

# High Spire

SUMMER

2019

Newsletter for Members & Friends of Towson United Methodist Church



## Classic BUDDIES

Every once in a while, we meet someone who becomes a lasting friend – both loyal and loving – to accompany us on all of life’s winding pathways. But the beginning of the relationship is often happenstance. A high five. A shared snack. A splash at the pool or a race on the playground. A moment that creates sheer bliss. That is the spark of friendship!

For many of us, the ideals of friendship are formed between the pages of our favorite books when we are toddlers. Take the classic Winnie-the-Pooh stories, for instance, that ooze with the sweet, sticky theme of lifelong friendship. Author A.A. Milne and illustrator Ernest Shepard transform a shabby bunch of stuffed animals into dimensional characters to accompany Christopher Robin (a rendition of Milne’s own son) on life’s journey. Along the way, these loveable characters learn to problem solve, get along, show gratitude, embrace individuality, and become true friends.

*Winnie-the-Pooh* (1926) and *The House at Pooh Corner* (1928) are an excellent introduction to the world of friendship for youngsters and an indispensable collection of wise lessons, from a Silly Old Bear, for adults.

Imagine. If we open our hearts to happenstance like Eeyore suggests, then “A little Consideration, a little Thought for Others, makes all the difference” in the Woods and beyond.



First UMC from Colorado Springs performs spectacular vocal and bell choir concert at Towson UMC on their Mystery Tour of the eastern United States in June.

## Visitation Ministry Connects with Homebound

Earlier this year, co-chairs Carol Matlin and Diane Crider led a revitalization of the Visitation Ministry to reach out and stay connected with our congregation’s homebound members. The two recruited a robust crew of 20 lay ministers, drafted committee guidelines, helped Kim Ayres clean up the church’s contact data, and charted a schedule for folks to respond swiftly to congregation needs and special requests for home visits. Specifically, they are visiting members who are at home or in care facilities for chronic, permanent or long-term conditions that limit the ability to attend church in person.

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To Friends at Towson United Methodist Church,  
Thank you so much for the lovely Easter tulips and the thoughts that go with them. We had a grand visit with Pastor Mark and his wife, Sandi. I felt so blessed. I also appreciate the visits from Diane Crider and give many thanks to her for bringing the communion sacraments. I do look forward to those visits.

— In God's Love, Joan Schmitt

Thank you for the beautiful Easter tulips and to Ms. McWilliams who delivered them. The dark green leaves were a perfect background for the "pureness" of the lovely white tulips. What a wonderful Easter remembrance, a time of rebirth and renewal. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

— Betty L. Cassatt

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your kindness during a difficult time of family illnesses: Debbie's mom's elbow replacement and bone cancer diagnosis, Debbie's hand surgery, Walt's stroke and heart attack. We want to express our heartfelt appreciation for the many prayers, cards, delicious meals, and words of encouragement. It has truly been a blessing.

With warmest thanks for your thoughtfulness,

— Walt and Debbie

Dear Wonderful Church Members,  
Thank you for remembering me at Easter.  
The tulips are beautiful!  
— Fondly, Jean

Next High Spire content deadline: August 1st for the FULL FALL 2019 issue. Send photos, story ideas and written copy to Maryanne Arthur at: [communications@towsonumc.org](mailto:communications@towsonumc.org)



# High spire

501 Hampton Lane : Towson, MD 21286

410.823.6511

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

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

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

## MINISTRY TEAM

**Rev. LaTrelle Easterling**—*Resident Bishop*

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

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

**Rev. Dr. Mark Johnson**— *Lead Pastor*  
410.823.3640 : [leadpastor@towsonumc.org](mailto:leadpastor@towsonumc.org)

**Rev. Margery Schammel**—*Assistant Pastor*  
410.823.2485 : [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org)

**Rev. Doug Hollida**— *Minister of Music*  
410.823.6519 : [musicdirector@towsonumc.org](mailto:musicdirector@towsonumc.org)

**Rachel Livingston**— *Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries*

410.823.3698 : [yandya@towsonumc.org](mailto:yandya@towsonumc.org)

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**Jamar Foster\***— *Media Intern* : 410.823.6511

\* - *part-time team member*

## HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**Erin Rigley**— *Center Director*

410.825.0008 : [cdcdirector@towsonumc.org](mailto: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](http://www.hamptonlanecdc.org)





## Youth SHINE on Sunday

by Anna Garman

“God sees our true worth!” This was the theme of this year’s Youth Sunday, presented entirely by our wonderful and inspirational youth! From the delivery of an original poem, a praise dance performance, a special piano selection, and a unique message about who we are in God’s eyes, the youth went ‘above and beyond’ to bring their stories and personal beliefs to our sanctuary.

After spending months of preparing a service that would embolden and empower, they came together to teach the rest of us something about ourselves — that God loves us for who he made us to be, not what the world makes of us. The joint sermons talked about accepting all people and above all, accepting ourselves, because it is God’s opinion of our worth alone that matters. We are called to look past the materialistic standards today’s society presses upon us and to strive to be the disciple of Christ God wishes us to be.

Congratulations to the youth on a fantastic worship service!



## Hampton Lane Child Development Center APPRECIATION DINNER 2019

The Child Development Center Committee hosted an Appreciation Dinner on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Parlor for the staff of the Center. Our committee, representing the church, wanted to show our gratitude for their efforts in providing a wonderful early learning environment for the children of the Center. We enjoyed getting to know the staff. We are proud of this outreach program of our church.

— Sandy Clawson, Chair of CDC Committee



410.825.0008 [www.hamptonlanecdc.org](http://www.hamptonlanecdc.org)

Thank you for the beautiful purple tulips. They lasted long- a great lifter of the Spirit of the Easter holiday. It is always nice to be remembered.

Blessings to all,  
Bea Post

# Mark's Meanderings

Dear Friends —

Some professionals suggest that Americans feel more “stressed, depressed, and anxiety-ridden” now than ever before ([www.cbsnews.com/news/stress-anxiety-depression-mental-illness-increases-study-finds](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/stress-anxiety-depression-mental-illness-increases-study-finds) from May 7, 2019). Many professionals have offered a diagnosis. Some say our feelings of stress, depression and anxiety are rooted in our concern about the economy. Others blame politics. Others still say it is our concern about the environment. On the other hand, we United Methodists might have others reasons for feeling stressed, depressed and/or anxious. Perhaps we are concerned about the future of our United Methodist denomination. After all, Methodism, as a denomination, started here in Baltimore in 1784 to organize and further extend the spiritual movement John Wesley began in England to “. . . reform the nation, particularly the Church; and to spread scriptural holiness over the land.” (The 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, page 12).

Perhaps we are concerned about what will happen to our property and assets if there is disruption in our denomination. And rightly so. This is a beautiful property that has been lovingly built and maintained for over sixty years. This has been the site of countless worship services, baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals. We have a strong emotional tie and, for many of us, our spiritual identity as Christians is tied up in this place.

Others, perhaps, are justifiably concerned with the purity and integrity of our denomination's doctrine. Our faith can never be built on the whims of cultural trends which change with alarming regularity. We need a faith that is rigorously examined and informed by scripture, the tradition (witness) of the church universal, reason and personal experience.

***And yet, the root of Christianity is neither denominational organization, property nor doctrine – it is Jesus.***

- Jesus defines our mission In the Great Commission – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28: 19-20 NRSV)
- Jesus defines discipleship in the Greatest Commandment “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. “This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22: 37-39)
- Jesus defines the core of Christian teaching through his example of radical hospitality with all people, his witness to the “Kin-dom of God” (Beloved Community),

(continued) his healing of brokenness, his call to faithfulness and his call for us to “love one another” which is repeated fourteen times in the Bible.

Putting all of this in perspective, denominations organize to do the ministry of Jesus. Structures can and do change, the ministry of Jesus remains primary. Faith communities buy property and build structures to make it easier and more convenient to do Jesus' ministry. Facilities are important but they never become the object of our worship. Doctrine, as reflected in our Book of Discipline, is not a sacred compilation of regulations handed down from on high and unchanged throughout the generations. Rather, the Book of Discipline is added to, subtracted from, amended and corrected every four years by our elected delegates to organize how we will do the ministry of Jesus Christ. What I'm getting at is this – neither organization, property, nor the Discipline remains unchanged. The core of our unchanging faith is doing the ministry of Jesus Christ.

There have been fights within the Methodist Church in years past over things such as instrumental music, slavery, the role of women, lay representation in decision making and the practice of selling or renting pews. While those issues were critical to the life of the church at one time, they are now (for the most part) resolved. And when we have finally resolved the issues of human sexuality the Church will face other issues that we have not yet even begun to grapple with. Can we share virtual communion with artificial intelligence? Did Jesus' atonement on the cross cleanse the sins of lifeforms from other planets? Then, as now, the important thing will not be to debate theology but to share together in ministry.

Would you join me in prayer that we, as a community of faith, will be able to manage our anxiety enough that we will be able to come together – regardless of our theological bent – to do the crucial work of living, growing and serving in Jesus' name? Together we are a powerful witness to the beauty and diversity of God's Beloved Community. United we can continue the mission our Methodist forebears began to “reform the nation, especially the Church; and to spread scriptural holiness over the land.”

Blessings,  
Mark

P.S. Speaking of stress, depression and anxiety . . . did you know that one of the most effective ways to combat stress, depression, and anxiety is by singing in a choir? Honest. Google it. Then, talk with our Director of Music Ministry, Rev. Doug Hollida, and join up.





# Fun Times at the 2019 FLEA MARKET

On June 8th, our tiny-but-mighty Flea Team hosted an incredible community event. 40 vendors participated. And, Towson UMC offered kids' crafts, homemade beef BBQ, and hand-me-down treasures. The best part of the whole day? Making connections with new folks and sharing the day with church friends!

## Finance Update

Recently, you should have received a giving statement and a cover letter analyzing Towson UMC's financial situation. In summary, folks are doing a commendable job maintaining financial commitments. Further, people who are regular givers but have not returned estimates of giving are continuing their tradition of generosity. Matching this fine effort at giving, our Church leadership is running a tight ship financially. As contracts come up for renewal, each one is examined carefully to make sure we are getting the best value. Our staff is highly dedicated and working many extra hours to ensure we maintain ministry excellence. We are all working together well to be financially prudent and deliver high quality ministry.

As you are no doubt aware, Towson UMC has lost some worship attenders as our church and denomination has struggled with the question of inclusion of the LGBTQ community in the life of the church. Those leaving have represented both sides of the issue. Together, we must fill the void they have left. Please join your church family members in several things:

- Pray for your church, its leadership, and for each church family member.
- Remember why we are here, and join with your sisters and brothers in Christ to rededicating ourselves to the ministry of Towson UMC.
- If you are able, pray about increasing your giving. As God blesses you, please consider how you can bless the ministry of Jesus Christ at Towson UMC.
- Invite people you know who do not have a church home to join you in worship at Towson UMC. Please take the opportunity to introduce them to the pastoral staff and your church friends.

Our Stewardship Team has begun sharing testimonies during worship several times a month about how the ministries of Towson UMC have changed lives. You, too, are invited to think about the ways in which your life is better because of Towson UMC. God has called you to the ministry of Jesus Christ at this time and at this place.

Let us be faithful in every way.

# Vacation Bible Camp 2019



July 22-26, 9:00 AM – Noon; Friday ends at 12:30 PM

You are invited TO MARS AND BEYOND! To explore where God's power can take you!! Join us for fun, learning, crafts, games, singing, stories and snacks. On Friday, we will play water games!!

WHO: Children age 3 (by 1/1/19 and potty trained) through Grade 5 (completed 2018-19)

COST: \$15 per child, maximum of \$25 per family

HOW TO JOIN THE FUN: Register online at [www.towsonumc.org](http://www.towsonumc.org) and click on the VBC logo. This will take you to the Cokesbury website to register. All campers and volunteers register online and will receive a confirmation email. In your confirmation email, you may click on the link for online payment. If you prefer to pay by check, then mail or drop off your check, payable to TUMC, with 'VBC' in the memo line. You must register by June 24<sup>th</sup> to guarantee an amazing VBC t-shirt!

VBC BIBLE VERSES

*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

**Day 1:** *Go Beyond with Faith!* Daniel 6

**Day 2:** *Go Beyond with Boldness!* Esther 4-9

**Day 3:** *Go Beyond with Kindness!* Luke 10: 25-37

**Day 4:** *Go Beyond with Thankfulness!* Luke 17: 11-19

**Day 5:** *Go Beyond with Hope!* Luke 24: 13-35

DAILY MISSION COLLECTIONS

School Supplies: protractor sets with compass, highlighters, dry erase markers, spiral notebooks, scissors for elementary and secondary school

Homeless Relief Supplies: toothpaste, deodorant, travel size hand sanitizers, razors, shaving cream

Food for Children-at-Risk: ALL SINGLE SIZE ITEMS of fruit cups, applesauce, mac & cheese, lasagna, spaghetti, Life or Cheerios cereal cups

Food for Local Families: ALL CANNED ITEMS of beef stew, chili, chunky and 10 oz soups, ravioli

Pet Supplies: gently-used towels, cat and dog toys, cat and dog food

Bring any of these items to church the Sundays before VBC and drop in the Sharing Bins. Thank you!

**Questions or want to help?**

Contact Rev. Margery Schammel at 410.823.2485 : [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org)



# How YOU Can Help with VBC...

## 1. Set the Stage

Painting Days for VBC

Come paint decorations for our VBC adventure on Monday, July 2 and Wednesday, July 10 from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM, in Room 312. Wear paint-friendly clothes and RSVP to Pastor Margery so we have enough for lunch! Contact: 410.823.2485 or [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org)

Decorating Day

Decorate the church and Sanctuary with our painted decorations!

Sunday, July 21 at 11:30 AM

## 2. Donate Items

Bring in Needed Items

Support our VBC Daily Missions by bringing any items into church that are on our Mission List, including: School Supplies, Homeless Relief Supplies, Food for Children-at-Risk (to benefit Food for Thought), Food for Local Families (to support our Emergency Food Pantry) and Pet Supplies. We also need empty paper towel rolls and clean aluminum cans. Bring to the Church Office!

## 3. Work at Camp

Spend a Week with Campers

All youth and adults who are helping with camp must register online as a VOLUNTEER by June 24 to guarantee your VBC t-shirt. Register by clicking on the VBC picture at [www.towsonumc.org](http://www.towsonumc.org) online (or ask Margery to help you register online) even if you register after June 24; this helps us with planning. We need youth and adult guides, snack hosts, and more. There's a place for everyone's talents at VBC.

Come to Bible Camp Orientation

ATTENTION ALL HELPERS... mark your calendars now for July 7, after worship at 11:30 AM in Room 214. Youth are especially encouraged to attend to get up to speed on the stories and to receive instructions for Safe Sanctuaries.

NEW! This year, all youth must receive Safe Sanctuaries instructions or Pastor Margery will not be able to sign the Service Learning Hours sheets.

Contact Margery if you are not able to attend the orientation: [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org) or 410.823.2485 to arrange an alternative.



2019 Confirmands

L. to R.  
Gabriela  
Sarah  
Kate  
Maddy  
Lauren  
Brooke  
Ella  
Allie  
Alexis

(Continued, from cover)

If you, or someone you know, is in need of “Sunshine and Smiles” from a member of the Visitation Ministry, then please call the church office and leave a message with our staff or in the Congregational Care voicemail box. And, Carol or Diane will arrange a personal visit. Some members of the team can also administer communion, if desired.

Special thanks to the following people for volunteering with this important ministry: Bill Rogers, Verna Lewis, Bill Raker, Sylvia Solomon, Janet Kines, Gail Feland, Gloria Bortz, Mike Steer, Marilyn Donoho, Ron Donoho, Debby Maciolek, Debby Ross, Don McWilliams, Ruth Ann McWilliams, Susan Brown, and Margot Gerding.



## “Spreading Sunshine & Smiles” is the Visitation Ministry’s mantra

To the Card Ministry, TUMC

What a great surprise to receive your note! I appreciate the *High Spire*. It helps to learn what’s going on. Thanks again for your kind message.

— Betty L. Cassatt

Dear Friends,

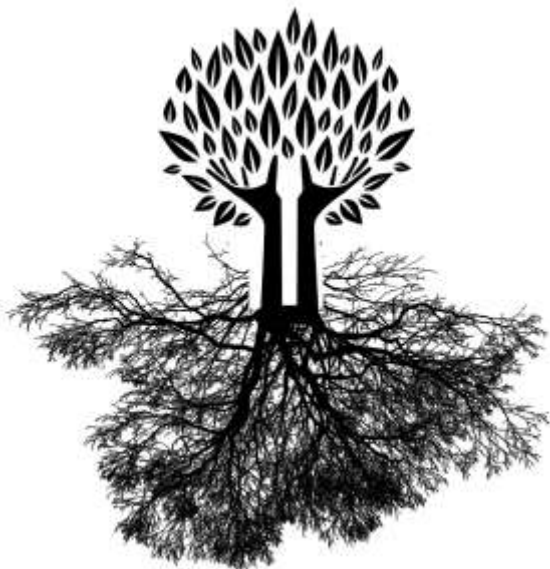
Many, many thanks for the lovely Easter flowers. It was a very nice surprise. A bit of beautiful color in my room. I think of you all at TUMC.

— Fondly, B. J. Gerding

Friends at TUMC,

Thank you for the lovely Easter tulip. It is light lavender in color and has five large blossoms. It is the most healthy and beautiful tulip I have ever seen. Hopefully, with tender care it will spring up again to greet me next Easter.

— Sincerely, Katherine Bradley Smith



 **TOWSON** 410.823.6511  
United Methodist 501 Hampton Lane  
**CHURCH** Towson, MD 21286

## Set Deep Roots

When you leave a bequest to your church, you invest in its future. And you set deep roots for rising generations to grow in Jesus’ eternal love.

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.”

The future depends on it.

I want to thank the TUMC Card Ministry for your nice note and lovely handmade Easter card.

I appreciate you remembering me.

— With love and prayers,

Shirley Hall



# Hands-On Mission Trips in June



## 1. MISSION TRIP TO NORTH CAROLINA--June 16-22, 2019.

We will depart TUMC on Sunday June 16th after the 8AM service via carpool and travel to Whitehall, North Carolina (northwest of Myrtle Beach). Work will begin on Monday June 17th. Whitehall is recovering from the historic flooding experienced in the area in the fall of 2018. The mission trip tasks may include easy home repair, painting, trim work etc. There will be work for all skill sets! We need chefs, shoppers, home repair, etc. Free housing is provided in Whitehall.

Contact Jim Andrew (jlandrew3@gmail.com) for additional information and registration.

## 2. ONE-DAY MISSION TRIP TO Mission Central in MECHANICSBURG, PA--June 21, 2019.

We will depart TUMC via carpool on Friday June 21st at approximately 8 AM and return to TUMC at approximately 5 PM. Mission Central is one of six warehouses that provide the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) with all of their needed resources used in disaster response efforts. UMCOR is an organization that provides disaster relief and humanitarian aid to over 80 countries worldwide. Recently, Mission Central sent more than 11,000 cleaning buckets and more than 45,000 hygiene kits to hurricane-affected areas in the US. Volunteers will pack a lunch to eat in the Mission Central dining area. Volunteer activities at Mission Central may include packing hygiene kits, sorting supplies for disaster buckets and more!

Contact Vicki Coombs (vickicoombs@hotmail.com) for additional information or to sign up.

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## Spring Plant Sale is BLOOMIN' SUCCESS!



Thanks to the Community Events and Outreach Team Members for hosting an extraordinary Spring Plant Sale on May 5th in our church lobby. And, thanks to YOU for purchasing the bloomin' beauties. Nearly every plant sold!!!!

Special "shout out" to Beth Sacilotto for negotiating contacts and contracts with the grower; to the Arthur-Merow family for working the event; to Annemarie Merow and Bob Ashby for cleaning up; and to Berg's Farm (the local grower) for bringing us healthy, gorgeous plants. Check out their blooms: [www.bergsfarm.com](http://www.bergsfarm.com)



# Summer Sermon Series

In his sermon series, "Hearing the Old, Old Story Anew", this summer, Pastor Mark will tell some of his favorite Bible stories and explore where these ancient stories connect with everyday life. Why not bring a friend, family member or neighbor who is looking for a church home as we share a new take on the "Old, Old Story."



June 16	Acts 16: 16-34	Jail Break
June 23	1 Kings 18: 17-39	Dueling Priests
June 30	2 Kings 2: 1-14	Chariots of Fire
July 21	2 Kings 5: 1-15	Down By The River
July 28	Mark 2: 1-12	Talk About A Leaky Roof
August 18	Genesis 1:1-2:3	First Things, First
August 25	John 1: 1-18	First Things, First. Again.

## Help Us Re-Connect

We would like to re-connect with these folks. If you can help us identify or find any of the people listed below, then please contact the Church Office 410.823.6511 so we can update our records.

Cheryl Beam, Jeffery Beam, Trevor Beam, Kristen Blackman, Christine, Borges, Cristian Comh, Omar Comh, Scott Conwell, Kari Deuber, Tara Fritz, Mary Goad, Ellen Hafner, Erik Helsing, Louise Howard, Rob Huekler, Lisa Marie Meola, Kathleen Myers, Melissa Noble, Shannon Pavelik, Amy Pluhar, Doris Roth, Stacy Shade, Steven Shade, Timothy Snowden, Nancy Svehla, Brian Troutman, Dominic Troutman, James Troutman, Julian Troutman, Liza Troutman, Craig Wagner, Liam Watts, Melchi Watts, Michael Watts. La-trice Woodson, Amanda Wozniak and Joseph Wozniak

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**November 2, 2019**

**"Get Unstuck and Get Into the Flow"**  
**with Arianne Rice, Keynote Speaker**

**Hosted by: Towson UMC**



2nd annual half-day immersion  
for women of all faiths

## Women's Chorus June 16



Women and girls are invited to sing in the Women's Chorus on Father's Day, June 16. We will be singing a fantastic arrangement of *Dry Bones*.

- **Sunday, June 16** – rehearse at 9:15 AM and sing at the 10:15 AM service.

hope to see you there! Contact: Doug Hollida at [musicdirector@towsonumc.org](mailto:musicdirector@towsonumc.org)

Food Pantry: Summer Calendar  
 OPEN Third Saturdays  
 9:00-10:30 AM

**June 15 : July 20 : Aug 17**  
 Please continue to volunteer and donate.  
 Want to help? Contact Dwight Kines at  
 410.828.0792. Thanks!



## Sweet Thanks

Hospitalities Ministry thanks the thoughtful, helpful persons who baked or donated items for Coffee Hour this past year. Your support of this mission is always deeply appreciated. After June 9th, Coffee Hour will take a summer break until September 8, 2019. Thanks much!



# Summer Strummin'



## Ukulele Choir returns June 20

**WHO CAN COME?** Ages: Mid-Elementary School to Adult.

Beginners and “returnees” welcome. Children should have hands big enough to play the chords, developed reading and motor skills, and the ability to maintain focus for a 30-minute session with other children and adults. Participate as a family if you are able.

**WHEN AND WHERE?** Begins Thursday, June 20 through August 1, 2019, after summer worship from 7:00-7:30 PM, in Music Room 321.

**WHAT TO BRING?** Your Ukulele!

There are different sizes – the soprano is the standard size. (Note: don’t buy a baritone as the tuning and chords are different on that size.) There are lots to choose from starting at around \$30 online or around \$80 at local stores (see below). Tuner is optional.



*Hawaiian Shirts  
Optional*

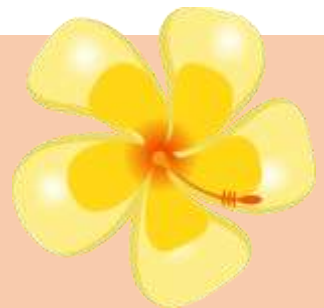
### WHERE TO SHOP?

**Online:** you can buy from lots of retailers, including Amazon.

**Local Stores:** **Guitar Center** – Joppa Road ; **Menchey Music Service** – Timonium;

**Ryan Fowler’s Guitar Experience** – Joppa Road; **Appalachian Bluegrass Shoppe** – Catonsville;

**Music Go Round** – Cockeysville (sells used instruments)



To Pastor Mark, Staff & Friends,  
Thank you for your thoughtful acts of kindness all year! (Matthew 28 1-10)  
— Peace and Love, Kris Wagner

# Kudos to Whom? Share Good News at Towson UMC.

Complete a **Kudos Card** to recognize someone (or a whole team of people) for exemplifying the spirit of our church’s mission and ministries. You will find the Kudos Cards in clear plastic vases at the Welcome Station and in the Parlor. Submit completed forms in the same container or place them in the Communications Mailbox in the Main Church Office. Or jot a quick note and mail it to the church office c/o “Communications”. Have fun sharing Good News!



Pastor Sandi Johnson teams up with a friend to prepare for summer worship services in the Hundred Acre Wood.



Above: Anna Garman shares her Faith Story at a 10:15 AM worship service in June — as part of a series of short stories from various congregation members this season.

## Lay Ministry Recognition Sunday on June 9, 2019

When folks are confirmed and/or become Professing Members of the church each one commits to supporting the ministries of Towson UMC with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Towson UMC -- with hundreds of members sharing countless prayers, attending regularly, giving sacrificially, serving conscientiously, and witnessing faithfully – is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with our neighbors and community members through a vast array of ministries.

Thanks for joining us in worship on Sunday, June 9 to celebrate the hundreds of people – just like you – who are changing lives in Jesus’ name. Good job!

Below: Tower Chimes adds a splash splash of color to their *Plink, Plank, Plunk* performance.



## “Howdy, Neighbor!”

Ever notice the folks sitting near you during worship each week? Reach out. Say “hello!” Introduce yourself. Enjoy the time before and after worship to get to know your pew neighbors — even if you move around to a different sanctuary space each week.

Sometimes, a smile or kind word is all it takes to brighten someone else’s day!





# SUMMER WORSHIP in the Hundred Acre Wood

## Thursday Evenings

6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25 and 8/1

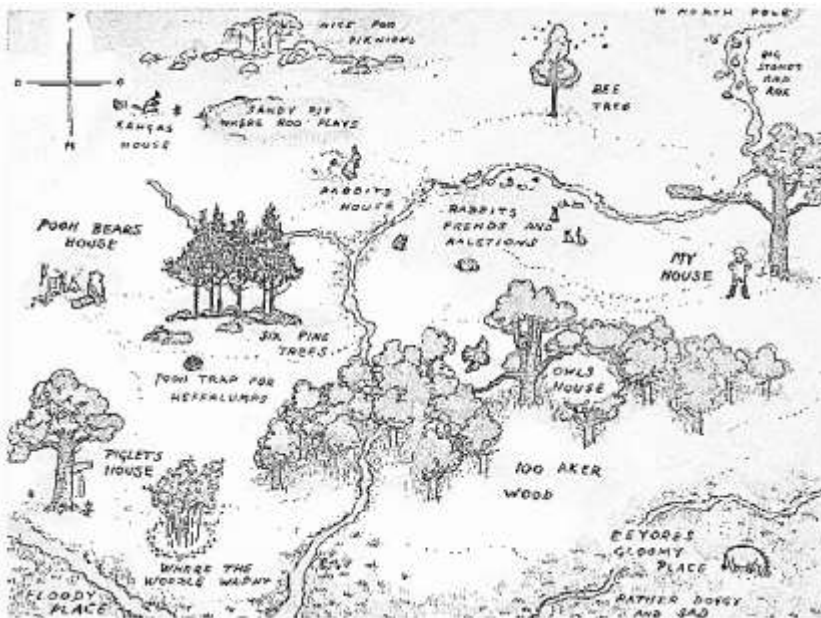
6:00 PM dinner and worship  
in Fellowship Hall

### *Ready for a Very Exciting Adventure?*

You have a SPESHUL INVITATION to journey through the Hundred Acre Wood with a Bear-of-a-Certain-Stature and his friends...and your friends. There'll be honey too!

Enjoy a simple dinner each week. Wear shorts and flip flops. Bring the whole family!

Sermons (based on classic stories) by a variety of pastors and lay ministers throughout the summer.



**Sunday School** for all ages ends on June 9th and resumes 9 AM, Sept. 8th.

### Summer Sunday School Scoop:

Begins June 23 for kids (ages 3-6 years) to learn about prayer, make crafts, play games and have fun! Begin in 10:15 AM worship, then go to Room 314 when dismissed. More FUN awaits your little ones this summer!



# Youth Group Summer News



Follow our YOUTH GROUP on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/groups/TowsonUMCYouth](http://www.facebook.com/groups/TowsonUMCYouth)

## Towson Youth—Grades 6-12

by Rachel Livingston

As we wind down for our summer, our youth has had many activities that have helped us to grow in Christ through service and fellowship. This spring we were able to host a pancake breakfast, we participated in the youth cantata, and we hosted youth Sunday! We would like to thank the congregation for all their support in these endeavors. We would also like to extend warm congratulations to our Youth that are graduating from High School! We pray God's blessing over you as you continue on to your next journey.

### Upcoming Youth Group Events

- ◇ **July 22 – 26:** Vacation Bible Camp, Youth work camp! 9:00 AM– 12:30 PM
- ◇ **July 31:** Hershey Park ALL DAY
- ◇ **September 8:** Youth Council Meeting with youth, parents, and youth ministry team, 11:30 AM
- ◇ **September 8:** Game Night and Dinner, 6:00-7:30 PM
- ◇ **September 15:** Discussion/Bible Study and Dinner, 6:00 -7:30 PM

## Youth Group — Expertise Needed!

Have you ever felt the pull to interact with an energetic, motivated group of Middle and High School church members?

The Youth Ministry Team is inviting you to try it on for size! If you have a talent or gift to share in a small group setting, we need you! We would like to encourage intergenerational time within our church family for the growth of the body of Christ.

UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) typically meets on Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30PM

Here are some possibilities:

- Carpentry – a small take home project that could be finished in one or two sessions.
- Cooking - Help the youth prepare a simple meal they could prepare for their own families!
- Craft project - from paper folding, decoupage, pottery, needlework, watercolor, candy making
- Coordinating a game night – indoor or outdoor
- Musical experiences

Other areas of need include:

- Providing a simple meal
- Making reminder calls to ask for help in various areas
- Discussion leader
- Chaperone

## Towson Young Adults—Age 18+

We would like to congratulate all of our young adults who have graduated and those who have completed their semesters. We are so proud of all your accomplishments. We pray God's covering over you as you step into the next stages of life. Also, we'd like to thank the congregation for helping us send care packages to our college students. It was a great success!

We have finished our study on *The Shack*, and look forward to our Movie Night where we will be watching the film and discussing what we learned.

We will be continuing with our Bibles Study throughout the summer on Wednesdays at 7pm at Panera located at 2131 York Rd. Timonium, MD 21093.

Look out for some more summer activities:

- \* Brunch \* Baseball games \* Painting Night \* Bowling

Contact: Rachel Livingston, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, at 410.823.3698 or [yandya@towsonumc.org](mailto:yandya@towsonumc.org).



# Summer Learning Opportunities

ALL AGE Sunday School classes end on June 9 and resume on September 8. For the summer, we have young child opportunities on Sunday mornings. And, many opportunities for adults to help teach/lead Summer Sunday School. Don't forget! Summer Dinner and Worship for ALL AGES on Thursday nights. Theme: Worship in the Hundred Acre Wood

## Childcare in the Cribbery\*

Children: Infants to Age 3, Room 122

Open: During 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.

## Summer Sunday School\* : Room 314

Children: Ages 3-6 years old (must be 3 by 1/1/19 and fully potty trained)  
Learn about prayer, including the Lord's Prayer, make crafts, play games, have fun, eat snacks! Children begin in the 10:15 worship service with their families then go to Room 314 when dismissed. Class begins on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and ends on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Sunday School Teacher Gathering — Aug 25

We will hold a *teacher get together* on Sunday, August 25, at 9:00 AM in Room 317. Come, get organized in your rooms and with your curriculum. Come celebrate together as we prepare for 2019-2020!.

## Teach Summer School

We have amazing Sunday School teachers who dedicate their Sunday mornings to nurturing our children and we want to give them a refreshing break this summer. Contact Margery to lead summer Sunday School for one or two Sundays this summer at [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org).

## Safe Sanctuaries Refresher Session—REQUIRED!!

Safe Sanctuaries is the program which keeps our children and youth safe. It is required training for anyone working with children and youth. We will hold two refresher sessions for those already trained: June 9 in Room 311 and Sept. 8 in Room 216, each about a half hour long, following worship around 11:30 AM. If you have not been Safe Sanctuaries approved, then please contact Pastor Margery to set up a time for training.

Contact: [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org) or 410.823.6511

## SAVE THE DATE 2020

Our 2020 Annual Women's Retreat will be Feb. 28 – March 1, 2020 at Skycroft Conference Center. Ideas for themes or topics or fun? Contact: Sue LaHatte [slahatte@hotmail.com](mailto:slahatte@hotmail.com) or Margery Schammel at [mschammel@towsonumc.org](mailto:mschammel@towsonumc.org)

## Confirmation 2020 INFO MEETING August 25

All youth in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older who are interested in learning more about their faith and the church, who want to ask difficult questions, who are seeking meaning as they try to follow Jesus, Confirmation is the place for you! Contact Pastor Margery to learn more and to sign up for class. A Confirmation Orientation will be held after the 10:15 AM worship service in Room 216 on August 25. Please RSVP to Margery to enjoy a light lunch as well.

## Stay Updated with E-News

Our e-newsletter, *inSPIRE*, helps Towson UMC members and friends 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 us at [communications@towsonumc.org](mailto:communications@towsonumc.org) to give Towson UMC permission to include you on the distribution list for this publication. It's a great digital resource. Don't miss it!





# Mission Team in Action

## Communion Offerings and Hands-On Work

This year, Our Mission Work Area has selected “mission themes” for each month. Your generous giving will allow us to fund specific appeals for financial, or material, resources and volunteers from various organizations. We are responding to our community’s needs by participating in Hands-On missions each month. Below is an outline of our summer themes and plans. Donate to the cause. Join us in Action!

### June : Disaster Relief

In June, we are participating in two mission trips. We recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster; and we offer aid in Jesus’ name. Summer adventures are:

- **June 16-22, 2019: Mission Trip to North Carolina**  
Contact: Jim Andrew jlandrew3@gmail.com for additional info
- **June 21, 2019: One-Day Mission Trip to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA**  
Contact Vicki Coombs vickicoombs@hotmail.com for additional info

### July : Hunger

July efforts will benefit organizations, such as: Food for Thought, Manna House, Maryland Food Bank, ACTC, Streets of Hope, and First Fruits Farm — with a hands-on mission at the farm on a date TBA.

### August : Homelessness

August efforts will benefit organizations, such as: Sarah’s Hope/St. Vincent DePaul, and Earl’s Place — with a hands-on mission at Paul’s Place on a date TBA.

## 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 “Disaster Relief”, “Hunger”, or “Homelessness” 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!

## SAVE THE DATE! Women’s Retreat

February 28 – March 1, 2020

Hosted by Towson UMC Women at Skycroft Conference Center

This weekend retreat is open to all women who want to dive deeper in faith, enjoy rest and relaxation, and spend time with church friend!



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

*Dear TUMC — Thanks, again, to the women of the Retreat Design Team for another meaningful Women’s Retreat. We are very lucky to have this opportunity to grow our faith and to share with each other. Each year just gets better and better. — Sandy Clawson*





# RACE Against Traffick

benefits Araminta Freedom Initiative in Maryland!



## Your financial gift helps:

- Provide mentors and advocates for survivors and youth at-risk for child sex trafficking
- Awaken individuals in professional, school, and community settings through Prevention and Intervention Education
- Provide tangible needs for local survivors
- Equip churches and community groups in Maryland to work together to dismantle child sex trafficking
- Mobilize over 200 active volunteers through 14 different programs to further initiatives

PHOTO Wow! What an awesome group of Towson UMC members and friends (walkers, runners, and donors) who participated in the RACE against Traffick.



**Welcome Statement:** 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,*

Thank you! Thank you!

For the lovely white tulips for Easter. And also a big thank you to the Card Ministry who wrote me a wonderful message about Easter. Towson UM Church and its members are always in my prayers.

— Katherine Rigney

To My TUMC Friends

The lovely pot of purple tulips were a welcome addition to my apartment. The bulbs will go to our son’s garden to bloom again.

— With thanks, Ruth Beam

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for the beautiful white tulips you sent me for Easter. Their delicate purity expressed the true meaning of Easter and I appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

—With love and prayers, Shirley Hall

Dear Friends,

Gil’s passing on was filled with love, grace, and peace. It was a beautiful moment in our lives. Your prayers, cards, condolences, and presence are deeply appreciated. Gil and I were blessed to have shared 63 years of marriage. We were pleased to honor Gil by holding a Celebration of Life in our beautiful Sanctuary. Thank you Rev. Mark, Rev. Doug, Kim Ayres, Margot Gerding, and the Funeral Service Committee for working with us to build our program. It was comforting to have so many friends and relatives together sharing memories. To pay tribute to Gil, we hope to uphold his values. A few of these include inspiring a love for science and inquiry, working to preserve our environment, respecting the rights and privileges of all people, and building corporate and political ethics. May God guide us as we move forward.

Sincerely, Katherine B. Smith and Family



# Flower Ministry Delivers Hope



Twice a year, for more than 30 years, the Flower Ministry at Towson UMC has been taking orders for Christmas and Easter flowers to decorate the Chancel area and deliver to homebound members. This ministry began as an outreach effort from the Men of Towson UMC. Through the years, the group expanded to include children and spouses, who accompanied male family members on holiday visits. Today, the group composition varies a bit each time; but the message remains steadfast: We Value You!



Joe Corson leads the ordering and delivery of Christmas and Easter flowers these days. He admits: "This is a special ministry for our church. The long-standing tradition has been handed down to family members of some original Men's Group participants. And, our homebound members look forward to our visits."



This year, the Easter delivery group visited nearly 50 people in one day. Some visits resulted in personal encounters; others were walk-bys and hallway deliveries. It is evident—by all the smiling faces — that both the recipients and the delivery angels enjoyed the day!



Thanks to all who have sustained this valuable ministry.







## Announcing... Congregational Care NEW CONTACT INFO

Our newly-formed Congregational Care Team now coordinates prayer shawl, visitation, card, and prayer vine ministries with ONE contact point —via phone or email.

Starting June 1, 2019, reach out here:

**TUMCaring@towsonumc.org** —email  
**410.823.6511 press #3** — voice mail

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.



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](mailto:dwilhelm16@verizon.net)



## UPCOMING EVENTS June 1 - Aug 31, 2019

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM Worship  
Thursday evenings 6:00 PM Dinner & Worship

### JUNE

All JUNE	Communion Offering: Disaster Relief
All Wed	Young Adult Bible Study, 7 PM Panera
All Thurs	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 AM @ Diner
June 2	Reconciling Church Straw Poll
June 2	Youth Group Dinner & Mission
June 9	Lay Ministry Recognition, 10:15 AM
June 9	Safe Sanctuaries Refresher, 11:30 AM
June 15	Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
June 16	Women's Chorus Performs, 10:15 AM
June 20	Summer Worship & Dinner, 6:00 PM
June 23	Summer Sunday School BEGINS, 10:15 AM
June 27	Summer Worship & Dinner, 6:00 PM

### JULY

All JULY	Communion Offering: Hunger
All Wed	Young Adult Bible Study, 7 PM @ Panera
All Thurs	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 AM @ Diner
July 2	VBC Painting Day, 10 AM– 12:30 PM
July 7	VBC Orientation for all Helpers, 11:30 AM
July 10	VBC Painting Day, 10 AM– 12:30 PM
July 11	Summer Worship & Dinner, 6:00 PM
July 18	Summer Worship & Dinner, 6:00 PM
July 20	Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
July 22-26	Vacation Bible Camp "Mars and Beyond"
July 25	Summer Worship & Dinner, 6:00 PM
July 28	VBC Ice Cream Social and Photos

### AUG

All AUG	Communion Offering: Homelessness
All Wed	Young Adult Bible Study, 7 PM @ Panera
All Thurs	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 AM @ Diner
Aug 1	Summer Worship & Dinner, 6:00 PM
Aug 3	<i>High Spire</i> deadline for FALL issue
Aug 17	Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
Aug 25	Sunday School Teacher Gathering, 9:00 AM

### SAVE THE DATE

Sept 7, 2019	Crab Feast & Silent Auction
Sept 8, 2019	Safe Sanctuaries Refresher, 11:30 AM
Oct 10, 2019	Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser, 4:00+ PM
Nov 2, 2019	Women's Refresh & Reboot, 8:30 AM
Feb 28—Mar 1, 2020	Women's Retreat at Skycroft Conf Ctr





TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
501 Hampton Lane : Towson, Maryland 21286

**410.823.6511 : [www.towsonumc.org](http://www.towsonumc.org)**  
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SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
Sundays June 1 – September 1, 2019

8:00 AM  
Traditional Service in the Chapel  
Communion every Sunday with piano or organ accompaniment.

8:45-11:30 AM  
Childcare is available all morning, infants to age 3

9:00-10:00 AM  
Sunday School, ages 3-6  
June 24-Aug 26; Meet in Room 314 midway through the worship service for age appropriate learning, play and crafts

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. Childcare available during worship, infant to age 3.

Thursdays June 20 – August 1, 2019

6:00 PM on 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, and 8/1  
Worship & Dinner in the Hundred Acre Wood for ALL ages  
**Take a break from summer's heat and stroll through our informal worship services in Fellowship Hall. Dinner included. No cost. Invite friends and family members! Flip flops encouraged.**



**Stay in Touch.**

[facebook.com/towsonumc](https://facebook.com/towsonumc)

Some people  
are so much  
sunshine  
to the  
square inch.  
—Walt Whitman

**2019**