



WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter September 2021



Re-Formation

We have looked at the meaning of the church this summer and I think it is very important to plan for Ward's Chapel after COVID. And I have thrown out this question to you, "What does Ward's Chapel mean to you?"

There are different ways to define things. If someone asks you "How are you doing?" then you may answer, "I am good!" However, at the same time, you may share with the person about your recent change, or your new job, or your family, or your current medical issues. So, you have different ways of expressing how you are doing.

Same to our church question. Who are we as part of Ward's Chapel? We are Christians. We are Protestants. We are Methodists. Also, some may answer, they are on the liberal side of Methodists, or on the conservative side. Different definitions can be chosen.

But, today I want to share about this, we as *Protestants*. This is a concept that we use to define ourselves compared to the Roman Catholic tradition. And it is a very important clue to know who we are. In the sixteenth century, there was a courageous German priest who consistently tried to incorporate what he believed and what the Roman Catholic Church taught. Then he was not satisfied with the atmosphere because his questions were often disregarded. In the end, he posted a whole list of questions, called *Ninety-Five Theses*. This one brought up serious questions on certain teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, for example, *indulgences* (a way of reducing eternal punishment by paying money), and *purgatory* (a place where people with sin stay before going to hell). That's why Martin Luther became an undeniably symbolic figure who started a huge change in our church history.

However, that is just one way of interpreting our history. The truth was about the Protestant movement was that it began not simply because a smart person asked some serious questions, but also, the sacred desire and need of the time period and of the people was growing. In the sixteenth century, there was no Bible for the laities or just ordinary people (only the Latin version existed for the priests), and the church was protected by a strong hierarchy. Most of all, the church taught that people can be saved by action (also called the work of the people) such as paying more money to buy the ticket to heaven, (indulgence). But, people realized that the Bible teaches that we can only be saved by the grace of God through faith. This was the real reason and how the Reformation began.

As we plan the re-visioning process together this fall, I named this project, "Re-Formation." We know it's time to move forward and we should initiate some important plans for the future when we feel that we still have time. But my whole idea is that it is not about only one or two people starting this, such as *key members, lay leaders or the pastor*. But the eagerness and full participation from the congregation should become a critical catalyst to re-directing the ways for our church, Ward's Chapel.

I know we have done so well, and many church members and leaders have beautifully worked together. Then now I humbly ask you to pay attention to this new project "Re-Formation" to find God's direction for the future generation of this beautiful congregation. Please watch for an announcement about this project and share your wisdom with me. Thank you!

Pastor Steven Cho

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

FINANCE

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

Bill Showman, Chair

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### TRUSTEES

Since our last meeting in May, the Trustees have been hard at work this summer. A BIG *Thank You* to Keiler Brian for all his invaluable help! We have quite a list of projects accomplished or in the works...

- New solid wood, adjustable shelving was installed in the Fellowship Hall closet, particularly to help the Food Pantry with storage. That closet also holds the audio equipment, some Cookie Bake, Roast Beef Supper, and Preschool items, plus Big Bertha (the mixer).
- Beautiful matching cabinets were custom made for the Fellowship Hall. These will hold storage for groups like Liberty Good Timers, AA, the Funeral Committee, Nurture, etc.
- The floors in the building were stripped and waxed in mid-August. We used the same company as last time, AA Quality Cleaning, and they did a spectacular job. A few rooms that were used in frequently or that were filled with yard sale items were not done. If you see any issues, please point them out to me.
- Since the completion of construction in 2014, we have had a major issue with water running into the building from the handicapped ramp/stairs on the west side of the building. It floods around a poorly designed pad and an inadequate drain under the door into the 4s preschool classroom, the HVAC closet and the storeroom. The subfloor was destroyed by mold and water damage

down to the original oak floor. The subfloor has been removed and replaced as well as new tile laid. A temporary attempt to block the water has been installed at the top of the stairs, but a more permanent solution will be installed as soon as possible.

- In early June, there was a traffic accident at the intersection and two panels of our fence were damaged. The driver's insurance company is paying for replacements and repairs to be made. RMC Welding will be completing that work.
- We are in the process of obtaining quotes for the exterior painting of the sanctuary and possibly the Fellowship Hall. The building would be power washed and hand scraped, and would include the peak of the sanctuary, the doors and frames, the pillars, railings and soffits. Because of backlogs and weather, it may not be completed until the spring.
- New ceiling fans will be installed in the sanctuary. They will be easier to operate and match the chandeliers. We will also have the spotlights over the pulpit repaired/replaced while the electrician is available. Lights have been replaced in the cross on the wall to bring it back to full brightness. Some other minor electrical issues have been corrected this summer as well.

As always, please let me know if you notice anything that needs attention in or around the building.

Bridget Wetzel

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## PROGRAM MINISTRIES

### MISSIONS

## **Food Pantry**

A huge thank you for all of the donations to the Food Pantry!

Please see the list below for our regular needs list plus the special needs for this month:

- Grocery Bags---especially handled brown bags and Aldi reusable plastic bags
- personal hygiene items (male and female)
  - shampoo, body wash, lotion, deodorant, shaving cream
- feminine products
- antibacterial wipes
- trash bags
- tissues
- baked beans
- green beans
- pasta
- spaghetti sauce
- canned potatoes
- rice
- macaroni and cheese
- canned fruit or applesauce
- toilet paper
- cereal (popular ones are Raisin Bran, Honey Nut Cheerios and "kids" brands)
- canned chicken or tuna
- pancake mix & syrup
- peanut butter
- jelly
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**



We have some people that come to us with diabetes and we can always use no sugar/substitute sugar variety of items.

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

Please remember to **check expiration dates** if you are donating from your pantry.

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Yard Sale

Missions Annual Yard Sale is being held on Saturday, September 25th from 8am-1pm. The yard sale supports our food pantry mission so come and buy some things! New this year will be a plant table where you can purchase potted plants—indoor/outdoor, succulents,

pots and planters.

There will be lots of opportunities to volunteer—setting up, helping on the day, cleaning up, and hauling away the leftovers. If you would like to help, please contact Wendy Miller.

Last call for donating items will be Sunday, September 19th.

Wendy Miller
Missions Chairperson

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## **PRESCHOOL**



Finally! The preschool is opening after a year of being closed for the pandemic and we're all excited to be back. School begins on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Why we chose to close last year and our policies for this year are based on the same principle – children need the focus of social and emotional development in their early years – something that our preschool has always provided. They are unable to get those important interactions when they, and the staff, must wear masks and enforce social distancing. It's the exact opposite of what early childhood education should be.

Anyone can successfully argue both the pros and cons of the mask-wearing debate; there is a plethora of information to support both sides. Rather than force individual views by mandating a policy on masks, for now it will be a parental choice if their child wears a face covering. We will be implementing random health screening and have strict policies in place for any illnesses. If we do run into a hiccup, we will cross that bridge when we come to it.

We are looking forward to a healthy and successful year!

Fondly,  
Ms. Bridget

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hilda Reisberg

December 31, 1919 - July 4, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists Needed: I will be contacting people that were on the Liturgist/Lay Reader schedule before the pandemic to see if they are still interested. Please contact the church office (wardschapel@verizon.net or 410-922-6556) if you are interested in reading the scriptures during worship services. There are detailed instructions available for anyone unsure of what's involved. Thank you! ~Clarice

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**Greeters/Ushers Needed:** I will also be contacting people who were listed on the Greeters and Ushers schedule before the pandemic. Please contact the church office ([wardschapel@verizon.net](mailto:wardschapel@verizon.net) or 410-922-6556) if you are interested in being a Greeter or Usher for Sunday services. There are detailed instructions available for anyone unsure of what's involved. Thank you! ~Clarice

**Worship Schedule update:** Our last 10:00 am service will be September 12. We will resume our regular schedule on September 19 with Worship at 8:30 am and 11:00 am. Sunday School for ALL ages will be at 9:45 am.

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Thank you: Thank you so much for the retirement gifts presented to me on recognition Sunday. The framed appreciation of service is beautiful and the words are so kind. Using the restaurant gift cards will be really nice--eating out is one of my favorite things. The key to the church is so unique. Presenting me with the opportunity to occasionally stop in to play the organ is an honor. The 56 years that I was your organist were truly a pleasure. As I have said many times, I enjoyed every minute.
Love, Beverly Carter

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**School Supplies Collection** - Welcome Back to School! We are collecting school supplies for the food pantry and local schools now through 9/12. A box for the supplies is located in the Narthex. Thank you for your support.

**Sunday School** - Please join us at the last one summer service on **September 12th**. During the service, we will introduce the youth Sunday School classes and teachers for the upcoming year. **Children and teachers are encouraged to bring their backpack for a special back-to-school blessing.**

We are excited to begin *in-person* **Sunday School classes on September 19th** at 9:45 am! We will have 3 youth classes: Preschool/Kindergarten, Elementary age and older youth. We welcome Mike Blank and Ben Palmer to the older youth class and are thankful to all our teachers for their dedication. As of this writing, masks for the children is a parent decision. Please do what is most comfortable and best for your family. If you need more information about Sunday School, please contact Julie Weller.

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**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

Please pray for those who are not able to join us for worship, due to health issues. You are encouraged to send them a note of encouragement or call to let them know you are thinking of them and keeping them in prayer, along with those caring for them.

- Barbara & Carl Hartman - at home
- Dorothy Miller - Transitions Oakland Manor
- Ellen Greenwood - at home
- Emily Durkee - at home
- Janet Feezer - at home
- Lulu Karagjozi - Encore Ellicott City
- Margaret Hare - at home
- Marguerite Knauff - Lighthouse Senior Living
- Mary Libby Green - at home

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**Wards Chapel UMC Operating Fund**  
**Year to Year Comparison as of July 2021**

**YTD Financial Summary:**

During 2021 we plan to compare Offering and Expense to 2019 levels (pre-pandemic) to assess our financial position as we attempt to return to normal. 2020 had reduced expenses due to total shut down for several months and Offering gift receipts also did not follow normal giving patterns.

Offering has increased 5% (\$6,028) from 2019. July had one large annual offering. As of June YTD we were 3% behind 2019 giving.

Expense continues to trend as expected and is very similar to 2019 Expense. The current increase from 2019 is due to timing of insurance payments.

The threshold for staff bonus of 1% was not met. The general offering for Jan-Jun 2021 was \$3,487 less than the same period for 2019. We will review again in Dec for the Jul-Dec period.

We continue to maintain a strong cash reserve balance due to the December 2020 R Wayne Feezer Foundation gift.

|                                        | <u>July YTD Amounts</u> |                   |                    | <u>Incr/(Decr)</u>  |             |                     |             |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                                        | <u>2019</u>             | <u>2020</u>       | <u>2021</u>        | <u>2019 to 2021</u> |             | <u>2020 to 2021</u> |             |
| <b><u>Total Gifts (sources):</u></b>   |                         |                   |                    |                     |             |                     |             |
| Offering                               | \$ 125,698              | \$ 128,421        | \$ 131,726         | \$ 6,028            | 5%          | \$ 3,305            | 3%          |
| Other Donations (note 1 & 2)           | \$ 33,993               | \$ 41,373         | \$ 9,300           | (24,693)            | -73%        | (32,073)            | -78%        |
| <b>Total Support to Operating Fund</b> | <u>\$ 159,691</u>       | <u>\$ 169,794</u> | <u>\$ 141,026</u>  | <u>\$ (18,665)</u>  | <u>-12%</u> | <u>\$ (28,768)</u>  | <u>-17%</u> |
| <b><u>Expense:</u></b>                 |                         |                   |                    |                     |             |                     |             |
| Blding/Grounds                         | \$ 34,523               | \$ 29,554         | \$ 36,696          | \$ 2,173            | 6%          | \$ 7,142            | 24%         |
| Ed./Ministry                           | \$ 3,070                | \$ 2,661          | \$ 2,655           | (415)               | -14%        | \$ (6)              | 0%          |
| Apportionments                         | \$ 19,564               | \$ 20,987         | \$ 21,710          | 2,146               | 11%         | \$ 723              | 3%          |
| Pastoral/Staff/Office                  | \$ 101,730              | \$ 100,430        | \$ 100,260         | (1,470)             | -1%         | \$ (170)            | 0%          |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                   | <u>\$ 158,887</u>       | <u>\$ 153,632</u> | <u>\$ 161,321</u>  | <u>\$ 2,434</u>     | <u>2%</u>   | <u>\$ 7,689</u>     | <u>5%</u>   |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>               | <u>\$ 804</u>           | <u>\$ 16,163</u>  | <u>\$ (20,295)</u> |                     |             |                     |             |
| <b>Available Cash on Hand</b>          |                         |                   | \$ 36,126          |                     |             |                     |             |

*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.*

# September 2021

| Sunday                                                                   | Monday | Tuesday                                              | Wednesday                                                                                                   | Thursday                                                    | Friday                | Saturday                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                                                          |        |                                                      | 1<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am (FH)                                                                           | 2<br><br>Online Prayer Mtg.<br>7:00 PM                      | 3                     | 4                                 |
| 5<br>Worship at<br>10:00 am                                              | 6      | 7                                                    | 8<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am (FH)                                                                           | 9<br>Feed My Sheep @<br>Wesley Freedom UMC<br>9 am-12:30 pm | 10<br><br>4-H 7:00 PM | 11                                |
| 12<br>Worship at<br>10:00 am                                             | 13     | 14<br><br>Church Council<br>7:00 PM                  | 15<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am (narthex)<br>Liberty Goodtimers<br>11:30 am<br><b>Lampighter<br/>Deadline</b> | 16                                                          | 17                    | 18<br><br>Food Pantry<br>9am-11am |
| 19<br>Worship at<br>8:30 am &<br>11:00 am<br>Sunday School<br>at 9:45 am | 20     | 21<br><br>SPRC 7:00 pm                               | 22<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am (FH)                                                                          | 23                                                          | 24                    | 25                                |
| 26<br>Worship at<br>8:30 am &<br>11:00 am<br>Sunday School<br>at 9:45 am | 27     | 28<br><br>Star Fellowship<br>6:00 PM<br>at Bullock's | 29<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am (FH)                                                                          | 30                                                          | 31                    |                                   |

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

**Regular worship schedule resumes**  
**September 19 at 8:30 and 11:00 am.**  
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45.

**Online resources**  
**to view our worship service:**

Visit our website at [www.wardschapel.org](http://www.wardschapel.org)



Visit our Facebook page  
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**Ward's Chapel United Methodist Church**