



# WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

*The Lamplighter April 2024*



As Easter fades into memory, we find ourselves entering what we might call "ordinary Sundays" in our church calendar. It's a time when the flurry of activities from Christmas to Easter subsides, allowing us a moment to catch our breath and reflect on the profound lessons embedded in our scriptures. But let's not mistake ordinary for mundane. In fact, it's quite the opposite. This is a time ripe for action and response, where we integrate those teachings into our daily lives. What else we can do in this season, in these ordinary weeks?

In the midst of our reflections, there's a call for something more: laughter. Yes, laughter—a seemingly simple act with profound significance. In "The Ecstasy of Laughter," Jürgen Moltmann beautifully captures the essence of Easter laughter as an act of defiance in the face of hope. It's the laughter of those who, like slaves awaiting deliverance, know that liberation is not just a distant dream but a tangible reality, whether in this life or the next.

This laughter is not superficial; it's deep and soul-stirring. It's the kind that fills your gut, brings tears to your eyes, and leaves you gasping for breath. It's the laughter of those who have tasted freedom after the darkest of nights, much like the captives returning to Zion in Psalm 126, whose mouths were filled with laughter and tongues with songs of joy. Their deliverance was like a dream—a reality too good to be true, yet undeniably real.

As we join in this Easter laughter, we connect with a timeless tradition of hope and redemption. We stand alongside generations past and present, who have known the depths of despair only to be lifted up by the hand of God. Indeed, God has the last laugh, turning sorrow into joy and futility into purpose. It is time to celebrate the goodness of God by sharing your hope with holy laughter.

So, as we embrace these "ordinary Sundays," let's do so with hearts filled with action and laughter. Let's carry the spirit of Easter with us, knowing that even in the midst of our daily routines, God's deliverance is ever-present.

May this season be one of renewed faith, profound reflection, and contagious laughter. Blessings to you all as we journey together in faith and joy.

With love and grace,  
Pastor Steven

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## ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

### FINANCE

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

Bill Showman, Chair

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### TRUSTEES

The roof scan results are in. The Trustees have decided to go ahead with the suggested repairs. Once these repairs are completed, we can begin to renovate the bathrooms in the Fellowship Hall hallway.

Spring is here so our mulching has been completed. Greg Stacho is going to look into some plants that will not grow up over our sign. Those mums were just out-of-hand!

Unfortunately, there was another accident on our little corner on Monday, March 18. No one was seriously injured, other than our fence. This is the fifth time since June 2021 that we have had an accident damage the fence or the sign. The fence was originally installed by the State Highway Administration when the road was widened in 2012. Because the fence could not be matched, by them or any of my research, we have had to have it custom-made each time it's destroyed. RMC Welding in Mt. Airy has always done the cleanup and repairs for us. Regrettably, I've become quite good at the steps required to deal with the insurance company and see to replacements.

Bridget

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## 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:**

- soup
- peanut butter
- jelly
- spaghetti
- spaghetti sauce
- mac n cheese



#### March SPECIAL REQUESTS:

- toilet cleaner
- paper towels

Keep in mind, we will take donations of any nearly new items such as clothes, towels, sheets, blankets, etc.!

Any food items should be **checked for expiration dates** before donating!

Remember students can receive volunteer hours for helping at the food pantry so if you are interested please contact Wendy at wrmille@gmail.com or texting/calling our Food Pantry number 410-756-0665. Thanks so much!

Wendy Miller, Missions Chair

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### PRESCHOOL



Thank you to all the church members who supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> Preschool Prize Palooza! We will know shortly what our profit is, but I can tell you that we had over \$6,000 worth of prizes including children's book baskets, a summer fun basket, a BBQ themed basket, Maryland-themed basket, and two baskets from vendors of downtown Sykesville,

two from Eldersburg sponsors, Braglio Farms, and so many more! Good luck if you purchased a ticket!

During Lent, the preschool collected coins to purchase Baskets of Hope from Heifer International. As of this writing, it looks like we'll be able to purchase at least FOUR baskets, if not more. An anonymous supporter slipped \$100 in the bottom of the collection basket – Thank you! We pray that the rabbits, chicks and ducks are a great gift to those that receive them.

April will bring lessons in life cycles, farms, gardens and all things spring. We're hoping that some spring weather turns up to help it all make sense. Visit the incubators and caterpillars in the classrooms while they're there.

The 4s visited the American Visionary Arts Museum right before Easter and saw some incredible alternate forms of art. My favorite is the life-sized aluminum foil gorilla. There's the scale-model toothpick Lusitania, the Bling Collection of all things mosaic, robots, and Fifi – the giant pink poodle float. A unique experience each time you go.

We will all visit farms in April. The 2s will go to the Condon Family's Playtime Pastures in Granite and the 3s will visit Sharp's Farm in Howard County to see animals, plants and go for a hayride. The 4s will visit Buppert's Farm in Eldersburg to note the changes since our fall visit. They'll also plant their own vegetables and learn the importance of bees in the pollination cycle.

Seven down, two months to go!

Ms. Bridget

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

This year, for our Lenten activity, the families created artwork for the Sunday School hallway. Take some time and stroll down to see the creations of our artists young and old!

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.

- Barbara Hartman – at home
- Bert Rushing – Golden Crest Assisted Living
- Diana Balick – at home
- Janet Feezer – at home
- Janis Miller – at Future Care Old Court
- Jean Haines – at Homewood at Plum Creek
- Lulu Karagjozi – Lorien Encore
- Margaret Hare – at home
- Mary Libby Green – at home (*at Jay's*)
- Ralph Fletcher – at home

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Nursery Volunteers-** We need at least four nursery volunteers for the 11:00 am service. We would like to share the joy of the children so that each person volunteers one time per month. The children go down to play in the 2s room after the Children's Message until the end of the service. Children aged kindergarten and under are welcome. If you are interested, please contact Clarice in the church office: [wardschapel@verizon.net](mailto:wardschapel@verizon.net) or 410-922-6556.

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**Book Recommendation:** I received the book *Mostly What God Does* by Savannah Guthrie for my birthday. The book reads like you are sitting down with her at the kitchen table. It made me think about my own faith journey. There is no deep theological jargon just plain talk (with some very familiar Bible verses) that made sense to me. If you have a chance to read it, I highly recommend it. Carol Parker

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**Scholarship Opportunity:** The R. Wayne Feezer Memorial Scholarship offered by Ward's Chapel United Methodist Church honors the memory of Wayne, an active lifetime member of the church, and is awarded annually to **church members** pursuing post-secondary education. Applicants are not limited to first-year students, yet when funds are limited, first-year applicants will be given

priority. Scholarships of up to \$5,000 per academic year will be awarded based on the following: **church membership\***, **church involvement**, community service, academic record, letters of recommendation, and financial need.

\*Please note, that to qualify for the scholarship, the **applicant must be a member of Ward’s Chapel United Methodist Church**. Recipients of the scholarship in the past, whose parents were members, but were not members themselves, will only be considered for future scholarships while pursuing the same degree program as when initially awarded the scholarship.

For any questions about membership or to join WCUMC, contact Pastor Steven Cho.

Applications will be available at the church office and on the website at: <http://www.wardschapel.org/R--W--Feezer-Scholarship.html> by **February 15**. Applications and all supporting documentation **must be submitted to the church office no later than May 1**. The number of scholarships and the amount will be announced on the first Sunday in June.

**Ward’s Chapel QR code:** Please use the QR code below to easily access our new church website! (If you don’t know how to scan a QR code with your phone, ask a tech-y friend or your favorite teenager, they’ll know!)



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**Yard Sales: Ward’s Chapel will be having a Yard Sale on May 11 from 9-12.** Please place any donations in the Sunday School room farthest from the elevator (it has an orange sign on the door.) If you are available to help with set-up the week before, please contact Wendy Miller.

Glyndon UMC will also be having their Yard Sale the same day from 8am-2 pm. The Glyndon Community Yard Sale and the Glyndon Vol Fire Dept Yard Sale are also that day. Start here early and get some great deals throughout the day!

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**First Fruits Farm** gives their food to the hungry and we have gotten donations from them for our food pantry. There are opportunities for us to volunteer to help at the farm with various activities. If you would like to join us for three hours one Saturday, please let Carol Parker or Clarice know. We would like to get a group together to go. Glyndon UMC will be going on the following dates and we could join them: July 13, Aug 3, Sept 7, Oct. 5, and Nov. 2. Please see the Farm’s 2023 Impart Report on the next few pages.

Blessed by an abundance of miracles in our 25th season and God's faithful provision, the Farm's **2023 Impact Report** offers a look back at some of the amazing highlights in our milestone year - we hope you enjoy!



# 2023

## *impact report*

25 YEARS OF BLESSING THE HUNGRY





## Prepping for Season #26

Even with the snow and cold temperatures, there is plenty happening at the Farm in the winter. From crop planning to maintenance and repairs, our team is busy preparing to expand production this season to feed more of our neighbors in need. The greenhouses are being prepped for tomato planting, and 50+ tons of seed potatoes are on their way to the Farm. The new Distribution Center continues to transform our operations, enabling us to accept food donations from local businesses and farms which we share with our network of 200+ regional partners. Additionally, focused efforts to maximize this expanded space are ongoing, allowing for a safer and more efficient workflow as we get ready for the new season.

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay up to date on the latest at First Fruits Farm. We hope to see you this season!



## Partnership in Education with Yorkwood Elementary

The Farm recently hosted teachers, staff, and volunteers from [Yorkwood Elementary School](#) and [Baltimore Hunger Project](#) to kick off our partnership in education for 2024. Students will be visiting us for field trips, and we'll be working together to build a school garden at their location. It's a wonderful way to bring the love and provision of the Farm directly to others!

Would your class or school be interested in a field trip or collaboration with the Farm to benefit your students? Our opportunities fill up quickly!

Visit [firstfruitsfarm.org/education](http://firstfruitsfarm.org/education) to learn more.



## Harvesting Lettuce in February!

Earlier this month, we began harvesting romaine lettuce from our greenhouses. We packaged over 900 pounds of lettuce for our distribution partners. The Farm's greenhouses are such a blessing, allowing us to grow farm-fresh food even in the cold winter months!

## Cornerstone COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM

Are you a business or organization interested in making a difference and helping your neighbors in need?

Join the Farm's **NEW**

**[Cornerstone Community Partners Program](#)** and help support our 2024 season!

**THANK YOU** to the following **Legacy Partners** for their commitment to our mission:

*Bunting Family Foundation  
Catholic Charities of Baltimore  
United Way of Central Maryland  
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston  
Archdiocese of Baltimore*



## Lancaster Farming: Growing in Faith

*by Carol and Rick Bernstein*

Their most recent article, "[Take a Break and Consider God's Plan Before Diving In](#)", is out now.

Catch up on Carol and Rick's monthly features in *Lancaster Farming* [here](#).

# First Fruits Farm 2024 Board of Directors

*We are grateful to these servant leaders for their vision, advocacy, and dedication to our mission.*

## Officers

**Richard Bernstein, President & Chair**  
*First Fruits Farm*

**Jack Cavanaugh, Vice President**  
*Brown Advisory*

**Mark Gardner, Secretary**  
*Baltimore County Fire Department, ret.*

**David Churchill, Treasurer**  
*Brown Advisory*

## Directors

**Joseph Arthur**  
*Central Pennsylvania Food Bank*

**Carol Bernstein**

**Carmen Del Guercio**  
*Maryland Food Bank*

**Aileen Eskildsen**  
*Ellin & Tucker*

**Jordan Martin**  
*Timac Agro USA*

**Timothy Perry, Esq.**  
*Perry White Ross Jacobson*

**Lucy Rutishauser**  
*Sinclair Broadcast Group*

**James Sellinger**  
*Archdiocese of Baltimore*



## Calling All Volunteers!

Join us for onion planting in April — we need volunteers on multiple days to help put 100,000 plants in the ground.

*Thank You*

to all who support First Fruits Farm and our mission to GROW  
MORE – GIVE MORE – SERVE MORE!

Wards Chapel UMC Operating Fund  
Year to Year Comparison as of Feb 2024

**YTD Financial Summary:**

Offering for Feb YTD historically low plus no Preschool giving. Both should be timing issue.

Expenses are running at projected levels with no unusual items to be noted.

|  | <u>Feb YTD Amounts</u> |                    | <u>Incr/(Decr)</u>  |               |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
|  | <u>2023</u>            | <u>2024</u>        | <u>2022 to 2023</u> |               |
| <b><u>Total Gifts (sources):</u></b>   |                        |                    |                     |               |
| Offering                               | \$ 29,987              | \$ 23,440          | \$ (6,547)          | -21.8%        |
| Other Donations (note 1 )              | \$ 1,500               | \$ -               | (1,500)             | -100.0%       |
| <b>Total Support to Operating Fund</b> | <b>\$ 31,487</b>       | <b>\$ 23,440</b>   | <b>\$ (8,047)</b>   | <b>-34.3%</b> |
| <b>Expense:</b>                        |                        |                    |                     |               |
| Blding/Grounds                         | \$ 13,975              | \$ 10,710          | \$ (3,265)          | -23.4%        |
| Ed./Ministry                           | \$ 1,579               | \$ 1,373           | (206)               | -13.0%        |
| Apportionments                         | \$ 5,607               | \$ 6,155           | 548                 | 9.8%          |
| Pastoral/Staff/Office                  | \$ 38,014              | \$ 36,930          | (1,084)             | -2.9%         |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                   | <b>\$ 59,175</b>       | <b>\$ 55,169</b>   | <b>\$ (4,006)</b>   | <b>-7.3%</b>  |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>               | <b>\$ (27,688)</b>     | <b>\$ (31,729)</b> |                     |               |

**Available Cash on Hand**

(6,578)

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 (this gift has increased to \$4,000 per quarter effective Dec 2023), R W Feezer Foundation annual gift and other one time gifts.



# April 2024

| Sunday   | Monday                    | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                | Saturday  |
|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|-----------------------|---|
|     | 1<br><br>Trustees 7:00 PM | 2  | 3<br><br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am  | 4<br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)<br><br>Online Bible Study<br>7:00 PM | 5                     | 6   |
| 7 Holy Communion<br>Sunday   | 8                         | 9<br><br><i>OFFICE closed</i><br><br>Church Council<br>7:00 PM | 10<br><br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br>Liberty Goodtimers<br>11:30 am<br><i>Lampighter<br/>Deadline</i> | 11<br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)<br><br>7 pm Men's Dinner            | 12<br><br>4-H 7:00 PM | 13  |
| 14<br>Praise & Worship<br>Sunday<br><br><i>Native American<br/>Ministries Sunday</i> | 15                        | 16<br><br>SPRC 7:00 PM   | 17<br><br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am   | 18<br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                     | 19                    | 20<br><br>Food Pantry<br>9am-11am<br><br>Community Fellowship<br>Event 3 - 5 pm       |
| 21 Heifer Sunday   | 22                        | 23<br><br>star renewsnp<br>12:00 pm                            | 24<br><br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am   | 25<br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                     | 26                    | 27  |
| 28   | 29                        | 30   | 31<br><br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am   |   |                       |  |

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



**Community Fellowship Event**

**Saturday, April 20**  
**3:00 – 5:00 Pm**  
**wards Chapel UMC**

**Food, Fun & Fellowship**

**FREE Admission**

**Live Music, good food, small gift for ages 70+**

**Music you can sing along with!**

The poster features a background of colorful bokeh lights in shades of yellow, green, and blue. In the center, there is a graphic of a pink treble clef and several musical notes in blue and red. The text is presented in various colored, rounded rectangular boxes: a red box at the top for the event title, an orange box for the date and time, another orange box for the location, a green box for the event theme, a blue box for admission, a yellow box for the gift information, and another green box for the music description.