

High Spire

Newsletter for Members and Friends of Towson United Methodist Church

May 2023



Thank you for joining us for the 2023 Women's Retreat!

Women of Towson UMC gathered at Skycroft to experience multiple thought-provoking moments and creative activities including painting and card making. We shared plenty of stories, connected in intimate ways, and collected hundreds of feminine hygiene products for young women in Greater Baltimore. Thank you all who were able to join us and a special thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make it all happen!



Sermon Series: A Living Hope

Sunday Worship Service

Sundays at 10:15 AM



During this Sermon Series, we continue to explore what it means to have the living hope of Jesus. Let's embrace this new way of living!

May 7: Like Living Stones Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

May 14: Always be Ready 1 Peter 3:13-22

May 21: Casting your Cares 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Coffee Hour in the Parlor

Sundays from 9AM-10AM

Enjoy refreshments and fellowship on Sunday mornings, in the parlor. The Hospitality Ministries Committee finds joy in baking delicious goodies for you, your family and friends to enjoy! Interested in bringing in baked goods, fruit or other treats for our church family? Sign up in the parlor!

Prayer Service in the Chapel

Sundays at 9:15 AM

through May 28

Join Pastor Christine in the chapel for reflective music, scripture reading, reflections, and prayer time for one another, communities, and the world. From 9:45 AM to 10 AM, the chapel is open for a space to pray. On the third Sunday of the month, we will share in holy communion.

Save the Date: Join us on June 11 for Pastor Christine's last Sunday at Towson UMC where she will lead worship and preach. Following worship, we will gather for lunch and fellowship!
More details to come.

Bible Study

Thursdays at 11AM

through May 28

In this study, we will use the book *The Holy Spirit* to explore the meaning and power of the Holy Spirit. The work of the Spirit is often thought of as "inspirational," but it's more than a personal experience. This book challenges some of those individualistic and subjectivist accounts. You'll come to understand that the Holy Spirit is who God is and what God does as the Trinity. And you'll learn how to prayerfully embrace this gift that created the church and become empowered to live out holy love and friendship in the world. This five week study is a great lead in to the celebration of Pentecost on May 28.



Pet Fair

Saturday, May 6
10AM to NOON



All people and pets are welcome to our first Pet Fair for our pet community. Let's gather for fun with our furry and feathery friends for Blessing of the Pets, our pet food giveaway, photo booth, memorial service, vendors, snacks and more!

New TUMC Directory: Photo Booth

May 7 | May 14 | May 21

You have the opportunity to have your photo taken on the dates above, immediately following worship. If you are not available for these dates, there is the alternative of emailing or mailing a photo with a consent form to us. Please contact Ginny Foster at church (410-823-6511) on Mondays between 10AM - 2PM to discuss this option. Thank you!

Senior Sunday

Sunday, May 21

Congratulations to our seniors! Those who are graduating from high school, college, trade school, graduate, or post-graduate school will be honored and celebrated in worship. If you know someone who should be included in the celebration, please email leadpastor@towsonumc.org.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 28

This Spring, Pastor Stephanie had been leading youth in their journey towards Confirmation. Join us on Pentecost Sunday to celebrate the confirmands, followed by a reception in the parlor!

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 6
Sunday, May 7

Support our Youth Group by purchasing beautiful flowers during our plant sales. They will be available during the Pet Fair starting at 10AM and following worship on May 7. We are accepting cash, check and cards.

Plants & Prices

11" Hanging Baskets \$20.00
4" Geraniums \$5.00
Herbs \$3.00
Annuals \$3.00
Accent Plants \$7.00
Wave Petunias \$5.00



TOWSON T O W N SPRING FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 6 - Sunday, May 7

Come help Towson UMC be a welcoming presence at the 2023 Towson Spring Festival in downtown Towson. We need volunteers to host our booth, hand out church swag and information. Let's bring joy to the community!

Choose from the 5 time slots below:

Saturday, May 6

6:45 AM - 11 AM
10:45 AM - 3 PM
2:45 PM - 8 PM

Sunday, May 7

9:45 AM - 2 PM
1:45 PM - 6 PM

Scan the QR code to pick a time slot!



Those choosing the opening slot on Saturday and the closing slot on Sunday will be asked to help with set-up and take-down. This will involve moving a table, chairs, and other items to and from the space.

Vacation Bible Camp

Hero Helpers Needed

This summer, our VBC theme is Hero Hotline where we are being called together to serve God! Our mission is to serve, lead, and have fun. We are currently seeking Hero Helpers. We welcome volunteers starting from junior high and up. Roles include decorations, craft leaders, snack leaders, science leaders, recreation leaders, small group leaders, assistants, and more! Register to volunteer by scanning the QR code. We hope to have you join our team of super heroes!



VBC Registration is now OPEN!

July 21-24

It's time to register your Little Hero for our 2023 Hero Hotline Vacation Bible Camp. VBC kids will join us at Towson United Methodist Church to experience stories through music, storytelling, games, arts & crafts, science, and even snacks. They'll learn that Heroes are called to *Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together, Listen to God, and Show Grace!*



Super Meer here! I'm super excited to follow Jesus with my new super friends. Scan the QR code to register your Little Hero!



Step Away Crafting Day

June 3 from 9AM to 4PM

It's a day to leave the worries and duties at the door of Fellowship Hall to find some peace and quiet with like-minded folk. All who have an interest in pursuing their old or new hobbies are welcome to bring your gear and spend time sewing, quilting, knitting, stamping, painting and more! We'll have breakfast in the morning and a light lunch. Greet and meet others engaging in similar pursuits, and perhaps even learn a new avocation! What a blessed event to step away, truly spend your time how you want to and even find a new meaning to...



This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

-Psalm 118:24

We welcome donations that will be given to missions at Towson UMC.

Space for this first Step Away is limited, sign up in the foyer.

If you have any questions contact Jan Bennett at janbennett604@gmail.com with questions.

Cards for Caring Sunday

starting June 4 following worship

How do we share God's love and show others we care? We can call, make a visit or send a heartfelt card! Who wouldn't love to get a card from a church friend whether it's for your birthday, anniversary or simply to say that they are thinking of you?

The Card Ministry has been spending time creating unique cards that each have a bible verse inside. Each communion Sunday, following worship service, these beautiful cards will be sold for only 50 cents! Bring a few cards home so you are always ready, no matter what the occasion, to show someone you care about them.

Blessings for Erin

through May 15

A special collection for Erin Rigley, as a thank you gift for her service with us at the Center, will continue through May 15. If you would like to support this gift, you can leave a monetary donation at church (make sure your check and/or envelope is marked "for Erin") or you give online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity and care.



May Mission of the Month: Food for Thought

In Baltimore County alone, there are over 2,500 students in the public school system who fall into the category of "homeless and in desperate need." During the school week, these students have access to at least one meal each day; however, on weekends and extended breaks from school, these students are not guaranteed access to food. They are "food insecure," that is, their access to nutritious food is chronically unstable.



According to Share Our Strength's No Kids Hungry Campaign, 77% of teachers say that addressing childhood hunger should be a national priority. Children who do not get enough food are distracted, display behavioral problems, and complain of headaches and stomachaches in school. Hunger at a young age is a major obstacle to success throughout life. And few children are as hungry as children who are homeless and in desperate need.

Food for Thought has a mission to encourage volunteers to fill backpacks or bags with food, deliver them to a school during the week and allow the students to take the bag for the weekend, and return it on Monday!

Towson UMC is collecting funds that will help our team purchase food for these children. Funds are needed this Spring as we prepare for the Fall school year. You can give by visiting towsonchurch.org/give. Click "give securely here" then open the "Fund" drop down menu. Select "mission of the month."

We May need your Help!

Cereal	Vienna Sausage
Granola Bars	Spam
Ground Coffee	Canned Tuna
Tea Bags	15oz Chili
Cake Mix	Canned Ham
Cake Frosting	Chunky Soups
Box Crackers	10oz. Soups
Ketchup	Mustard

Food Pantry is looking for food donations all year long. Please consider donating to our community by placing these items in the Sharing Bins located in the main lobby of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

Mission Trip 2023: North Carolina

June 18th or June 25th (TBD)

Looking for a summer project or trip? Desire more DIY skills? This Summer, we will work with low-income homeowners to provide accessibility upgrades and repairs that target health and safety following the numerous and recent hurricanes in the area. No building or construction experience required (but certainly appreciated!). All you need is a willing heart! Meals, housing and transportation will be provided. Middle school and high school students with accompanying adults are welcome. Email Jim at jlandrew3@gmail.com for more info!



We Hired a new CDC Director!

The Leadership Board and the Child Development Center Board have hired a new director for the Hampton Lane Child Development Center. Lisa Roberts who began on Tuesday, April 25.

For the past seven years, Lisa has served as a director of another preschool. Before that, she worked as a kindergarten and prekindergarten teacher in the Baltimore County Public School System and as a long-term substitute in the Harford County Public School System. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education from Towson University and a Master of Education from Loyola University. She has also earned all necessary state-required certifications for the position. Along with her impressive education and experience, Lisa brings with her a positive and warm personality. I am excited about adding her to the Towson UMC team!

Be sure to be in worship on Sunday, May 7, where I will introduce Lisa to the congregation. We will pray over her and ask God's blessing on her ministry at Towson UMC. I am certain that you will enjoy meeting Lisa. Towson UMC Leadership is looking forward to the great work we know that Lisa will do!

Hampton Lane Child Development Center

at Towson United Methodist Church
410.825.0009 hamptonlanecdc.org

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 menu.

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

PASTORS & STAFF

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High Spire May 2023
Towson United Methodist Church
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Fellowship Players presents...

Lullaby of Broadway Cabaret

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at Towson UMC for a night of music and song featuring some Broadway favorites! Scan the QR code to get your tickets for:

Show Dates:

Friday, May 5 at 7:30 PM
Saturday, May 6 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 PM



Connect with Us

Find Towson UMC worship service on our YouTube channel: @TowsonUnitedMethodistChurch
Find us on Facebook & Instagram: @TowsonUMC