

High Spire

FALL

2019

Newsletter for Members & Friends of Towson United Methodist Church



Pitter PATTERNS

It has been said that adult brains love familiarity and efficiency of time and effort or “cognitive miserliness” (a term coined by Susan Fiske and Shelley Taylor in their Social Cognition book).

If you cook the same meals each week, drive the same path to and from work, correct your children for the same things, or make assumptions about others based on the same pre-conceived notions, then you are a cognitive miser. You could call this your “default mode” - one that’s loaded with patterns of behavior that feed your brain like toasty comfort food on blustery fall days. Feeling stuck there? Rewire your brain!

Researcher Michael Merzenich has led the scientific revolution on brain health and plasticity, affirming that the adult brain has the ability to alter itself. He affirms, when new skills and abilities blend with old experiences and education, fresh connections are formed.

There *is* hope for a future that is not mundane or riddled with the pitter patterns of our past. We need only ask ourselves what we will do differently.

Here’s a spark from poet Robert Frost: “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference.”

Summer Worship Searches for Jesus in the 100 Acre Wood

Edited by Anna Garman

“I have had a fondness for Winnie the Pooh and his friends for as long as I can remember,” revealed Pastor Margery Schammel. “The stories and poems of the Hundred Acre Wood [taught us] what it meant to be brave, to be a friend, to accept change, to get along with many different kinds of people, and to appreciate the world” around us.

Pastor Margery’s opinion of Winnie the Pooh is shared by so many of us. Each of these summer worship lessons helped us connect to our faith and to connect with one another through stories. After all, as Pastor Margery explained, “Jesus was a magnificent storyteller and I think we learn best through stories.”

(Continued, page 9)



The whole church family – our members past, present and future, are invited to a special Sunday worship on **October 6, 2019 at 10:15 AM.**

Our history goes back to the first Christian worship in Towson when a Methodist Circuit Rider preached at a newly consecrated chapel in 1839. Since then, the ministry of what is now Towson UMC has touched tens of thousands of lives. And we’re not done yet!

You are invited to join us in worship every Sunday, but especially Homecoming Sunday, October 6. A special invitation is extended to our homebound members and their families to attend worship, then enjoy a reception at 11:30 AM with longtime church friends.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!



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SURVEY SAYS...

Here are the results of our June song survey (all of which we sang during July). From an updated Shaker hymn to Amy Grant to Beethoven, we have a rich and eclectic love for music here. Happy continued singing!

Amazing Grace

Here I Am, Lord

How Great Thou Art

Because He Lives

In the Garden

On Eagle's Wings

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Lord of the Dance

Shine, Jesus, Shine

The Old Rugged Cross

It Is Well with My Soul

El Shaddai

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Blessed Assurance

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Morning Has Broken

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Awesome God

Shout to the Lord



Have you seen the new Towson UMC pastor and staff shirts? We are all sporting team shirts and sweaters in a variety of gorgeous colors and designs. THANK YOU to Janet Kines for helping us create a cohesive and professional look with excellent, quality stitching and design. We LOVE our shirts and truly appreciate your kindness!

Submit Ideas for 2019 Impact Report Content

What's inspired you this past year at Towson UMC? Share your group, individual, or committee news for publication in our upcoming *2019 Impact Report*, an annual compilation highlighting the good work of our church's missions and ministries. Send ideas to Maryanne Arthur by December 1, 2019 at communications@towsonumc.org or 410.823.3689

Next High Spire content deadline: November 1st for the WINTER 2019-2020 issue.

Send photos, story ideas and articles to the editor at 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

* - *part-time team member*

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

Hampton Lane Child Development Center Gardening Day 2019

by Maryanne Arthur

When the Hampton Lane CDC students planted seeds in early spring for a highly-anticipated summer butterfly garden, they were sadly disappointed that the seeds did not survive to produce flowers. But that did not squelch their desire to grow!

Teacher Emily Bowling led the group on its first Gardening Day, June 12th, to establish a Learning Garden along the playground fence. CDC parent Jeff Ulman dug a trench along the fence and tilled the soil. CDC families donated soil, mulch, seeds, and plant material. Other teachers, particularly Ms. Katie and Ms. Maria, were hands-on helpers for the day. And children, from all classes, helped create a spectacular linear Learning Garden.

"We are so proud of our Hampton Lane students," said Erin Rigley, Center Director. "It was a great learning experience...a hands on science lesson about the parts of plants and their role in nature... a lesson on patience and gentle hands as they each created a home for their plant by digging an area in the ground, carefully placing the plant and covering it with soil and mulch...a continuous lesson in responsibility as the children take turns watering and weeding on a daily basis. And, of course, [a lesson on] how important teamwork is, and how successful teamwork can be."

The new Learning Garden complements the Center's existing Vegetable Garden, where the children hunt for delicious tomatoes and other food each day. This summer, Emily Bowling introduced the students to the premise of a Pizza Garden as she prepared grape tomatoes wrapped in basil leaves and served them for snack one day. Hailing from St. Mary's County, Bowling grew up with "lots of large gardens and grounds" on her family's property. She is passionate about sharing her love of gardening and the outdoors with her students. And, has many creative ideas for integrating more nature studies into her Pre-K curriculum.

"I'd like to create a Pizza Garden and mini Herb Garden next year, " she explained. "And, begin a natural Butterfly Garden by planting milkweed seeds this fall."

Bowling is also working on strategies to feed and protect local birds this fall and winter, while being mindful of keeping other wild life (like raccoons) off the playground and grassy areas.

In addition, the entire Hampton Lane CDC team is dreaming about an outdoor classroom space on church property; and they cannot wait to see what future seasons produce!

Assistance & Prayers Needed!

Recently, the Carrington family received a heart-wrenching diagnosis from Johns Hopkins Hospital's doctors regarding their seven-year old son, Ethan, a former CDC student and big brother of current CDC Pre-K student Emery. Ethan has leukemia and has begun the difficult treatment journey that will last two-to-three years. Many Hampton Lane CDC families have rallied behind the Carringtons with food, gift cards, play dates, funds, etc. *Please pray for Ethan's safety and good health during treatment.* Our church will dedicate a spring fundraiser in Ethan's honor. In the meantime, reach out to CDC director Erin Rigley at 410.825.0008 to assist with his current needs.



Licensed childcare and pre-school

ages 2 through pre-kindergarten



410.825.0008 www.hamptonlanecdc.org

Mark's Meanderings

Dear Friends —

As I am writing this in early August, we are stunned by four mass shootings in less than a week. By some estimates there have been 255 mass shootings in the USA in 2019. Who knows if, by the time you read this, we will be reacting to even more senseless, brutal murders. In response to these tragedies we have attended vigils, marches, and prayed. Oh, how we have prayed. Prayed to the point that some have criticized our dependence on prayer suggesting that prayer is a passive, weak kneed response to a situation that demands real action.

And there is no doubt that the violence and hatred in our culture must change. But where do we start? Some suggest we start with providing better, more accessible mental health care. Others say the problem is created by easy access to guns. Still others suggest our nation's underlying problem is racism. In fact, we could spend all day coming up with things – illegal immigration, violent video games and so on – that we can blame. But all that debate won't change the fact that our people are being randomly murdered as they work, shop, worship and just go about their daily lives.

So what do we do as individuals, as a church, as a community and as a nation?

Some would counsel that we need to take immediate action and I can't disagree. But doing what? Are we sure that the problems we are attacking are actually contributing to the violence we are experiencing? Or are we just hoping that if we are busy enough doing something – anything – our problems will get solved.

Let me suggest two things. First, our response to the brutality and violence around us must begin in prayer. Prayer is anything but weak kneed and passive. It is not throwing our hands up in the air in defeat and exhorting God to supernaturally solve our problems. Prayer is pouring our hearts out to our compassionate, loving Lord. And in pouring out our hearts we are not surrendering our responsibility and writing out a "to-do" list for God. Rather, we are sharing all we know and are experiencing and then listening for God's response. Prayer is not so much trying to coerce God into doing our will but asking God to move us into the mainstream of God's will.

And that is the second thing – in prayer we will know what we must do. Don't we tend to look for answers in mass movements, campaigns, demonstrations and the like?

Don't get me wrong, those can be good things but for 99% of us, we will participate in solving the problems of our nation, communities, churches, relationships and lives through the pattern of everyday commitments and kindnesses we choose to extend to others. Perhaps the question we should be asking is how we can use the blessings God has showered on each of us to make life better for those around us? How can we be the grace and peace of God in our interactions today?

When I was ordained, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson reminded each new pastor to "bloom where you are planted." May I suggest the answer to the troubles surrounding us can be found in these words? God is guiding us as people of faith to be a garden blooming with flowers of love, care, compassion, hope, faith, reason, justice, equality and peace. And we are to bloom – each of us -- right here and right now.

There is no doubt that we are living in anxious and sometimes heartbreaking times. We read or hear about mass shootings and are afraid for our lives and for the lives of our loved ones. But we are not powerless. In prayer we will hear God's voice directing us to love and serve where and when we can. And as we love and serve, hearts and lives will be changed. And that is the mass movement that will change our lives, communities and nation will begin as people of faith we work together in common, small, everyday ways to replace hate with love, oppression with justice, privilege with equality and fear with peace.

Blessings,



Mark



God is guiding us as people of faith to be a garden blooming with flowers of love, care, compassion, hope, faith, reason, justice, equality and peace. — Rev. Mark Johnson

PATHWAYS: Then and Now

by Stephanie Kimmons

The Board of Directors of PATHWAYS (Providing Avenues Toward Hope With Academic Youth Services) tutoring met earlier this year to talk about the future of the program. It seems this journey has come to an end.

Our outreach to underserved children in Baltimore City and County has included academic tutoring, social skills development, field trips, family dinners, holiday parties, career development, motivational speakers and building relationships with caring adults. Since 2006 over 450 students have passed through the doors of Towson UMC into the arms of a program that honored who they were and how they learned.

I had the privilege of molding the program into one that brought all our volunteers to a closer understanding of the daily struggles and family dynamics of many of the children we served. The instability of homelessness, the trauma of the murder of a family member, fear during the Freddie Gray riots, frustration with their schools, and hunger were only part of their experiences.

PATHWAYS was able to bring them into a building that offered relief from those traumas and let them shine and find success in their academics and relationships with caring adults and their peers.

The Board of Directors voted to disperse the monies and other PATHWAYS resources among various nonprofit organizations that support after-school tutoring and mentoring. In addition, part of the money will go to Towson UMC and will be designated for the education area.

Thank you to all the volunteers, financial supporters, prayer warriors, and the Towson UMC leaders who shared this journey with us. Be assured that the families we touched were changed for the better and know that all your efforts were appreciated.

*"There will always be some among you who are poor.
That is why I am commanding you to share your resources freely with the poor . . ."*
— Deuteronomy 15:11

Coffee Hour Perks Up 9/8 8:45 AM to 10:15 AM in the Parlor

Our traditional Coffee Hour resumes this fall, beginning Sunday, September 8, 2019. Enjoy fellowship with friends and coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and home-baked goodies. The Hospitality Ministry Committee extends thanks to those folks who wish to contribute sweets or treats any week of the season.



Finance Update

by Dale Springer, Finance Chair

This report is being written in early August in the middle of summer's "financial giving" slump. You will be reading this as we turn our sights towards fall. And, as the church is still moving "full steam" ahead!

Thank you to the many faithful givers who are keeping up with their financial commitments. For those who have fallen behind, please catch up as soon as possible – we miss you.

The 2019 approved budget is out of balance by \$60,000. About \$10,000 has been received to reduce this shortfall. *How might you do more to help eliminate this gap?*

Thanks to staff and committee chairs for careful

management of expenses. For seven months overall expenses are within budget. To maintain the current ministry level at Towson Church we will need to increase income in 2019 - and in future years.

Each of us is challenged to prayerfully consider how you can participate in supporting the ministry programs at our church. Please let Kim Ayres, Business Office Manager, know of the additional amount above your annual pledge that you will be able to give in 2019 (so we can monitor expected income and how we are doing in closing the income gap).

Thank you for all you do in supporting and delivering the vital programs and ministries of Towson UMC. Your time, talent and treasure are valued.

Blessings!

Learning Opportunities on Sunday Mornings

by Rev. Margery Schammel

Beginning on Sunday September 8!!!

Sunday school for all ages, 9:00-10:00 AM

- Preschool (age 3 by 9/1/19 - kindergarten): Room 311
- Elementary (grades 1-5): Room 312
- Middle School (grades 6-8): Fellowship Hall
- High School (grades 9-12): Room 317
- Christian Connection Classes (everyone 18yr +):
 - Young Adult Class: Room 114
 - Christians Under Construction: Room 111
 - Tower Class: Room 214
 - Daily Appointment with God: Hoffman Room
 - Women's Class: Room 310

Cribbery Childcare: (infants to 3yr)

Room 122, starting at 8:45 AM and continuing until the end of the 10:15 AM worship service.

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

During the 10:15 AM Worship Service:

- Pray and Play- a learning experience for children ages 4-6 in Room 314
- Kids in the Disciple Zone- children age 7-11 worship with their families until dismissed during the service, when they go to Room 310 for fun and learning.

Confirmation Information 2019-20

The Towson UMC annual Confirmation Experience is for youth in Grades 7 and above who are interested in learning about their faith and the church, and who want to explore possibly joining the church.



This fall, the youth will participate in field trips and a LOCK-IN. Weekly classes will meet on Sunday mornings beginning in January. Contact Pastor Margery for more details.



Registration Essentials

Registration is open for all the exciting fall 2019 opportunities for children and youth!

All children and youth must be registered.

Registration forms are in fillable pdf format and Safe Sanctuaries forms are available to print and complete. Please return all forms to Margery: mail to church, in Margery's box or send to mschammel@towsonumc.org.

Thank you!

Log on to our website to find and submit all current forms: www.towsonumc.org. Choose 'Children' and 'Youth' options online.

Questions or want to help with any educational opportunities?

Contact Rev. Margery Schammel at 410.823.2485 : mschammel@towsonumc.org

Operation Christmas Child—Yes! It's Time.

by John & Nancy Ross

It's that time again and we hope you all had a enjoyable, healthy, profitable, productive and loving summer. Now let's make some less fortunate youth realize that there are Christians who care about them. Remember, in most cases the Samaritans Shoebox he or she receives will probably be the **ONLY** gift they receive to celebrate Christ's birthday. Please pray for your shoebox as it travels to it's destination. Every shoebox you pack represents an opportunity to share the Gospel. These shoeboxes are the seeds of faith that are being sown in the recipients' hearts. A quote from a small boy in Cameroon, "Because of the shoebox, my parents now fellowship at church with me".



The Towson United Methodist Church distribution/collection schedule is as follows:

November 3 distribute shoeboxes

November 10 distribute/collect shoeboxes

November 17 collect shoeboxes —LAST DAY TO TURN SHOEBOXES IN!

On November 3 and 10, five (5) shoeboxes will be left in church office for pickup. **ALL** distributed/picked up shoeboxes are to be returned to Towson UMC no later than November 17. In 2018 we had 14 shoeboxes not returned, so if you still have one of these, please fill it and return it. The empty shoeboxes cost money, so they need to be returned to our church. All the information you need to participate is included in the shoebox.

On November 28, 2018, 10 Towson UMC members volunteered at the Baltimore/Washington Processing Center in Columbia with other Methodists for a four-hour shift where 14,845 shoeboxes were processed. The 12-hour shift processed 41,123 shoeboxes that same day!!

Last year Towson filled 123 shoeboxes; let's fill 200 together this year.

NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: An amazing opportunity is becoming available in 2020. Nancy and I are "retiring" as Project Leaders of this program — after 10 years. It has been a blessing to serve God through this program and we know you will be blessed as well. Interested? We are available to answer questions and assist in the transition. CONTACT: John & Nancy Ross at JohnRoss58@verizon.net

Remember God's Will in Yours



Did you know? You can take care of your family and your church through your will.

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

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

Your gift is our blessing!

 **TOWSON** 410.823.6511
United Methodist 501 Hampton Lane
CHURCH Towson, MD 21286
www.towsonumc.org

Rest Easily



As you consider plans for yourself and your family, please remember the Columbarium on the side of our church. It is a beautiful and peaceful resting place! Contact Judy Hobbs 410.337.9013 for information about niches.

Trunk or Treat 2019

Our annual Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, Oct. 20, 3:00-4:30 PM, in our church's expansive parking lot. Come, decorate your trunk, and pass out goodies to children in a safe and friendly environment.

Parents- bring your children to enjoy trick or treating with your church family in an eerily fun and safe community.

Rain or shine! Invite friends and family members to attend. To reserve a parking spot for your decorated vehicle.

Contact: Carolyn Schnur at carolyn_re@yahoo.com



NEW HOLIDAY EVENT!!!

Breakfast with Saint Nicholas

Join us for a yummy pancake breakfast and a chance to hear the story of St. Nicholas: Saturday, Dec. 14, 9 – 10:30 AM. Celebrate the season with craft, food, and fun!

RSVP to Carolyn Schnur carolyn_re@yahoo.com



Angel Fest



Dec 1 @ 11:30AM
First EVER! Team Activity.

Build-an-Angel holiday competition with mixed teams of all ages and abilities. Light lunch served. Plus, Holiday Greens Sale. Do NOT miss the FUN!

Crab Feast & Silent Auction

LAST CALL FOR TICKETS!!
Saturday 9/7/19, 4:00-7:00 PM



\$45/ticket for all-you-can-eat crabs, chicken, salads, dessert—catered by Conrad's Crabs. Non-alcoholic beer, soda and iced tea. Call 410.823.6511 for tickets.

More details soon!

Hunt Valley Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser

October 10, 2019 4:00-7:00 PM

Mark your calendar. Join us for dinner!



Double the FUN: Coffee & Conversation

You are invited to join Pastor Mark for a “cuppa” coffee or tea and to discuss whatever is on your mind. No reservations, no RSVPs just come on by....

NEW! Now Coffee & Conversation is on TWICE each week. Choose the day/time that is most convenient.



Every Wednesday at 9:00 AM
Baltimore Coffee and Tea
9 West Aylesbury Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Third Thursday (beginning Sept. 19) at 7:00 PM
Panera in Timonium Square
2135 D York Rd., Timonium, MD 21093

Is God nudging you to help our children and youth as they take those next steps of faith? Contact Pastor Margery to sort out those gentle nudges from the Holy Spirit! 410.823.2485 or mschammel@towsonumc.org



QUICK GLANCE Community Events 2019

- 9/7 Crab Feast & Silent Auction
- 10/5 Adult Bible Camp
- 10/10 Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser (Hunt Valley)
- 10/20 Trunk or Treat
- 10/26 Pretty Pockets SEW IN
- 11/2 Refresh & Reboot
- 12/1 Angel Fest & Holiday Greens Sale
- 12/7 Gingerbread House
- 12/8 All-Music Worship
- 12/14 Pancake Breakfast with St. Nicholas



Summer Worship...

(continued from cover page)

Many thanks to everyone who helped us grow in faith through stories this past summer: Pastor Mark Johnson, Pastor Margery Schammel, Rachel Livingston, Doug Hollida, and Susan Brown, who put together these worship services; Maryanne Arthur for her exceptional bulletins and public relations; and, Kim Ayres for her wonderful management. Thank you to Judy Hobbs and her kitchen crew, as well as Dale Springer who kept money and attendance in order; and, thank you to everyone who helped bring the stories of Pooh to life through their reading. Lastly, thanks to everyone who participated.

As a final word from Pastor Mark: “It was a grand time and I look forward to next summer’s series.”

Fall Sermon Series

"Living At The Crossroads of Faith and Life"

Is God calling you to play it safe or is God calling you to something more? More faith? More love? More grace? More hope?

Join us this Fall as we listen for the Good News from an unlikely a group of folks as Balaam's donkey, an unjust Judge; a tax collector and regular folks like you and me . — Pastor Mark



September

9/1	"Straight From the Donkey's Mouth"	Numbers 22
9/8	"Counting the Cost and Knowing the Value"	Luke 14: 25-33
9/15	"A Sheepish Tale"	Luke 15: 1-10
9/22	"How's That Again?"	Luke 16: 1-13
9/29	"Who Are You Listening To?"	Luke 16: 19-31

October

10/6	"Seeds of Faith"	Luke 17: 5-10
10/13	"Gratitude"	Luke 17: 11-19
10/20	"Unjust Judge"	Luke 18: 1-8
10/27	"Of Righteousness and Humility"	Luke 18: 9-14

November

11/3	"The View from a Sycamore Tree"	Luke 19: 1-10
11/10	"God of the Living"	Luke 20: 27-38
11/17	"So What's the Bad News"	Luke 21: 5-19
11/24	"In the End is the Beginning"	Luke 23: 33-43

Second Sundays — Membership Exploration

Everyone interested in joining Towson UMC or learning more about the church is invited to a series of classes after 10:15 AM worship on the Second Sunday of each month beginning in September.

The classes will include:

September 8	"What Do United Methodists Believe?"
October 13	"How Do United Methodists Do Ministry?"
November 10	"How Can I Get Involved?"

We will meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall for a light lunch and discussion. Please speak with Pastor Mark if you have any questions.

Sweet Thanks

Something special happens when United Methodists gather with a cup of coffee (or tea) and a cookie (or brownie) – friendships form and relationships deepen.

Our Hospitality Team does an extraordinary job of coordinating coffee, tea, and goodies September through May but has traditionally taken a well-deserved break from Memorial Day through Labor Day. At the same time, United Methodists love to chat and chew even during the summer.

This summer Maria Springer took up the challenge and coordinated (and mostly provided) scrumptious goodies at 9AM each Sunday. And every Sunday I looked in, the parlor was packed with grateful folks.

Please take an opportunity to thank Maria – and her helpers -- for this blessing.

— Pastor Mark

Hospitalities Ministry
returns **STRONG** this FALL
with baked or donated items
for Coffee Hour on September
8 at 9AM. Your support of this
mission is always deeply
appreciated. Thanks!



Music Notes

Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.

— Victor Hugo

Fall means many things, including the start of our music program at TUMC. Below is a description of all the exciting opportunities, for vocal and handbell choirs, followed by the starting dates. New members are always welcome! So if you've ever thought about trying choir, then now's a great time! — Rev. Doug Hollida

VOCAL CHOIRS

CHANCEL CHOIR, Adults Age 18+
Rehearses Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:00 PM
Music reading is not required.



JOYFUL NOISE, Adults Age 18+
Rehearses and sings occasionally throughout the year. Come when you can! On the Sundays we sing, we meet at 9:45 AM to learn an easy anthem. Dates are communicated via email. Contact Doug Hollida to be added to the list.



ALLELUIA SINGERS*, Grades 6-12
Rehearses Sunday evenings 5:00-6:00 PM

CAROL CHOIR*, Grades 2-5
Rehearses Tuesday evenings 6:00-6:45 PM

JOY SINGERS*, Age 4-Grade 1
Rehearses Sunday mornings



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

*Peace and blessings,
Doug*



*Enrollment forms are REQUIRED for all choir participants under the age of 18.

See Page 6 for more details.

Or log online at www.towsonumc.org.

HANDBELL CHOIRS

NOTE: Please let me know of your interest in bell choirs so we can have a spot for you.

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

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

TOWER CHIMES*—Advanced Ringers
Music reading is required, but ringing experience is not. (Talk with Doug if you are not sure you're ready for this choir yet.) Rehearses Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:30 PM

Contact Rev. Doug Hollida 410.823.6519 or TUMCmusicdirector@towsonumc.org

VOCAL & HANDBELL CHOIRS BEGIN

- September 4 – Chancel Choir
- September 8 – Joy Singers
- September 10 – Carol Choir
- September 11 – Tower Chimes
- September 15 – Alleluia Singers
- September 17 – Genesis Bells
- September 22 – Celebration Ringers

ALL REHEARSALS (EXCEPT JOY SINGERS)
ARE IN THE MUSIC ROOM #321
— 3rd FLOOR NEAR THE MAIN STAIRS

2020 Stewardship Campaign KICKS OFF this fall



Watch your email and U.S. Post Office mailboxes for more details!

And, mark your calendars for October 27 when our Stewardship Campaign culminates in Celebration Sunday!

Paying It Forward at Towson UMC

By Anna Garman and Alicia Corson

In fall 2019, the Stewardship Ministry is initiating the 2020 Stewardship Campaign, called “Pay It Forward” — Indicating a desire to further our church’s legacy, story, and commitment as those who have gone before us did for us.

The Scripture basis for this campaign is found in Hebrews, Chapter 12, verses 1-2, which says: “As for us, we have this large crowd of witnesses around us... let us run with determination the race that lies before us.”

The campaign’s logo includes three overlapping circles, signifying the continuity of Towson’s service and love from the past, through the present, and into the future. This initiative to ‘Pay It Forward’ is a way to: **remember our past, celebrate our present, and invest in our future.**

‘Pay It Forward’ actually started this past spring and is continuing now with congregation members giving heartfelt testimonials about their history in our church and its impact on their lives. It is now up to us to build on their contributions and provide the basis for moving forward for our members, community, and world.

Celebration Sunday for 2020 is October 27, 2019. You will be receiving more specific information about this year’s campaign in the mail; and learning how each of us can ‘Pay It Forward’.



Check out photos from 2019 Vacation Bible Camp:
<https://towsonumc.smugmug.com/Vacation-Bible-Camp-2019/>



VBC Total Donations

186	Food Pantry Items
168	Pet Supplies
261	Backpack Snacks
1156	School Supplies
359	Homeless Supplies
2130	Total ALL Items

Embark on Our meal train®

To support our church family, the Congregational Care Ministry Team is sponsoring a Meal Train sign-up opportunity. This online free service provides a way for individuals to volunteer to prepare a meal or offer a meal gift card for a family who needs help in a time of crisis. There is no obligation! But, if you log on to the site, then you will be included in church-related group emails that would make you aware of a specific need. Then, if your calendar allows, you would sign up online to provide a meal for someone and receive an email reminder to do so on the day you indicated works for you.

Let us know if you are willing to give this a try. In addition, please let others — who might be able to help or who may need our help — know about this ministry.

Contact: Stephanie Kimmons at stephaniekimmons@comcast.net

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,*

SEW IN Benefits Worldwide Giving Project Pretty Pockets™



Got thread? Passionate about giving projects? Bring your own machine or use our supplies to create fun, discreet drain bulb covers as FREE GIFTS for post-surgery breast cancer patients.

We welcome **experienced stitching angels** with your own sewing machines, and **donations** of thread, ribbon and soft baby flannel.

Non-sewers welcome, too!! Handiwork for ages 10+ to cut fabric and ribbon, color and affix gift tags, and more.

October 26, 2019 10:00 AM—2:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Want to learn more about this worldwide giving project?

Visit www.creativeblossoms.com/pretty-pockets

RSVP Maryanne Arthur

410.598.3756 by 10/1.

Together is Better.



Youth Group ROCKS!

Youth Group Fall News



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

Towson Youth—Grades 6-12

by Rachel Livingston

We hope you had a wonderful exciting and restful summer. We have enjoyed Vacation Bible Camp and a trip to Hershey Park. We look forward to returning back to youth group this fall. We would like to pray God's blessing over all our youth as they begin the school year. And a special blessing to our youth that are headed off to college this year.

Upcoming Youth Group Events

September 8: Youth Council Meeting with youth, parents, and youth ministry team at 11:30am

September 8: UMYF Returns at 6-7:30pm Game Night

September 15: Tie Die Activity

September 21: Gleaning at First Fruits Farm

September 29: Discussion: Safe/Unsafe Touch 6-7:30pm

October 4: Beachmont Christian Ministries Hayride and Corn Maze 6-9pm

October 12 or 13: Mission TBD

October 20: Discussion 6-7:30pm

November 3: Fun Event

November 10: Discussion/ Bible Study

November 16: Mission Bea Gaddy 9am-noon

November 24: Games at TUMC 6-7:30pm

Youth Group — HELP WANTED!

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

Bible Study Combo Class NEW!

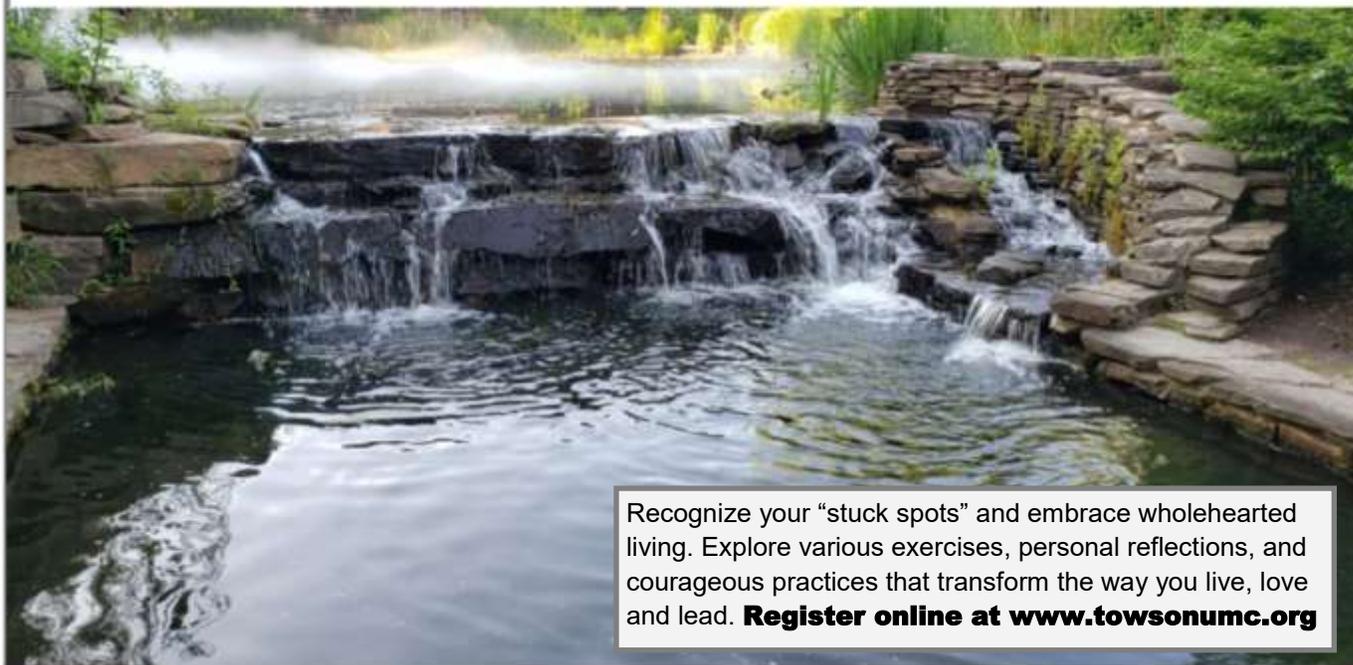
Beginning September 8, 2019, the Young Adult Bible Study will merge with the Young Parents Sunday School class. This newly-combined class will meet at 9:00 AM each Sunday.

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

Get Unstuck & Get Into the Flow
a half-day immersion for women of all faiths
continental breakfast : keynote : reflection



Saturday, Nov 2, 2019
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM
\$30 admission



Recognize your “stuck spots” and embrace wholehearted living. Explore various exercises, personal reflections, and courageous practices that transform the way you live, love and lead. **Register online at www.towsonumc.org**

Refresh & Reboot 2019

by Liz Neal

“Get Unstuck and Get Into the Flow” is the theme for our fall 2019 *Refresh & Reboot* event hosted by women of Towson United Methodist Church. The event is Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Arianne Rice, an ordained Episcopal priest at the Church of Good Shepherd in Towson, Maryland will be the keynote speaker. Her presentation will focus on understanding our part in relationships and situations

where we feel stuck and exploring practices that have potential to transform our lives. A delicious continental breakfast will be provided.

We invite women in our church and in the community to join us for a morning of fellowship and exploration. Registration is \$30 per person and is available online at www.towsonumc.org or by mail, beginning September 8, 2019. Checks should be made payable to Towson United Methodist Church with “Refresh” in the memo section. A registration table will be in the church lobby beginning Sunday, September 8th.

Join us and “get into the flow”...

Safe Sanctuaries Refresher Session 9/8 —REQUIRED!!

Safe Sanctuaries is the program which keeps our children and youth safe. It is required training for anyone working with children and youth. Attend the refresher session (for those already trained) on Sept. 8 in Room 216, for one half hour 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 or 410.823.6511

Stay Updated with E-News

Our e-newsletter, *inSPIRE*, helps Towson UMC members and friends stay in touch with current events and happenings. Write us at communications@towsonumc.org to give church your permission to include you on the e-distribution list for this publication. It’s a great resource. Don’t miss a single issue!





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 fall themes and plans. Donate to the cause. Join us in Action!

September : Hampton Lane CDC

In September, we are assisting our very-own Hampton Lane Child Development Center with several immediate needs, including: stocking school supplies and updating furniture and playground equipment. Please give generously to this outstanding and state-acclaimed mission of our church.



October : Church World Services

October efforts will benefit the traditional “Blanket the World with Love” program (blankets provided and distributed by Church World Services) to assist victims of natural disasters, poverty, and other devastating life circumstances. These blankets offer security and hope on the road to recovery and self-sufficiency.

November : Women and Children’s Services

November efforts will benefit several organizations that directly serve women and children, such as Shop with a Cop (that is designed to break down barriers and create holiday memories, co-sponsored by Baltimore County Police and local Optimist Clubs) and other groups that serve domestic violence victims.



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 “CDC”, “Blankets”, or “Women & Children” 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 2020

Our annual Women’s Retreat is a Leap Year experience:

February 28- March 1 in winter 2020!!

Join us at the beautiful Skycroft Conference Center to relax and rejuvenate with women who, like you, are living their faith with all the ups and downs life brings. Hosted by Towson UMC women.

Watch for registration info this fall! Early birds get the best discounts.

www.skycroft.org





A Week in the Life: Mission Team Travelogue

by Dwight Kines



Editor's NOTE

In June 2019, a mighty Towson UMC mission team traveled to Whiteville, North Carolina to assist homeowners who are still struggling to rehabilitate and rebuild their homes after Hurricane Florence devastated the area last September 2018. In conjunction with North Carolina's United Methodist Disaster Relief efforts, Towson UMC's team members — Jim Andrew, Gene Bandy, Dwight Kines, and Beth Walters — worked diligently to help local resident, Mrs. Simmons, repair water-damaged walls, equipment, and entire rooms for one week June 17-21, 2019. The following first-hand written account is from Dwight Kines. Check out the team's photos at www.facebook.com/towsonumc.com.

DAY ONE and DAY TWO

Two great days of work here in Whiteville, North Carolina. This area was slammed by Florence last September and there is still a huge amount of work to be done. We are working on a two-bedroom house owned by 76-year old Mrs. Simmons. The water was two-feet high in her house for several days. We have not met her yet, but her daughter stopped by yesterday to visit. Very happy to have the house close to being finished!

Work has included: completing the bedroom insulation, drywalling several rooms and finishing others. We are well over halfway through the mudding and sanding process and hope to start applying primer on some of the walls tomorrow. We are getting a big assist from Brian, the construction manager for North Carolina's United Methodist Disaster Relief, and his right hand man, Daryl. Good to have someone else running for supplies, allowing us to stay in the work mode. Temperatures have been in the low 90's — so not as bad as it could be this time of year.

The facilities are some of the best that we have ever experienced on a mission trip. It's a three-bedroom house with a full kitchen and outdoor showers that are like new. The site has enough bunk beds to house 21 people. Fortunately, we are the only ones here this week. About 60 more folks will work here over the next several weeks.

DAY THREE

Wednesday started with Beth taking a three-mile run through Whiteville at 5 AM to "see the town". Probably a mission team first for Towson UMC. The men in the group prefer to see the town from the comfort of the van. More dry-wall work today...a lot of mudding, taping, sanding, corners, etc. Some tricky areas, as usual, but we finished the day with all walls covered. At lunch time, we took a short drive to the nearby stream that flooded during Hurricane Florence and caused all of the problems in this area. Anyone could easily step over it today; but, after four days of steady rain, the entire area was flooded last year. Saw several other teams working on other houses —which was very encouraging. Before dinner, we went to the Communion service at the church where we are staying then came back to chicken and vegetable dinner. Many thanks to Ginny (chicken), Maria (2 quiches) and Anne (pound cake) for supplying nourishment to keep our strength up this week! Much appreciated.

DAY FOUR and DAY FIVE

Another successful day in eastern North Carolina. Primarily dry wall work, but also threw in the removal of a hot water heater. Just about ready for primer. Mrs. Simmons' daughter, Jackie, stopped by again to visit and was very excited to see the progress. She wants to have a dinner for all of the work teams that helped put her house back together. We'll have to work on the scheduling for that one.

Took another short field trip at lunch time to Caruso Island, about two miles from our site. The area is surrounded by the swamp and many saw their houses half-filled with water after the storm. A lot of FEMA trailers and work teams for both renovations and rebuilds are still in the area.

Found Anthony's, the best kept secret in Whiteville, for dinner. All agreed that it was the best Italian food that we had eaten in a long time. Who would have expected to find that in Whiteville? Finished the night with some karaoke performances. We could not find any new choir candidates in our group.

Working a half day tomorrow and heading north back home. This has been the perfect trip for our traveling mission team. All tasks that we could handle and make big progress on, good weather, all stayed safe, and, at the end of the week — still enjoyed each other's company. We look forward to returning to this area in the future — there's still lots of work to be done.

Save the Date: Gingerbread House Event

by Ann Dahne and Maria Springer

Plan ahead for our 2019 Gingerbread House Event!

- **Saturday, December 7** is the day church and community families will decorate houses.
- **Thursday and Friday, December 5 and 6** are the days volunteers will build houses.
- **After Halloween** we will be collecting candy for decorating the houses.

This is a short-term, very fun project that involves about 25 adult volunteers to help raise **more than the \$2400 we raised last year** for the church. We'll be ready to take event-day reservations electronically in mid-September, but as soon as you know you'd like to help on any or all of the three days, please contact either of us as soon as possible.



Gingerbread House Event Co-Chairs

Maria Springer: maria@majaskitchen.com, 410.561.1157

Ann Dahne: asdahne@comcast.net, 410.828.8980

Food Pantry: FALL 2019 Calendar

OPEN Third Saturdays

9:00-10:30 AM

September 21

October 19

November 16

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

To Our Church Community —

Thank you for the thoughtful note. It is good to hear about all the great things going on at T.U.M.C. We have a great and kind church community.

Thanks to all of you! Love and peace,

Doris Wagner



*NEW 8/1/19! Safe
School & Church Policy*

NO ADMITTANCE

**EMPLOYEE AND CDC
ENTRANCE ONLY**

**ALL VENDORS AND
VISITORS MUST USE
FRONT WHITE DOORS
AND REGISTER AT THE
MAIN CHURCH OFFICE**

**Mon-Fri 9AM-4PM
or by appointment only**

New Safety Procedures and Signs Direct Visitors to Front Church Doors

To better meet and exceed Maryland State Department of Education safety requirements AND suggestions of a recent Baltimore County Police Department Safety Report, our church has adopted a more stringent "Back Door" visitor policy that restricts visitor entry during the working hours of our Hampton Lane CDC from 7:00 AM—6:00 PM Monday through Friday. In addition, ALL visitors MUST SIGN IN at the front office upon arrival. This will help our staff know who is in the building in case of emergencies and re-direct foot traffic near the CDC's interior entry door. Thank you for your patience as we all adjust to the new procedures. Questions? Call the church office before you visit. 410.823.6511. We will gladly help!



Announcing... Congregational Care NEW CONTACT INFO

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

TUMCcaring@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.

2 TEXT GIVE
410-514-3014
Towson UMC

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



Choose Amazon SMILE each time you checkout on the Amazon website and the Amazon Smile Foundation sends donations directly our church!

In 2019, we've received **\$250+** passive income from all online purchases through Amazon Smile — which is completely FREE to you!!! Try it.

Every bit of contribution adds up to boost the missions and ministries of Towson UMC. THANKS!

Prayer Vine



Want to add your or someone else's name (with their permission) to the church confidential Prayer Vine?

Contact: Prayer Vine Coordinator
Debbie Wilhelm, at 443.257.2485
or dwilhelm16@verizon.net

UPCOMING EVENTS Sept. 1 — Nov. 30, 2019

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

SEPT

- All SEPT Communion Offering: Hampton Lane CDC
- All Thurs Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 AM @ Diner
- Sept 7 Crab Feast & Silent Auction
- Sept 8 Refresh & Reboot registration opens
- Sept 8 Rally Day, Classes Begin 9:00 AM
- Sept 8 Youth Group Meeting and Safe Sanctuaries Refresher, 11:30 AM, then Youth Group Game Night & Dinner at 6:00 PM
- Sept 15 Youth Group Tie Dye Activity, TBD
- Sept 21 Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
- Sept 21 Youth Group Gleaning at First Fruits Farm
- Sept 29 Youth Group Dinner & Discussion, 6:00 PM

OCT

- All OCT Communion Offering: Church World Service
- All Thurs Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 AM @ Diner
- Oct 4 Youth Group Corn Maze, 6:00 PM
- Oct 6 Homecoming Sunday 10:15 AM
- Oct 10 Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser, 4:00-7:00 PM
- Oct 12 or 13 Youth Group Mission, TBD
- Oct 19 Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
- Oct 20 Youth Group Dinner & Discussion, 6:00 PM
- Oct 26 Pretty Pockets SEW IN, 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

NOV

- All NOV Communion Offering: Women & Children
- All Thurs Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 AM @ Diner
- Nov 1 *High Spire* deadline for WINTER issue
- Nov 2, 2019 Women's Refresh & Reboot, 8:30 AM
- Nov 3 Youth Group FUN Activity, TBD
- Nov 10 Youth Group Dinner & Discussion
- Nov 16 Emergency Food Pantry OPEN
- Nov 16 Youth Group Mission with Bea Gaddy, 9:00 AM-noon
- Nov 24 Youth Group Games & Dinner, 6:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE

- Dec 1, 2019 Angel Fest & Holiday Greens, 11:30 AM
- Dec 7, 2019 Gingerbread House Activity
- Dec 8, 2019 All-Music Holiday Worship Service 10:15 AM
- Dec 14, 2019 Pancake Breakfast with St. Nicholas 8:00 AM
- Dec 29, 2019 Ugly Sweater Contest at 10:15 AM worship
- Jan 2019 Confirmation classes begin
- 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
Business Hours: Mon-Thurs 10:00 AM—3:00 PM

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RESIDENT or

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sundays September 1—December 1, 2019

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

8:45-10:00 AM beginning 9/8/19
Fellowship & Refreshments in the Parlor

9:00-10:00 AM beginning 9/8/19
Sunday School, all ages
Meet in designated rooms for educational and spiritual growth opportunities.

10:15 AM
Contemporary 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.




Stay in Touch.
facebook.com/towsonumc

Each morning,
we are born
again. It is what
we do today that
matters most.
—Buddha

2019