign is nearing completion. The theme of the campaign is **Thank You, Faithful Servant** based on the Parable of the Talents, found in Matthew 25:14-30. In this parable, God rewards faithfulness. In verse 29, there is a promise, "To those who use well what they have been given, even more will be given."

Commitment Sunday was October 23rd. We want to move forward into 2017 with the full participation of the congregation. If you have returned your commitment card, we are grateful for your support. If you have not yet responded, please mail your completed card to the church business office or bring it to the next church service.

Thank you, Faithful Servant.

—from your

Stewardship Ministry Team

Thank you! From the Board of Child Care Auxiliary

I would like to THANK YOU on behalf of the Board of Child Care Auxiliary for your contributions and dues. I collected \$938.00 with \$200.00 being used for 100 memberships from Towson United Methodist Church. The balance of \$738.00 will be used for Gifts and Special Projects (camping, arts and crafts, sports, etc.)

THANK YOU for your continued support.

— Katherine Rigney, Keyperson



# Missions & Outreach

## OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

... will be open to the public on

**Saturday, December 10**

**& Saturday, January 28**

9:00 to 10:30AM — in Fellowship Hall

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

Check the Sunday bulletins for up-to-date food needs.

The Sunday bulletins are posted online, too, at the  
church's website: [towsonumc.org](http://towsonumc.org)

We are looking for volunteers of all ages and skill levels to join together to travel in January to help in the rebuilding of the homes and hearts in one of the areas affected by the recent hurricanes, tornadoes and storms. We are looking at several possible locations in MD, VA, WV and NC. Join us as we share our time, enthusiasm and hearts together on our next **TUMC VIM (Volunteers in Mission Team to help in the recovery efforts!)**

Please contact Margot at 410-825-9593 or [magerding35@gmail.com](mailto:magerding35@gmail.com) for more information and to share your availability during January.

## ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

The Outreach Committee's annual toy drive will be held on **December 4 and December 11**. 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 13**.

Thank you, Pat Totzauer 410 938-8699



## ANGEL TREE

Look for the **ANGEL TREE Christmas tree** in the Church entryway, choose an ANGEL/child's name from the tree.

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

**Return the wrapped and labeled gift by Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.**

A team of volunteers will deliver the gifts and food baskets the following Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Last year we received so many expressions of gratitude as many of these families would not have had any gifts had it not been for the generous hearts of TUMC.

For more information or to help,  
contact Carol Miller, [carol.miller3@verizon.net](mailto:carol.miller3@verizon.net) or 410-733-4465.

**IF YOU CAN'T GET YOUR WRAPPED GIFT TO CHURCH ON TIME. . .**

**our Hampton Lane Child Development Center will be collecting toys for Guinto's Helping Hands  
Saturday, December 17, 2016 between 12:00—2:00 (it's a drive-up & drop-off in the church parking lot)**

The toys collected will help to brighten the spirits of children and families in  
Kennedy Krieger House, Believe in Tomorrow House, and Ronald McDonald House.

Look for the decorated truck in the church parking lot.





*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.*

*— Merry Christmas from your Mission Work Area*

**Araminta Freedom Initiative** — mission is to awake, equip, and mobilize the church and community to dismantle child sex trafficking in the Baltimore region.

**Towson United Methodist Church**  
**Alternative Christmas Gifts**  
**501 Hampton Lane**  
**Towson, MD 21286**

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]



# Sunday Mornings

## **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES:**

8:15a *Chapel Communion Service* — Chapel

10:15a *Worshipping God Together* — Sanctuary

### **Cribbery (nursery) — in Room 122**

The cribbery opens for children infants to 3s at 8:45 AM and remains open until after the 10:15 worship service ends.

8:45 - 10:15a... Coffee, treats, and friends in the Parlor

## **9:00 - 10:00a CLASSES:**

*Preschool* (age 3 to not yet in kindergarten) in Room 115

*Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade* in Room 311

*3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade* in Room 312

Towson Youth see p. 10 for youth classes.



## **POST HIGH SCHOOL ADULT CLASSES**

Adult classes vary in content and context — there is one for you!

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY — HOFFMAN ROOM 218**

Ruth Steer leads this class.

She may be contacted at 410-825-7407.

### **CHRISTIANS UNDER CONSTRUCTION — ROOM 111**

Class contact is Leslie Wagner, who may be reached at L2Wagner@verizon.net.

### **DISCIPLE ONE BIBLE STUDY — CHAPEL**

This class has begun and is not open to new participants.

### **MEN'S CLASS — ROOM 310**

Class contact is Dave Turlington, who may be reached at 410-667-1491 or dturlington@verizon.net.

### **TOWER CLASS — ROOM 214**

Class contact is Kevin Gralley, 410-527-1867 or kevin.gralley@gmail.com. College age adults are encouraged to attend, too.

### **WOMEN'S CLASS — ROOM 212**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Trish Turlington—dturlington@verizon.net, Alicia Corson—apcorson@gmail.com, or Robin Smith—robin\_smith@verizon.net. Great class for college age women, too.

### **YOUNG PARENT'S CLASS — ROOM 114**

Contact is Lissa O'Donnell, LKo1783@gmail.com.

## **FOR YOUNG CHILDREN DURING THE 10:15 WORSHIP SERVICE:**

**Pray and Play** (children ages 4-6) in Room 314. This is an experience of fun and learning with a team of teachers.

Ms. Jamie comes every week to lead the Joy Singers.

**K.I.D.Z.** (children ages 7-11), begin in the worship service with their families; to be dismissed partway through the service for fun and learning in Room 310.

There will be **NO KIDZ** on **Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**. Children are invited to stay in worship with their families and enjoy the Christmas music.

There will be **NO Sunday school, NO KIDZ, and NO Pray and Play** on **Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>**. Merry Christmas! Come as you are and create an impromptu Manger Scene with us.

There will be **NO Sunday school, NO KIDZ, and NO Pray and Play** on **Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**. Join us at 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall for a worship service, communion, and New Year's Day breakfast (not in the sanctuary!).

Please help our children support the American Bible Society! We will be collecting your spare coins throughout the rest of the year. A large jar has been placed outside the Education office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (Room 319) for your donations. You may check out the American Bible Society at [www.americanbible.org](http://www.americanbible.org).

## **Advent Study:**

Our study for Advent is *Under Wraps: The Gift We Never Expected*. The study is four weeks long, with each week written by a different author.

Check with your **Sunday morning adult class** leader to find out if your class will be using this study during Advent.

We will also offer the study on **Thursdays**, Noon – 1:00pm, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> in room 317. Bring your lunch if you want and join us as we prepare for the Gift we never expected.



### **Sunday Morning Classes at 9:00am**

**Middle School: Room 216**

**High School: Room 317**

**Confirmation (8<sup>th</sup> graders): Fellowship Hall**

### **UMYF (Youth Group) Calendar**

- Dec. 3 HELP with the PATHWAYS Gingerbread House fundraiser. Contact Susan Killian ([susanbkillian@gmail.com](mailto:susanbkillian@gmail.com)) or Ginny Cummings ([wafflehouse5@verizon.net](mailto:wafflehouse5@verizon.net)) for details to come early, set up, make your own house, and then help the children.
- Dec. 4 RED ZONE fun, 6:00-? Contact Sally Savidge, [sbjsavidge@gmail.com](mailto:sbjsavidge@gmail.com), to sign up and for carpooling.
- Dec. 11 6:00-7:30pm, Shopping for our Christmas family
- Dec. 25 No Sunday School. Church service at 10:15, come as you are and help create an impromptu Manger Scene
- Jan. 1 No Sunday School. New Year's Day 10:15 morning service, with lots of delicious breakfast food and communion in Fellowship Hall, not the sanctuary.
- Jan. 8 No UMYF meeting. Regular church services at 8:15 & 10:15, Sunday School at 9:00.
- Jan. 15 6:00-7:30pm, discussion time
- Jan. 22 11:30-1:00pm, mission opportunity
- Jan. 29 6:00-7:30pm, preparing for Youth Sunday, which will be February 26.



Check us out on Facebook.  
Questions? Contact Margery at  
[mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org) or  
410-823-2485.

### **HELP WANTED**

#### **Be involved as a Servant in Service!!**

Our church needs:

- ♦ **LONG-TERM HELP needed**  
Someone to volunteer in the church office (answering the phone and doors, writing notes, and assisting the church staff) from **10am to 2pm Wednesdays** (your time and presence does make a difference and we truly appreciate your help — days off when you need it). Please contact Susan, [susanbkillian@gmail.com](mailto:susanbkillian@gmail.com). Don't worry, the staff will train you!
- ♦ **Have you thought about being an elementary Sunday School teacher or thought it would be fun to play with the babies in the cribbery Sunday mornings?**  
We are looking for adults who have been a member of TUMC for at least 1 year to fill these volunteer positions. You will be trained for Safe Sanctuary obligations. You'll get lots of support from the other teachers and coordinators. Please contact our Staff Parish Relations rep, Susan Killian, [susanbkillian@gmail.com](mailto:susanbkillian@gmail.com)

### **Redeemed, Restored, Renewed – for Life!**

This coming Lenten season, (yes, we are saying Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday, March 1) we will publish our own daily devotion book based on the above theme. **If you are interested in writing** a devotion(s) for this publication, please contact Cathy ([communications@towsonumc.org](mailto:communications@towsonumc.org)) and/or Margery ([mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org), 410-823-2485) for more details.

### **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. 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.



# Soul Tending

## Women's Retreat Registration April 21-23, 2017

Join us for a wonderful weekend getaway for women of all ages at The Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD. The weekend retreat begins Friday evening and ends with lunch on Sunday. Come for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and learning.

2017 Retreat Design Team  
(website: [www.claggettcenter.org](http://www.claggettcenter.org))



Please enclose your completed form and payment in an envelope marked "Women's Retreat" and place in the slot in the main office door.  
Forms may also be mailed to: Towson UMC, Women's Retreat,  
501 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286.

Checks should be made out to Towson UMC in the amount of \$235.00  
Deadline for registration is **1/29/17**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Includes lodging (Private Bath per room), 5 meals, and other workshop/retreat expenses.

- ☐ Prefer single room
- ☐ Prefer double room **Limited availability**

- ☐ I would like to apply for funds from the scholarship fund.

- ☐ Optional donation to retreat scholarship fund. Please include a separate check for this donation. Thank You.

### Emergency Contact Information

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I would like a complimentary "Gift for You" card .

**Volunteer**

- ☐ I would like to volunteer at this year's retreat

**Transportation**

- ☐ I will need a ride to the retreat

- ☐ I can provide a ride

As you plan your weekend get away April 21 - 23, a Friday evening meal will be served at 6:15 pm. in the dining room at The Claggett Center. This meal is included in your registration fee. Come for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and learning.

# Financial Notes

Here is some helpful information from your Business Office!  
Did you know there are several different ways to send us your contributions?  
All contributions must be submitted to the Business Office by **December 30th**  
to receive credit on your contribution statement.

Here are the different ways to send in your contributions:

**Cash or Check** placed in the offering plate during worship. Please consider using an envelope (yours or the generic envelope found in the pews) when donating cash. Include your name when donating cash.

**Drop off Donation** in door slot of the main office — attention Business Office.

**Mail check donations** by the US Postal Service to Towson UMC — attention Business Office

**Online Banking** you set up online checking with your bank. You control the frequency and amount sent. The bank sends a check to Towson UMC. Set up Towson UMC as a “vendor” and include your envelope number, if you have one, and name as “account number”.

## **Online-Giving (Credit Cards & 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](http://www.towsonumc.org).
- Click the “Here to Donate Online” button (at the bottom of the home page), shown left.
- 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 this QRT code, shown left, to get to the same site with less clicking, as long as you have a QRT app on your phone.

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

### **For Annual Church Operating Budget Only:**

Merrill Lynch  
901 Dulaney Valley Road, Suite 516  
Towson, MD 21204  
Telephone: 410-321-4323  
Fax: 410-970-4295  
DTC #5198  
Account # **813-04325** Towson UMC

### **For Growing Forward Capital Campaign Only:**

Merrill Lynch  
901 Dulaney Valley Road, Suite 516  
Towson, MD 21204  
Telephone: 410-321-4323  
Fax: 410-970-4295  
DTC #5198  
Account # **813-04316** Towson UMC

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

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Designated to: Towson United Methodist Church  
Purpose of Gift: Annual Pledge, Capital Campaign, etc...

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

As always, feel free to contact Business Office with any questions or concerns.

*Kim Ayres*  
(410) 823-3689  
[kayres@towsonumc.org](mailto:kayres@towsonumc.org)



# Towson United Methodist Church

## October 24, 2016 Nominations and Lay Leadership Report

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, the church office has contact information for you.

### ADMINISTRATIVE FOCUS AREAS — for 2017

#### Church Council

Chair: Alicia Corson  
 Secretary:  
 President of Board of Trustees: Tom Cummings  
 Chair of Finance: Steve Schnur  
 Chair of Stewardship: Dale Springer  
 Chair of Property and Maintenance: John Engel  
 Chair of Staff-Parish Relations: Bill Sleeman  
 Chair of Child Development Center: Patty Hutsell  
 Chair of Education Work Area: Carolyn Schnur  
 Chair of Mission Work Area: Gene Bandy  
 Chair of Senior Adult Council: Bill Rogers  
 Chair of Worship:  
 Chair of Hospitality: Susan Naeny  
 Chair of Pathways: Susan Killian  
 Lay Leaders: Bob Kimmons and Stephanie Kimmons  
 Lay Members: Eleanor Brown (2018), Fred Cowan (2018)  
 Members-at-Large: Tarja Singer, Carol Caplan, Dan Gauer,  
 Gary Neuen, Stephen Rogers, Margot Gerding,  
 Lissa O'Donnell, Walt Wilhelm, Kevin Gralley, and  
 Penny Goode

#### Board of Trustees

2017	2018	2019
Bobbi Blaker	David King	Ken Fisher
Cindy Frank	Mike McWilliams	Drew O'Donnell
Tom Cummings	Pat Day	Nancy Klueh

#### Property and Maintenance Committee

John Engel, Mike McWilliams, Janet Kines, David Turlington,  
 Tom Edel, Tom Clawson, Jim Tambling, John Dahne, Roy Bopst

#### Staff-Parish Relations Committee

2017	2018	2019
Nancy deLaski	Sally Savidge	Susan Gralley
Susan Killian	Bill Sleeman - Chair	Ginny Cummings
Ryan Wagner	Mary Carroll Peters	Miguel Roberts

#### Finance Committee

Chair: Steve Schnur  
 Vice Chair: Ken Klueh  
 Stewardship Liaison: Dale Springer  
 Chair of Church Council: Alicia Corson  
 President of the Board of Trustees: Tom Cummings  
 Chair of Property and Maintenance: John Engel  
 Chair of Staff-Parish Relations: Bill Sleeman  
 Lay Leader: Bob Kimmons  
 Lay Member: Eleanor Brown  
 Business Manager: Kim Ayres  
 Pastors: Rod Miller  
 Members-at-Large (4 year limit): Steve Bauer, Bob Naeny,  
 Ann Dahne, Merrill Frank, Linda Brooks, Shelley Jackson

#### Stewardship

Dale Springer, Stephen Rogers, Mike Steer, Charlie Woodbury,  
 Grey Goode

#### Committee on Lay Leadership / Nominations

2017	2018	2019
Carol Sims	Sue Gralley	Shirley Derksen
Patty Hutsell	Nancy Klueh	Dave Morris
Tom Edel	Stephanie Kimmons	Lissa O'Donnell

#### Hampton Lane Child Development Center Board of Trustees

2017	2018	2019
Jan Marburg	Ellen Berline	Dick Watts
Carol Engel	Nancy Bopst	John Vandermer
Trish Turlington	Kathy King	Patty Hutsell - Chair

### MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS — for 2017

#### Education

Chair: Carolyn Schnur  
 Members-at Large: Jo Miller, Ann Sleeman, Erin Giudice,  
 Susan Killian, Leslie Wagner, Susan Mealey, Margery Schammel  
 Cribbery Ministry Coordinator: Lissa O'Donnell

Christian Connections (Sunday Morning 9:00 Adult Classes)  
 Coordinator: Kevin Gralley

Pray and Play (Sunday Morning 10:15, ages 4-6)  
 Coordinator: Jo Miller

#### Youth Council

Alicia Corson, Ginny Cummings, Karen Morris, Anne Sleeman,  
 Susan Mealey, Sally Stocksdales, Sally Savidge, Susan Knabe,  
 Maryanne Arthur-Merow, Jack Chamberlain, Margot Gerding,  
 Margery Schammel, and Youth Parents

#### PATHWAYS Tutoring

Board of Directors: Stephanie Kimmons, Susan Killian-chair,  
 Casey Schurman, Ken Henschen-treasurer, Justin Jones-advisor,  
 Annie Biser, Amanda Long-secretary, Mary Wynn Eisenberg-  
 Admin Director, Sharon Penhallegon-Program Director

#### Senior Adult Council

Lucette Bowers, Michael Bowers, Dee Matson,  
 Tom and Judy Meinhardt, Libby Rogers, Bill Rogers-chair and  
 treasurer, Bill Raker, Lois Winship-secretary, Bernice Peacher,  
 Katherine Rigney, Ginny Foster

#### Missions & Outreach

Gene Bandy-chair, Carol Miller, Carole Dean, Pat Totzauer,  
 John Ford, Val Wehrle, Vernon Sevier, Dwight Kines,  
 Donna Russell, Carol Sims, Libby Rogers, Margot Gerding  
 Cathy Anderson (staff liaison), Annie Biser

### **Reconciling and Accepting Methodists (RAMs)**

Kevin Gralley-chair; Rod Miller, Susan Gralley, Margie Bandy, Armilda Beard, Jack Chamberlain, Bob Gralley, Ron and Marilyn Donoho, Bill Sleeman, Carol and Dan Woodworth, Margot Gerding, Cathy Anderson, Maryanne Arthur-Merow, Erin Giudice, Sally Savidge, Fred and Diane Crider, Alicia Corson

### **Worship Committee**

Doug Hollida (Music)  
Cathy Anderson (Communications; Light & Sound),  
Rev. Rod Miller (Pastor)  
Erin Giudice, Eleanor Brown, Fred Crider, Verna Lewis,  
Lee Ann Vasil, Mike Steer, Sylvia Solomon, Noel Vandermer,  
Sam (Smith) Pannoh  
Communion Stewards: Linda and Gordon Kennard  
Ushers Coordinator: Margot Gerding

### **Hospitality Committee**

Chair: Susan Naeny; Armilda Beard, Diane Crider, Carol Edel, Tom Edel, Judy Hobbs, Maria Springer, Sherry Tambling, Bill Rogers, Carol Woodworth, Janice Smart, Carol Sims, Nancy Steer, Betsie Johnson, Cindy Frank, Sylvia Solomon

### **Caring Ministry Coordinators**

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Carol Matlin, Susan Brown  
Funeral Ministry: Margot Gerding  
Visitation Ministry: Robin Smith  
Prayer Blog: Margery Schammel  
Verna Lewis: Attentional Prayer

A motion to establish a **PLANNED GIVING MINISTRY COMMITTEE** was offered at our church's Charge Conference October 24; was voted upon and approved.

The following is the recommendation of TUMC's Board of Trustees:

- 1) The Committee will report to the Board of Trustees
- 2) Members of this Committee will include, but not be limited to, representatives from the Board of Trustees, the Stewardship Committee, and the Finance Committee
- 3) The focus of the Committee will be:
  - a) Emphasize the need for adults of all ages to have a will and an estate plan. The Committee will provide information to the congregation on how to establish these documents.
  - b) Provide information to church members on how annuities, trusts, life insurance, memorials, and various types of property can be gifted to TUMC.
  - c) Establish an on-going communication effort to educate the congregation on new giving strategies.
  - d) An Annual Report of Committee activities will be provided to the Board of Trustees on activities conducted by the Committee.

Committee members for 2017 will be:  
Charles Woodbury-chair, Merrill Frank, Dale Springer, Tom Cummings, and Pastor Rod Miller.

*The Committee is pleased to inform the Church that in 2016 a total of \$215,660.94 in estate gifts has been received.*



### **Socks for the House of Ruth**

Starting **January 8 through January 29**, the Hospitality Committee will be collecting warm, fuzzy socks and dress socks for the women at the



Due to our congregation's overwhelming response to our plea for Valentines last year, we only need socks at this time.

Place your contributions of socks 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/House of Ruth.")

Your generous and thoughtful contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

### **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.



### **ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT**

**HIGH SPIRE**

**February 2017**

**is due Tuesday,  
January 18, 2017.**

All articles need to be on time and either in the marked folder outside Room 315

— OR — e-mail to

Cathy Anderson at

**[communications@towsonumc.org](mailto:communications@towsonumc.org)**

Thank you!



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 MINISTRY TEAM



**Rev. LaTrelle Easterling**, Resident Bishop

**Rev. Edwin DeLong**, Interim Superintendent, Baltimore Metropolitan District

**Bob Kimmons & Stephanie Kimmons**, TUMC’s Church Lay Leaders

**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](mailto:cdcdirector@towsonumc.org) — **Erin Rigley**, Center Director

A Ministry of Towson United Methodist Church — Child Care with an approved preschool

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

**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**. 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

**501 Hampton Lane**  
**Towson, Maryland 21286**

**410-823-6511**

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

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