



WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter December 2022



On the Congregational Meeting January 22, 2023
(Snow date January 29, 2023)
Pastor Steven & Council Chair Charlie Dell

On January 22, 2023, we will have one church service at 10:00 am. It will be followed by a congregational meeting dealing with the issue of disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church (UMC). We will discuss what this could possibly mean for the future of Ward's Chapel.

As a pastor and a leader of Ward's Chapel, we want to inform you of two things. First, we strongly encourage all members to attend. You may feel that it is not necessary, or you may not be interested in this, but the impact from this meeting is not small. Second, we are still hearing some misunderstandings and incorrect information. This session will be a good chance for you to get clear and transparent information about the disaffiliation process.

What does disaffiliation mean? Why now?

It is a process by which a church (as a group not an individual) would vote to leave the UMC with its property over such issues as how to be in ministry with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. This issue has been debated by the General Conference delegates in every session since 1972, but we are still figuring out what the best option will be. At this time, nothing has changed in the Book of Discipline (our book of law) regarding these issues and we expect more petitions (proposals) will be brought before the General Conference in 2024 on how to include LGBTQ Christians in our faith community with harmony. A limited opportunity is being given by our Annual Conference (Baltimore-Washington) with certain restrictions and guidelines to leave the UMC.

What we decide at the meeting

If at the conclusion of the meeting, a majority of the members feel we do not need to pursue this process, we will remain United Methodist. If a majority feels we need to pursue leaving the UMC, additional meetings will need to be held involving the District Superintendent and possibly other conference staff. A three-month discernment process must be followed. At the end of that process a two-thirds majority vote of the members would be required to disaffiliate from the UMC. By paying off a sizable financial requirement at the end of 2023 (12/31/2023), a local church can leave the UMC with their property.

We encourage everyone to check out the websites below. This information is from a Town Hall meeting with our Bishop, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling in October.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VayeZQl3RGY>

Frequently asked questions

<https://www.bwcumc.org/faq-on-disaffiliation/>

We will give every opportunity for members to voice their opinions, express their concerns and raise questions at this meeting.

Blessings,

Pastor Steven Cho

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

FINANCE

Please find the latest update near the end of the newsletter.

Bill Showman, Chair

PROGRAM MINISTRIES

MISSIONS

Food Pantry

We are so grateful for the MANY donations of food items, money, and gift cards to our Food Pantry. Please continue to check the website for our needs.

Please see the full list on the church website for our regular needs. **Please see below for what items we need to re-stock our shelves, plus, the special requests for this month:**

- breakfast bars
- syrup
- tuna
- chicken
- dry soup
- ravioli
- spaghetti sauce



December SPECIAL REQUESTS:

- ham
- scalloped potatoes
- cream of mushroom soup
- pie filling

Remember that you can send me a copy of your receipts if you make purchases and that amount can go towards your yearly giving.

Any questions about our pantry, donations or volunteering can be made to Wendy Miller by texting/calling our Food Pantry number 410-756-0665. Thanks so much!

Wendy Miller, Missions Chair

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## PRESCHOOL

What a wonderful time of year to be a preschooler! Surrounded by the sparkling lights and festive decorations, the children are eagerly

preparing for their Christmas programs, making gifts for their families, and baking cookies. In the midst of the excitement, it is easy for children to lose sight of what is the true meaning of Christmas. At preschool, we stress the importance of the gift of God's son, Jesus, and the grace of the Nativity Story.

In addition to preparing for Jesus' birthday, December brings the construction of gingerbread houses and gumdrop trees. The 2s will hear about the nativity story, the Wiseman will drop in on his way to find the newborn King for the 3s, and a wayward shepherd will find his way to the 4s chapel time. This month, the four-year-olds will visit the BSO for a special holiday program. Finally, as part of our Kids to Kids program, the students will be collecting Golden books to be donated to the children's ward and emergency department of Carroll Hospital Center.

We had a very successful coat drive during November. Six boxes of coats, cold weather gear, underwear, and socks went to Hernwood Elem. School. They have many families in need and very much appreciated the donations! Have a blessed holiday!

Fondly,  
Ms. Bridget

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Operation Christmas Child:** Thank you for your postage donation for the 60 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes the Youth Group assembled!! We will be able to cover the whole postage plus some!

**Mitten Tree:** The Mitten Tree for Board of Child Care collection **continues** through Sunday, December 11th. We will collect new mittens/gloves, hats, scarves, socks and underwear for kids though age 21. A majority of the children are teenagers, so larger sizes are appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

**Family Advent** will be December 4 during the Sunday School hour. All families are invited to join us as we celebrate the Christmas season together. We will have a game, art activity and of course, we will prepare our own snack.

**Mission work:** Our younger Sunday School classes packed bags in November for the Food Pantry clients. They also assembled 10 Senior Christmas gift bags for the Westminster Rescue Mission.

Julie Weller

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## WORSHIP

**Altar Care:** As we begin our journey into the Advent Season, we thought it might be nice to share the

reasons behind the changes you may notice on our Altar.

The white vestments (cloths) signify joy and festivity. We use white during High Holy Days - like Communion and the Christmas and Easter Seasons.

The purple vestments (cloths) represent penitence and royalty. Purple is typically used during seasons of preparation - such as preparation for Christmas (Advent) and preparation for Easter (Lent).

So, when you look up at our Altar next Sunday, think about why the vestments are the color they are and rejoice!

Stay tuned for future Altar Care insights.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help with the honor of preparing Communion and changing our Altar cloths.

If you are curious, please contact anyone in our Altar Care Group.

We would love to have you join us!

- Lisa Ruff
- Lynn Maclary
- Kathy Blank
- Betty Roach
- Cindy Chambers

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Emergency Information**

On Sunday, November 13, we held our first fire drills after the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

Just a few reminders in an emergency...

- We have a maximum of 2 minutes to evacuate the building.
- The door you used to enter the building may not be available – know your other exits!
- If possible, help those in need.
- Leave your belongings – don't take the time to gather your things or put on a coat.
- Know where the nearest fire extinguisher, AED and first aid kits are located.
- We will all meet at the far end of the lower parking lot to be sure everyone has evacuated the building.

### **Annual Candlelight Advent Service at the Strawbridge Shrine**

Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 pm in the Log Meeting House in New Windsor.

Come and celebrate the season with this simple Lessons and Carols style service. Worship as our forebearers might have in the authentic re-creation of the first Methodist

house of worship in America. The perfect antidote to holiday overload! Free!

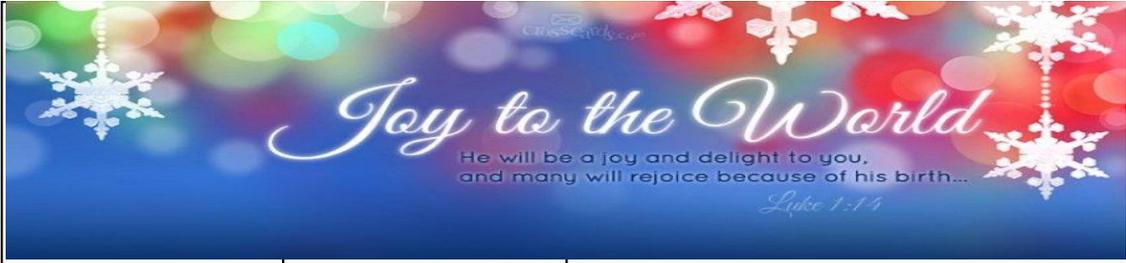
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## **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

Please pray for those who are not able to join us for worship due to health issues.

- Barbara & Carl Hartman – at home
- Bert Rushing – Golden Crest Assisted Living
- Dorothy Miller – Transitions Oakland Manor, **Rm.D**
- Janet Feezer – at home
- Janis Miller – at home
- Lulu Karagjozi – Lorien Encore
- Margaret Hare – at home
- Marguerite Knauff – Lighthouse Senior Living
- Mary Libby Green – at home
- Ralph Fletcher – at home

# December 2022

| Sunday                                                                                | Monday    | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                                                                                                         | Thursday                                                                                     | Friday                      | Saturday                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      |           |           |                                                                                                                                   | <b>1</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)<br>Online Prayer Mtg.<br>7:00 PM | <b>2</b><br><br>4-H 7:00 PM | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                             |
| <b>4</b><br><br>Sunday School<br>Family Advent Project<br>9:45am (FH)                 | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br><br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am                                                                                           | <b>8</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                  | <b>9</b>                    | <b>10</b><br><br>Private Event<br>in FH<br>10 am-6 pm                                                                                |
| <b>11</b><br><br>Strawbridge Shrine<br>Candlelight Svc.<br>4:00 PM                    | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br><br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br>Liberty Goodtimers<br>11:30 am<br><b>Lampighter<br/>                     Deadline</b> | <b>15</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                 | <b>16</b>                   | <b>17</b><br><br>Food Pantry<br>9am-11am                                                                                             |
| <b>18 Heifer Sunday</b>                                                               | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br><br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am                                                                                          | <b>22</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                 | <b>23</b>                   | <b>24</b> <br><br>7 pm - Candlelight<br>Service |
| <b>25 Christmas</b><br><br>Pre-recorded<br>worship service<br>available on<br>YouTube | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br><br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am                                                                                          | <b>29</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                 | <b>30</b>                   | <b>31</b>                                                                                                                            |

Wards Chapel UMC Operating Fund  
Year to Year Comparison as of Oct 2022

**YTD Financial Summary:**

The overall financial position of the church Operating Fund is sufficient to remain current on all obligations through year-end.

Offering continues to show slippage from 2021. A detailed review is underway with an update planned for the next Church Council meeting.

We have two issues that have caused the significant increase in Blding and Grounds. Our BGE bill has increased \$5,500 from 2021. It appears mostly rates related but we are reviewing utilization also. The second issue is related to the outside lift. We had significant testing and maintenance charges in October. This will not be a recurring issue.

Apportionments are current. The 5% reduction from the prior year is based on a reduction of the Conference charge.

|                                        | <u>Oct YTD Amounts</u> |                    | <u>Incr/(Deer)</u><br><u>2021 to 2022</u> |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|
|                                        | <u>2021</u>            | <u>2022</u>        |                                           |
| <b><u>Total Gifts (sources):</u></b>   |                        |                    |                                           |
| Offering                               | \$ 179,862             | \$ 169,444         | \$ (10,418) -6%                           |
| Other Donations (note 1)               | \$ 13,250              | \$ 16,500          | 3,250 25%                                 |
| <b>Total Support to Operating Fund</b> | <u>\$ 193,112</u>      | <u>\$ 185,944</u>  | <u>\$ (7,168) -4%</u>                     |
| <b><u>Expense:</u></b>                 |                        |                    |                                           |
| Blding/Grounds                         | \$ 48,017              | \$ 58,457          | \$ 10,440 22%                             |
| Ed./Ministry                           | \$ 3,733               | \$ 4,395           | \$ 662 18%                                |
| Apportionments                         | \$ 31,033              | \$ 29,578          | \$ (1,434) -5%                            |
| Pastoral/Staff/Office                  | \$ 141,504             | \$ 142,830         | \$ 1,235 1%                               |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                   | <u>\$ 224,357</u>      | <u>\$ 235,260</u>  | <u>\$ 10,903 5%</u>                       |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>               | <u>\$ (31,245)</u>     | <u>\$ (49,316)</u> |                                           |
| <b>Available Cash on Hand</b>          |                        | 3,603              |                                           |

note 1 - other donations consist of Preschool funding of \$750 per month while school is in session, Parsonage Endowment of \$3,750 at the end of each quarter, R W Feezer Foundation annual gift and other one time gifts.

Ward's Chapel United Methodist Church  
11023 Liberty Road  
Randallstown, MD 21133



## Christmas Eve Service

December 24

7 pm Candlelight Service

## Christmas Day Service

December 25

Pre-recorded service  
available on YouTube

