

High Spire

Newsletter for Members and Friends of Towson United Methodist Church

September 2023



Happy 100th Birthday!

Shirley Hall, long-time member, will be 100 years old on September 14, 2023. Keep her in your prayers and even send her a card to help celebrate this special day!

Camp Meeting 2023

Thank you for taking part during our Camp Meeting Sermon Series! With a guest bluegrass band, Tookany Creek, there was plenty of music and sing-a-longs as if we were fireside at a campground! Children of the church received a copy of *When I Pray for You* by Matthew Paul Turner and cute backpack tags made by Communications Director, Carlye!

We made our way outside to enjoy delicious hot dogs with our very own members manning the grill! Even Kona Ice was parked out front for a sweet treat to enjoy while listening to music.

Youth Group and friends gathered for games on the lawn for a chance to get to know each other.

We're praying for a wonderful season ahead!



Backpack Mission Accomplished

Thank you for helping Towson UMC in assisting Ames UMC (Baltimore City) by purchasing back-to-school backpacks and plenty of supplies for inner city youth.

This exciting mission project gave students a jump start on a successful school year!

CDC Raises Money for St. Jude

The Hampton Lane CDC held a trike-a-thon for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in August. The children learned about the Hospital and practiced special bike safety rules all week. They also rode bikes and scooters and received sponsored donations. They raised \$800 for the cause! We are so proud of their eagerness to earn this money and support the families of children who are hospitalized.



Remember to Give in September

We are so thankful for your help feeding our community. Please take a look at this list before your next shopping trip and place your donations in Sharing Bins located in the main lobby of the church.



Cereal
Granola Bars
Ground Coffee
Tea Bags
Cake Mix
Cake Frosting
Easy Microwave Meals

Box Crackers
SPAM
Canned Ham
Chunky Soups
10 oz Soups
BBQ Sauce
Toilet Paper

September Mission of the Month

The Well

The September Mission of the Month is The Well, a mentorship program that started in Charm

City. This community of women are being transformed through long-term relationships, practical programs, and the healing power of love. Their mission is to offer unconditional love and a safe place for women who have survived lives of abuse, generational poverty, sexual exploitation and addiction know what it is to be broken.



You can show support by giving at towsonchurch.org/give. Click "give securely here" then open the "Fund" drop down menu. Select "mission of the month."

Towson UMC's Community Blood Drive

Saturday, September 30th from 6:30AM - 12:30PM



Our next Towson UMC Community Blood Drive welcomes donors over the age of 16 who are hoping to give to their community. If you are doing a regular blood donation, you had up to August 5 to donate before this blood drive.

Considering giving *whole blood*? This type of blood donation is used to treat patients who need large amounts of all the components of blood, such as those who have sustained significant blood loss due to trauma or surgery. *Remember that if you have donated whole blood within 56 days, you are not eligible to give whole blood during this blood drive.*

Simply schedule your life-saving donation at by visiting towsonchurch.org/news. If you need assistance scheduling your appointment, email TUMCBloodDrive@gmail.com.

UMCOR: Maui Wildfires

There has been a significant loss of life, major damage, and evacuations in Maui after tragic wildfires. Pastor John Crewe, from Lahinia United Methodist Church, responds after hearing their church was destroyed:

"As the shock begins to wear off, we will now endure the waves of grief. I really don't have the words to express the grief that I am feeling now. With the grief, however, I detect a lifeline of hope. I know that my church has never been just the building; the building was cared for lovingly by you, my beloved church ohana. You are the church, and I am honored to be your pastor. My focus now is ministering to you, wherever you have been scattered, holding on to Jesus's words in John 16:33, 'In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.'"



UMCOR is currently providing emergency grants for food, water, hygiene products, and tools to help survivors recover their belongings. UMCOR will wait for clearance before deploying to Hawaii to help with clean up and recovery. We will be supporting Hawaii with our prayers, but if you would also like to make a financial donation to help, you can leave a check or envelope marked with "UMCOR" at the church, or you can donate online by visiting towsonchurch.org/give and choosing "UMCOR Disaster Relief" from the fund

Welcoming New Members

Matt, Devin & Chloe Connor

Born here in Maryland, these two were raised in church, with Matt attending Patuxent Presbyterian Church and Devin attending Wesley Freedom UMC.

They both graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Go Retrievers! After graduating they both found careers in their majors, with Devin working in digital marketing and event planning, while Matt is a Quality Specialist working in Biotechnology.

They both enjoy running, spending time at the beach, trying new restaurants and, of course, hanging out with Chloe! Chloe loves trying new foods, fun sounds, and playing peek-a-boo. Devin's parents are nearby and enjoy spending time with Chloe on the weekends.

Matt and Devin love the open and welcoming environment here at Towson UMC.

"We love the messages by former Pastor Mark, Pastor Christine, and Pastor Stephanie. We were happy to find a church dedicated to giving back to the community and with a positive atmosphere."

-Matt & Devin

Matt, Devin, and Chloe, we're so happy to have you be a part of Towson UMC!



September Worship Series:

Questions Jesus Asked

Join us on Sundays at 10:15AM
online or in-person

Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am?

In *Questions Jesus Asked*, author Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves.

Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. We all have questions for God, but growth happens when we turn things around and ask what Jesus wants to know about us. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives. Are you willing to step out in faith? Are you ready to answer the questions Jesus asked?

September 3: Luke 9:18-27; "Who Do You Say that I Am?"

September 10: Genesis 22:1-14

September 17: Luke 12:22-31; "Why are you anxious?"

September 24: Mark 8:34-38; "What do you live for?"



Card for Caring

Communion Sunday is also the day that Cards for Caring returns! Heartfelt cards are being sold at just **50 cents** a piece! They will be available for purchase before and after worship with proceeds going to our Towson UMC missions & ministries.

Third Grade Bibles

September 10

If your child is in the third grade, Towson United Methodist Church would love to offer them a free bible on Sunday! Fourth and fifth graders who have not yet received a bible from the church will also receive one.

Please email Pastor Stephanie (leadpastor@towsonumc.org) by **September 7** if your child is in third, fourth or fifth grade has not received a Bible, yet.

Our New Fall Schedule

The Tower Room: An Adult Zoom Sunday School Class

Starting Sunday, September 10, from 8:15AM - 9:15AM

When it comes to faith, is it more important to have the right answers, or to be asking the right questions? Is the opposite of faith doubt – or certainty? Using stories in the news to provide context, the Tower Class considers what it means to be a Christian in 21st century America. If you are looking for some adult conversation that will challenge, focus and perhaps even expand your faith. For further information, feel free to contact Kevin Gralley (kevin.gralley@gmail.com).

Children's Sunday School Classes

begin Sunday, September 10, at 9:00 AM

All classes will be held in the newly renovated Children's Ministry floor! Pre-K - 2nd, room 12. 3rd - 5th, room 11 (first floor)

Sunday Pray & Play

Sundays, in room 13, during worship

Following Children's Time, children ages 4 - 7 are welcome to join Pray and Play, a calm time of learning using "Godly Play" curriculum.

Choir Rehearsal

This year, we will be having Youth and Children's Choir rehearsals every Sunday! If you or your child are interested in being a part of the choir, join Dr. Belfield in the Youth Room (third floor) for a short information meeting on September 10 at 11:30 AM.

All rehearsals will be in the third floor Choir Room unless otherwise instructed. If there are questions, please contact Dr. Belfield at musicdirector@towsonumc.org or call at (410) 823-6519. See you soon!

Sunday Schedule: September 10

- 8:15 AM: The Tower Room: Adult Sunday School
- 9:00 AM: Coffee Hour & Sunday School (all ages)
- 10:15 AM: Worship (with Pray and Play)
- 11:30 AM: Children/Youth Choir Interest Meeting in the Youth Room
- 11:45 AM: Children's Choir Rehearsal
Youth Group Meeting
- 12:30 PM: Youth Group Lunch
- 1:00 PM: Youth Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Schedule: September 17 onward

- 8:15 AM: The Tower Room: Adult Sunday School
- 9:00 AM: Coffee Hour & Sunday School (all ages)
- 10:15 AM: Worship (with Pray and Play)
- 11:30 AM: Children's Choir
Youth Group
- 12:30 PM: Youth Group Lunch
- 1:00 PM: Youth Choir Rehearsal

Crafting Time

Wednesdays &

Thursdays

12 PM - 5 PM

Drop-in for a blessed space to be creative, together!

Prayer Shawl

Starting Wednesday

Sept. 6 at 6PM

Join for meet, greet & the upcoming schedule!

More Music Rehearsals

Bell Choir

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

See you there!

Youth Group

Join us for a series of church and off-site activities, from bible study to making sock kits for the homeless to hiking trips and beyond!

Scan the QR code and sign-up to bring drinks, food or a dessert for our Youth Group! Please make sure to bring enough food for 10-12 people. If possible, donate a gluten-free option. Thank you!

Drink ideas: Lemonade, Tea, Water

Food ideas: Sandwiches, Tacos, Pizza



Come Support our College Students

September 10 at 5PM

Join us on ZOOM to talk about our upcoming outreach project of sending "College Care Packages" to our Towson UMC college and graduate students! Even though they have temporarily left Towson UMC for school, we want to make sure they know that they are not forgotten! In our ZOOM meeting, we will be sharing ideas on what we will be packing in the care packages, as well as picking a time for our "Packing Party!"

Join the Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/9105612836>
Meeting ID: 910 561 2836



TOWSON UMC CRAB FEAST
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 AT 4PM
501 HAMPTON LANE, TOWSON, MD 21286

\$50 PER PERSON





SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT TOWSONCHURCH.ORG/NEWS TO BUY YOUR TICKETS! YOU CAN EVEN RESERVE A TABLE FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY! ENJOY DELICIOUS FOOD INCLUDING:

CRABS | PIT BEEF | PULLED PORK | TOMATO & CUCUMBER SALAD | CORN | CHESAPEAKE CHIPS | FRUIT | DESSERT

TICKET SALES END ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

We must sell *at least 40 tickets* by then or the event will be cancelled. Be sure to tell a friend and get your tickets soon.



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!
MOVIE | PIZZA | CRAFTS



September 22 following worship
All children under 12 are invited to enjoy a movie, pizza, snacks and crafts at Towson United Methodist Church while their parents enjoy a night out on the town! *Make sure your child has a pillow and blanket so they can get comfy.*
Register at towsonchurch.org/news.



Did somebody say Christmas?!

It may seem far away, but Santa has started planning months ago! That's right, it's time to get ready for the holiday season.

Christmas Crew Meeting

September 24 following worship

Join Pastor Stephanie, in room 214, for a time of planning and dreaming for Advent/Christmas. We'll be looking at ways to enhance our Victorian Christmas theme.

Christmas Road Trip

December 10

Join us on a road trip to the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre to see "A Christmas Carol: The Musical" Only 30 tickets are available. First come, first serve at \$70 per person. Visit towsonchurch.org/news or scan to purchase yours!



Raise the Roof '23

Last year, we had a tremendous response to our efforts to fund the roof replacement.



Not only in the number of pledges but also the amount that our congregation committed exceeded your typical generosity.

If you have not already made plans to fulfill the 2023 portion of your pledge, this is a friendly reminder that it is not too soon to consider it. The markets have shown some strength recently and there is no telling how long that will last. And many thanks to those who have already made their donation for this year.

A Note from our Financial Office

Towson United Methodist Church including the Hampton Lane Child Development Center will follow this **reimbursement policy** for all necessary ministry and work-related expenses.

Prior approval from the ministry leader or director is required before a member or staff incur an expense.

All expenses over \$250.00 or 10% of the budget or designated fund also needs to be approved by the business office and possibly the lead team depending on the nature of the expense and cash flow at the time.

Expenses should be submitted for reimbursement as follows:

- The appropriate form (Check Requisition Form for Towson UMC), along with complete supporting documentation such as original receipts, for all work/ministry-related expenses.
- Expenses should be submitted for payment as soon as possible, no later than 30 days after the expense is incurred except for year-end, when they are required to be submitted by the 2nd Tuesday of January. Expenses submitted late will be treated as donations.

Church/Children Center related expenses may include, but are not limited to:

- Supplies purchased for the ministries of the church
- Tools and equipment required to perform the employee's job*
- Business travel expenses such as meals and lodging with pre-approval from the Lead Pastor and Lead Team.

*Those with professional expense accounts do not need prior approval.

PASTORS & STAFF

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Towson United Methodist Church

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www.towsonchurch.org : 410.823.6511



Ways to Give to Towson United Methodist Church

Online: Visit towsonchurch.org/give to securely donate to Towson UMC by choosing your offering from the drop-down.

Cash/Checks: Place checks in the offering box or through USPS to "Towson UMC Attention: Business Office".

Hampton Lane Child Development Center

A path to a bright future where children

play to learn & learn to grow!

Visit hamptonlanecdc.com for enrollment and career opportunities!

Prefer our digital High Spire rather than our printed High Spire? Email communications@towsonumc.org to unsubscribe from the physical mailing list and/or join our digital mailing list.