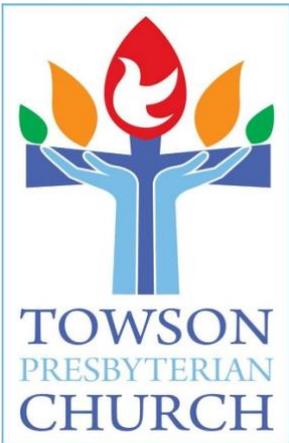


Towson Presbyterian Church

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Inclusive Curious Compassionate Courageous

TPC Responds

Towson Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith
growing as disciples of Christ

TPC is a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation and a member of the
Covenant Network

Get in touch

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Towson, MD 21204

410.823.6500

tpc@towsonpres.org

Useful Links

towsonpres.org

facebook.com/TowsonPres/

youtube.com



Rob Carter, Senior Pastor



Joel Strom, Associate Pastor

"Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 23:20

We carried a weight of anxiety in 2020: a world-wide pandemic crisis, rising racial tensions, divisive politics, loneliness from prolonged social isolation, economic uncertainties, health fears, depression, violence in our cities, injustices revealed, loss of civil discourse, grief. We are weary.

With the load of so many heavy burdens, where is God? The following pages of this 2020 Annual Report affirm that in all days and in times of crisis, **God is here!**

What follows are just a few highlights from the year when God inclusively, curiously, compassionately, and courageously acted through us and among us here at TPC.

Inclusive

TPC, you offer God's comfort and Jesus's words of support to all. It doesn't matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey - there is room for you here. All are welcome.

Curious

TPC, you tackle tough questions. You search for God's purpose. You know that faith is not a destination but a journey of discovery.

Compassionate

TPC, you are the hands of God. You serve the greater needs of those near and far with generosity and love.

Courageous

TPC, you are committed to following Christ even when it is difficult, different, and trying. You know that God's love and help is steadfast. You know you are not alone.

Compassionate

Courageous

The Lord is my shepherd, I
shall not want.
He makes me lie down in
green pastures;
he leads me beside still
waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.



Mr. "Scare 'em" added to the garden, along with waving flags, to safeguard the tomatoes from hungry catbirds



A new mission partnership! TPC and Mt. Calvary AME crews prep, assemble, and deliver meals to those in need

TPC Responds

Focusing on impactful mission projects

- TPC's food insecurity [mission outreach programs](#) grow in leaps and bounds during the pandemic. TPC's front line response makes a tremendous difference to our food insecure neighbors.
- Record levels of need is supported with record levels of food donated and volunteer hours given to the [Assistance Center of Towson Churches](#) (ACTC).
- Support to food insecure Baltimore County school students and families is reached with a partnership with [Student Support Network](#).
- While we mourn the pandemic-caused pause in TPC's **Sunday Community Lunch** program, we immediately pivot resources to assist with [Mt. Calvary AME's lunch program](#).
- The **Earth Corps Committee** organizes a dedicated group of gardeners that saw us through our 11th season in the [InterGenerational Garden \(IGG\)](#). The donations of fresh, healthy produce from the IGG to ACTC were needed more than ever.

Compassionate

Courageous

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.



The March Mission trip to Honduras builds homes and eco-stoves, provides medical and dental services, and helps Casita Copan (child and foster care) in an impoverished remote village. TPC celebrates over 20 years of service in Honduras!



Lunch bags prepared



Many truckloads of food delivered

TPC Responds

Caring for our community

- TPC Deacons put member care front-and-center with phone calls, greeting cards, flowers and prayer shawl deliveries.
- Multiple TPC committees join together to assemble over 100 Advent craft bags for children. These bags were given to not only TPC members, but also to the children at the [Towson Presbyterian Preschool](#) and the surrounding neighborhood.

Sending record-breaking dollars to mission partners

- Pandemic-related economic disruptions and spikes in need drives TPC to release **over \$114,000** to mission partners near and far. For example:
\$27,590 through Mission Outreach's 2020 operating budget
Over \$68,000 from Session-released funds for Covid relief
\$9,000 to ministries in Honduras including our March mission trip and Casita Copan from our Snyder Fund

Supporting our neighbors in Honduras

- The virus and two deadly hurricanes cause suffering and damage. [TPC responds](#) with \$4800 in assistance to provide food, clean water and temporary shelter.

Inclusive

Courageous

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.



TPC Livestream crew is hard at work on a Sunday morning to provide TPC's weekly worship



Celebrating virtual Communion
in community together



TPC's beloved choir, now virtual, blesses us with their inspiration music ministry

TPC Responds

Reaching beyond our physical walls

- No longer confined to time and place, TPC reaches an ever-increasing audience.
- Never a Sunday-only church, TPC provides Spiritual Practices and '[Faith at Home](#)' livestreams and podcast throughout the week.

Discovering new ways to worship

- The **Worship, Music, and Arts committee**, without skipping a beat, makes the leap into the virtual world. Sunday mornings on [Facebook Live](#) become routine.

Finding new ways to be in community together

- Truly entering the digital age with Zoom small groups and committee meetings or safely gathering outdoors.

Investing in Communication

- The jump to virtual environments requires learning and incorporating new equipment. The **Communications committee** spends money to ensure TPC's relevance in the modern world.

Inclusive

Curious

Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the
house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Psalm 23



Out-of-the-Box thinking of the
CFM Committee and the
BeeTree Committee produces
extraordinary [Camp BeeTree](#).
Each camper receives
“Compassion Camp Craft Kits”
and attends virtual camp on
Zoom. Family visits to the
[BeeTree Preserve](#) included!



The TPC Confirmation Class completes their programs and
mentor relationships online (picture taken January 2020).

Welcome to TPC’s newest members!

TPC Responds

Exploring Social and Racial Injustice

- The journey to [dismantle systemic racism](#) continues
with *Seeing White* podcast discussions.

Engaging personal faith formation

- Small groups, podcasts, and sermons focus on our
community book study *We Make the Road by Walking*
by Brian McLaren.
- The **Adult Spiritual Formation Committee** offers many
opportunities to [Belong, Become, and Bless](#)

Supporting Creation Care

- The **Earth Corps Committee** provides Earth Day
sermon and worship, webinars, virtual programs and
workshops through which we gain new ideas, new
connections and new energy to address the growing
[environmental concerns](#) we face.
- The **Property Committee** further reduces TPC’s carbon
footprint with the installation of LED lights throughout
our building.

Loving and nurturing children and youth

- The **Children and Family Ministry committee** make
sure that [children](#) and [youth](#) find the love, joy, and
community support they need through virtual and
outdoor Youth Group, virtual Sunday school, and
virtual Summer Camp BeeTree.

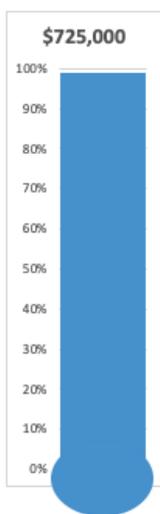
Compassionate

Courageous

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” **Matthew 5:16**

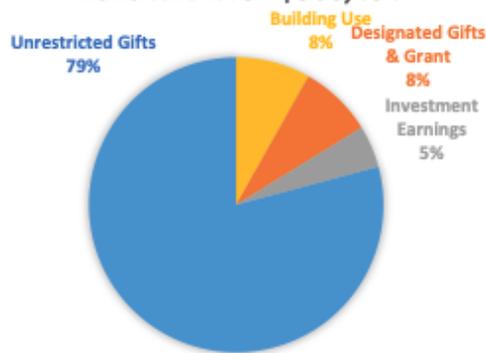


Outdoor Advent Vesper Services are a big hit!



Together, your gifts of \$717,599 to the General Fund nearly met our pre-pandemic goal.

2020 REVENUE \$906,464



YOU Respond

Gifts of time that transform

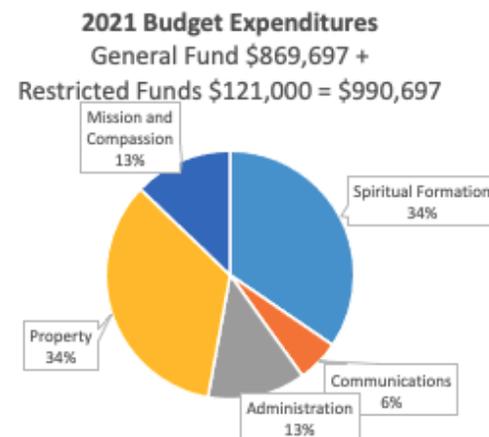
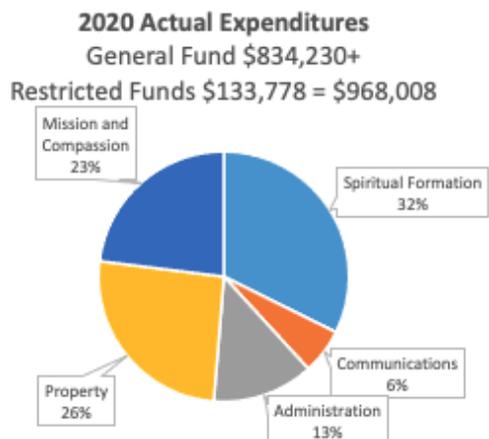
- Participation in remote community presents its challenges, but you did it. Your presence, prayers, and connections are powerful.
- From meal preparers to food deliverers, from technology-talented crews to gifted artists, from small group leaders to choir singers, from gardeners to Sunday School teachers, from online worshipers to committee members, from food donors to handbell ringers, from Youth leaders to mission-trip goers, from hard-working staff to discerning Session and Deacon Boards, your good works give **Glory to God**.

Gifts of money that make a difference

- You bless TPC with unprecedented [gifts of treasure](#) which, in turn, provide the necessary resources to **fulfill God’s purpose**.
- Memorial gifts in memory of Elsie DeGarmo-Smith, John Dillon, Carol Morton, Lois Robinson, Al Weaver

"Christ has no body now,
but yours. No hands, no
feet on earth, but yours.
Yours are the eyes through
which Christ looks
compassion into the world.
Yours are the feet with
which Christ walks to do
good. Yours are the hands
with which Christ blesses
the world."

Saint Teresa of Avila



And the response continues...

Inclusive - Spreading God's love

- The pandemic-induced technological advances are here to stay. TPC commits to move forward with investments in communications. We explore ways to enable our older population, who may be less tech savvy, to virtually participate with us.
- The **CORE Committee** reaches out to those who found TPC online during the pandemic.

Curious - Learning and growing

- [Join TPC](#) as we explore John Mark Comer's book *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*.

Compassionate - Offering God's support

- Financial mission efforts to assist our neighbors in need continue as resources become available.
- Food insecurity causes more than just hunger pains. The **Mission Outreach Committee**, alongside Mt. Calvary AME Church, explore a *Weekend Takeaway Hot Soup Meal* to ease the suffering of our nearby food insecure communities.

Courageous - Planning for regathering

- Session and various committees vision and work towards a post-pandemic church that incorporates the best of in-person and virtual ministry!
- The **Regathering Team** continues to work toward a safe and healthy return to in-person worship services.
- The **Property Committee** plans major expenditures to improve the air circulation in our Sanctuary.
- Two [new rain gardens](#) will reduce the stormwater runoff and pollution from our church building and parking lot.



Inclusive Curious Compassionate Courageous

STATISTICAL REPORT

In a year like no other, when time seemed to stand still, TPC keeps moving forward

- 65% increase in web visits over 2019 -- 17,618 vs 10,664
- More than 47,000 views of our Facebook videos
- From 384 to 528 Facebook page likes (+37.5%)
- From 392 to 445 email subscribers (+13.5%)
- Total Active Membership Roll declines from 524 on 12/31/19 to 458 on 12/31/20 due to deactivation of inactive members, death, or transfer of membership. Unable to hold new member classes, there were no roll additions, but plans to remedy that are underway.

NECROLOGY

Elsie DeGarmo-Smith
 Todd Goodrich
 Betsy Hedeman
 Patricia Hoopes
 Carol McCord

Carol Morton
 Mary Jane "Kelly"
 Paxton
 Lois Robinson
 Edward Roth

John Ruxton
 Jack Smith
 Mary Louise Snyder
 Bosley Tawney
 Alva Weaver

Joye Wilhide
 Alexandra (Sandy)
 Williams

BOARDS AND STAFF

Session

Class of 2021
 Dotsie Bregel
 Tim Burkett
 Craig Miller

Class of 2022
 Katie Cashin
 Lenore Chapman
 Patty Rath

Class of 2023
 Kevin McKenna
 Katie McDougal
 Chris Walbert

Deacons

Class of 2021
 Mary Blann
 Sandi Burt
 Pat Keller
 Viraj Mehta
 Patty O'Brien
 Liza Salemi
 Susan Shockley
 Liz White

Class of 2022
 Shirley Albert
 Beth Bugg
 Joseph Clark
 Rob Culp
 Alex Foley
 Kim Labrique
 Ann Miller
 Barbara Plunkett

Class of 2023
 Jennifer Bolster
 Bill Klady
 Cass Mairs
 Rosemary Nicolosi
 Ann Phillips
 Thomas Sheggrud
 Steve Swift
 Ellen Tully

Staff

The Rev. Rob Carter, Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Joel Strom, Associate Pastor
 Stephen Harouff, Director of Music and Organist
 Jenness Hall, Director of Children & Family Ministry
 Open, Administrative & Communications Coordinator

Kathryn Bojanowski, Business Administrator
 Leslie Foretich, Towson Presbyterian Preschool
 Walter Austin, Sexton
 The Rev. Dr. George Gray Toole, Pastor Emeritus