

# MAY

## HighSpire

### What's Inside...

Now	Sign up for VBC — campers & volunteers	p. 9
May 1	<i>Open the Door</i> , Acts 18: 1-11 Communion Offering is “One Great Hour of Sharing”	p. 8
	Bach in Baltimore Concert	p. 6
May 7	Last day to give before the July 2 Blood Drive	p. 8
May 8	<i>Open the Door</i> , Acts 27:39-28:6 Mother’s Day Recognizing our Graduates	p. 7
May 10	Wounded Soldiers supplies will be delivered	p. 8
May 10-20	United Methodist General Conference, Portland, OR	p. 10
May 15	Pentecost— <b>Wear Red!</b> 10:15 Confirmation 11:30 Men’s Fellowship	p. 7 p. 11
May 22	10:15 Alleluia Singers Cantata <i>Walking with Jesus — A Spiritual Journey</i> 11:15 Town Hall Meeting	p. 5 p. 4
May 25	Deadline to reserve your seat to Sight & Sound Theatre	p. 11
May 28	Emergency Food Pantry	p. 8
May 29	Sermon Series on the Parables	
June 5	11:30 Pancake Brunch	p. 7

Towson United Methodist Church

◆ Monthly Newsletter ◆ May 2016 ◆ Volume 57, Issue 5 ◆

# Thank You!

Dear Towson Church,

The reddish yellow tulips surely brought the message, "Happy Easter! Happy Spring!" Their arrival heralded the beauty and glory of the season and Christ's resurrection. Thank you for this gift from our friends.

Sincerely,  
Katherine and Gil Smith

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Dear Friends,

On Saturday morning I was surprised by an Easter visit from three charming young ladies of the congregation bearing a robust yellow tulip plant for me. They came in for a short visit and in minutes we were launched in a vigorous discussion of art, ranging from antique ecclesiastical to modern botanical.

It was so stimulating and such fun for me that I could hardly allow these three to finish their rounds here.

Thank you for the wonderful double surprise, both blooms and visit, such beautiful reminders of the church I will always love.

Blessings and love,  
Liz Brown

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Friends of Towson U. Methodist Church,

I have been enjoying the beautiful red tulips you brought to my door for Easter. It gave me and the apartment such a lift of beauty and love for the holiday.

Although I don't get to church anymore, it is always so nice to be remembered. I'm still enjoying the poinsettia from Christmas.

The Lord has blessed me, I'll be 95 next December.  
Bless you all!  
Bea Post

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To Towson United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. The love sent to me through the red tulips is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,  
Lucile (Suey) McLean

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Towson United Methodist Church,

I will never forget your kindness.

Thank you so much for the white tulips I enjoyed for the "Easter Holiday" and longer and "Easter" is still with me. It was a wonderful gift and I still have much pleasure every time I see them (which is often). They are still as beautiful as on Easter.

Many thanks, Ruth Eubank

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To my dear friends at Towson United Methodist Church,

My sincere thanks for the lovely Easter mums delivered to me at Mercy Ridge. It is so nice to be remembered in this way.

Dorothy Gretz

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Towson United Methodist Church,

Thank you for the beautiful tulips which I will enjoy. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Joy Custer

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Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the nice pot of yellow tulips delivered to my apartment by one of your church members.

Best wishes & Blessings to all!  
Jeanne Disney

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Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful tulip plant I received for Easter. I have it in my window sill — a daily reminder of my many friends at Towson.

Again, many thanks.  
Anita Miller

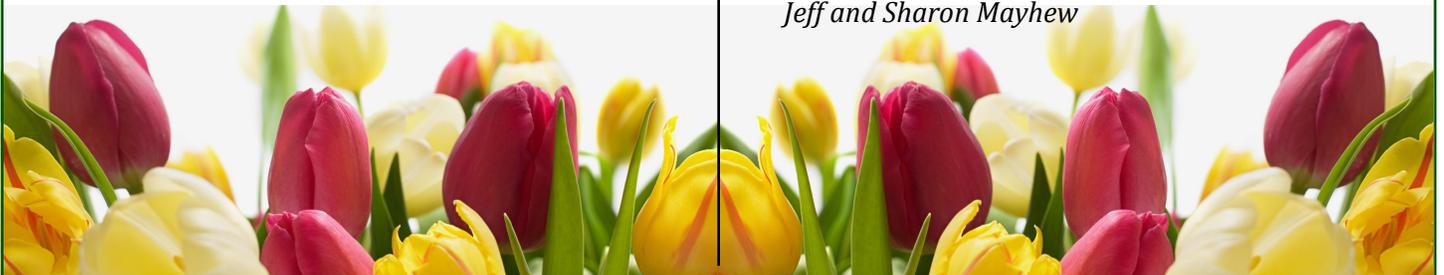
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Pastor Rod,

I want to thank you and the entire church for the loving support for me and my family. The blessing of love that sprouts from the church family is truly amazing. I am extremely grateful!

Jeff and Sharon Mayhew

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# Thank You!

## **Holy Thursday, 7:00 service in Fellowship Hall**

Many thanks to those that brought fruit, rolls, and such a wonderful variety of soups. And to Cathy for her great signage. A special thanks to those that were so helpful in the kitchen.

This all supported bringing the "Upper Room" to reality on Maundy Thursday.

Lee Ann Vasil



Pictured above, Good Friday, 7:00 PM service

## **Spaghetti Dinner, April 16**

61 adults and children came to have a delicious spaghetti dinner and helped raise \$916 for "Gary's Gang" and MS. Thanks to Lissa & Drew O'Donnell and the Young Parents Sunday Morning Class for a fun evening.

## **Steve Houk is on the Mend**

A grateful hello to my TUMC family,

Following unexpected heart surgery after moving to Oregon, Steve writes:

*I'm following all medical advice given. After everything I went through, the fear, worry, and pain, I don't want to go through that again.*

*When I returned home from the hospital on Saturday a month ago, everything was a chore. I had a hard time just walking across the house to the bathroom.*

*I did wake up early Sunday and I told Jenny we should go to church. She looked at me like I was nuts. I*

*told her we should show everyone what their prayers did.*

*I added, all I had to do was walk to the garage get in the car and she could drop me at the door; the rest was just sitting. Or was it?*

*We left early in case I had any difficulty. Everyone was very surprised to see us there.*

*I sat near the wood stove. (Yes. It's a very small country chapel.) And I stayed sitting the whole time.*

*(I had my chest pillow with me just in cast.) After the service, everyone came over and bid me good wishes. When asked when I got out of the hospital and I said yesterday afternoon, they just shook their heads. I told them everyone's prayers is what did it.*

*However just talking was too much. It's hard to talk and breath in that early just out condition. I got winded quickly and needed to take a few breaks. I went home and slept most of that afternoon.*

*We talk about our Methodist family in Maryland and try not to sound like bragging.*

*We do miss everyone at TUMC.*

*The hardest thing I can do so far is our lawn. It's big but with the riding mower it isn't too hard. Actually the hardest thing is living with the salt free diet!!!*

*I trust everything is going well for you. It looks like you're in a cold snap.*

*Our day here was in the low 80s.*

*I walked around the yard yesterday to take pictures.*

*I added a of the photo of our home (right), and one of sunrise Easter service at our chapel.*



*I did my third session of cardiac rehabilitation.*

*They say I'm doing pretty good.*

*I should, I'm the youngest person there. I guess it should be no surprise.*



*Talk again soon.*

*All our love,*

*Steve + Jennifer and Katherine (dated April 11)*

**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

# Town Hall Meeting

Towson United Methodist Church will hold a Town Hall Meeting on **Sunday, May 22** in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:15 worship service. This meeting follows on the success of the first Town Hall Meeting which was held last spring.

Our Town Hall Meeting offers the entire congregation the opportunity to hear and learn about many facets of our church life and ministry. Most committees and groups in our church will present brief reports about what has gone on in their areas in the last year. They will also take a moment to speak about what they anticipate coming in the new year.

Our worship service on May 22 will feature our Alleluia Singers – youth choir. Their music and worship presentation is called *Walking with Jesus – A Spiritual Journey*. You won't want to miss them. Then plan to stay after church for our Town Hall Meeting. We will begin immediately so to be conscious of your time. Cribbery will be available and children older than 3 are welcome to stay for the Meeting.

**And — we had a glorious Holy Week  
and Easter at TUMC this year.**

**Thanks to:**

Carol Choir, youth musicians and helpers, and Doug  
for an uplifting Palm Sunday musical event

Worship Committee and volunteers  
for helping with the special worship services

Hospitality Committee and volunteers  
for providing our Easter refreshments

Children of the church  
for our beautiful Easter Symbol Tree in the lobby

Children from our Child Development Center and  
4th & 5th grade Sunday School class  
for the Easter decorations in the narthex

Everyone who donated Easter flowers and decorations this year

I especially want to commend the church for working together in so many ways to make this season be both holy and enjoyable for everyone. Thanks church!

In Christ,  
*Rod*



## Music Notes



**Rev. Doug Hollida**  
Minister of Music

### Thanks to all for a wonderful Holy Week!

We are so blessed at our church to have so many talented and dedicated people.

Our Alleluia Singers played instruments for the Palm Sunday Carol Choir musical, and for Easter. This involved extra practices at church as well as practice on their own at home. Some of our youth had a schedule of 3 hours here Palm Sunday morning and 2 hours of rehearsal in the evening. And for Easter, some of the instrumentalists were here from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

And let's talk about the Carol Choir musical. They have been doing musicals for years, and after the one last Spring, the Worship Committee was adamant and unanimous that these be done during worship so that no one would miss them. Many of you saw them do a musical for the first time at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service and were blown away by their talent. I know many more of you, seeing them for the first time on Palm Sunday, were blown away as well. What a great group! And again, for them there were hours of extra rehearsals plus countless hours memorizing lines and all those song lyrics!

Kudos also need to go to the parents of both the children and youth choir members for faithfully bringing them to church and rehearsals; and making sure that music and play parts are worked on at home. Thanks parents!

I want to thank everyone who helped make our services special including all those who work on ushering, flowers, set-up, and organizing. And all of our choirs here give it their all in this ministry. It is a blessing and a privilege to work with each and every one. Thanks also to Joyce Keedy and Dee Solomon who do so much to make many of our services, including Easter, extra-special.

It is truly a "holy" week and an uplifting week. Words remind us of the tremendous sacrifice of Jesus and the gloriousness of his resurrection. Music helps deepen that meaning—driving it into our hearts and souls. And all of us are blessed.

### **A**nd stay tuned!

We have some wonderful anthems coming up by all of our vocal and handbell choirs. And the Alleluia Singers Youth Choir will do their second annual cantata at the 10:15 service on May 22. It is entitled "Walking With Jesus – A Spiritual Journey" and will include everything from ancient chant and bell peals to songs that are being played on the radio right now. This is a great group of kids and it will be a very special service.

See you in church!  
*Doug Hollida*



# Second Annual Alleluia Singers



## A Spiritual Journey

**Sunday**  
**May 22**  
**10:15 AM**

# Christian Education

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

September through mid-June

- 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade — Room 311

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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

(down the hall from the cribbery)

Tower Class — Room 214

Women's Class — Room 212

Adult Bible Study — Hoffman Room 218

Men's Class — Room 310

\*Earl's Class — 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

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**\*WEDNESDAY MORNINGS PRAYER  
AND BIBLE STUDY  
10:30-11:30 AM  
Room 214**

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### \*Note: Adult Christian Ed. Classes

**Earl's Class** is a short-term class that meets for one hour at 9:00 Sunday Mornings in the Chapel; facilitated by Earl Smith.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** meets for one hour at 10:30 Wednesday mornings in Room 214; facilitated by Joyce Keedy.

**BOTH** of these classes are delving deeper into the themes of the sermons for our "Open the Door" series April 3—May 8. You are welcome to join either or both classes!

## First Sunday Concerts



## Bach In Baltimore

**Sunday, May 1**

**4:00 p.m.**

**here at**

**Towson United Methodist Church**

Don't miss this very special "In Memoriam" performance of John Rutter's beautiful *Requiem* along with Franz Joseph Haydn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai* and Daniel Gawthrop's *Sing Me to Heaven*.

Tickets are \$30 — except for members/supporters of Towson United Methodist Church — your **tickets are \$20 when paid in advance**.

Mail your check made payable to "Bach in Baltimore" to Christ Lutheran Church, 701 S. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21230. Send a note with your check for \$20 for each person with the information that you are a Towson UMC member/supporter.

If church members would prefer to purchase tickets online, please enter Promo code: TUMC at registration. The ticket price will then be \$20.00. This is the direct link to the event registration <http://www.bachinbaltimore.org/event-registration/?ee=43> or you may simply visit [www.bachinbaltimore.org](http://www.bachinbaltimore.org).

Church members may also call us at 410-941-9262.



**PANCAKES! Finally!!**

**The youth will serve a Pancake Brunch  
on June 5<sup>th</sup>,  
immediately following the worship service.  
Please join us in Fellowship Hall  
for pancakes and sausage.**

**We ask for a free-will donation  
to support our newly sponsored child  
CLAUDETTE.**

**Special toppings for your pancakes are  
available for \$1.00 per topping.**



**Youth Group (UMYF) Schedule:**

First weekend fun event: TBD, keep alert for news!

May 8: Happy Mother's Day, No UMYF

May 15: 6-7:30PM, discussions

May 22: 11:30A—1:00P, Mission

May 29: Happy Memorial Day, No UMYF

**In June**, we will have our last gathering until Fall,  
but keep alert for information about our summer  
mission opportunities and fun events!!!

Remember to sign up with Margery to help with **VBC**.

**Congratulations to our Confirmands.**

Confirmation Sunday is May 15<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost.

We will honor them with a reception in the Parlor  
with cake and yummys!

**We will recognize our graduates  
on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:15!**

Please send in your information  
so your name can be listed in the  
Sunday bulletin that week.

Send to [towsonumc@towsonumc.org](mailto:towsonumc@towsonumc.org).



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

**INTRODUCING**

**Claudette Nikuze**

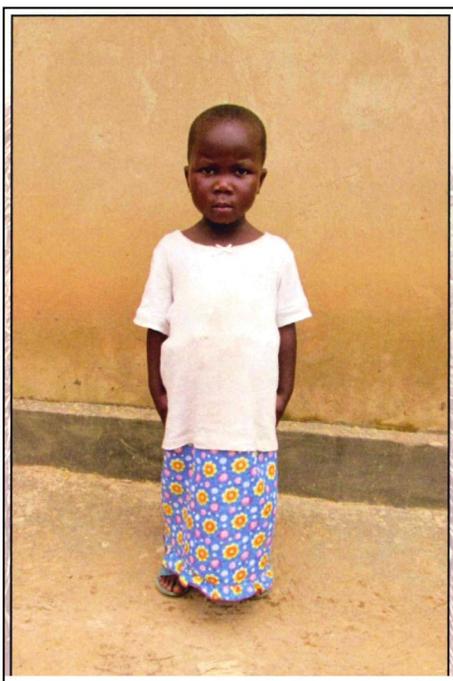
Born September 1, 2012.

She lives in Beshekeri, Rwanda. She does live in an AIDS affected area.

Our YOUTH GROUP has just accepted the sponsorship of Claudette through the COMPASSION organization. Compassion's work in Rwanda began in 1980. Currently, more than 40,785 children participate in more than 150 child development centers. Our youth now have an opportunity to help Claudette rise above her circumstances and become all God has created her to be.

In her home, Claudette helps by carrying water and cleaning. She lives with her father and her mother and 5 siblings. Her father and mother are sometimes employed as farmers. Claudette participates in church activities. She is in Kindergarten where her performance is average. Hide-and-seek and playing group games are her favorite activities.

Thanks to our YOUTH becoming Claudette's sponsors, she now has an opportunity to learn and grow physically, mentally, and spiritually.



# Missions & Outreach



## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

**May's Communion  
Mission Offering  
May 1**  
*"We are compelled  
by Christ  
to alleviate  
human suffering"*



For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special One Great Hour of Sharing offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope.

Our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering pays administrative expenses for UMCOR and supports ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace. Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover our costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

**UMCOR does not receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds**, so without your offerings, UMCOR would not exist.

Recently UMCOR responded to the situation in Flint, Michigan, where residents – including thousands of children – have been exposed to lead in their drinking water since April 2014. UMCOR provided a grant to support local United Methodist churches and other agencies to address the problem. This community, somewhat reluctant to trust government agencies, has welcomed The United Methodist Church. Donations to OGHS made this possible.

**Make your checks payable to Towson UM Church and note on it that it is for OGHS.**

Collection goes through the month of May. *Thank you!*

**Pictured above** — our church sent volunteers as Volunteers in Mission to help Crisfield rebuild. UMCOR leadership that guided us in Crisfield was paid by OGHS.

## **OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY**

... will be open to the public

**Saturday, May 28**

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. The list of items needed are in the Sunday bulletins in order to keep current. If you would like to volunteer to help Saturday mornings once a month, contact Dwight Kines at 410-828-0792.

## **SUPPORT OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS**

**at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center**

There are specific needs for the recovering soldiers at WRNMMC. Our church has been very helpful in supplying these needs.

- ★ VISA/MasterCard gift cards
- ★ Black, nylon workout shorts
- ★ Running/walking sneakers (sizes 9-12)
- ★ Flip-flops (as shower shoes)
- ★ Boxer briefs
- ★ Plain black backpacks
- ★ Pillow cases
- ★ Cotton t-shirts (no white)

Thank you to all who support our service men, women, and their families! Please place your donations in the Sharing Bin marked for WRNMMC in the main lobby.

**DELIVERY is planned for May 10!**

## **DONATE YOUR BLOOD!**

As part of the Leader Saves Lives program, the Dulaney High School Red Cross Club is organizing a blood drive this summer!

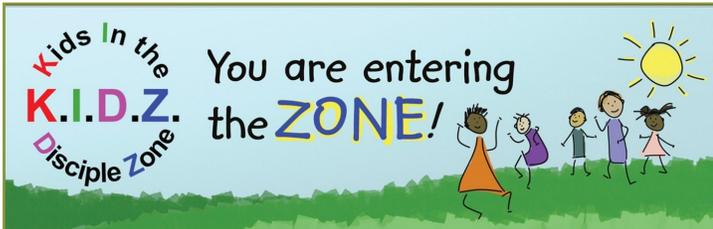
The blood drive will be **Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 AM-12:00 here in Fellowship Hall.**

Anyone older than 16 years may be eligible to donate.

**To schedule your life saving donation, contact Marella Schammel at [msch1105@gmail.com](mailto:msch1105@gmail.com) or 410-823-2485.**

(If you are a regular blood donor, the last day you can give in order to participate in this blood drive is May 7.)





### Summer Sunday School

We offer a learning experience,  
**June 19<sup>th</sup> - August 28<sup>th</sup>**  
 during the 10:15 worship service  
 for children age 3 (by 1/1/2016) to age 6.

The children will begin in the worship service with their families and be dismissed during the service to Room 314 to learn about the **Parables of Jesus**.

Families may pick up their children at the end of the worship service.



### **Childcare continues**

during our summer months in abbreviated form.

We offer childcare in the cribbery, Room 122, during the 10:15 worship service only, 10:00 - 11:30AM.

Care is for children **infants to young age three** (turned 3 years old on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and after).

How do you sign up for VBC?

It's easy ...

Go to our church's webpage

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

Click on MY PICTURE

It will surf you to the sign-up page.

Sign up as a CAMPER or a VOLUNTEER.

The link to pay for your Camper online will be sent to you in the confirmation email.



## VACATION BIBLE CAMP

July 25-29, 2016 (Monday—Friday)

9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**Who:** Children age 3 (by 1-1-2016) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade (completed year 2015-16)

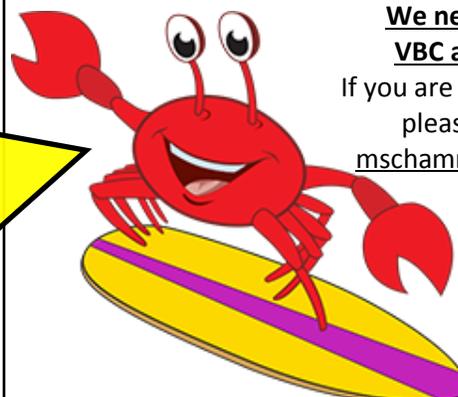
**Cost:** \$10 per child, maximum of \$20 per family

- DAY 1: God Creates; Bible story of creation  
 "How majestic is your name throughout the earth!" Psalm 8:1b
- DAY 2: God Helps; Bible story of Miriam caring for baby Moses — "Your help has made me great." Psalm 18:35b
- DAY 3: God Loves; Bible story of Jesus' baptism  
 "This is my son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him." Matthew 3:17b
- DAY 4: God Calms; Bible story of Jesus calming the storm — "The God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9b
- DAY 5: God Sends; Bible story of breakfast on the beach  
 "Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' I said, 'I'm here; send me.'" Isaiah 6:8

*Join us for fun, Bible lessons, crafts, snacks, and water day with snowballs!*

**We need you to help make VBC a resounding success.**

If you are interested in helping, please contact Margery at [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org) or 410-823-2485.



# Getting to know each other under the Spire



## Reconciling and Accepting Methodists ("RAMs") Report

*"Diversity Is Being Invited to the Party;  
Inclusion Is Being Asked to Dance"*

As stated in the Welcoming Statement published each week in our bulletin (and in this High Spire, p. 14), our congregation celebrates diversity, committing ourselves to Jesus' example of love for all persons, regardless of (among other things) sexual orientation and gender identity. However, we are not a fully "inclusive" church in the sense that we have not publicly called for the repeal of those provisions of church law which discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons. A congregation that has taken this next step is a "reconciling" church.

The Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) is a nationwide organization of individuals and churches dedicated to the full inclusion of LGBT persons in the life and ministry of the United Methodist Church. The TUMC RAMs endorse the goals of the RMN.

Church law can only be changed by the General Conference, which is an assembly of Methodist representatives from all over the world that meets every four years. (Think of it as the church's Congress, only slightly less dysfunctional.) **The General Conference will be meeting May 10 - 20 in Portland, Oregon,** and the RMN will be actively supporting the efforts that will be made to change church law.

In advance of the General Conference, the RAMs have been encouraging members of our Towson congregation to join the RMN, primarily by maintaining a registration table in the foyer before and after the 10:15 worship service. (Our "Choose Love" campaign. You may have seen some of those who have joined the RMN wearing "Choose Love" buttons.)

We recognized the difficulties this effort faced. Many in our congregation are unaware of the church's discriminatory laws, and so there was an educational challenge. There is also a reluctance to "join" any unfamiliar organization, especially when a good deal of personal information (address, e-mail address, phone number) is being requested. The natural inclination of many would be to avoid engagement and pass us by.

In light of these challenges, we thought 50 new RMN members would be a good indication of congregational support for full inclusion. The response of the congregation has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are very pleased to report that (so far) **95** have joined the RMN. (One couple who were "church shopping" expressed support for our efforts to register individual RMN members, but indicated that they would not consider joining a church that was not reconciling.)

The General Conference in May will be a momentous one for the United Methodist Church. Disregard of church law as it affects LGBT persons is widespread in the United States (our own Conference's board

of ordination recently recommended a lesbian candidate for commissioning as a provisional deacon, and the New York Conference has announced that it will no longer consider sexual orientation in the ordination process), and conservative church organizations are calling for the church to split if church law cannot be enforced.

Stay tuned.

For further information, or if you wish to "Choose Love" and join the RMN, please contact Kevin Gralley ([kevin.gralley@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.gralley@gmail.com)).

Towson UM Church's RAMs generally meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 214. They are considering changing the May meeting until after General Conference meets. Please check with Kevin for updates ([kevin.gralley@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.gralley@gmail.com)) — you are welcome and encouraged to attend!





*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 will 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 **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."

### GETTYSBURG BUS TRIP APRIL 13, 2016 RECAP

It was a beautiful, sunny day for 37 of us to travel the hills (with mountains in the distance) to visit Gettysburg, PA. First stop was the Diorama depicting the entire battlefields in miniature with narration and highlighting the battles as they took place. This is the largest Diorama in the United States. Then we toured the battlefields led by an extremely knowledgeable and entertaining guide. We came away from this tour understanding the courage and determination of both North and South and also the realization of the horrors of war, on American soil, between Americans with over 50,000 lives lost, including 10 generals. After this we truly welcomed the buffet lunch at the historic Dobbin House Tavern. Heading for home, we made a short stop at Baugher's Market in Westminster. The smooth ride home completed a very enjoyable day!

We hope you will take advantage of the trips and events offered by the Senior Adult Council. We aim to offer interesting places to visit and/or entertaining events. And the fellowship is SUPERB!!

Our trips and events are open to all ages. They're organized by members of our church who are now retired.



**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:**

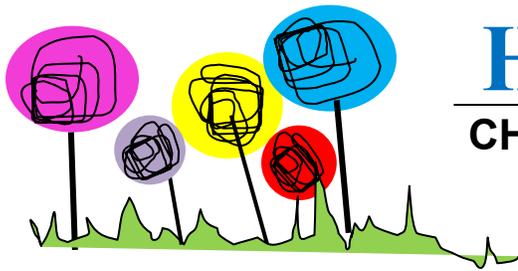
The cost is \$115.00 per person which includes transportation, luncheon, reserved seats for the show, all taxes and tips including the driver. Please make your check payable to **TUMC Senior Adult Council**. **The deadline to reserve your seats for this trip is Wed., May 25, 2016.** Include your meal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





# HAMPTON LANE

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



*So much fun at Hampton Lane....*

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Our center was secretly visited by the nicest Leprechaun on March 17th. He left a green trail through our halls and classrooms. The children wore green for the day and enjoyed St Patrick's day themed activities. Even the snacks and milk were green. Green vegetables are much tastier when they are brought from a leprechaun!



### MR. MIKE THE MAGICIAN

Mr. Mike Rose amazed the children and staff with his magic on March 18th. The children were entertained, baffled and amazed. He never fails to impress us! Mr. Mike Rose has visited our center for many years now and every time we are truly impressed!

### EASTER EGG HUNTS

We had a great time on March 24th during our Easter celebrations. The Easter Bunny came for a visit and left Easter Eggs hidden all around our playground and on the side of the church. The children had a lot of fun searching and collecting the multi-colored eggs.



## Upcoming Events on the "Lane" ...

### ZOO FIELD TRIP

#### The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Our students and their parents will be visiting the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore on April 26th, 2016 at 10:00 am. It is located at 1876 Mansion House Dr, Baltimore, MD 21217

- May 2** **Picture Day** *LifeTouch studios will be here for our Spring class photos*
- May 16** **Parent Teacher Conferences**-HLCD will be closed so that we can have our End of the year Parent Teacher Conferences
- June 3** **Spring Concert...**"On Our Way"-A creative and fun transportation theme for our program
- June 14** **Vision and Hearing Screening** (*students 4 years old and older*)
- June 16** **Last Day of the School Year**
- June 20** **1st Day of the Summer Program**

# Getting to know each other through poetry

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

Proverbs 22:6

## **Prayers from a Mother's Heart to Her Teenager**

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

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

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

When you are sad, I long to use the tears of my sorrows  
to understand your sadness and wash away your tears,  
so that in human love, you may get a glimpse of God's love...

And when you are joyful, to share in your joy,  
making a joyful noise in songs of praise and thanksgiving,  
for the goodness He has bestowed on us.

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

In your flight, may you know you can trust  
His Wind under your wings.

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

Then no more stones shall be cast...

The old shall pass away, and become new,  
and neither of us shall walk alone in His love.  
And the fruits of His Spirit shall shine forth.

By Gini Chapman Pielke © 1999.

## **Visit to Sherwood Gardens**

Spring has called the flowers to bloom,  
Her vital tide swells forth  
To fill the air with sweet perfume  
Across the gardened Earth.

From vaulted heavens brightest blue  
The golden sun shines down  
To smile on flow'rs of every hue,  
And warm the fragrant ground.

Banks of tulips sparkling bright  
Where sun and shadow play,  
Azaleas dazzled by the light  
Enhance this glorious day.

Today this place with beauty filled  
Such joy and peace can bring,  
For a shining moment, time stands still  
To celebrate the spring.

Yet summer follows spring's glad ways  
To change this flowered scene,  
And all her pastel color fades  
To deeper shades of green.

Take pleasure in this garden bright  
Where sun and shadow play,  
Enjoy its freshness, sweet delight,  
Before it slips away.



By Joyce Keedy,  
written May 4, 2000  
after a visit to  
Sherwood Gardens,  
a large, beautiful  
public garden in  
northern Baltimore  
City. © 2013,  
*God Our Creator.*

Poems are  
printed with  
permission of the  
authors.

## 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).



### **Your 2016 Finance Committee**

left to right: Jay Blackman, Steve Bauer (vice-chairman), Pastor Rod Miller, Ann Dahne, Kim Ayres (Business Manager), Alicia Corson, Dave Morris, Merrill Frank (chairman), Eleanor Brown, Carole Dean (secretary), and Bob Naeny  
Not pictured are: Dale Springer, John Engel, Steve Schnur, and Tom Cummings

**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

towsonumc.org  
towsonprays.blogspot.com

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



**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 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](http://www.towsonumc.org), scroll down, click on **DONATE**. Follow the same instructions as above.

THANKS!

### 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

June 2016 issue are due

Tuesday,

May 17, 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](mailto:communications@towsonumc.org).

Thank you!

### VEHICLES FOR CHANGE

*Changing lives with donated cars.*



This is a non-profit organization that refurbishes and provides donated vehicles to low-wage families for employment purposes. VFC exists so worthy families can achieve financial and personal independence that comes from owning a vehicle. VFC changes lives in Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia; awarding vehicles since 1999.

[www.vehiclesforchange.org](http://www.vehiclesforchange.org) — 800-835-3821  
or contact Fred Crider at [dfcrider@comcast.net](mailto:dfcrider@comcast.net)

## 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](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)