Towson United Methodist Church

November 1, 2026 : All Saints Sunday

Register your attendance by clicking here. Share prayer requests by clicking here.

Prelude "Retrospection" by Florence Price Christopher Kiser, organ

Greeting and announcements Rev. Stephanie Roberts White

*Call to Worship based on Psalm 27

In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth,
And God saw that it was good!
One thing we ask; one thing we seek:
To live in God's house for all of our days,
To behold the beauty of God, and learn of God's ways.
Here, in the temple of the church,
And here, in the temple of creation!
Come, let us worship God! from saltproject.org

*Opening Hymn "All Creatures of our God and King" vs. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 UMH #62

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain, by which all creatures ye sustain,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear, make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother fire who lights the night, providing warmth, enhancing sight,
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Opening Prayer Susan Davis Bengel, liturgist

Glorious God, we come into your holy presence with joy and gratitude. Bless this time of worship to draw us closer to you. Bless our lives to shine brightly with your love and beauty. Bless our work in the world to bring your justice and compassion to life. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

adapted from ministrymatters.com

Introduction to Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession

Beloved, we are God's children now,
but what we will be in the fullness of our time
has not been revealed.
What we do know is this:
we will be like Jesus the Christ and saints of God.

Let us consider how Jesus was revealed among us
and pray to be more like the Christ in every way.
Jesus embodied the unconditional love of God…
We pray, may we be more like Jesus.
Jesus fed those who were hungry…
We pray, may we be more like Jesus.
Jesus drew near to those living on the margins and excluded…
We pray, may we be more like Jesus.
Jesus brought healing and wholeness to those in need…
We pray, may we be more like Jesus.
Jesus hungered and thirsted for righteousness…
We pray, may we be more like Jesus.
Pray silently, confessing your sins to God.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear this good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen!

Passing of the Peace

As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding with, "And also with you."

Praise Hymn "Lord, Be Glorified" TFWS #2150

In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.

In our homes, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our homes, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

Grace in Action — Sue LaHatte, The Ransom Chapel

Invitation to the Offering

Thank you for your support of Towson United Methodist Church. If you would like to support the church financially today, you can click here or you can mail checks to the church.

Offering Prayer — adpt. from ministrymatters.com

Offertory — "This is My Father's World" — arr. Dan Forrest

*Doxology — UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A Festival of Beauty! Acts 2:42-47 Common English Bible

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Remembering the Saints Introduction

New Testament Scripture Reading Revelation 7:9-17 Common English Bible

After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. They cried out with a loud voice:

"Victory belongs to our God
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb."

All the angels stood in a circle around the throne, and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, saying,

"Amen! Blessing and glory
and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might

be to our God forever and always. Amen."

Then one of the elders said to me, "Who are these people wearing white robes, and where did they come from?"

I said to him, "Sir, you know."

Then he said to me, "These people have come out of great hardship. They have washed their robes and made them white in the Lamb's blood. This is the reason they are before God's throne. They worship him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. They won't hunger or thirst anymore. No sun or scorching heat will beat down on them, because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Saints Who've Gone Before Us

Susan Edwards Armstrong, Nancy Bopst, Mike Bowers, Diane Compton, Fred Cowan, Nancy Crabbin, Ron Donoho, Pat Dunton, Martha Johnston, Chris Napfel, LaVerne Schneider, Pat Totzauer, Lee Ann Vasil

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Saints

Hymn of Celebration "For All the Saints" vs. 1, 2, 4, 6 UMH #711

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty. Creator of heaven and earth: God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses, God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David, God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph, God of the apostles and the martyrs, God of our mothers and our fathers, God of our children to all generations. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the

supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Renew our communion with all your saints. By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Blessing of our Estimates of Giving

Anthem "The Beauty of This Sacred Place" Chancel Choir

by Marilyn and James Biery

The beauty of this sacred place inspires our hearts and minds to grow.
We sing with love, bestowed by grace; from God all richest blessings flow.

The meal, the word, the art, the song, are but a glimmer of the whole;
With joyful hearts sing all day long. God's blessings satisfy the soul.

We look into each person's eyes and see such longing hunger there.
Respond with love to others' cries; Our neighbors' burdens gladly bear.

So many struggle and despair, we hear their silent voices plead;
Our actions show how much we care, Extending help to those in need.

All:
The beauty of this sacred place inspires our hearts and minds to grow.
We sing with love, bestowed by grace; from God all richest blessings flow.
We sing with love, bestowed by grace; from God all richest blessings flow.

Closing Prayer

*Closing Hymn "When We All Get to Heaven" UMH #701

1. Sing the wondrous love of Jesus;
sing his mercy and his grace.
In the mansions bright and blessed
he'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain:
When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!

2. While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
clouds will overspread the sky;
but when traveling days are over,
not a shadow, not a sigh.
(Refrain)

3. Let us then be true and faithful,
trusting, serving every day;

just one glimpse of him in glory
will the toils of life repay.
(Refrain)

4. Onward to the prize before us!
Soon his beauty we'll behold;
soon the pearly gates will open;
we shall tread the streets of gold.
(Refrain)

*Benediction

Postlude "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" arr. Marianne Kim

The altar flowers are placed in memory of
Michael D. Bowers.

Announcements

Church Conference: November 7, 9 AM, at Hiss UMC. Please let Pastor Stephanie know if you would like to attend.

Sermon Series: It Will Be Like This begins next Sunday, November 8. We'll take a deep dive into Matthew 25 where Jesus tells us "the Kingdom of Heaven will be like this." What does Jesus mean by that? What is God telling us today? What does the Kingdom of Heaven look like now? And in the future? These challenging stories will call us to think about what is important to and for God's kingdom.
November 8: Matthew 25:1-13 "Keep Awake"
November 15: Matthew 25:14-30 "Enter the Joy"
November 22: Matthew 25:31-46 "You Who Are Blessed"

Brown Bag Book Club: November 8, after worship. We'll be reading *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Bring your own lunch and book No registration required. All are welcome! From the publisher*: Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.* Just Mercy *is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.*
To enhance your study, click here to purchase tickets to see a lecture by Bryan Stevenson on November 19, 7:30 PM, at Goucher College.

Assistance Center of Towson Churches Thanksgiving Baskets are due November 15! Each year, ACTC's church partners team up to provide holiday meals to local neighbors in need. Through our work together last year, more than 2,800 local families were blessed with a feast for five, including a turkey! Want to help families start off the holiday season with joy? You can purchase Thanksgiving Baskets from local markets starting on November 1 or you can put your own basket together using the list provided in the foyer or at towsonchurch.org/news. Baskets can be dropped off to the main office between 10AM-3PM Monday-Friday or on Sunday between 9AM-11:30AM. Too busy to shop? Donate $30 and we'll do the shopping for you! Click here and choose "other" from the fund drop-down menu. Type "ACTC basket" in the box.

Mission of the Month: Manna House For 50 years, Manna House has been serving the poor, down-on-their-luck, and homeless nutritious breakfasts. Since 2012, that service has been continuous seven days a week, 365 days per year. During this time

and after breakfast, we try to connect them to services they need (such as case management, toiletries, clothing, healthcare, etc.), all with the goal of improving circumstances in a significant way. If you would like to support this ministry financially today, you can give click here. Open the fund drop-down menu, then select "mission of the month."

Operation Christmas Child Boxes are available in the foyer. Please return them November 15 - 22 (before or after worship or during normal business hours).

Holiday Brass (December 1, 7:30 PM at the Cathedral of Mary our Queen) tickets are available from Ginny Foster for $27.

Sunday school for all ages: 9 AM - 10 AM
Children (preschool - fifth grade) meet in the Fellowship Hall
Youth (grades 6 - 12) meet in room 313.
Adults meet in room 216

Youth Group News (Grades 6 - 12):
November 1: Friendsgiving Lunch with the whole church after worship.
November 8: Lunch and discussion about spiritual gifts after worship. (Young adults are welcome, too!)

Thursday Bible study: 11 AM, 216; For November 5, we'll finish our look at the United Methodist Social Principles. Please read pages 33-58. Books are available in the church office. On November 12, we'll begin our Advent study using the book *God's Surprises for the Christmas Season* by Susan Robb. Books are available for $12 in the church office. (November 12 - read chapter 1. December 3 - chapter 2. December 10 - chapter 3. December 17 - chapter 4.) No class November 19 or 26.

Food Pantry: November 14; 9 AM - 10:30 AM
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.

Hanging of the Greens - November 22, immediately after worship. We appreciate anyone and everyone who can help get the church ready for Advent and Christmas. Lunch will be served!

Advent Workshop for the kids! November 22, immediately after worship. While the adults are "hanging the greens," elementary-aged kids are invited to the fellowship hall for fun Advent activities. Lunch will be served! (Workshop supply donations would be greatly appreciated: graham crackers, pretzel sticks, icing, and decorating candies such as teddy grahams, m&m's, mini marshmallows, sprinkles, gum drops, etc. Items can be left in the sharing bin between November 1 through November 22. If you have any questions, please see Lissa O'Donnell.

Advent begins November 29!

Looking for an AA, NA, GA, or Al-Anon meeting? Click here for a complete schedule.

Are you seeking a place to spend some quiet time with God? Are you looking for a few minutes of solitude, in prayer or meditation in a convenient, safe, and sacred space? Perhaps you didn't know about or have forgotten about our beautiful chapel at church… The Ransom Chapel, located on the main floor opposite rooms 214-216. The chapel is open for you on Sundays and during the week when someone is working in the church office. "All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place" (from "All Are Welcome" by Marty Haugen). Won't you come?

For our weekly calendar, click here.