



SEPTEMBER

High Spire

Towson United Methodist Church

◆ Monthly Newsletter ◆ September 2016 ◆ Volume 57, Issue 8 ◆

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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	Communion/Mission Offering	p. 10
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FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS		
Sept. 11	 Wear Red, White, and Blue today	
	8:15 Communion Service	
	8:45 Coffee & Friendly Faces	p. 4
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	10:15 Worship Service includes a tribute to the memory of 9/11/2001	p. 7
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Sept. 25	Sermon Series: Seasons of Love	
Registration Forms for ages infant-18, see p. 4 & 5		

Thank You!

Alice and I would like to thank the many members of the church for their prayers and get well wishes during our recent illnesses, especially the weekly cards from Helen Wagner, and the many visits from Rod and our church friends. We are lucky to be a part of such a wonderful, loving, and prayerful church family.

—Alice and Bill Snyder

*The Emergency Food Pantry wishes to **gratefully thank** all who donated food items during VBC 2016 week. We are thrilled to have the sudden shower of food which greatly helps to replenish the pantry shelves, this summer. May our Lord Jesus bless you for your generosity!*

—Val Wehrle, in behalf of the Food Pantry

*Dear Church Friends,
Thank you for your love, prayers, flowers, cards, and Lighting of the Spire. Oh how my family needed everyone. The Lord heard you.*

Harvey went peacefully to Him [July 12, 2016].

Your support has helped through this loss.

*Love,
Dorothy Refo & Family*



Blossoms In Our Souls

God, let us be drawn
To your living water
That never runs dry —
Let our souls drink
From Your spring
Into our thirsty souls —
That we may grow
In your unconditional Love,
A Love we can pour out to
others.

Sometimes our past
May seem hazy —
And our future uncertain,
But Your steady hand
Lights and leads us forward.
Keep us aware of Your
promises
That grows our hope
Bringing forth the blossoms
Of the Fruit of Your Spirit,
In our souls —

*by Gini Pielke, written in the
rain on February 16, 2016*

On the cover: Crape Myrtle, *Lagerstroemia 'Muskogee'*

Monrovia describes this plant as: Panicles of summer blooming light lavender-pink flowers appear amid glossy green foliage that turns red in fall. The cinnamon colored bark is smooth, peeling to a shiny light gray. A large shrub or small tree that makes an excellent specimen or group planting. Deciduous.

Pamela Hodgdon of Demand Media writes: This hybrid was developed by the National Arboretum in Washington, DC and given the name of the native American Indian Tribe “Muskogee.” The “Muskogee” can reach 15-20 feet in height and 15 feet in width. It’s a fast growing tree averaging 12 to 24 inches per season.

A “Muskogee” was planted on each of the islands in the church’s parking lot, following the removal of the suffering oak trees.

The money for these plantings came from the Smith Warner Fund, of which our Board of Trustees are custodians. The Smith Warner Fund was established by the generous gifts from our congregation in 1995 when Dr. Walter Smith retired after 19 years as senior pastor of Towson UM Church and for Rev. James Warner, Towson’s associate pastor during that same period of time.

**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

Missional Community Re-Load



Rod Miller

In the spring of 2012, some of our congregation met together to immerse ourselves in the idea of our church as a “missional community.” We have been discussing that “missional community” is people acting purposefully with God and for others. In a subsequent church planning session in the fall of 2012, we articulated our church mission statement:

The Mission of TUMC is to plant seeds of Christian Faith by equipping, training, supporting, and freeing people to live their faith in the world.

Emerging values which have come from our discussions since then include:

- ◆ **Everyone in the church is important and valuable**
- ◆ **Leaders will be transparent about what they are planning and doing**
- ◆ **Developing and nurturing relationships is primary**
- ◆ **Every person can be a Christian faith seed-planter.**

Our church has been transforming in many ways. My sense is that it is time for us to build on our stated mission and values by delving into Missional Community anew.

So – this fall we will be offering “*Missional Community Re-Load*” for those who would like to deepen and refresh their understanding and for those who are new or curious about the whole idea. I am very excited that Sally Savidge will be co-leading “*Missional Community Re-Load*” with me. The design is new and some of the content will also be new.

Missional Community Re-Load will meet

4 Sundays from 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm, with a break for dinner.

The cost is \$10 for materials, and a donation for dinner.

Schedule: Sunday, September 18 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 9 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 30 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 20 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Please let either Sally (sbjsavidge@gmail.com) or me (rmiller@towsonumc.org) know if you are interested or have further questions.

In Christ,
Rod

Christian Education

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:15a *Chapel Communion Service* — Chapel

10:15a *Worshipping God Together* — Sanctuary

Cribbery: in Room 122

Childcare for infants to age 3 during the 10:15 worship service on September 4.

Starting on September 11, the cribbery will be open 8:45 AM until after the 10:15 worship service ends.

beginning SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

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

9:00a... Sunday school for all ages



Preschool (age 3 – not yet in kindergarten): Room 113

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade: Room 311

3rd Grade – 5th Grade: Room 312

Third graders will receive their Bibles on October 9th and attend a 4-week class to familiarize them with their new Bibles and teach them how to use it.



Sunday Morning

Adult Studies

Begins Sept. 11, 9:00 AM

Everyone is welcome:

Adult Bible Study: Hoffman Room 218

Tower Class: Room 214

Disciple on Sunday morning: Chapel

Women's Class: Room 212

Men's Class: Room 310

Young Parents' Class: Room 114

Christians Under Construction: Room 111

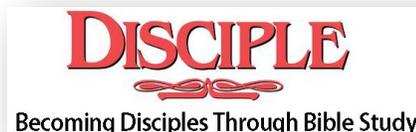
Short-term Class: Room 119

10:15 **See p. 5** for programs planned for children ages 4-6 and 7-11 during the worship service



A short-term class will be offered this fall entitled, "**Living the Beatitudes.**" It will be a 6-week session that enables participants to examine the Beatitudes as a way of blessing others as well as the assurance that we are blessed in the process. The class will be held from 9:15 to 10:00 am each Sunday morning beginning Sept. 11th.

For more information contact Verna Lewis at vernlew8pic@gmail.com or phone 410-821-0531.



Beginning Sunday, September 11, we will be offering a modified version of Disciple 1 Bible Study during our **Sunday School hour at 9:00am**. This will allow for participants to take advantage of the child care services offered on Sunday mornings and to complete the whole course without having to allocate an evening meeting during the week.

The Disciple Bible Study course will also be offered **Tuesday mornings** beginning that same week in September, if there are enough participants.

The course will run for 34-weeks, and the expectation is that participants will attend as many sessions as possible. We learn from each other, so attendance and participation is vital.

Please let me know now if you are interested in attending either class.

If you have questions or wish to sign up, feel free to call me, Earl Smith, at 410-377-6386 or email me at: j_earl_smith@verizon.net.

REGISTRATION FORMS NECESSARY FOR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHOIR

You can find registration forms (which cover class, choir, and fellowship) online at www.towsonumc.org click on [MINISTRIES] [CHILDREN] or, get your forms from Margery or Doug.

FORMS NEEDED for children infants—age 11:

Please mark your child's registration form for ALL the appropriate programs.

- 1) Cribbery Registration Form (infants—age young 3)
- 2) Children's Registration Form (age 3-11)
- 3) Parent's Registration Form (one per family, infants—age 11)

If you completed a Parent's Form last year and there are NO changes, you need not complete another.



TOWSON YOUTH

Sunday School classes begin September 11th

Middle School: Room 216

High School: Room 317

Confirmation: for youth in 8th grade and older in Fellowship Hall

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

UMYF begins September 11th at 6:00 PM

We will follow the schedule we had last Spring:

- first weekend for a fun event, day & time TBA
- second [Sept. 11] & third Sundays 6:00-7:30 PM
- fourth Sundays for mission projects, generally after worship, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM.
- fifth Sundays will usually be 6:00-7:30 PM

(activities updated 9/1/2016)

Sept. 11: 6-7:30 PM. Fun and games as we get back into youth group with our newest members, meet in Fellowship Hall.

Sept. 18: 6-7:30PM. What do you want to know/ learn/ explore/ ask?
Meet in Fellowship Hall.

Sept. 23 (begins 7PM)—Sept. 24 : Movie marathon, ending with the Tailgate Party on Saturday. Meet in the church parlor.

Sept. 25: No Youth group today.

Sept. 30: 7-9:30P. Corn Maze at Beachmont

Mission Projects Planned

Cleaning the garden at a nursing home near Lovely Lane United Methodist Church. Maryanne will be sending you details for October.

We had a great time picking tomatoes in August. So we are planning to pick apples, then pick cabbage, at Fresh Fruits Farm in Freeland, Maryland September & October. Everything we pick is for food pantries, homeless kitchens, and shelters. Dates depend on when the apples and cabbage are ready.

SAVE THE DATE — Feb. 3-5 — ROCK 2017

Let Margery know if you would like to go.



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

**Starting
Sept. 11
at 10:15**



Pray and Play is for children ages 4-6 who will spend the entire worship service learning, singing, and having fun in Room 314. We loved our Children & Worship program, but it is time to try something new!

If you have any questions about Pray and Play, please contact Rev. Margery at mschammel@towsonumc.org / 410-823-2485 or Mrs. Jo Miller at 410-821-1673.

K.I.D.Z. is for children ages 7-11. They will begin in the worship service with their families then be dismissed partway through the service to Room 310 for fun and learning.

WE COME WITH JOY!

The people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference will welcome their new episcopal leader, **Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling**, at a special worship service October 1, at 1:00 PM, at First UMC, at 6201 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD.

Bishop Easterling, who starts her ministry with the Baltimore-Washington Conference September 1, is the first woman to lead the conference in its 233-year history.

In an initial meeting with BWC leaders, she said, "I am just overwhelmed with joy; I mean sheer joy at the fact that I am coming to walk in ministry with you. ... This is new to us, but it is not new to God. God has this planned."

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." - Romans 15:7



REGISTRATION FORMS NECESSARY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL / CHOIR / YOUTH GROUP

You can find registration forms online at

www.towsonumc.org

click on [MINISTRIES] [TOWSON YOUTH]
or, get your forms from Margery or Doug.

FORMS NEEDED ages 12-18:

- 1) Youth Registration Form
- 2) Parental Release and Medical Form
- 3) Parent's Registration Form (one per family). If you completed a Parent's Form last year and there are NO changes, you need not complete another.
- 4) Covenant of Conduct



Music Notes



Rev. Doug Hollida
Minister of Music

Fall means many things, including the start of our music program here. It's time to think about singing and/or ringing your praises to the Lord. Below is a description of all the opportunities, for vocal and handbell choirs, followed by the starting dates. New members are always welcome. In fact, we really need some new members in all the

choirs, both singing and ringing. So if you've ever thought about trying choir, now's a great time!

VOCAL CHOIRS

CHANCEL CHOIR - Adults - Rehearses Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00. Ability to read music is not required.

JOYFUL NOISE - All ages welcome! - Rehearses & sings occasionally throughout the year. Come when you can. On the Sundays we sing, we meet at 9:45 to learn an easy anthem. Dates are communicated via e-mail. So e-mail me, please, if you would like to be added to the list.

ALLELUIA SINGERS (6th - 12th graders) - Rehearses Sunday evenings 5:00-6:00.

CAROL CHOIR (2nd - 5th graders) - Rehearses Tuesday evenings 6:00-6:45.

JOY SINGERS (4-year-olds – 1st graders) – Rehearse Sunday mornings during Pray and Play.



HANDBELL CHOIRS

NOTE: Please let me know ahead of your interest in the bell choirs so we can have a spot for you. These are NOT age related choirs. Participation in handbell choirs is determined by experience.

GENESIS BELLS - For anyone who does or does not read music and has limited (to no) experience playing bells - Rehearse Tuesday evenings 6:45-7:30.

CELEBRATION RINGERS - For anyone who reads music OR has some ringing experience - Rehearse Sunday afternoons 4:00-5:00.

TOWER CHIMES - Advanced ringers – Ability to read music is required but ringing experience is not. If you're not sure if you're ready for this choir, let me know and we'll talk about it. Rehearse Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:30.

STARTING DATES

September 6 – Carol Choir

September 7 – Chancel Choir

September 11 – Joy Singers

September 11 – Alleluia Singers

September 13 – Genesis Bells

September 14 – Tower Chimes

September 18 – Celebration Ringers

NOTE: All rehearsals are in the Music Room (room 321) – 3rd floor near the main stairs.

Choirs offer opportunities to become a deeper part of our fellowship, to engage in ministry, and to grow as a disciple. I hope you will prayerfully consider where God is calling you this September. And if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peace and blessings, *Doug*

TUMCMusicDirector@towsonumc.org

410-823-6519

Just a year ago we were introduced to **Servants in Service** when Mike Steer outlined the opportunities for us to take a next step in faith. In addition to our reliable volunteer hands and hearts, many more stepped up to support our staff. For example, we now have volunteers covering the office receptionist duties Monday through Wednesday, people learning the sound/video system, notes are being written, and our kitchen has "certified personnel."

Marilyn Donoho, a retired art teacher, is one who stepped forward (pictured left). She is using her gifts to share TUMC messages on several of our bulletin boards.

Our church needs YOU! Many of our Servants in Service "wear more than one hat." What hats will you wear as a Servant in Service? Let me know at susanbkillian@gmail.com.

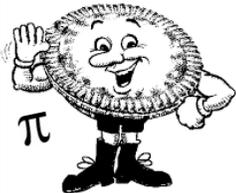
"...anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace...a soul generated by love." Martin Luther King

Getting to know each other under the Spire



KICKING OFF FALL September 11

This fall's program schedule (including Sunday School for all ages and choirs) will start on **September 11, 2016** and, on that Sunday, we will have a special time during the worship service to remember 9-11-2001.



PIE - PIE - PIE

To celebrate coming back after the summer season, the Growing Forward Bridge Team will be hosting a "Pie Social" right **after the 10:15 service in Fellowship**

Hall. At the "Pie Social" you will also learn about the upcoming Growing Forward 2nd Fruits Sunday, which will occur on October 2, 2016. Second Fruits Sunday will be an opportunity to give a new or additional gift for Growing Forward.

In the meantime, you can let Shirley Derksen know if you would like to bring a pie to share on September 11th. She can be reached at smderksen@verizon.net or (410) 825-6752.

Saturday, September 24 4:00—7:00 PM

The Young Parent's Class would like to invite you out to our first ever **Tailgate Party**.

This is a community wide family fun event for people of all ages.

Admission is Free



The night will conclude with a **field goal kicking contest** so make sure you get your practice in ahead of time.

We hope to see a lot of you out there and please, please feel free to share our event with others in the community.



CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER!

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 12, 2016**

Board bus 8:00 AM at Oak Crest,
8:30 AM Towson UM Church
Return 5:30 PM TUMC,
6:00 PM Oak Crest

Come join Towson United Methodist Church in Lancaster County, PA for a fun-filled day filled with delicious food, entertainment, shopping, and holiday cheer in October!

- National Christmas Center in Paradise for a self-guided tour
- Buffet lunch at Arthur's Terrace at the Best Western Eden Resort
- The Barnyard Art Studio and Gallery in Lititz, PA for a "Chalk Talk Experience"

Don't miss it!

Price is \$81 person. You may need extra money for SHOPPING!!!

Make your reservation by sending your check, payable to the Senior Adult Council, mail to: Ginny Foster 8444 Loch Raven Blvd. Towson, MD 21286

SIGN UP NOW.

**Contact Ginny Foster at
410-296-4780 or**

**virginiafoster@comcast.net
DEADLINE: August 31, 2016**

A View from My Pew

By: Susan Davis Bengel

August 17, 2016

As much as I hate to admit it, I am a creature of habit. Although I know with change comes progress many times, I am not good with initiating change. In fact, there are some areas of my life I would be fine with if nothing ever changed. Yet the intelligent part of my brain tells me that without change we become stagnant and new ideas and movement forward would never exist.

I grew up in my little Methodist Church in rural North Carolina, sitting on the fourth pew from the front on the left hand side of the church. That was our family pew. You know how we Methodist are about "our spots" in the church. I came to Towson United Methodist Church in March of 1996 and found my seat on the fourth pew from the front on the left hand side of the church. It was a comfortable selection, as that had been my spot for every church I had attended.

This past Sunday I changed it up and found a spot on the fourth pew from the back, yet still on the left hand side. Now, I could say I intentionally made this change in my seating. The truth is I was a bit late coming in and my son did not want to parade down the isle with me to the front to retrieve our regular seat. So this change was not a planned change but much like many changes in our life it was one of necessity or rather one of consequence.

Feeling a little out of place that far back and removed from the front where all the action is, I began to notice things that I normally do not get to see. I was able to see all the people that were in attendance. Faces of people around me that I had not seen before other than when they passed me on their way up to communion. I could get a full view of the pulpit and choir loft and all the steps leading up to the altar. You see when I sit up front my vision is focused on the center of what is there and sometimes the surroundings are not seen because I am so close. But in the back you are able to take in everything.

My mind began to wander as the music played during the offering. I gazed at the front and wondered how many had taken those steps up to that altar? How many people had stood there to be married or had their funeral preached from there? How many had knelt for communion or for prayer? How many lives were changed by taking those few steps up to this altar? I realized just how inviting that altar looked from the back. Not just a part of it . . . but all of it. I could see it all and was seeing it with a new meaning and understanding.

Sometimes in the midst of the troubles and turmoil's of our life we are so close and in the middle of the battle that we can't see the full picture or scope of what is happening. It's when we step back and remove ourself from it that sometimes things become clearer. We are able to get a different perspective on what is happening and our purpose in it all. It's a change we make to allow something good to come from a bad time or situation. It's not always easy as many of us want to be in control and figure it out in the midst of it all. Sometimes God says, "Take a step back and see who is really in control." It is then our troubles diminish and we understand that moving to another place may be uncomfortable initially, but may be where we need to be in that moment of time.

Although the altar stretched further from my view in the back, the cross on the wall remained as large and majestic as it appeared up front. My up front seat was where I thought I would not miss anything. Turns out there was so much I was missing by never moving from that spot. Now this does not mean I have given up my pew up front, just that I have come to realize that sometimes you miss more when you don't allow a little change to occur.

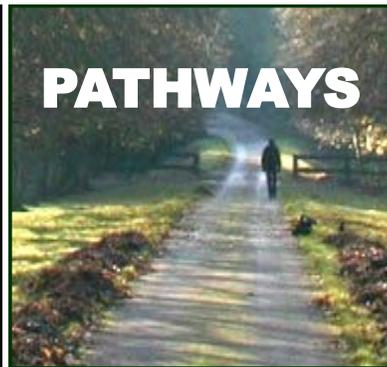
Lord, help us to see that nothing stays the same. Guide us to move and to change so that all of your glory can be experienced. Through change is clarity, through change is knowledge, through change we become the people you intend us to be. Amen.

Happy Birthday!

Chase Harrison 9/1
 Ellie Miller 9/1
 Ethan Sleeman 9/1
 Michel'le Stallworth 9/1
 Barbara Hamilton 9/2
 Carol Matlin 9/2
 Craig Yeagle 9/2
 Robin Beynon 9/4
 Don McWilliams 9/4
 Pat Totzauer 9/4
 Arianna Green 9/5
 Elizabeth O'Donnell 9/5
 Meghan Ashley 9/7
 McCarl Roberts 9/7
 Tom Cummings 9/8
 Jennifer Houk 9/8
 Donna Russell 9/8
 Dave Turlington 9/8
 Maria Jackson 9/9
 Samuel Kindig 9/9
 Jeffrey Wagner 9/9
 Fred Yoder 9/9
 Duncan Branch 9/10
 Tim Nevin 9/10
 Tracie Bartlett 9/11
 Bruce Brown 9/11
 Evan Cline 9/11
 Kylee Gabler 9/11
 Verna Lewis 9/11

Pat Kirby 9/12
 Lee Thomas 9/12
 Chris Alonso 9/13
 Hugh Davison 9/13
 Nicholas Haile 9/13
 Jenna Lee Burkart 9/14
 Dorothy Gretz 9/14
 Shirley Hall 9/14
 Betsie Johnson 9/14
 Haven Richardson 9/14
 Marella Schammel 9/14
 Carol Sorrell 9/14
 Scott Edel 9/15
 Albert Keller 9/15
 Lilly Lorenz 9/15
 Laverne Hammond 9/16
 June Bond 9/17
 Christina Kahler 9/17
 Bill Richards 9/17
 Allie Tobian 9/17
 Nancy deLaski 9/18
 Joe Hogue 9/18
 Jay Blackman Jr 9/19
 Matt Walsch 9/19
 Annette Young 9/19
 Gloria Baker 9/20
 Ruth Eubank 9/20
 Denny Miller Jr 9/20
 Liz Neal 9/20

Alex Schaeffer 9/20
 Michelle Dase 9/21
 Claire Ricci 9/21
 Isaac Dunlap 9/22
 Tiss Haile 9/22
 Frank Barilla 9/23
 Keith Blackman 9/23
 Andrew Engel 9/23
 Kelsey Pilarski 9/23
 Taylor Brewer 9/24
 Mary Chatterton 9/24
 John Eisenberg 9/24
 Ray Hall 9/24
 Darlene Nevin 9/24
 Trevor Schnirel 9/24
 Luke Smith 9/24
 Pat Nardone 9/25
 Gloria Bortz 9/26
 Austin Davis 9/26
 Melanie Webster 9/26
 B.J. Gerding 9/27
 Abigail Huber 9/27
 Theresa Peard 9/27
 Ryan Cogdill 9/28
 Richard Deuber 9/28
 Luke Bengel 9/29
 Tracy Cogdill 9/29
 Michael Giudice 9/29
 Henry Jackson 9/29
 Josh Smith 9/29
 Katherine Smith 9/29
 Colin Wright 9/29
 Tim Ford 9/30



Mary Wynne Eisenberg and Sharon Penhallegon have been working to be sure all is ready to welcome PATHWAYS students back to our tutoring program in October. We are welcoming the return of Stephanie Kimmons to the Board of Directors and Ken Henschen is taking over the treasurer position. A former tutor, Amanda Long, brings her teaching skills to our board as a new member also.

Maria Springer is heading up the planning for the **Gingerbread House decorating fundraiser**. **SAVE THE DATE** of DECEMBER 3rd **TELL YOUR FRIENDS...WATCH FOR DETAILS** to support this amazing mission program of our church!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS — Women's Retreat 2017

Join us for the 2017 Women's Retreat to be held on **April 21-23**

at the Bishop Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD.

Website for the Center is www.claggettcenter.org. Take a look — we think you'll love it!

Missions & Outreach



food for thought

COMMUNION/MISSION OFFERING

Sunday, September 4

and throughout the month of September

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food For Thought is a project through ACTC (Assistance Center of Towson Churches) whose goal is to address student food insecurity in Baltimore County Public Schools through the backpack program (filling weekend backpacks with nutritious shelf stable food). Last year TUMC helped provide nutritious snacks for eight underprivileged children from Ridgely Middle School. Bags were packed by ACTC volunteers and delivered each week by members of TUMC. This past school year, 90 students from 8 Baltimore County schools were provided backpacks of food each week.

The students who are "food insecure" have been identified by Baltimore County Public Schools administrators for 2016-17.

The cost to fill each bag is approximately \$8-10. Please consider donating food items or making a monetary donation to help support this worthy project. A list of recommended food items is available in the church lobby.

If you are able to volunteer your time by shopping, packing, or delivering bags please contact Annie Biser at 410-499-0003 or by email anniebiser@aol.com.

Make your checks payable to Towson UMC and note that its for "Food for Thought." Send to church by mail or as an online donation or place in the offering plate.

Thank you!



THE CLOTHES BIN IS OUTSIDE THE CHURCH, IN THE BACK PARKING LOT.

We accept men, women, and children's clothes, and accessories. The clothes need to be clean, please. Ron

Donoho delivers the clothes we collect to Homestead United Methodist Church once a month. The volunteers at Homestead UMC have a clothes closet ministry for the folks who live in the Waverly area of Baltimore City.

Ron says you may bring your gently used clothes again in September.



American Red Cross BLOOD DRIVE

Our next Towson UMC
Community Blood Drive is

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016 between 6:30am and 12:00pm
in Fellowship Hall

Anyone older than 17 years of age is eligible to donate (16 year olds needs parental consent). Check the church website for more information. For medical or travel eligibility questions call the ARC at 1-866-236-3276.

Remember... You must wait 56 days between donations. If you are a regular donor, you must have donated before July 23rd to be eligible to donate on Sept 17th!

For more information or to schedule your life-saving donation contact

Margot via e-mail TUMCBloodDrive@gmail.com.

OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

... will be open to the public on

Saturday, September 24

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 morning once a month, contact Dwight Kines at 410-828-0792.



...brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through simple, gift-filled shoe boxes and the

Good News of God's Love through Jesus Christ. — We will be

DISTRIBUTING EMPTY Christmas Shoe Boxes

with labels, rubber band, envelope,

and a list of gift possibilities

Sundays October 30 and November 6

and

**COLLECTING YOUR FILLED Christmas Shoe Boxes
Sundays, November 6 and November 13 (LAST DAY)**

Need gift ideas? Go to www.samaritans-purse.org.

If you want to fill your box earlier, contact Cathy at 410-823-3689 or communications@towsonumc.org to arrange to bring your filled box into church before November.



TUMC Summer Mission Projects pictured above:

- ◆ Baltimore County Christian Workcamp (during & after)
 - ◆ BCCW dinner served here
 - ◆ Picking tomatoes at First Fruits Farm
- Yes, it was hot, but worth it!**

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-singing. 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.

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
October 2016 issue is due Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016.

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

Thank you!

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).



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 towsonumc.org, scroll down, click on DONATE. Follow the same instructions as above.

THANKS!

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

Carole Dean, TUMC’s Church Lay Leader

Rev. Dr. Roderick J. Miller, Lead Pastor

Rev. Margery Schammel, Assistant Pastor

Rev. Doug Hollida, Minister of Music

HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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

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

TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

501 Hampton Lane
Towson, Maryland 21286

410-823-6511

towsonumc.org
towsonprays.blogspot.com

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