

High Spire

SPRING

2019

Newsletter for Members & Friends of Towson United Methodist Church

Williamsburg WELCOME

Colonial America is renowned for its stylist use of the pineapple, adorning everything from colonist dishware and doorways to furniture finials and building architecture. Yet the fruit is native to South America and its origins run deep in the hearts of Spanish explorers, who first recorded its sweetness and traded pineapple around the globe in the 1600s. For 200 years, the fruit was coveted in Europe as a delicate and stately gift for royalty, a rare addition to meals, and a symbol of Christianity as “each pineapple plant gives its own life to produce fruit.”¹

Perhaps, it is no surprise that the pineapple became “a sought-after delicacy in colonial America”¹ as well. When pineapple was served, guests “were naturally flattered at the honor, and thus may have evolved the idea that [it] was considered a sign of the highest form of hospitality.”¹

Fast forward 100 years to the 1980s in Maryland when Martha Dase was Worship Committee Chair at Towson United Methodist Church. She and her committee members decorated the whole church with live greenery during the holidays. Specifically, Martha and her husband, Arthur, spent two days each year collecting fruits and greens for the “Williamsburg decoration” (as Martha fondly called it) to hang outdoors above the front entrance.

Together, the husband-and-wife duo visited Harold’s fruit stand on Harford Road to find one firm pineapple and the biggest box of apples with stems intact. Then, they

wandered the church property to cut the freshest boxwood and magnolia branches.

With the help of John Bransby, who built the original arched wooden frame for the display, they designed and arranged the first *Williamsburg Welcome*



A ‘Williamsburg Welcome’ hangs above church doors



Baltimore Superintendent Rev. Dr. Wanda Duckett’s visit. L. to R. Rachel Livingston, Rev. Wanda Duckett, Rev. Mark Johnson, Rev. Sandi Johnson, and Christine Taylor

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Youth Group at ROCK 2019 in Ocean City, Maryland

[continued, page 17]

Thank you! Thank you!

Dear friends at Towson UMC — Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia you gave me at Christmas. I will always remember your kindness and thoughtfulness. You are always in my prayers.

— Katherine Rigney

Dear friends at TUMC —

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia you delivered to Gil and me. They brightened our homes with the wonder and joy of Christmas. We greatly appreciate your prayers and cards. It is a challenge to adjust to new lifestyles, but your support gives us strength. May God continue to bless us all in 2019; and may we feel comfort, peace and love.

Most sincerely,
Gil and Katherine Smith



Spring Forward March 10

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9, when Daylight Savings Time begins. See you at worship the next morning—on time!

Next High Spire content deadline: May 1st for the FULL SUMMER 2019 issue. Send photos, story ideas and written copy to: communications@towsonumc.org

High spire

501 Hampton Lane : Towson, MD 21286

410.823.6511

www.towsonumc.org

Business Hours: Mon-Thurs 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Sunday Worship Services: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM

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Rev. Dr. Wanda Duckett—*District Superintendent, Baltimore Metropolitan District*

Bob Kimmons & Stephanie Kimmons—*Towson UMC's Church Lay Leaders*

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HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Erin Rigley— *Center Director*
410.825.0008 : cdcdirector@towsonumc.org
A ministry of Towson United Methodist Church, Hampton Lane CDC is a licensed childcare center with approved preschool for ages two (2) through pre-kindergarten. www.hamptonlanecdc.org

Hospitality Committee Serves Up Smiles

An Interview with Armilda Beard by Maryanne Arthur

What is the focus of the Hospitality Committee?

Our primary focus continues to be to promote a hospitable atmosphere within the Church. We try to accomplish this with many different activities, such as weekly worship greeters, Coffee Hour, the Welcome Station, New Member receptions, guest phone calls and birthday cards.

Describe how the House of Ruth service Project started at Towson UMC.

In 2009, Church committees were asked to complete a mission project each year. Our Hospitality Ministry Committee members came up with about 14 different ideas to pursue. Eventually, we chose two missions. (1) Under the direction of Mike McWilliams, we bought and planted bulbs and flowers around the entrance to the church as a one-time mission project. And, (2) committee members brought items (such as baby wipes, towels, and wash cloths) to the monthly meetings and then delivered items to the House of Ruth as our ongoing mission. In February that year, we decided to do something fun for the women and children at the House of Ruth. We gave each of the 30 women a valentine and warm socks; and, to each of the 50 children, we gave a box of valentines to share with their friends, valentine candy, and a small canvas tote bag to decorate and use for their book club.

During the summer of 2009, we collected much-needed baby wipes and diapers as a daily mission at our Vacation Bible Camp. Campers and church members donated 12,000 bags of diapers and boxes of wipes – which was enough to help the House of Ruth's victims of domestic violence for an entire year!!

Later that same year, we donated books to the House of Ruth for their on-site book club, birthday gift program, and loaning library (including resource books). And, every year since then, we've continued to work closely with the House of Ruth to serve approximately 30-40 women and 40-50 children with these projects. [continued, page 18]



"Hospitality Committee" article continued on page 18

Mark's Meanderings...

Dear Friends —

Over the next few weeks, we will experience a number of changes: the weather will begin its transition from the snow, ice and cold of February to (hopefully) the beginnings of spring; the season of Lent, which leads to Easter, will replace the current season of Epiphany; and the General Conference of the UMC will have met and we will begin to plan for what, if any, changes there will be in our denomination. I'll bet each of you could list several more changes that you are living with and through.

Living with change is nothing new for you and me. Life is constantly changing. And so, we live each day of our lives with that interesting mix of hope for, and anxiety about, the future. Yet Jesus tells us:

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the ov-

en, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

(Matthew 6: 26-7: 2 NRSV)

So how do we keep from worrying? A key for me is remembering that, although everything about life will change, God's love for you and me never changes. Further, we are not going through all this change alone. God has placed us in a faith community – a church family – that supports and affirms us. Isn't it amazing what we can face and overcome when we stick together?

Want to talk more about this? Give me a call and let's have a cup of coffee.

See you in worship!

Blessings —

Pastor Mark Johnson

Coffee & Conversation

You are invited to join me for "Coffee and Conversation" on most (not April 10 or May 22) Wednesday mornings at 9 AM (or thereabouts) at Baltimore Coffee and Tea located at 9 West Aylesbury Road in Timonium, MD 21093.

Just a reminder – if the weather looks "iffy" please check the Baltimore County School closings. If the schools are closed or opening late, then we won't gather for Coffee and Conversation.

Wesley Heritage Trip - November 5-13, 2019

Explore our Methodist roots in Epworth, Oxford, London and several other cities in England where the Methodist movement began.



Orientation Meeting (prices and details)
March 20 - 7:00 PM at Towson UMC

Tour hosted by Pastors Mark and Sandi Johnson.
All are welcome to join the group!

Lenten Activities

Lent is a time of spiritual reflection and preparation that begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6, until Easter Sunday, April 21. The Towson UMC worship team will provide a variety of worship and fellowship times to highlight your Lenten experience.

March 6, Ash Wednesday

Noon Prayer and the imposition of ashes in the chapel

7:00 PM Sanctuary worship service and imposition of ashes

March 17, Carol Choir Musical: Happiness is Jesus

April 14, Palm Sunday

8:00 AM and **10:15 AM** Worship

6:00 PM Biblical Storytelling Concert ("The Passion")

April 18, Maundy Thursday Seder Meal at 6:30 PM

April 19, Good Friday Worship at Noon and 7:00 PM

April 21, Easter

8:00 AM, 9:00 AM and **11:00 AM** Worship

10-11 AM Easter Continental Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

NO Sunday School Classes, Christian Connections, KIDZ or Pray 'n Play

You are invited to join your Church family – and invite your friends who do not have a church home — for these inspiring and spiritually moving spring experiences.



Spring Sermon Series

On March 3, we will begin a sermon series titled *When the Church is Under Re-construction* and consider how we as a community of faith might share God's timeless story of grace and love to people living in a rapidly changing world. After the Easter season, we will share a three-week sermon series titled *Growing on to Perfection*. Attend worship each Sunday and invite your friends, relatives, co-workers, and acquaintances who are looking for a church home.

March 3	<i>When the Church is Under Re-construction</i>
March 10	<i>When the Church is Under Re-construction: Following Blueprints</i>
March 17	Carol Choir musical: <i>Happiness is Jesus</i>
March 24	<i>When the Church is Under Re-construction: Quality Materials</i>
March 31	<i>When the Church is Under Re-construction: Space For Grace</i>
April 7	<i>When the Church is Under Re-construction: TBD</i>
April 14	<i>When the Church is Under Re-construction: Salvage</i>
	Palm Sunday
April 21	<i>Reconstruction or Resurrection?</i>
	Easter
April 28	Alleluia Singers Cantata
May 5	<i>Growing on to Perfection: Root</i>
May 12	<i>Growing on to Perfection: Shoot</i>
	Mothers' Day : Graduate Recognition : Youth Sunday
May 19	<i>Growing on to Perfection: Fruit</i>
	Confirmation Sunday

NEW! Lenten Learning Classes

9:00 AM Sundays, beginning March 3

"When God Doesn't Fix It"

WOMEN'S SHORT-TERM CLASS

Laura Story's life took an unexpected turn when her husband, Martin, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The news brought Laura's dreams of a fairy-tale life to an end. Yet it also brought her a deeper intimacy with God as she turned to him and allowed him to rewrite her story. In this five-session curriculum, Laura shows that while God may not fix every broken thing in our lives, he will lead us to a place where we are better because of it. No RSVP needed! Just DROP IN Room 310 on Sundays at 9:00 AM.

Noon, Mondays, March 11-April 15

"Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful"

OPEN LENT CLASS FOR ALL

Join us for a Lenten study as we learn about being a disciple from the "flawed but faithful disciple". We will meet for 6 weeks in Room 311. We will use the study Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton.

Contact: Pastor Margery

mschammel@towsonumc.org or
410.823.2485



Image credit: www.cokesbury.com

Happy New Year!

Thank you Towson UMC for the beautiful red poinsettia delivered to me at Christmas.

Your thoughtfulness and kindness are so appreciated.

—Dorothy Quigley

Dear TUMC Family—

What a nice visit with the family who delivered my Christmas poinsettia! I also appreciate the card depicting the front door.

Thanks and love!

— Ruth Beam

Thank you so much for the lovely Christmas poinsettia.

It is still very beautiful. — Alice Snyder

Even Pebbles Make Ripples



Have you ever skipped a stone across the water's surface? And watched the ripples spread wider?

That's how it is when you give to your church through your will. Your gift, no matter the size, makes a big difference.

To make a gift to Towson UMC, simply include the following statement (with the amounts specified) in your will:

"I give \$ ____ (or ____%) of my disposable estate to Towson United Methodist Church."

Go ahead. Toss one in.

Lay Ministry Opportunities

God calls each of us to the ministry of service through our baptism and equips us to serve in a variety of ways. At last count, about 250 members of Towson UMC are ministering in ways that “build up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4: 12). Here are a couple ways you can use your God-given abilities to serve others in your church family:

Lay Ministers of Visitation Our Congregational Care team has set a goal of recruiting and training at least 20 Lay Ministers of Visitation to assist the Pastoral Staff in visiting our homebound members. Could you spare the time to visit or call two homebound members each month? If so, please contact Susan Killian at susanbkillian@gmail.com or Linda Brooks at lindaakeefe99@gmail.com for details.

Fun And Games Committee Okay, that’s probably not going to be the name of the committee we are forming but we are looking for eight or ten folks who like to have fun, share fellowship, and want to help build a warmer, closer congregation. This team would organize a number of activities to get the congregation together and even spread the news to the community that Towson UMC is a pretty great place to worship and grow spiritually. Interested? Talk to Pastor Mark.

If these ministries are not your “cup of tea,” then there are many other ways you can be in ministry. Talk to either Pastor Mark or Pastor Margery for more information.

Biblical Storytelling

The Baltimore Metropolitan District of our United Methodist Conference is hosting a Lay Servant training class on “Biblical Storytelling” at Towson UMC beginning Sunday afternoon, **March 17**. The class is taught by Pastors Mark & Sandi Johnson and is open to all; particularly for those pursuing certification as Lay Servants.

Classes will be held Sunday afternoons from **3:00 – 5:00 PM on March 17, March 24, March 31 and will culminate with a Biblical Storytelling Concert on April 14**. You may register online at www.bwcmc.org/event/1284244-2019-03-17-2019-baltimore-region-school-of-christian-growth-study-420-biblical-storytelling (Study #420) If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Mark.



Sssssshhhh . . . It's a Secret

Towson UMC will host the youth choir of a large, out-of-state United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2. (The choir will be on a “Mystery Tour” and since their youth don’t yet know where they are going, we are going to keep their hometown location a secret. You never know who might know someone who knows someone who knows someone . . .)

Our job is to recruit families who will welcome two or more youth into their home for Saturday night and will get them back to the church in time for worship. (Probably 9:00 AM or so.) We need host families for 30 youth and 10 adults. So far, we have places for 27 of the 40 choir members. If you are interested and willing to have two or more houseguests for Saturday night, June 1, then please call Pastor Mark at the church office 410.823.6511. Even if you are not able to share your home with a couple choir members, we can use your help in preparing and serving supper in Fellowship Hall on Saturday night. And, you’ll want to make sure you are in worship on Sunday, June 2 to hear them sing. Please let us know how you wish to help.

Church Calendar => ONLINE!

Stay informed! Click on this icon on the home page of our www.towsonumc.org website for the current monthly calendar



2019 Financial Projections for Towson UMC

We have many great programs here at TUMC and want to be sure we're on solid financial ground to keep them going. Since our 2019 projections show expenses exceeding income by approximately \$15,000, would you please consider increasing your regular giving in whichever giving method you are most comfortable? This gift will bless our Church and ensure we can continue sharing God's unconditional love with the community. Thank you!!! — Sincerely, Finance & Stewardship Teams

HANDS ON Food Service Volunteers NEEDED



Towson UMC provides assistance to Manna House and serves breakfast to people in need.

Three volunteers are needed four times a year to serve buffet style breakfasts at Manna House (25th St. and Barclay). It is well-run and a safe place to serve. The people are very appreciative of our assistance. Various churches assist each year.

Our 2019 dates are all Fridays: May 3, September 6, and November 1. We can carpool from Towson UMC---leave at 7:15 AM and return by 11:00 AM. Please join us to serve food and help support this worthy project. Contact Gene Bandy: Eugene.bandy@gmail.com or 410.583.2105



*A single act of kindness
throws out roots in all directions
and the roots spring up
and make new trees.*

— Amelia Earhart



Towson UMC's Community Blood Drive

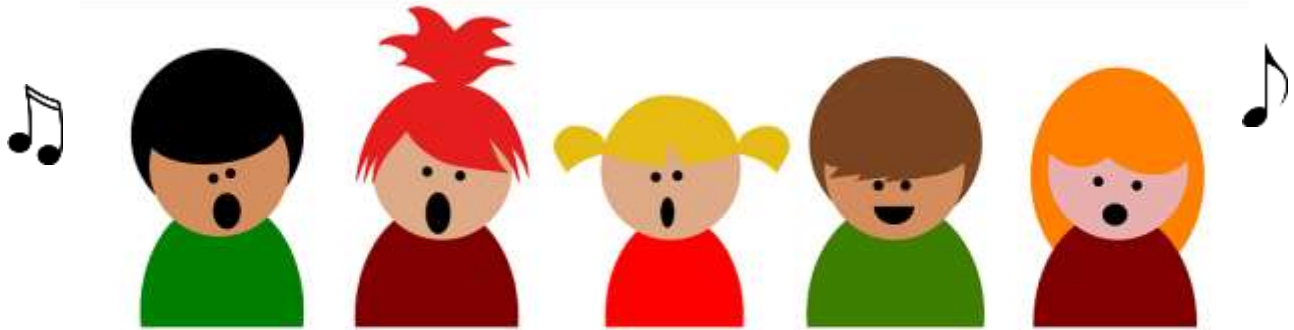
Our next Towson UMC Community Blood Drive will be held on **Saturday, March 23 between 6:30 AM and 12:30 PM.** Anyone older than 16 years of age may be eligible to donate.

Check the church website for more information or for medical or travel eligibility questions call the ARC at 866.236.3276.

Remember... You must wait 56 days between donations of whole blood. **If you are a regular donor, and have not donated since January 26, then you are still eligible to donate on March 23!**

For more information, or to schedule your life-saving donation, call the church office at 410.823.6511 or email TUMCBloodDrive@gmail.com





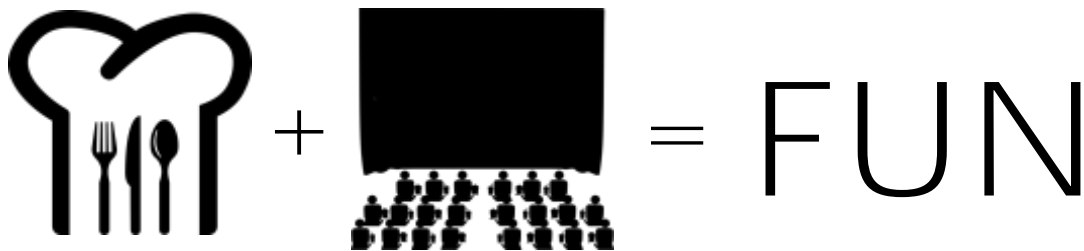
Upcoming Special Youth Music Sundays

March 17 The Carol Choir Spring Musical: *Happiness is Jesus*

April 28 The Alleluia Singers present their annual Cantata



Join us for these special services as we worship Christ and celebrate the gifts of our children and youth!



Are you in Kindergarten? Or 1st thru 5th grade? Want to have FUN with church friends?!

Grab your favorite blankie and stuffed lovie to join us in Fellowship Hall for lunch and a movie after worship on Sunday, March 10. RSVP to Pastor Margery so we can serve plenty of lunch for everyone. Bring a soft surface to sit on as we watch the movie. Contact: mschammel@towsonumc.org or 410.823.2485. It will be a relaxing afternoon. Bring a friend!



Vacation Bible Camp 2019 Will Be Out of This World!

It's never too early to dream about summer fun! Our annual VBC will be July 22 – 26, 2019. The theme is "To Mars and Beyond!" Come with EP3-20 to explore where God's power can take YOU!

THEME VERSE: "Glory to God who is able to do far beyond all

that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!" *Ephesians 3:20*

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Help make our Vacation Bible Camp a success for the children in our community. Contact Pastor Margery if you can help one or more days during VBC week, help prepare materials, decorate, or any of the many other tasks that make VBC happen. Questions? Ask Margery: mschammel@towsonumc.org or 410.823.2485.

If we're growing, we're always going to be out of our comfort zone. — John Maxwell

Icing on the Gingerbread House 2018



It takes a village to make 50 gingerbread houses happen and raise \$3,000 in just three days! Maria Springer and Ann Dahne are thanking again the many volunteers and staff members who helped make the December 2018 event a great success.

We appreciate the help of many, including the women on the construction and preparation crews: Carole Dean, Carol Edel, Carol Sims, Carol Woodworth, Cindy Frank, Debbie Ross, Debby Maciolek, Judy Hobbs, Judy Meinhardt, Kathleen Cotter, Kathy King, Linda Brooks, Marjorie Bandy, Marta Harrison, Pat Day, Shirley Derksen, Stephanie Kimmons, Sue Todhunter, Susan Killian, Theresa Peard, as well as the many anonymous donors of candy for decorating the houses, Bob Ashby for set-up and clean-up help, Kim Ayres for many little details, and Maryanne Arthur for publicizing the event.

We're looking forward to our next Gingerbread House event on **Saturday, December 7, 2019**, and hope to see even more people involved.

I wish to thank all the members, friends and clergy for the beautiful flowers delivered to me at Christmas. I want all members to know how much this remembrance meant to me and how close I feel to all members and clergy.

Sincerely — Ruth Sandy

Dear Friends —

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia you sent me for Christmas. Since I am no longer able to attend church, it brought back memories of more than a half century of glorious Christmas altars enhanced with red poinsettias. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. I wish you blessings and joy in the New Year!

—Shirley Hall

THANK YOU! 2018 Mission \$\$\$

The **Mission Work Area** wishes to thank everyone in our congregation for their continued support of **communion/mission activities**. Your monetary donations at communion and gifts throughout the year definitely make a difference to the less fortunate of our community and beyond. Here is a **summary of your communion donations in 2018**:

Christ Deaf Church	\$1593
ACTC	\$1112
Heifer International	\$1072
Araminta	\$1212
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1341
UMCOR (Disaster Relief)	\$2960
Earl's Place	\$1000
Table of Grace	\$1193
Streets of Hope	\$ 810
Church World Service Blankets	\$1495
Labyrinth	\$ 655
Board of Child Care	\$ 935

ACTC 2018 Year-End Facts

- ⇒ **31,176** people assisted
- ⇒ **2359** Thanksgiving Baskets
- ⇒ **133** adopted Christmas families



Young Adult Events & Activities—Ages 18+ Bible Study

Our Young Adults finished their Bible Study on *Faithful Questions*. It allowed us to engage with the questions in our faith that we may have been wrestling with as millennials. The study often challenged us to change some of our questions to reveal a different perspective on some of the questions that move around in our heads. Often times, we were uncomfortable with some of the suggested question transitions, but it allowed us to stretch our faith and explore what it means to be in relationship with God.

At the beginning of 2019 we started our study on *The Shack*, a captivating story that engages what it means to be in relationship with God amidst pain and difficulty. The book has been an exciting read that is difficult to put down. We have engaged in topics around grief, who is God, the Trinity, who is Jesus, and what does it mean to have an intimate relationship with God.

If you are interested in joining our Young Adult Bible Study, you are welcome to meet us on **Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at Panera** at 2131 York Road, Timonium, MD (the Panera across the street from the Fairgrounds).



Reaching Out to Our College Students

Our Young Adult Ministry would like to make care packages for our college students to let them know they are loved by their church family. The Young Adult Ministry is requesting that members donate items to send to our college students. Options of items to send: books, pens, book marks, snacks, candy, etc. We will be collecting items throughout March and would like to send packages out by the beginning of April. Please bring all donations to the church and give them to our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry **by March 31**. Thank you for your help!

If you are a young adult, would like to support our young adults, or feel like you are young at heart and would like to get involved with young adult ministry, please reach out to our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Rachel Livingston, at 410.823.3698 or yandya@towsonumc.org.

Upcoming Young Adult Spring Events

Building Community Gatherings — Young Adult Mission Activities — Brunch — Outings

Together is Better.



Youth Group ROCKS!

Youth Group Spring News



Follow our YOUTH GROUP on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/groups/TowsonUMCYouth

Towson Youth—Grades 6-12

by Rachel Livingston

On February 9, 2019, our youth traveled down to Ocean City, Maryland to participate in the ROCK Youth Conference. Our annual trip has always been an adventure as we experience God's love through music, inspirational speakers, and fellowship with each other.

ROCK 2019 had musical selections from Salvador, an amazing Christian band from Austin, TX, with music that combines musical genres of praise band, pop, rock, and Latin rhythms to create their unique sound. The personality of lead singer Nic Gonzales, was captivating as he encouraged our youth to come forward and participate in worship and embrace the fun of praising our God. The youth also had the opportunity to hear a spoken word artist named *Egypt Speaks*. Several of our youth said that she presented topics that related to some of the things that they are experiencing and it allowed them to see how God responds to some of the difficulties present in our life.

They also heard from Christian motivational speaker Ben Glenn, *the chalk guy*. He admittedly embraced his ADHD and the difficulties that came from that experience through sharing stories of his lifetime — including stories on how he came to Christ and the unconditional love that he experienced from his parents after silly mistakes, which is a love that is only exceeded by God. After he shared his stories he worked on a black, queen-sized sheet with chalk to create a masterpiece that showed the greatness of God's glory.

Our exciting weekend did not stop at the music and speakers. Our weekend would not have been complete without lunch with our youth and chaperones and our annual tradition of our high school seniors, Henry Sleeman and Emily Cummings, jumping into the ocean. ROCK 2019 was indeed a life-changing experience.



Upcoming Youth Group Events

February 23: Mission – Bentley Springs (UMCOR)

March 3: Discussion/ Bible Study

March 10: Nerf Wars 6-7:30pm

March 16 or 17: Mission TBD

March 24: Game Night: Hungry Hippos

March 31: No Youth Group

April 5: Fund Friday TBD

April 13: Easter Egg Hunt

April 21: Easter Sunday – No Youth Group

April 28: Youth Cantata – No Youth Group

May 3: Fun Friday TBD

May 12: Mother's Day/ Youth Sunday!!

May 19: Discussion/ Bible Study 6-7:30pm

May 26: Mission TBD

Look Out for Details on More Upcoming Events!

Discussions, Mission Activities, Game Nights, Fun Activities and Learning more about our relationship with Jesus Christ. Our Youth Ministry Team will be updating you on summer plans soon.

If you are interested in getting involved with youth ministry as a chaperone, discussion leader, mentor, or just a supportive adult in the life of our children, please reach out to me, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, at 410.823.3698 or yandya@towsonumc.org. We are the body of Christ and we are looking for you to help guide our youth on their faith journey.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be **Saturday, April 13, 2019, 11:00 AM– 12:30 PM, rain or shine**. Bring a basket or bag to collect all your eggs. Prepare to make crafts, learn, and have fun! Invite your friends. All are welcome! Contact: Carolyn Schnur, carolyn.schnur@comcast.net



Donations Wanted!! Help make our Easter Egg Hunt a success. Donate individually wrapped candy and other items that will fit in a plastic egg. Place your donations in the basket on the Narthex Sharing Bins starting March 10.



Breakfast is Served

**Easter Sunday, April 21
from 10:00-11:00 AM
in Fellowship Hall**

ALL are invited! The Hospitality Ministries Committee is serving Easter continental breakfast. To contribute a baked item (muffins, coffee cake, etc.), please bring your goodies to the Church kitchen by 9:00 AM on Easter morning. And, be sure to write your name on the bottom of your dish/container. Thanks!

Plant JOY and Happiness GROWS
Order Lent Flowers TODAY...

EASTER PLANTABLE FLOWER CELEBRATION 2019

Rejoice! I would like to order _____ (# quantity) plants at \$20 each. Check Amount: _____

In honor of _____

In loving memory of _____

Remit this form and check (payable to Towson UMC with 'E-Flowers' on memo line) to the church office by April 14, 2019.

Your Name(s): _____

Choose One: **YES** Send my plants to a shut-in. OR **YES** I will pick up plants after the final Easter service.



Learning Opportunities for ALL Ages

Want to join a small group discussion? Delve deeper into your faith? Prefer childcare during the worship service? Thinking of bringing your youth to Sunday School class? Rest assured. We have your family covered!

Childcare in the Cribbery*

Children: Infants to Age 3, Room 122

Open: 8:45 AM through the 10:15 AM service (approx. 11:30 AM dismissal)

This is a secure ministry, led by paid trained persons helped by caring adults who are background-checked and Safe-Sanctuary approved.



Preschool/Kindergarten Sunday School* : Room 311

Children: Age 3 to Kindergarten (must be fully potty-trained to attend)

Open: 9:00-10:00 AM

Elementary Sunday School* : Room 312

Children: Grades 1-5

Open: 9:00-10:00 AM

Pray and Play* : Room 314

Children: Ages 4 to 6

Open: during the 10:15 AM worship service for learning, crafts, music, and fun (approx. 11:30 AM dismissal)

Kids in the Disciple Zone (KIDZ)* : Room 310

Children: Ages 7 to 11

Open: Kids begin in the 10:15 AM worship service and leave when directed for an experiential lesson (approx. 11:30 AM dismissal)

Youth Sunday School* : Room 216/Room 317 High School

Children: Middle School (Grades 6-8) + High School Youth (Grades 9-12)

Open: 9:00-10:00 AM

Confirmation Class* : Fellowship Hall

Children: Middle School (Grades 7-8) already enrolled in Class of 2019

Open: 9:00-10:00 AM — beginning January 6, 2019

Christian Connections for Ages 18+ : Various Rooms (see below)

Open: 9:00-10:00 AM

Christians Under Construction, Room 111

Parents of Young Children Class, Room 114

Tower Class, Room 214

Women's Class, Room 310

Daily Appointment with God Bible Study, Hoffman Room

*Enrollment forms are REQUIRED for participation.
See www.towsonumc.org for details.

April 21 Reminder

NO! Sunday School, Pray 'n Play, KIDZ or Christian Connections on Easter Sunday.

YES! Cribbery is open 8:45AM through noon during worship.

Confirmation Class of 2019

The Confirmation Class has been meeting every Sunday to learn and ask deep questions of faith. Their mentors are meeting with them to add to those deep faith discussions and to encourage them to participate in the greater life of the church. We are all enjoying this group who ask challenging questions and who are learning a whole lot about the UMC! **Save Sunday, May 19, 2019** on your calendar to celebrate as they confirm their baptismal vows.

Lenten Learning

Join us for a Lenten study as we learn about being a disciple from the "flawed but faithful disciple". We will meet for 6 weeks, Mondays at noon, March 11 – April 15 in Room 311. We will use the study Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton. Please let Pastor Margery know if you will join the class. mschammel@towsonumc.org
410.823.2485



DREAMY Cribbery Makeover

Remember the Stork Tree? Last year, our congregation generously supported the Cribbery's unique Baby Shower by donating funds and much-needed items to completely make over this room for our youngest church members. "We received nearly everything we wanted to update the space and create a super-safe, kid-friendly room," said Lissa O'Donnell, the Cribbery's paid weekly co-coordinator, along with Barb Standbach. "Kids love the new toys! The new kitchen is a big hit!" she added. Only an area rug remains on their Wish List.

Located on the first floor, the Cribbery is available to parents with small children (infants to age 3) as a clean, fun, and convenient space to leave children in the excellent care of O'Donnell, Standbach and other safe-sanctuary approved individual during Sunday worship and classes. While the two coordinator positions are paid to maintain consistency, safety and professionalism, the Cribbery welcomes volunteers in two Sunday morning shifts (8:45 AM-10:00 AM and 10:00 AM –11:30 AM).

This year, the room is equipped with a tv that can livestream worship and music as desired. A brand-new, wheeled crib doubles as a swift transport system to remove children from the building in case of emergency. And, all doors are locked securely with key-fob entry only during Sunday hours. Hampton Lane CDC staff and students share the space for music class during weekdays.

"I love being with the kids here!" exclaimed Lissa. Seems that everyone—of all ages — relishes the top-notch Cribbery makeover. For more information, contact Lissa O'Donnell at lko1783@gmail.com.

Stay Updated with E-News

Our e-newsletter, *inSPIRE*, launched in August as an additional way to help members and friends of Towson UMC stay in touch with current events and happenings. Didn't receive it? Then, we probably do not have an email address on file for you. Write communications@towsonumc.org to give Towson UMC permission to include you on the distribution list for this publication, sent every two weeks via email on Friday afternoons. It's a great digital resource. Don't miss it!



Food Pantry: Spring Calendar

OPEN Third Saturdays

9:00-10:30 AM

March 16 : April 20 : May 18

Please continue to volunteer and donate. Want to help? Contact Dwight Kines at 410.828.0792. Thanks!

Moment on a Mission: Communion Offering

March : Heifer International

Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs, and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food, and a sustainable livelihood. When considering your donation in March, here is a helpful list so you know what your gift may buy:



- Goat, full price is \$120; a share is \$10.
- Heifer, a cow, full price is \$500; a share is \$50
- Water buffalo, full price is \$250; a share is \$25
- Alpaca, full price is \$150; a share is \$20
- Sheep, full price is \$120; a share is \$10
- Pig, full price is \$120; a share is \$10
- Rabbits or a Flock of Hope, full price is \$60
- Flock of Ducks, Chicks, or geese are \$20



April : Araminta

Slavery has existed in every society and in every generation. Due to slavery's legal abolition in many societies and the United States in the 19th century, it has taken on a different form and moved underground. Modern-day slavery exists in the form of human trafficking. In the United States, human traffickers have disproportionately preyed on the most vulnerable of our society: women and children.



Araminta focuses on the sex trafficking of minors within the United States. Araminta's mission is to mobilize entire communities through the use of volunteers to overcome trafficking. While Araminta will utilize professionals such as psychologists,

social workers, and attorneys in the rehabilitation process, we believe that volunteers who are trained and equipped properly will bring the numbers necessary to end trafficking in our community and provide resources to partner agencies.

How YOU can support Araminta Freedom Initiative

- 1) Write a check for Araminta.
- 2) Support Araminta at the 5K/10K run/walk fund-raiser RACE AGAINST TRAFFICK **8:00AM, May 11th** in Druid Hill Park, Baltimore (next to the Maryland Zoo). Contact Carolyn Schnur for info: carolyn.schnur@comcast.net. Register at: www.aramintafreedom.org, click on the Race photo, then "Teams", and type in "Towson United Methodist Church" to find the team #57798.



How to Give

Sunday Worship: Give the first Sunday of each month in the offering plates as you go up to communion or mail your donation to the TUMC business office. Note "Heifer International" or "Araminta" on your check.

Celebrate Your Special Day by Giving: Do you have a birthday or anniversary coming up? Consider asking friends and family to donate to your charity of choice in lieu of gifts.

Matching Gifts: Does your company sponsor a matching gift program? If so, ask the human resources department for forms and information.

Thank you for your generosity!



RACE Against Traffick — GO!

Thank you everyone for all your help and hard work last year with the RACE against Traffick. It was a huge success and we could not have done it without you. This year's race is on May 11, 2019 and we would love to have you join us as we support Araminta Freedom Initiative and its vision.

Similar to last year, Araminta will host a 5K and 10K race with a 1 mile walk at Druid Hill Park in Baltimore City. And, Towson UMC will sponsor a team again. Join us to run, walk, or be a cheerleader. For more information, contact Carolyn Schnur at Carolyn.schnur@comcast.net. To register, log into www.aramintafreedom.org, click on the race photo, then "Teams" and type in "Towson United Methodist Church" to find team #57798.

Williamsburg Welcome [Continued from Cover Page]

to grace the church in 1986 — 33 years ago!

For 25 years, Martha and Art (until his death in 2014) purchased the materials and created the beautiful holiday display that has become Towson UMC's herald of the winter season. "I'm so proud of it," exclaimed Martha.

At the spry age of 91, she is grateful for a few helping hands these days. Janet Kines joined Martha about eight years ago in gathering supplies and constructing the festive arrangement. "One day, Janet walked into church to wind her grandfather's clock in the parlor. And, she began handing me apples....now she drives me to church and we work together on the decoration," said Martha.

A unique strategy they've employed is: over-spraying the entire display with a heavy coat of polyurethane to ensure the fruit glistens, the apples stay in place, and the piece is distasteful to winter's hungry critters, like birds and squirrels.

Other faithful helpers are Mike Williams and members of the Maxalea landscaping crew, who work alongside Bob Ashby to set the completed (and very heavy) board at an angle above the front door "so apples don't fall on people's heads!" said Martha.

At Towson UMC, the use of the pineapple in traditional Williamsburg-style, secured by Martha and Janet's determination to maintain this beautiful tradition, inspires all church visitors to follow Jesus' example of hope-filled hospitality.

¹ www.history.org (Colonial Williamsburg History)

² Martha Dase Interview with Maryanne Arthur 2.7.19

Dear Friends at TUMC —

Belated, but sincerely grateful, thanks for the gorgeous Christmas botanical. Freed from its plastic wrapper, the poinsettia spread to a bountiful display of Christmas red and green in defiance to the grey weather beyond my windows. I have enjoyed its company enormously—and have just learned a watering trick...patting generous handfuls of ice cubes on each plant...the water releases slowly...all plants are flourishing! So, you see, yours truly has learned yet another lesson here. ... God bless you all for your loving kindness.

— Sincerely, Elizabeth (Liz) Brown



Does the Hospitality Committee collect and donate other items?

Oh, yes! Many of our friends and family members feel so passionately about our ongoing mission with the House of Ruth that they continually bring us much-needed items throughout the year. In fact, we have two carloads of donated clothing, sheets and bedding that Susan Naeny (Hospitality Committee Chair) and I are delivering! There is a wish list on the website at www.hruth.org, under the 'Donate' tab, where some items marked in bold are urgently needed. Anyone can bring these items to Church and our committee members will deliver them.

Also, we still collect Valentine cards/socks and books each year. The whole Church participates in these two House of Ruth projects! We are so grateful for all the support from everyone — Church and committee members, visitors, friends, etc. Last year, our 2018 book drive was particularly successful as we donated 170 books in Spanish, Arabic and Urdu upon suggestion from the House of Ruth staff who provide services to clients who speak other languages!

Tell us about this year's special collection.

We had a wonderful surprise donation of 200+ hand-knit blankets, from which we packaged and delivered 80 to the currently-sheltered women and children. We saved the rest of the stack for next year's delivery!

The Kindness of Strangers

by Maria Reisz Springer

When one lives in a condominium, one meets many of the residents, especially if you have an outgoing personality like Dale, my husband. One day Dale was coming home and saw Brenda, who lives on the floor above us, pushing an overflowing cart of knitted blankets. He asked if she needed help. Brenda told him the story of her friend, Lettie, who was moving from her home into a condominium and did not know what to do with all her knitted blankets because she had no room to store them in the new apartment. Lettie told Brenda, "I guess I will take them to the dump...I do not know who to give them to." So, Brenda went and picked them up from Lettie's home and filled her car with them.

On the way home, Brenda became aware that she, too, did not know what to do with these blankets. She prayed that God would help her to find a place for them. After parking her car in the garage that day, she bumped into Dale and told him she was worried that she had "over 200" blankets and did not quite know what she would do with them. But she felt strongly that she had to save them. For whatever reason, she remembered hearing about the House of Ruth, but did not know anyone connected with that mission. When Dale got home, he told me Brenda's story, and I told him that the House of Ruth would and could use them for the children -- and we would pack them into their Valentine Gift Bags from Church. Immediately, I went upstairs to talk with Brenda. She hugged me and said: "I thought of The House of Ruth as well but did not have anyone to connect with there." When I told her that I am a member of the Hospitality Ministry at Towson United Methodist Church, whose ongoing mission is the House of Ruth, and that I would take as many blankets as she can give away -- she was most grateful!

Brenda washed every one of the 200+ blankets and packaged three or four blankets in large plastic bags with a pretty ribbon to hold them together. Our Hospitality committee members packaged the blankets --- with donated socks, books, pencils and Valentine Candy -- and delivered everything to the House of Ruth by Valentine's Day.

I knew that the House of Ruth would be happy to receive these blankets for the children who come there with their mothers to find shelter after having lived a life of abuse. I could see the children smile when they received one of those blankets, cuddling them to their faces, forgetting the horror they escaped at home. Over 80 children now have their sweet little blanket to sleep with ... and I pray and hope that it will ease their pain ... at least for a little while.





Pray Daily
2:23 to 2:26 PM
for our church and
denomination

Your Gift is a Blessing!

Your pledges and contributions are a critical part of how we make a difference in our church, community and the world.

For a quick link to send funds to church, try texting a donation amount OR scan this QRC code with your cell phone.

**2 TEXT
GIVE**
410-514-3014
Towson UMC



Here's a great way for you to connect your online shopping with your online giving....Simply choose Amazon SMILE each time you checkout and the Amazon Smile Foundation sends donations directly to Towson UMC! We receive approximately \$.50 per online purchase — which is completely FREE to you!!! Every bit adds up to boost the ministry and missions of our Church. THANK YOU!



Want to add your or someone else's name (with their permission) to the list?
Contact: Prayer Vine Coordinator
Debbie Wilhelm, at 443.257.2485
or dwilhelm16@verizon.net



UPCOMING EVENTS March 1 - May 31, 2019

Sunday Mornings

8:00 AM and 10:15 AM Worship

MARCH

All March	Communion Offering: Heifer Int'l
All Wed	Coffee & Conversation, 9 AM @ Balto Tea
All Wed	Young Adult Bible Study, 7 PM Panera
All Thurs	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 AM @ Diner
Mar 3	Youth Group Dinner & Bible Study
Mar 6	Ash Wednesday Worship, noon & 7PM
Mar 10	Lunch & Movie, Grades K-5, 11:30 AM
	Youth Group Nerf Wars, 6 PM
Mar 11	Lenten Study, noon in Room 311
Mar 16	Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
Mar 17	Children's Musical, 10:15 AM
Mar 23	Blood Drive
Mar 24	Youth Group Dinner & Game Night
Mar 29-31	Women's Annual Retreat

APRIL

All Apr	Communion Offering: Araminta
All Wed	Coffee & Conversation, 9 AM @ Balto Tea
All Wed	Young Adult Bible Study, 7 PM @ Panera
All Thurs	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 AM @ Diner
Apr 5	Youth Group Fun Friday TBD
Apr 13	Easter Egg Hunt
Apr 21	Easter Sunday
Apr 20	Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
Apr 28	Youth Cantata

MAY

All May	Communion Offering: TBD
All Wed	Coffee & Conversation, 9 AM @ Balto Tea
All Wed	Young Adult Bible Study, 7 PM @ Panera
All Thurs	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 AM @ Diner
May 3	<i>High Spire</i> deadline for SUMMER issue
	Youth Group Fun Friday TBD
May 12	Mother's Day & Youth Sunday
May 18	Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
May 19	Youth Group Dinner & Bible Study, 6 PM
May 26	Youth Group Mission TBD

FUTURE

July 22-26	Vacation Bible Camp "Mars and Beyond"
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TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
501 Hampton Lane : Towson, Maryland 21286

410.823.6511 : www.towsonumc.org
Business Hours: Mon-Thurs 10:00 AM—3:00 PM

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SPRING WORSHIP SCHEDULE
March 1 – May 31, 2019

8:00 AM

Traditional Service in the Chapel

Communion every Sunday with piano or organ accompaniment.

8:45-10:00 AM

Fellowship & Refreshments in the Parlor

8:45-11:30 AM

Childcare is available all morning, infants to age 3

9:00-10:00 AM

Sunday School, all ages

Meet in designated rooms for educational and spiritual growth opportunities.

10:15 AM

Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Communion on the first Sunday of each month — open to all — with a richly varied service that blends vocal and hand bell choirs, praise band, traditional and contemporary song, old-fashioned hymns, and glorious 3,000-pipe organ music. Gluten-free bread.



Stay in Touch.

facebook.com/towsonumc

Happy Easter!
Happy Spring!
Happy, Happy
Everything!

—Anonymous

2019