



The High Spire

Newsletter for Members and Friends of Towson United Methodist Church



September 2026

Dear Friends,

What a summer it has been! We've had a lot of fun! Worship was filled with different types of music: the ukulele choir made a come back; the praise band made their debut; pop-up choirs filled the sanctuary with praise; our Director of Music Ministries, Christopher Kiser, put on lovely summer afternoon concert; and we wrapped things up with a Celtic band in worship and in concert on the lawn. We hosted three summer book clubs featuring *The Correspondent*, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, and *Anxious People: A Novel*. Plus we had over 40 kids for a successful Vacation Bible Camp. Our summer Thursday Bible Study used the book *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* to guide us in engaging conversation. We attended Christian night at the Orioles game, and you helped me celebrate my birthday with Legos and lunch. Several of you helped out at the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp, our food pantry was open for business, we collected school supplies and backpacks. We had fun opening a coffee bar one Sunday, and our Cardio Drumming classes were a blast. Thank you so much for spending part of your summer at Towson UMC.

Now, we are turning our focus toward the Fall and Winter. The staff is busy planning for Stewardship, All Saints Day, Advent, and Christmas, but before we get to those, we will be studying Philippians together in worship (and on Thursday mornings). We'll be looking at how the Apostle Paul was able to find joy even in the midst of persecution and trouble. The book, *The Secret*

of Life by F. Scott Spencer, will guide us through September. (Books are available at church for \$19.) I chose this book and series because there is so much pain in our nation and world right now. The Apostle Paul faced a lot of hardship but was still able to encourage churches with words like, "Rejoice in the Lord always! And, again, I say rejoice!" He did not ignore the problems or the pain, but he was able to find hope because he trusted in the goodness and grace of Jesus. Out of that trust, Paul was able to call the Church at Philippi (and us!) to bring all of our anxiety to Jesus so that they (and we!) might experience a peace like no other. As we read and explore Philippians, I pray that we, too, are able to find hope, joy, and peace.

Read on to learn about all the other great things that will be going on this month. The staff is offering wonderful opportunities for music, children and youth activities, study, missions, and more. And I couldn't close without celebrating that Coffee Hour will return on September 6 at 9 AM! Praise the Lord!

As we transition to the cooler months of Fall and Winter, I leave you with Paul's words from Philippians: "This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God." May it be so.

Rev. Stephanie Roberts White

Towson United Methodist Church : towsonchurch.org : 501 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286 : 410-823-6511

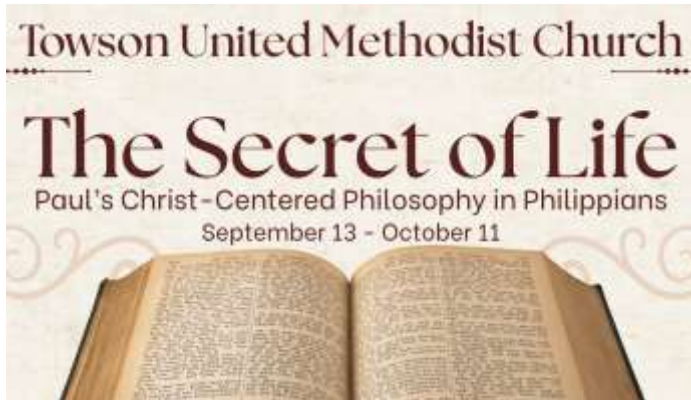
Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Roberts White Director of Music Ministries: Christopher Kiser Business Manager: Kim Ayres

Director of Audio Visual Ministries: Malachi White Family Ministries Coordinator: Lissa O'Donnell

Social Media Coordinator: Royal King Empire CDC Director: Lisa Roberts Facilities Attendant: Bob Ashby Business Assistant: Debra Beck

Sermon Series

September 6: Special guest preacher
District Superintendent
Eliezer Valentín-Castañón



book by F. Scott Bruce

From the publisher: "The author reframes "the examined life" through a Christian lens, engaging Socrates' famous maxim while showing how Paul offers a richer understanding of what makes life meaningful. With accessible scholarship and vivid theological insight, he brings Philippians to life with clarity and depth, unpacking Paul's "Living Is Christ" motto with attention to both its immediate context and its enduring power. By tracing how prisoner Paul worked out this philosophy in real time, the book equips readers to pursue a resilient, joyful, purpose-filled faith." The book can be found at major booksellers, and a limited number of copies are available in the church office for \$19.

September 13

Thank You from Prison: 1:12-18 and 4:10-20

September 20

The Struggle in Christ: 1:21-30

September 27

The Story of Christ: 2:1-13

October 4: World Communion Sunday

The Stretch Toward Christ
Philippians 3:4b-14

October 11

The Strength of Christ Philippians 4:4-9

Mark Your Calendar!

Red Cross Blood Drive

September 2, 1 PM - 6 PM

[Click here](#) or call 800 RED CROSS (733-2767) to schedule your blood donation! Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Thursday Bible Study

resumes September 17, 11 AM

We will be reading

The Secret of Life:

Paul's Christ Centered Philosophy in Philippians

by F. Scott Bruce

The book can be found at major booksellers, and a limited number of copies are available in the church office for \$19.

Step Away Crafting Day

September 19; 9 AM - 4 PM

Join us in God's Crafting Studio (room 310) to enjoy free time crafting! Pick up that project you put aside "for another day." The Sew Blessed team will provide a tasty treat. All are welcome! Stay all day or drop in for part of the day!

Leadership Board Meeting

September 21, 6:30 PM

Harmonia Choir

September 26, 7:30 PM

Join the Harmonia Festival Choir for a FREE performance of iconic songs by Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Dolly Parton, The Beatles, and more in fresh, high-energy choral arrangements at *Mixtape Live!*

Brown Bag Book Club: *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi

September 27, 11:30 AM

Bring your own lunch and book and be ready for a great discussion! No registration required.

All are welcome!



Chancel Choir

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 2

The Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. and sings during the 10:15 a.m. worship service each week from September through May. Open to anyone 6th grade through adults. No experience or audition required.

Handbell Choir

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 2

The Handbell Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m. and rings during the 10:15 a.m. worship service approximately once per month from September through May. Open to anyone 6th grade through adults. No audition required, although some experience with handbells and reading music is helpful.

Children's Choir

Rehearsals begin Sunday, September 13

The Children's Choir rehearses Sundays from 4:15-5:00 p.m. and helps lead music in the 10:15am worship service approximately once per month.

Open to children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Children will learn to sing, play handchimes, and other instruments. The cost to participate is \$15, which includes a choir T-shirt.



Genesis Ringers

Rehearsals begin Sunday, September 13

The Genesis Ringers rehearse Sundays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. This handbell choir is designed for those with little or no previous experience reading music or playing handbells. Open to anyone 6th grade through adults. No audition is required. The Genesis Ringers will occasionally participate in the 10:15 a.m. worship service as the group develops.

Ukulele Choir

The ukulele choir rehearses independently using video instructions provided by our Director of Music. Members receive music and resources by email and through the Music Ministry website.

Open to anyone 6th grade through adults. No previous experience is necessary, but participants should provide their own ukulele. The Ukulele Choir will occasionally participate in our 10:15 a.m. worship service. If interested in joining, please contact [Christopher Kiser](#), Director of Music Ministries.



Other Musical Opportunities

Do you sing or play an instrument? We would love to hear from you! There are many ways to share your musical gifts beyond our regular ensembles, including special music, instrumental or vocal solos, small ensembles, and other worship opportunities.

Contact [Christopher Kiser](#), Director of Music Ministries, to learn more or to express your interest in being involved in our music ministry.



Family Ministries

Youth (grades 6 - 12) Fall Kick Off!

September 6, after worship

Youth Room (313) - Come for lunch, games, and fellowship!

Youth Group scavenger hunt and lunch at the mall!

September 13: after worship

Fresh Fruits Farm Service Project

September 19; 8:45 AM - 12 PM

Only 15 slots available so register soon!

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Parent/youth information meeting

September 20: after worship in the youth room

We'll be discussing travel, lodging, costs, etc. for Ignite 2027, January 22-24, Ocean City, MD.

Parents' Night Out

September 25: 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Visit towsonchurch.org/news for more information.

Discussion on Mental Health Resources

September 27, after worship in the youth room,

Lunch will be provided.

Youth *AND YOUNG ADULT* presentation and interactive activity regarding mental health presented by King Health Systems .



How does my 0-3 year old experience God?
How can I experience God with them?

 **SACRED ROOTS**
FAMILY EXPERIENCES

FREE! **Date: September 12, 2026**
Time: 10:00AM-12:00 PM
Where: Little Locals - Town and Gym
3000 Gamber Road Suite 8 & 10 Finksburg, MD
Who: Families with 0-3 year olds and siblings

- *Free Play***
- *Connect with other Christian families***
- *Explore your children's faith***
- *Take home free spiritual practices***

RSVP HERE

Helping families grow together in
Christian faith, love, and everyday life.



Missions and more

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 nutritious food. 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.

You can give by [clicking here](#). Click "give securely here" and open the "Fund" drop down menu, then select "mission of the month."

Emergency Food Pantry September 19, 9 - 10:30 AM

If you are in need, please come! You'll receive perishable and non-perishable groceries. Plus, there will be coffee and fellowship! If you are able to help, please consider placing the following donations in the sharing bins in the lobby of the church: cereal, Chunky Soups, soups 10 oz., ground coffee, tea bags, canned chicken, beef stew, chili, canned ravioli, granola bars, oatmeal packets, and toilet paper.

Bakers Wanted

Each Sunday in the parlor, the Hospitality Ministries Committee will host Coffee Hour. We will need volunteers to bake (or purchase) some goodies for this mission. There is a sign-up sheet in the parlor where you can pick your date.

From the Business Office Reimbursement Policy

Towson United Methodist Church including the Hampton Lane Child Development Center will follow the following 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 leadership board depending on the nature of the expense and cash flow at the time.

Expenses should be submitted for reimbursement as follows: please attach supporting documentation such as original receipts, for all work/ministry-related expenses to a check requisition form found in the main office.

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 or ministry area job.
- Business travel expenses such as meals and lodging with pre-approval from the Pastor and Leadership Board.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact our Business Manager, [Kim Ayres](#).

Summer fun!



Members of Towson UMC built ramps with the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp this summer!
Youth and adults attended the Global Young People's Convocations in Ireland!



Would you like to share pictures from church events? Please send them to socialmedia@towsonumc.org and/or pastor@towsonumc.org. We would love to share the fun!



Church members having fun at the Orioles game this summer!



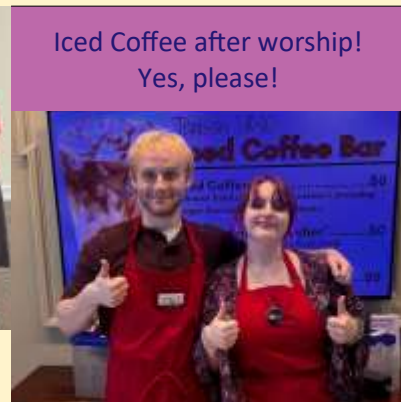
Thank you to everyone who attended
Pastor Stephanie's Legos and lunch birthday party!



Thank you for attending Christopher
Kiser's summer concert!



Cardio Drumming was a blast!



Iced Coffee after worship!
Yes, please!



Oak Crest Quarterly Gathering



Good times at Emory Grove!





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Towson United Methodist Church

501 Hampton Lane : Towson, MD 21286

www.towsonchurch.org : 410.823.6511

Summer fun at Hampton Lane Child Development Center

410.825.0009 hamptonlanecdc.com

