

High Spire

Newsletter for Members and Friends of Towson United Methodist Church

November 2022

ACTC Thanksgiving Baskets

The annual food drive, hosted by ACTC (Assistance Center of Towson Churches) and sponsored by generous church members and friends, has begun. Support ACTC and the Towson UMC Food Pantry guests by providing bags of food in time for the holiday season.

If you would like to make a financial donation of \$30, our Mission Team member will shop for you! Make checks payable to Towson UMC with "Thanksgiving Baskets" in the memo line. You can also give online by choosing

"Thanksgiving Baskets" from the drop-down at

www.towsonchurch.org/give.

Ready to start shopping? Grab a list from the church foyer!

Contact: Gene Bandy
eugene.bandy@gmail.com



In October, Towson UMC youth enjoyed an afternoon at the Maryland Corn Maze! They got to feed and pet the farm animals and even pose with dinosaurs thanks to the Jurassic Maze theme!

Roof Replacement is Underway!

Thank you all so much for your support in making sure our beautiful building remains a vital part of Towson! We have started the replacement of our roof. Thank you for your generous pledges of over \$690,000 to replace the roof, repair the ceiling, and restore full use of the organ. Your financial gifts are helping ensure the next generations will be able to see and live their spiritual lives at Towson UMC.



PASTORS & STAFF

Rev. LaTrelle Easterling
Resident Bishop,
Baltimore-Washington
Conference

Rev. Dr. Wanda Duckett
District Superintendent,
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Rev. Stephanie White
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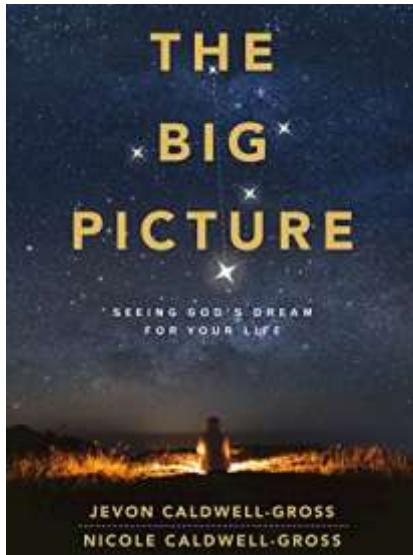
Bob Ashby
Custodian

Erin Rigley
Center Director, Hampton Lane CDC
410.825.0008
cdcdirector@towsonumc.org

Charge Conference

Saturday, November 5

All members are invited to participate in the Charge Conference Choose November 5, 2022 at 9AM and fill in your information.



Sunday School

8:15 AM via Zoom
Adults

9:00 AM in Room 314
Children (Pre-K to 5th Grade)

9:00 AM in room 311
Youth (6th-12th Grade)

9:00 AM in Room 214
Adults; *The Big Picture*

Adults are welcome to participate in this five-week study of *The Big Picture*. This book will help us take a closer look at the life of Joseph and connect the pieces of triumph and trauma to see God's hand at work in our lives.

Sunday Night Live!

November 6 - November 20

Our night will be filled with music, bible study and food! Sitting together for dinner offers an opportunity for us to break bread and connect with one another. We hope to have you join us on this lively night at Towson UMC!

Schedule

4:30PM - 5:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

Grades 6-12 are invited to join a ministry where they can make music and lifelong friends.

5:30PM Dinner

All are welcome to the Fellowship Hall where dinner will be served. Donations are appreciated but are not required.

6PM - 6:45PM Bible Study

Youth and adults merge for Bible Study as the Book of Genesis unfolds. This study is drop-in friendly!

6PM - 6:45PM Children's Choir Rehearsal

Our little ones embark their musical journey with Dr. Roy Belfield.



Earn. Save. Give.

November 6 - 20

You're probably used to hearing people talk about giving at church. When was the last time that you talked about *earning* or *saving*? Is it unchristian to earn money? Is it wrong to save for ourselves and our families?

John Wesley, the Christian evangelist and founder of the Methodist movement, didn't think so. He gave a remarkable sermon called "The Use of Money." During this sermon, he stated that the important thing isn't money itself, but how we use it. His advice still rings true today: earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can. Join us as we explore Wesley's advice, together.

November 6: Introduction and "Earn All You Can"

November 13: "Save All You Can"
with Leadership Board Member, Mike Steer.

November 20: "Give All You Can"
Commitment Sunday with a focus on gratitude and giving with Rev. Christine Kumar.

A Note on Finances

The Leadership Board wants to give a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to this congregation for your financial commitment to our Church. Your giving allows TUMC to pay its ongoing operating expenses and also allows our church to carry out its mission of making disciples for Jesus through its ministries and outreach.

In reviewing our finances and the status of our budget, we want to point out that we are on target to receive **100%** of pledged dollars for 2022. This is amazing and heartening news! Once again, thank you for making and meeting your pledges.

However, in reviewing our expenses, we are finding it increasingly difficult to keep our expenditures within the budgeted amounts. This is due to two overriding factors. First, we are experiencing costly age-related building repair and maintenance costs. For example, our HVAC system repair costs have been substantially more than anticipated as we are sure you have noticed by the inconsistent temperatures at Sunday service. Second, the inflation factor has caused a rise in many of our expenses above the budgeted amounts.

Please keep the church in your prayers as we approach our stewardship campaign and as we work to prepare a workable and meaningful budget for next year.

Towson United Methodist Church Leadership Board



The Hallmarks of Christmas

November 27th

First Sunday of Advent



"The Hallmark of Hope"

Following worship, the our Pastors are happy to invite you to visit their decorated offices during Office Open House! Stop by to pick up some yummy treats. We **HOPE** to see you there!

December 4th

Second Sunday of Advent

"The Hallmark of Peace"

Join us for the St. Nicholas Christmas Festival following worship. We'll have missions booths, craft booths, a hot cocoa booth, games for the family, and much more. Let's have a hallmark of a celebration!



We are looking for **homemade** items, not multi-level marketing products like Scentsy or Pampered Chef. If you are interested in selling your *Christmas Crafts*, we'd love to have you set up at one of our tables! Scan the **red** QR code fill-out a Vendor Request.

Though Towson UMC is not charging for tables, we do ask that you donate at least 10% of your sales to a mission project or non-profit organization of your choice. Share your talent what mission you chose to support!



Mission organizations that would like to sell their wares or let the community know about their mission or non-profit can scan the **green** QR Code.



December 11th

Third Sunday of Advent

"The Hallmark of Joy"

Music brings us **JOY**! Join us in worship for Music Sunday, as all groups from the Music Ministry come together for a beautiful and joyous day of worship!



Sermon Series : November 27th - December 18th

December 18th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"The Hallmark of Love"

6:00 PM Christmas Pageant

"When Cowboys Watched Their Herds By Night"

You've never seen a Christmas pageant quite like this!

Cowboys and ranch hands all show up to tell the hilarious story of the birth of a **very** special baby.



 Would you like to take part in the pageant? All are welcome to join the crew, just scan the QR code! We have plenty of ways to participate – large speaking roles, small speaking roles, non-speaking roles, props, costumes, kid wrangling, and more.



December 24th

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM Family Service

This service is welcome to everyone, but it is geared toward children and their families ending with "Silent Night" by candlelight.

8:00 PM Traditional Lessons and Carols

We will end the night with "Silent Night" by candlelight, featuring harpist Erin Baker.

Both services will be live-streamed.

December 25th

Christmas Day

Online worship ONLY. The staff is putting together a beautiful, music-filled worship service that you can enjoy at home! Grab your hot cocoa and keep on your slippers, it's time for Winter Sunday Worship!



Hurricane Ian Disaster Relief

The United Methodist Committee on Relief responds to disasters in the United States by working in partnership with annual conferences and local partners. When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides training, relief supplies, case management and supports long-term rebuilding efforts.

If you would like to give to UMCOR as they respond to Hurricane Ian, please visit towsonchurch.org/give. Click "give securely here" then open the "Fund" drop down menu. Select "disaster relief."

You can also leave gifts in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Be sure to mark your check or envelope with "disaster relief" where one hundred percent of your donation will go to helping UMCOR's disaster relief efforts.

November 6 at 6PM

The United Methodist Committee on Relief currently needs to restock their health and hygiene kits. These are kits that are distributed to those who are left without during major disasters such as Hurricane Ian. We will join together and assemble menstrual hygiene kits and health kits. (All supplies will be provided by our Mission Team.) All are welcome to join this activity. Dinner is served at 5:30PM and kit assembly will begin at 6:00PM.



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child delivers joy to children in need, around the world, through gift-filled boxes. Each box should be packed with quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items. For many of these children, it is their first gift ever! This is a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child.

Boxes should be returned by November 13th.

Pick up your Operation Christmas Child box in the foyer. For suggestions on what to pack for these children, ages 2-14, grab a packet from the foyer.

Please **do not** include used or damaged items, candy, toothpaste, scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures, food, liquids or lotions, vitamins, glass containers or aerosol cans.



Angel Tree

This Christmas season, Towson UMC will continue the tradition of sponsoring needy families from our area. This includes providing toys, clothing, and household needs. The information about the families comes from the Assistance Center for Towson Churches.

Look for the Angel Tree in the church lobby on November 13th, 20th, and 27th. Select an angel from the tree that will list a child's name, age, and gift request. Return the wrapped and labeled gifts **by Sunday, December 4th**. If you are unable to shop, monetary donations will be accepted. If you have any questions, contact Marjorie Bandy at 443-417-5878.

November Mission of the Month:

Ames UMC Community Christmas Dinner

Our November Mission of the Month will be in support of Ames Memorial United Methodist Church, located on Baker Street in Baltimore City. We have partnered with Ames for the past several years on their back-to-school backpack mission project during which our TUMC members have contributed significantly.

We have another opportunity to assist this great church in another hands-on community project! Ames Memorial UMC youth and children will be serving Christmas dinner to residents of the community, on December 25th.

Without feeding initiatives like this, the wonderful taste of a holiday dinner wouldn't be possible for this impoverished community.

100% of your donation to the November MoM will go toward purchasing, cooking and serving a holiday meal to those among us who are less fortunate. Thank you in advance for your contribution!

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

Food Pantry Gives for Fall

As the weather decreases in temperature and food increases in price, there is influx of guests that are looking to us for help. Please place donations in the Sharing Bins in the Main Lobby of Towson United Methodist Church.



Please see the items needed:

Toilet Paper	Cereal
Blankets	Oatmeal Packs
Comforters	Chunky Soups
Queen Sheet Sets	Chili
Sugar 1lb	Canned Chicken
Ground Coffee 1lb	SPAM
Syrup	Crackers
Cookies	Mustard
Breakfast Bars	Ketchup

Streets of Hope

TUMC will continue our support of this worthwhile project during the upcoming winter months. Streets of Hope (SOH) provides shelter and meals for men on the streets of eastern Baltimore County. SOH is supported on a rotating basis by churches in the area that provide dinner and other supplies every night from mid-November through April.

We are in need of stewards to shop and prepare a meal for 15-20 people and deliver that meal to the shelter located in Essex. We've had individuals, pairs, and families prepare meals in the past. Try gathering your Sunday School class or ministry together to handle a night!



Those who are interested will be supplied with a list of what is needed and reimbursed for their expenses – we just need the food cooked and delivered. TUMC can even sometimes help out with the delivery.

Our first date is **Tuesday, November 15th**. For further information or to volunteer, Please contact Dwight Kines at 410-977-0526 or drkines4@gmail.com





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Towson United Methodist Church

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www.towsonchurch.org : 410.823.6511

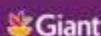


November Bloomin' 4 Good:
Giant Food at 2145 York Rd, Timonium, MD



HELP US FIGHT HUNGER!

Every Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the purple tag sold at our
Giant Food location this month will send us a \$1 donation.



Learn more at giantfood.bloomin4good.com

Hampton Lane

Child Development Center
of Towson United Methodist Church
410.825.0009 | hamptonlanecdcc.org

Connect with Us

Website: www.towsonchurch.org

YouTube: Towson United Methodist Church

Facebook: facebook.com/towsonunitedmethodistchurch

Instagram: Instagram.com/towsonumc

Ways to Give

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

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