



Winter
2018-19

Newsletter for Members & Friends of Towson United Methodist Church

Be Filled With **WONDER**

The wonderful fact about childhood is that everything is filled with *wonder*. Not just at Christmastime. All year long. And not just at home. In the whole wide world. Night stars, spider webs, remote controls and gooey sandwiches are equally mesmerizing. No mud puddle, bunk bed or alphabet puzzle is too terrifying to attempt. Remember those days?

You lived with a sense of mystery and awe. Every day was fascinating. From snow ball fights to bike riding, and running barefoot in December to licking raw cookie dough off a spoon, life was simply incredible... Perhaps, over time, things have faded. The mundane and harsh reality of life have settled in. And you are jaded instead of joyful. If so, then you are not alone. That is the case for many of us “adults”.

During this time of “resolutions”, try a different strategy this New Year. Resolve to “Always be on the lookout for the presence of wonder,” as E.B. White, author of *Charlotte’s Web* and *Stuart Little* suggests.

Rather than being desensitized by daily adult things, let yourself be awed by the little stuff in your “grown-up” life. Notice spider webs glistening after a rainstorm; listen for your friend’s quirky “hello” on the phone; and, giggle when hot cocoa steams up your glasses. Fascinate yourself again.

When we wonder, we become curious. When we are curious, we learn. When we learn, we become wise. And, when we are wise, we live life fully—with perspective and intention. And, then, we wonder some more.

The glorious work of God is everywhere! Be on the lookout!

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. — Ralph Waldo Emerson



Readiness 360 Survey Affirms Strengths

This past fall, Towson UMC launched the Readiness 360 survey, sponsored by the United Methodist Church, as a tool to help us identify our church’s strengths and opportunities with the specific goal of designing appropriate marketing and communications practices and products.

From this church-wide, anonymous survey, we learned much of what we already knew about our church and its congregation, messaging and mission. We affirmed that Towson UMC is a passionate, God-seeking, intergenerational community that is not afraid to ask difficult questions and honor diverse answers. At the same time, the survey affirmed:: we could embrace community members and visitors with more experiences (i.e. learning, hands-on missions, small group activities, worship) that motivate them to build meaningful and lasting relationships; we could express our church’s mission and goals more clearly to ensure that all committees are working together toward common goals; and, we could engage and include new people into leadership roles to avoid burnout of the folks who work tirelessly to make things happen around here.

In January, the church pastors and staff are hosting a Rockin’ New Year’s Orientation Meeting on January 22nd at 7:00 PM for all new and returning Committee Chairs to kick-off the first of many initiatives that evolved from the Readiness 360 survey. Stay tuned for more amazing things in the months to come.

THANK YOU for taking the time to respond to the survey! We are thrilled so many members and friends contributed insight and ideas to help guarantee that YOUR CHURCH —Towson UMC — is relevant and vibrant long into the future.

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Dear Towson UMC family and friends—

My thanks and that of my family are extended to Towson United Methodist Church for all the expressions of sympathy and condolence that were extended to us in so many ways on the death of my wife, Marilyn. The celebration of her life brought to the fore powerful memories of the person she was, the lives she had touched, and the relationships she had forged. Her illness that stole both body and personality could not steal the quality of her life. Thank you for giving expression to that in so many ways.

— Bill Raker

TUMC's Inclement Weather Policy

Monday-Friday

- ★ If Baltimore County Schools are closed, then there are NO church meetings or activities.
- ★ If Baltimore County Schools open late or close early, then TUMC meetings and activities may be canceled; check with your facilitator.



Sundays

Check the church's Facebook page. Most of all, use your best judgment and be safe!

Next High Spire content deadline: **Feb 1st** for the **FULL SPRING 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

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

Rev. Margery Schammel—Assistant Pastor
410.823.2485 : mschammel@towsonumc.org

Rev. Doug Hollida— Minister of Music
410.823.6519 : musicdirector@towsonumc.org

Rachel Livingston— Director of Youth and
Young Adult Ministries
410.823.3698 : yandya@towsonumc.org

Kim Ayres— Business and Office Manager
410.823.3693 : kayres@towsonumc.org

Maryanne Arthur— Marketing & Communications
Director : communications@towsonumc.org

Bob Ashby— Custodian : 410.823.6511

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



‘Refresh & Reboot’ Radiates JOY

On Saturday, November 10, 2018, Towson United Methodist Church hosted the first *Refresh and Reboot* event. The program’s speaker, Mabeth Hudson, shared an engaging presentation on “Living Joyfully in Stressful Times”. The Fellowship Hall was transformed into an inviting place for women of the church and community to gather, enjoy a lovely continental breakfast, and explore the topic of Joy. Seventy women participated in the

event and shared many positive comments to include:

- “Thank you for this amazing event!”
- “Enjoyed today, the friendship, speaker, decorations, and wonderful breakfast.”
- “I am going to suggest this workshop for my church.”
- “As a stay at home mom, life can be isolating. I needed a break but cannot do a whole weekend....I enjoyed being hugged and loved by other women.”
- “Wonderful mix of wellness ideas for mind, body and soul.”
- “I was able to relate to everything discussed.”
- “Church hall looked inviting and welcoming.”



The committee extends a special thanks to Mabeth Hudson for her inspiring message; Maria Springer for her delicious truffles; Kim Smith and Kriste Garman for the breathing and relaxation activity; the Towson UMC Ukulele Choir for their song of Joy; and Maryanne Arthur for the gift of essential oils. Thanks to Kim Ayres and Bob Ashby for their support.

Special thanks to the *Refresh and Reboot* committee members: Rev. Margery Schammel, Debby Ross, Stephanie Kimmons, Sue Todhunter, Debbie Wilhelm, Carol Woodworth, Susan Killian and Maryanne Arthur. Your passion, creativity and enthusiasm made the event possible. Our hope is to continue the tradition and we are exploring topics for the next *Refresh and Reboot* event.

**You will go out in joy and
be led forth in peace.**

— Isaiah 55:12

Blessings to all,

Liz Neal, Chair *Refresh & Reboot*

Mark's Meanderings...



Happy holidays! We're delighted that you are here worshipping with us. Our congregation has so much to offer — throughout all of life's seasons!

Go ahead! Peek inside these pages to see the depth of our church worship, events and activities. See something you like? Join us. Bring a friend. Meet new friends. All are welcome here!

Commission on a Way Forward

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling is continuing to meet with laity and clergy to review the plans that will be presented to the General Conference. She will be in our area on **Sunday, December 9** and you are invited to join with her and other United Methodists at **Fallston UMC in Fallston from 3:00-5:00 PM**.

You are also invited to join with United Methodists around the world in praying for the Church and the Special Conference each day from 2:23-2:26 PM.

The Baltimore-Washington Conference Delegation to the 2019 Special Session

Delegates from across the world will gather at the called session of the General Conference February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. Our attending BWC General Conference Delegation will present a unified One Church plan regarding The Way Forward in consideration of inclusion and issues of human sexuality. Below are the names of the voting members of this delegation. Visit www.umc.org/who-we-are/2018-baltimore-washington-annual-conference or call the main conference office at 410.309.3400 for more specific contact information.

CLERGY:

Terri Rae Chattin (chair of the delegation), retired
Joe Daniels, pastor, Emory Fellowship, Washington, D.C.
JW Park, Central Maryland District Superintendent
Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, pastor, Foundry UMC
Conrad Link, Cumberland-Hagerstown District Superintendent
Joan Carter-Rimbach, pastor, John Wesley UMC, Baltimore



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

LAITY:

Delores Martin, Good Hope Union UMC, Silver Spring
Jen Ihlo, Dumbarton UMC, Georgetown
Charles Moore, Community UMC, Crofton
Cynthia Taylor, Epworth UM Chapel, Baltimore
Tom Price, Mill Creek Parish UMC, Rockville
Ken Ow, North Bethesda UMC



Liturgist Training

We will offering Liturgist Training for persons (high school age and older) who are interested in helping lead worship (and for existing Liturgists who would like a refresher) on **Sunday, December 9 after 10:15 AM worship**. Training will be about 30 minutes. We will have the sign-up sheet for January through March, 2019 at the training. Bring your calendars!

Coffee & Conversation

You are invited to join Pastor Mark for a cup of coffee or tea and a time of conversation each Wednesday at 9:00 AM. There is no agenda except the joys and concerns you bring. Variety being the spice of life, we will meet in different locations each month.

December (except December 26):

Starbucks 1830 York Road, Timonium, MD 21093

January: Baltimore Coffee and Tea

9 West Aylesbury Road, Timonium, MD 21093

February: Bob Evans

1265 E Joppa Rd, Towson, MD 21286

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

Blessings —

Pastor Mark Johnson



P.S. See you at our December 30 Lessons and Carols Worship. Wear your Ugly Sweater or tie!



Gather 'Round and Join Us

Tower Chimes : Chancel Choir : Joy Singers : Alleluia Singers : Carol Choir

Flute : Bass Violin : Saxophone : Handbells



Electric Drums : Ukulele : Electric Bass : Drums

Tympani : Percussion : Cymbals : Congas Piano : Keyboard : Organ : Celesta

The Music Ministry presents...

Angels are Making Their Rounds

A Service of Music and Readings for the Advent/Christmas Season

December 9, 2018 at 10:15 AM

NEW! Short-Term Advent Classes

9:00 AM Sundays, Nov 25-Dec 23

“Not a Silent Night”

WOMEN’S ADVENT CLASS

All women in the church are invited to join the Women’s Sunday School class for “Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem” — an Advent study by Adam Hamilton. This class studies the life of Jesus through Mary’s eyes.

No RSVP needed! Just DROP IN
Room 310 on Sunday at 9:00 AM.



10:00 AM Tuesdays, Nov 27-Dec 18

“Advent: The Gift of New Hope”

ALL FOLKS’ SHORT-TERM ADVENT CLASS

Drop IN and join us in the Room 317 on Tuesday mornings Dec 4, 11 and 18. We will study the book Advent: The Gift of New Hope by Christopher Webber. Please let Pastor Margery know if you would like her to order you a copy of the book. Or you may find it at www.cokesbury.com.

Contact: mschammel@towsonumc.org

We’re Taking a Refreshing Break!

- ◆ K.I.D.Z. is cancelled 12/9 so everyone can attend the All-Music Service at 10:15 AM.
- ◆ ALL classes and choirs are cancelled 12/23 & 12/30.
- ◆ Pray & Play and K.I.D.Z. are cancelled on 12/30.
- ◆ Cribbery is never closed! The church office is closed: 12/25 through 12/28 and 12/31-1/1.



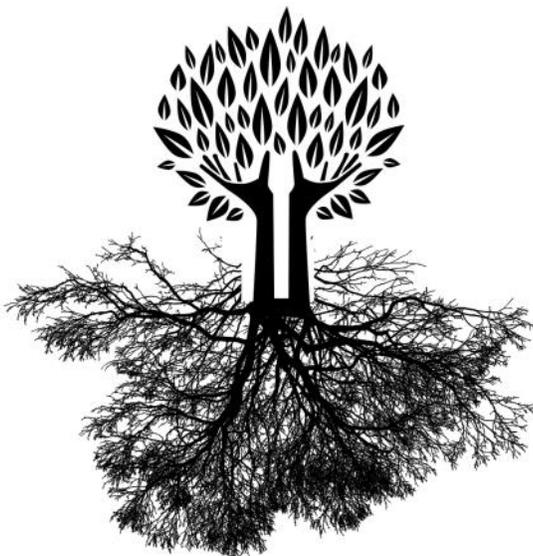
Set Deep Roots

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.

410.823.6511



God Lights Our Way

Women's Retreat 2019

Annual weekend retreat offers a getaway for women of all ages. Enjoy rest and relaxation amidst Western Maryland's scenic surroundings. Experience spiritual rejuvenation!

DELUXE Weekend Package at Skycroft Conference Center in Middletown, MD includes:

- * workshops
- * prayer and reflection
- * creative activities
- * meals and lodging
- * fun and fellowship

Visit www.towsonumc.org for registration information.

Early Bird: \$200/person on or before 1/20/19

Registration: \$220/person between 1/20-2/17/19



Summer 2018 Campership Reviews

— with special thanks to our generous scholarship donors

My West River Experience —by Ella

This past summer was my second year attending the West River camp and I loved the experience so much. I love how West River gives you the chance to grow in your faith and connection to God and make friendships that last a lifetime as well. There are so many people who I have met through West River and have kept in contact with and we are growing together in our relationships with the Lord and helping each other when we feel like he isn't with us. West River also has a structured schedule which includes many times over the course of the day to either talk with others about the Bible and it's stories or sing fun worship songs and learn new prayers. They have a wide variety of options for everyone during free time and for our main activities each day. Overall I highly recommend West River, it's an experience you will never forget.

What I got Out of West River — by Bria

In the mornings our cabin counselors would wake us up at 7:00 (6:00 if you wanted to go crabbing) then we would get ready and go to morning prayer and breakfast. Then Mr. Andy would do announcements then we ate and did our camp chores and went to our activities. In Bible study I was refreshed on stories from the Bible that I had already known and learned more about each passage. I also learned ones that were new to me like Hosea 5:1-7. Bible study was always a time I looked forward to. There were always welcoming faces and kind people. In my activity (dance) I practiced across the floor, stretches, freestyle, and we made a dance that we performed at the end of the week. They helped me to learn what we practiced and calmed me down when I got frustrated. We had great counselors that were always open to helping us when needed. I did the Corinthian trail with my Bible study group and learned more about them; we became very trusting of each other especially when we had to move in order of our birthdays without stepping off of the beam. Everyday we had W.R.E.C. (West River Energy Check), where we did fun activities like "Over Under" where we got a wet sponge and passed it over and under us to fill our bucket up first. We also had a snack time, which included us getting a snack and drink outside. Then we would play a whole camp game like "Counselors Hide 'n' Seek." We ended the nights with an evening prayer. Over all I thought camp was a fun and great part of my summer. It was a great learning experience with campers, counselors, and staff and working with the Bible.

Rockin' New Year's Orientation Meeting 7pm : January 22

Mark your calendars for an invaluable committee chair/church leader orientation to learn more about finances, communications, facilities procedures at church. RSVP required at www.EventBrite.com and enter the words **tumc2019adminorientation** OR send an RSVP to communications@towsonumc.org.

Looking forward to gathering together!

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 e-distribution list for this publication, sent every two weeks via email on Friday afternoons. It's a great digital resource. Don't miss it!



Dear Towson UMC —

The Steer family would like to thank all those who have sent expressions of sympathy regarding Ruth; and those who have generously given a contribution to Towson UMC in her name. Also, we want to extend our thanks to the funeral/reception committee for their wonderful support provided on the day of Ruth's celebration.

— Mike and Nancy Steer

2019 MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

January is a great time to join a choir! We start anew with all new music. All rehearsals are in the Music Room—321. Start dates are listed below.

VOCAL CHOIRS

- **CHANCEL CHOIR** begins 1/9
Adults - Music reading is not required
- **JOYFUL NOISE** begins TBD
Adults – An occasional “pick-up” choir
- **ALLELUIA SINGERS** begins 1/13
6th - 12th graders
- **CAROL CHOIR** begins 1/8
2nd - 5th graders
- **JOY SINGERS** begins TBD
4-year-olds – 1st graders)



HANDBELL CHOIRS

- **GENESIS BELLS** begins TBD
For those with limited (to no) experience playing bells
- **CELEBRATION RINGERS** begins 1/20
For those who read music OR have some ringing experience
- **TOWER CHIMES** begins 1/16
Advanced ringers – Music reading is required but ringing experience is not



UKULELE CHOIR

Beginners ukulele. Music reading is not required but a ukulele is needed. Group practices and performs at various times throughout the year.

Contact Doug Hollida for more information:
musicdirector@towsonumc.org



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Thanksgiving Baskets 2018

A huge THANK YOU to all who donated Thanksgiving Baskets. Our Food Pantry was thrilled to give your baskets on November 17th to all our guests who came to Fellowship Hall. What an outpouring of generosity on the part of our congregation.

May the Lord Jesus bless you all!
 — Val Wehrle & Dwight Kines



Food Pantry: 2019 Calendar! OPEN Third Saturdays from 9:00-10:30 AM

In 2019, the TUMC Food Pantry's dates will be on the THIRD Saturday of each month, except for the Christmas Food Pantry (which is on December 14th). Please continue to volunteer and donate. Want to help? Contact Dwight Kines at 410.828.0792. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2018



Honor a loved one with the gift of a poinsettia in the Chancel area of Towson UMC this Yuletide Season! Each plant is \$15 and can be donated to church for delivery to a shut-in or picked up after Christmas Eve service. Complete the form to honor or remember someone special in your life. Make all checks payable to TUMC ("Christmas Poinsettias" on memo line).

ORDER BY DECEMBER 16, 2018 to be listed in our Registry!!!

Rejoice! I would like to order _____ (# quantity) poinsettias at \$15 each. Check Amount: _____

In honor of _____

In loving memory of _____

Remit this form and check (payable to Towson UMC with poinsettias on memo line) to the church office by Dec 16, 2018.

Your Name(s): _____

Circle One: **YES** Send my plants to a shut-in. OR **YES** I will pick up plants after 11pm worship on 12/24/18.

Be Our Guest

Make & Serve Dinner for Homeless Visitors at Church Shelters in Eastern Baltimore County

Streets of Hope is a cold weather (November through April) shelter for homeless men in eastern Baltimore County. The shelters are hosted, on a rotating basis, by several churches in the Essex area. And, a larger group of churches provide a hot meal for 16-18 guests every evening.

Towson UMC is joining those preparing and serving dinner this season. We are seeking 8-10 volunteers to call on each month—in teams of three people — to help at **Boulevard Christian Church on Essex Avenue**. Dates: Dec 12, 2018, then Jan 8, Feb 7, March 7 and April 2, 2019

Commitment includes:

— purchasing (and being reimbursed for) food, preparing dinner, taking it to the host church, serving food, and cleaning up. Meals can be simple, such as crock pot BBQ, casseroles, chicken, pasta, plus drinks and dessert. Total time at the church is less than 90 minutes (approx. 6-7:30pm). Volunteer with a friend, spouse, youth, or by yourself and get paired with other team members.



Interested? Contact Dwight Kines at drkines4@gmail.com or 410.828.0792.

LAST CHANCE!

Gingerbread House Workshop 2018



Join the fun on Saturday, December 1, 2018 by decorating your own Gingerbread House (or taking home a supply kit). Only a few houses remain!! Pick up an order form at the church office or contact Maria Springer 410.561.1157 or maria@majaskitchen.com.



"And, who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:29

The Stewardship Campaign for 2019 is continuing under the theme "Changing Lives : the Miracle of Giving", based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37). Through God's grace and gifts, we are all, like the Good Samaritan, in a position to help someone— to change something — to make a difference — to go above and beyond in Christian service — and to contribute to a miracle in someone's life. Towson UMC can be the answer to prayers. For the church to be so, we need your support.

Though Commitment Sunday was October 28th, it is important that everyone has had the opportunity to respond. If you have not already responded, please prayerfully consider your commitment to the ministries and programs at Towson UMC — and complete the commitment card (in your mailer or in the church pews). Drop it in the Sunday offering plate or mail it to the church office.

We thank you for your support as a 'Good Samaritan' to the 2019 campaign!

We also thank you for your support of the current 2018 "New Day of Blessings" stewardship campaign.

Please fulfill your commitments before December 31, 2018.



Amahl



The Lame Boy

Aaron



The Little Drummer Boy

Althazar



The Servant Boy

Fivel



The Shepherd Boy

Journey to Jesus

The Story of Four Boys on the First Christmas

Christmas Eve Carol Choir Musical

Script by Rev. Doug Hollida

5:00 PM : December 24, 2018

2018 Holiday Worship Schedule

All– Music Service, December 9th

10:15 AM Angels are Making Their Rounds

Blue Christmas, December 21st

7:00 PM in the Chapel

Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:00 PM Carol Choir “Journey to Jesus” Musical

8:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service

11:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service

Year-End Celebration, December 30th

10:15 AM Lessons & Carols + Ugly Sweaters



Youth & Young Adult News



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

Towson Youth—Grades 6-12*

In the midst of the violence within our country and communities we extend our prayers for those involved and we pray God's presence and peace within the world. We would like to thank all of our parents who have volunteered their time and vehicles to make our youth activities a possibility. Truly, you are an integral part in developing our youth as disciples of Jesus Christ. **Students in Grades 6-12 may participate in fun, educational, missionary and fellowship activities* throughout the school year. Bring a friend!**

Upcoming Youth Group Events

- December 2 Advent Celebration 3:00-4:30 PM
Christmas Light Tour 6:00 PM
- December 9 Shopping for Christmas Family 6:00 PM
- December 16 Wrapping Gifts 6:00 PM
- December 23 No Youth Group
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services 5PM, 8PM, 11PM
- December 30 No Youth Group
- February 8-10 ROCK in Ocean City, MD
- February 10 No Youth Group

Look Out for Details on More Upcoming Events!

Discussions, Mission Activities, Game Nights, Fun Activities and Learning more about our relationship with Jesus Christ.

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 our 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.

Interested? Questions?
 Contact Rachel Livingston at yandya@towsonumc.org or 410.823.3698.

Towson Young Adults — Ages 18+

Our Young Adults have enjoyed our Young Adult Bible Study exploring *Faithful Questions* as we dig deeper to ask difficult questions and wrestle with our faith. Our young Adult Bible Study normally meets at Panera at 2131 York Rd. Timonium, MD at 7:00 PM. Check with our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries on exact dates and times.

We will be planning some mission outings to engage with the world around us and spread the love of Jesus Christ. Stay Tuned for more information.

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 at 410-823-3698 or yandya@towsonumc.org.

Upcoming Events to Look for this Winter

- all dates and times TBD
- ★ Young Adult Bible Study
 - ★ Mission Activities/Debrief
 - ★ Young Adult Brunch
 - ★ Meetup Chats/Discussions
 - ★ Young Adult Outings

Check out our Meet Up page

<https://www.meetup.com/Towson-United-Methodist-Young-Adult-Ministry-Chats/>



*Enrollment forms are REQUIRED for all youth participants under the age of 18. See www.towsonumc.org for details.



December 21, 2018 7:00 PM
Towson UMC Chapel

Blue Christmas

a service of remembrance and hope



Christmas can be a difficult time for some people. Sad events in our lives can feel magnified by the hoopla of Christmas and the expectation to “be joyful.” If you or someone you know is experiencing sorrow during the holiday season, join us for a time of worship on the longest night of the year—we will have a quiet service in the Chapel. The “Blue Christmas” Service is a service where we recognize that things are not always “merry” and “bright.” There is grief and there is sadness, but there is always hope. Join us for this special seasonal worship service!

Angel Tree 2018



Look for the Angel Tree in the church lobby on December 2nd. Choose an ornament from the tree to sponsor a local family with toys, clothes, and household items. Wrap the gift (requested on the angel ornament) and affix the angel as a tag to the gift. All gifts must be returned to church by December 9th!!! If you prefer to donate \$, then send a check, cash or online donation with the note “angel tree” to Towson UMC. Contact: Marjorie Bandy 443.417.5878 or marjorie.bandy17@gmail.com

Operation Christmas Child = Success!



Thanks to all of you who filled a Samaritan's Purse Shoebox. This shoebox may be the only gift these underprivileged children receive this year. A special thanks to those of you who filled multiple shoeboxes. This is your opportunity to help spread the gospel around the world. (Note: Please return any unused boxes for us to fill in 2019.)

Happy Holidays!
—John & Nancy Ross

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

for children and youth of Homestead UMC



Bring a NEW toy for the Homestead United Methodist Church community on December 2 and December 9. Wrap your toys in Christmas paper and mark them with a tag that indicates whether it is for a boy or girl (and note the appropriate age of the intended recipient). We will deliver toys to Homestead on December 11, 2018. Contact: Pat Totzauer 410.938.8699.

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 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* : Fellowship Hall Middle School and Room 317 High School

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

Open: 9:00-10:00 AM

Confirmation Class* : Hoffman Room

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, Room 216

Faith Foundations, every month on the 3rd Sunday (see bulletin for more details)

Confirmation Class of 2019

Confirmation is an experience for youth grade 7 and above who are interested in deep faith questions and perhaps joining the church. We seek to "confirm" the vows taken on our behalf at our baptism.

Our youth have been meeting for events this Fall and will begin the regular class on January 6th. We meet in the Hoffman Room, 9:00-10:00 AM, every Sunday. We will worship and learn at Old Otterbein on Jan. 13th (snow date, Jan. 20).

If you have questions, contact Pastor Margery: mschammel@towsonumc.org or 410.823.2485

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6, 2019. Stay tuned for Lenten study opportunities!

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

Sunday, December 2nd from 3:00-4:30 PM

Advent Celebration



Casual, family activity at church. Crafts and fun for PreK–5th Graders. NO cost to attend. Bring friends!



Moment on a Mission: Communion Offering

December : The Board of Child Care

The Board of Child Care of the United Methodist Church, Inc. is a 144 year old organization which was founded in Baltimore and whose Purpose is " **Enriching communities, one family at a time.**" The Board operates a myriad of Programs throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region. They include:

BOARD OF CHILD CARE
of The United Methodist Church, Inc.



- Adoption Services
 - An Early Learning Program for children from ages 6 weeks to 5 years old.
 - The Strawbridge School - A nonpublic special and regular education school serving preschool through age 21 in a therapeutic environment.
 - Youth Reporting Center - providing full-day educational and therapeutic services for middle and high school students.
 - Outpatient Mental Health Clinic - Individual and group sessions provided for youth ages 3 to 18 and their families.
 - Residential Homes - Campuses provide engaging experiences for youth within a safe, structured setting.
 - Treatment Foster Care - Provide therapeutically structured home environments for youth ages 2 to 21.
- Towson United Methodist Church has a long history with the Board of Child Care. Many Members have served on the Board of Directors and in Leadership positions. Currently, Kevin Gralley and Bob Kimmons serve on the Board of Directors. Kevin is the current Vice Chair and Bob is a former Chairman.

For more than 50 years, Katherine Rigney served as Towson's Key Woman to the Auxiliary of the Board of Child Care and I am sure many of you remember her asking you to become members by paying a \$ 2.00 annual fee. Katherine worked tirelessly at this job! The Auxiliary has decided to discontinue this practice. **Therefore, we are asking for your generous support of the Board of Child Care through our December Moment on Missions!**

January : Christ Deaf Church

Christ Deaf Church worships in ASL with tactile and voice interpreting, and captioning so that all God's children can accept the Word of God into their hearts and lives. The congregation's all-Deaf Choir enhances the service with hymns of praise and thanksgiving. People of all faith traditions, or none, are welcome to join. In Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoons, attendees share a free meal and a variety of social activities. The church is located at 1040 S. Beechfield Ave. Baltimore MD 21229. www.christdeafchurch-umc.org.



February : ACTC

The Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) hails back to a study in the early 1980s conducted by the Towson Area Ministerial Association exploring an effective and efficient way to better meet the needs of people coming to churches for help. The center opened its doors in 1985 with 14 churches providing *emergency help*, including food, eviction and utility cutoff prevention, payment for prescriptions, and lunches for the homeless. Currently, with the support of 50 churches and other generous donors, its service area incorporates 21 zip codes in central Baltimore County extending up to the Pennsylvania line. The center is located at 120 W. Pennsylvania Avenue in Towson, MD. www.actconline.info.



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 "Board of Child Care", "Christ Deaf Church" or "ACTC" 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!

Send Warm Socks and Valentines



During January 2019, the Hospitality Ministries Committee will be collecting warm socks for women at the **House of Ruth** and boxes of valentines for their youngsters. Bring socks and boxed Valentine's during January and we will deliver in time for a loving Valentine's Day!

The House of Ruth of Ruth Maryland leads the fight to end violence against women and their children by confronting the attitudes, behaviors and systems that perpetuate it, and by providing victims with the services necessary to rebuild their lives safely and free of fear. TUMC is honored to be a part of this mission.

Out & About

Kim Ayres, our Business Manager, will be out of the office beginning Thursday, November 29 until Wednesday, January 3, 2019. No worries, our bills will be paid and your checks will be deposited every week while she is out. If you have questions, please feel free to leave her a voicemail or email her. She will be checking her voicemails and emails at least once a week while she is out. Thank you for your patience



Lessons and Carols

10:15 AM Service

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Join us for song and story.
Bring friends. Wear your **UGLY**
Christmas sweater and/or tie!



Business Office Tips

Here is some helpful information from your Business Office! Do you know there are several different ways to send us your contributions? All contributions must be submitted to the Business Office by **December 31st** to receive credit on your 2018 contribution statement.

Here are the different ways to send in your contributions:

- **Cash or Check** placed in the offering plate during worship. Please consider using an envelope including your name when donating cash.
- **Drop Donation** in door slot of the main office attention 'Business Office'.
- **Mail check donations** by the US Postal service to Towson UMC attention 'Business Office'.
- **Online Banking** you set up online checking with your bank. You control the frequency and amount sent. The bank sends a check to Towson UMC. Set up Towson UMC as a "vendor" and include your envelope number if you have one —and name as "account number."
- **Text to Give** simply text your dollar amount to **410.514.3014**. A link will be sent to you to complete a one-time registration form. From then on, just text your amount and it will be applied to your annual contribution to the church. If you wish to donate to the Communion Offering, please type '**communion**' after the dollar amount before sending the text.
- **Online-Giving (Credit Cards and Electronic Funds Transfers)** Giving online with credit cards and with electronic fund transfers is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions. Contributions can now be deducted automatically from your checking or savings account at any time or processed using your credit or debit card. Our electronic giving program offers convenient ways for you to give from any device (computer or phone) anywhere you have access to the Internet.

Follow these easy steps for online giving:

- Visit our website at www.towsonumc.org.
- Choose 'Click Here to Donate Online' button.
- Click on the 'Create Profile' button.
- Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and schedule your recurring contributions.
- You can also use the church's QRT code.



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



Merrill Lynch
901 Dulaney Valley Road, Ste 516
Towson, MD 21204
Telephone: 410.321.4323
Fax: 410.970.4295
DTC #5198
Account # **813-04325** Towson UMC

Include the following information with the transmittal from your broker/bank to Merrill Lynch:
Donor Name: _____
Designated to: Towson United Methodist Church
Purpose of Gift: ex. Annual Pledge, Capital Campaign

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

As always, please contact Kim Ayres in the Business Office with any questions or concerns: 410.823.3689 or kayres@towsonumc.org.

Grateful for You!

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



Wear your fuzziest slippers and shop from home!

Don't forget to select Towson UMC as an approved charity with Amazon Smile each time you checkout online this holiday season and beyond.

To designate our church as the recipient of your online shopping, log onto www.smile.amazon.com and choose "Towson United Methodist Church" each time you shop online. You will see the church's name under the search box at the top of the page, following the word "supporting".

You might be surprised to learn that The AmazonSmile Foundation sends donations directly to us! For example, one member's annual Amazon report showed 114 online orders in 2018 with \$53 sent to church. That's approximately \$.50 per online purchase. Every bit adds up to boost the missions and ministry of Towson UMC!



UPCOMING EVENTS Dec 1 - Feb 28, 2019

Sunday Mornings

8:00 AM and 10:15 AM Worship

DECEMBER

- All Wed Coffee & Conversation, 9 AM @ TUMC
- All Dec Communion Offering: Board of Child Care
- Dec 1 Gingerbread House Workshop
- Dec 2 Advent Celebration, 3-4:30 PM
- Dec 9 All-Music Sunday, 10:15 AM
Youth Group Dinner & Shopping, 6 PM
Angel Tree Gifts Due
Toy Drive Gifts Due
Liturgist Training at 11:30 AM
- Dec 15 Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
- Dec 16 Youth Group Dinner & Wrap Gifts, 6 PM
- Dec 21 Blue Christmas Service, 7 PM
- Dec 23 NO Youth Group
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship 5PM, 8PM, 11PM
- Dec 30 Lessons & Carols PLUS Ugly Sweaters
NO Youth Group
- Dec 31 All 2018 Pledges/Donations Due

JANUARY

- All Jan Communion Offering:
Christ Deaf Church
- All Jan Collect socks and Valentines, Due 1/27
- All Wed Coffee & Conversation, 9 AM @ TUMC
- Jan 6 Confirmation Class #1, 9 AM
- Jan 19 Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
- Jan 22 Committee/Leader Orientation, 7 PM

FEBRUARY

- All Feb Communion Offering:
Assistance Center of Towson Churches
- All Wed Coffee & Conversation, 9 AM @ TUMC
- Feb 2 High Spire deadline for SPRING issue
- Feb 8-10 Youth Group at ROCK in Ocean City, MD
- Feb 16 Emergency Food Pantry OPEN

FUTURE EVENTS

- Mar 29-31 Women's Retreat in Middletown, MD



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

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

RESIDENT or

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE
December 1 – February 28, 2019

8:00 AM

Traditional Service in the Chapel

Communion every Sunday with piano or organ accompaniment.

8:45-10:00 AM beginning 9/9/18

Fellowship & Refreshments in the Parlor

9:00-10:00 AM

Sunday School, all ages

Begins September 9; 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.

Yes! Childcare is available all morning.



Stay in Touch.

facebook.com/towsonumc

**To appreciate
the beauty of
a snowflake,
it is necessary
to stand out
in the cold.**

—Aristotle

2018-19