

# High Spire

Newsletter for Members and Friends of Towson United Methodist Church

August 2022

Dear Church,

I have been your pastor for over a year now and I am so, so grateful for Towson United Methodist Church! What a blessing you are!

Over this past year, we've made a few changes to help the church navigate ministry more effectively. The biggest change has been to change the leadership structure from the traditional United Methodist system of administrative leadership. Towson UMC has always had an Administrative Council, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, and Staff Parish Relations Committee. These four committees have handled all of the administrative work of the church. Now, however, we have transitioned to a single-board model of church governance. Our newly formed leadership team will oversee all of the functions of these four committees. Many United Methodist Churches are making the shift to this type of leadership because it simplifies our decision making processes. The members of our leadership team are Merrill Frank (chairperson), Stephanie Kimmons (lay leader), Jeri Allen, Linda Brooks, Vicki Coombs, Ann Dahne, Maddy Hutsell, Shelley Jackson, Dwight Kines, Lissa O'Donnell, and Mike Steer. Thank you to this new team of leaders for agreeing to serve! Thank you, also, to those of you who were serving on the Admin Council, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, and Staff Parish Relations Committee. Your work on those committees is greatly appreciated!



Another recent change we have made is to shift some pastoral responsibilities between Pastor Christine and me. For the past two years, Pastor Christine has been overseeing the ministries of Children, Youth, and Adult Education. Starting this month, though, she and I are shifting some responsibilities. Pastor Christine's new title is Associate Pastor of Congregational Care and Community Outreach. She will oversee visitation, hospitality, and mission ministries. I will now assume oversight of all education ministries (along with my other responsibilities as Senior Pastor). This change is being made in order to best utilize our spiritual gifts and interests. Thank you to Pastor Christine for your dedicated work in the Education area over the last two years, and we look forward to seeing what you will do in your new role.

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We have also made other changes:

- added the staff position Director of Audio Visual Ministries and hired Malachi White to take on that roll
- hired Dr. Roy Belfield, Jr. as our Director of Music Ministries
- hired Carlye Brooks as our Director of Communications
- changed the bulletin format
- expanded our online worshipping capabilities by
  - adding a second camera
  - switching from Power Point Presentation software to ProPresenter software
  - utilizing Restream in order to live stream to both YouTube and Facebook
  - upgrading equipment
- replaced the choir microphones
- added a theatre ministry (The Fellowship Players at Hampton Lane)
- established dedicated space for a youth room
- cleaned out the attic and other spaces throughout the church
- decluttered the main office
- started a church Instagram account (@towsonumc)
- began publishing the "High Spire" newsletter on a monthly basis (exceptions are June/July and December/January)
- Pastor Christine and I now alternate months leading worship on the third Sunday of every month at Edenwald's chapel service
- began two study groups that are working our way through the Bible in a Year
- received 12 adult members
- received 4 infant members
- celebrated Advent and Christmas with the Grinch
- brought back Vacation Bible Camp after a 2 year hiatus

We are also working on a few large projects:

- replacing the roof, making associated repairs, and restoring full use of the organ
- replacing flooring on the third floor and in the fellowship hall
- painting and decorating the new youth room
- replacing pipes in the first floor bathrooms
- a fun new Advent/Christmas theme is in the works

Thank you to everyone who has helped make all of this good change happen! Together, we are moving forward in ministry and we are constantly working toward our goal of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Thank you, again, for a wonderful first year of ministry at Towson UMC. I look forward to many more!

God bless you,

*Pastor Stephanie*

## Our Newly Formed Leadership Team



**Merrill Frank**  
Chair Person



**Stephanie Kimmons**  
Lay Leader



Jeri Allen



Linda Brooks



Vicki Coombs



Ann Dahne



Maddy Hutsell



Shelley Jackson



Dwight Kines



Lissa O'Donnell



Mike Steer



## PASTORS & STAFF

### Rev. LaTrelle Easterling

Resident Bishop,  
Baltimore-Washington Conference

### Rev. Dr. Wanda Duckett

District Superintendent,  
Baltimore Metro District

### Rev. Stephanie White

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### Rev. Christine Kumar

Associate Pastor  
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### Dr. Roy Belfield, Jr.

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### Stephanie Kimmons

Lay Leader

### Kim Ayres

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### Malachi White

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### Carlye Brooks

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### Bob Ashby

Custodian

### Erin Rigley

Center Director, Hampton Lane CDC  
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## CONTACT US!

Towson United Methodist Church

501 Hampton Lane

Towson, MD 21286

410.823.6511

**Website:** [www.towsonchurch.org](http://www.towsonchurch.org)

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

**Instagram:** [@towsonumc](https://www.instagram.com/towsonumc)

**YouTube:** Towson United Methodist Church

**GIVE:** [www.towsonchurch.com/give/](http://www.towsonchurch.com/give/)

## Food Pantry Ongoing Needs

Please place food donations in the *Sharing Bins* located in the main lobby. We accept:

Cookies	Cereal	Canned chili
Crackers	Cake mix	Canned chicken
Tea bags	Frosting	breast
Ground coffee	Toilet paper	Chunky soups

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## Summer Sermon Series: Kingdomtide

### August Worship

We continue our series, Kingdomtide Transformation, with a month of "Pursuing Peace".

How do we as transformed individuals and a transformed community live peacefully in a world of violence? Come hear about Old and New Testament perspectives on peace Sundays in August.

**August 7:** 1 Chronicles 22:6-10, 17-19, "God's First Choice"

**August 14:** Matthew 5:9, 38-48, "Living Beyond Violence"

**August 21:** Ephesians 2:11-22, "Loving Beyond Borders"

**August 28:** Matthew 26:47-56, "Betrayal and Victory"

## August Mission of the Month

The August Mission of the Month is **Earl's Place**, Cornerstone Community Housing, a transitional housing program in Baltimore City. This program provides a up to two years for men recovering from substance abuse and homelessness. Their mission coincides with TUMC mission to support our community, without judgement and with love. They provide from a case manager, a stable address, clean, safe and secure housing.

To donate, please visit <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/> and designate your donation to "Earl's Place" from the drop-down.

## Back to School Mission (by August 14th)

The Mission Team will also be sponsoring the Community Backpack Project with Ames UMC. We need the help of our congregations to fill a backpack or donate items for Baltimore City students to start their year off GREAT!

**You could fill a backpack for a Kindergarten/Elementary School student with:**

1 Backpack	1 Plastic School Box (appx. 5"x8")
2 Glue Sticks	1 Box of Washable Color Markers
12/pack Pencils	2 Yellow Highlighters
2 Bar Erasers	2 Black Dry Erase Markers
(2) 24/count Boxes of Crayons	1-inch 3-ring Binder
1 Box of Facial Tissues	4 Solid Color Folders w/ Prongs
	2 Composition Notebooks

**You could even fill a backpack for a Middle/High School student with:**

	1 Backpack	3/Pack Black or Blue Pens
	1 Pencil Pouch	2 Yellow Highlighters
	6/pack #2 Pencils	2 Black Permanent Markers
	1 Pencil Sharpener	1-inch 3-ring Binder
	2 Glue Sticks	5 Subject Dividers
	1 Pair of Scissors	1/pack Index Cards
	1 spiral notebook	4 Solid Color Folders w/ Prongs
	1 pack of loose-leaf paper	

## Christmas Crew Meeting

August 17, 7 PM, Room 315

If you love making Christmas magic happen, join us for this time of dreaming and planning! We will discuss the Advent theme for this year along with all of the fun possibilities. All are welcome!





High Spire August 2022

## **Towson United Methodist Church**

501 Hampton Lane : Towson, MD 21286

www.towsonchurch.org : 410.823.6511



Thank you for joining VBC!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who took the time out to make it all happen!

See You Next Year



# Hampton Lane

Child Development Center  
of Towson United Methodist Church  
410.825.0009 hamptonlanecdc.org