



WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter March 2023



Brothers and sisters of Ward's Chapel, I really appreciate your love and full support to become truly Methodist during this chaotic period. I appreciate your support throughout not only the stressful news ranging from pandemic challenges to the different layers of conflict that we have witnessed, but also, we still have our denominational issues regarding sexual orientation.

The last congregational meeting was very satisfying and we had a clearer sense of the current stance of Ward's Chapel. We confirmed again that we are all different, and everyone can have different opinions on certain topics. The interpretation and personal understanding of the given topic in our meeting can vary, so it is not strange to see hurdles in our discussion. However, the major outcome that we have witnessed through the conversations, was that *Ward's Chapel will go together, no matter what*. To me, it was God's revelation about the future direction of the denomination beyond the local church's concern.

Holy Conferencing is the greatest lesson during this congregational process. This is a Methodist concept wherein we believe that God is convening the gathering of Methodists, and it is the way that we experience the grace of God. Even if we raised some critical questions about the decisions of our Annual Conference, and how it works, in the end, we seemed to have a better understanding of our structure. Local churches and our Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference are not different, because we send our representatives (one laity, and 1 clergy) to the yearly Annual Conference session, and they take care of most of the business during this time on behalf of their congregations. Still, we have some questions about the voice of the representatives of the congregations if their opinion is different than the majority of the local church. It can bring up more technical questions. However, we re-affirm that we belong to a faithful system, and we lean on God's mysterious guidance through the Holy Conferencing. That means we believe that God controls and we trust in the decisions and wisdom of the larger church bodies.

This is my promise regarding the appointment of our lay representative. We have the Nomination and Leadership Development Committee (aka Nomination Committee, the chair is the pastor) and their main job is to provide leadership resources and to find the best people in every position of the church committees once a year. Every fall, (before our Church Conference, a yearly meeting to deal with the local church's business) we hold a Nomination meeting to recruit members for the vacant positions and to nominate new candidates. Since we have discussed the concerns regarding fair communication with the Annual Conference, this fall, in the next nomination process, I will invite more people to church positions, and hold a meeting to brief them on the important agenda of the Annual Conference so as to make a clear and transparent communication.

Again, thank you for your sincere trust and amazing support for Ward's Chapel.

Blessings,

Pastor Steven

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

FINANCE

Over the past several years the offering received designated to the Operating Expense Fund has been declining. The Operating Expense Fund's purpose is to maintain our buildings, salaries, and other operating expenses. We have managed to keep our operating expense increases to an average of 1.3% per year for the last several years but last year's expenses did increase 4%. However, our offering decreased by 6% last year. Our active members have not decreased their giving, but instead the decrease is the result of losing active members.

We are very fortunate that we receive funds to support our operating expenses from the Preschool, Parsonage Endowment (Cemetery Assoc.) and the R. Wayne Feezer Foundation. These three sources have supplemented the offering received to cover operating expenses in the past but this year our expenses were 3.7% greater than our offering and other gifts. Without an increase in offering we anticipate this shortage to grow to 6% in 2023. As you review your budget and gifts to the church, please consider this information. Any increase no matter the amount will be helpful.

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:**



- pasta
- cereal (popular ones are Raisin Bran, Honey Nut Cheerios and "kids" brands)
- vegetable soup
- mac n cheese

- brownie mix
- boxes of mashed/scalloped potatoes

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 by texting/calling our Food Pantry number 410-756-0665. Thanks so much!

Wendy Miller, Missions Chair

PRESCHOOL



Thank you again to all the church members who supported the Super Bowl Sub Sale fundraiser for the Preschool! We sold a whopping 269 subs – thumping last year's record of 238! A HUGE thank you to Brian and Karen Jaeger for helping us cut all the meats and cheese and prep the produce!

Tickets go on sale March 1 for our second Preschool Prize Palooza. Tickets will still be \$20 and you have the chance to win one of 30 fantastic baskets, many valued at \$200+. Winners will be drawn daily during the month of April. Prizes this year include two children's book baskets, a pizza & pasta basket, Maryland-themed basket, and two baskets from vendors of downtown Sykesville, plus many more! If you'd like to purchase a ticket, please ask one of the staff.

In an effort to minimize our monthly losses, the preschool has modified our program offerings. We will no longer be offering a Thursday/Friday 2s class or an afternoon 4s class. We have also decided to limit the number of students in the Thursday/Friday 3s class. If current classes fill, we will consider opening others, still keeping in mind the need to operate in the black.

The Preschool children will be collecting coins during Lent for Heifer International. This year, the Preschool has chosen to sponsor pigs. This gift was chosen by the afternoon 4s class. Pigs are \$120 each and we hope to sponsor at least two.

We're looking forward to our chicks and butterflies hatching sometime late this month! If you're on the preschool level, feel free to check

on them in the classrooms.

Finally, the children will have speech, language and hearing assessments completed by Towson University's Audiology Dept., the 3s will go to the theatre to see *The Cat in the Hat*, and at the end of the month, the 4s will go to the Maryland Science Center.

We will also be having a Staff Team Building Day at Stratosphere Social. We'll be axe throwing and bowling then have a nice relaxing lunch. The staff works so very hard during the school year and we wish we could reward them with more. This is a small way for us to stay connected and unwind.

Ms. Bridget

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

This month we will prepare 20 Easter baskets for the Westminster Rescue Mission and prepare bags for the Food Pantry. With warm weather upon us, the older group will visit the Flying Duck Horse Farm Sanctuary to help clean up the horse area.

Family Lent will be Sunday, March 19 during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all families to participate, as we share in Lenten activities.

Julie Weller

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Good Friday:** Please join us for food and fellowship on Friday, April 7 beginning at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex in March for those planning to attend and also if they are able to bring a dish to share. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Parker.

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R. Wayne Feezer Scholarship: 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.

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.

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**Introducing Strawbridge Shrine Association:**

As Maryland residents, we should be so proud of the history and tradition of the United Methodism. Maryland is the birthplace of Methodism in the US, and we have a wonderful laity tradition from Robert Strawbridge.

Robert Strawbridge is recognized for establishing the Methodist movement in America. He held the first class meeting and organized the first enduring Methodist Societies. Even if he was a laity, he traveled throughout the colonies to deliver the Gospel to the people without faith. Strawbridge was a man of conviction and faith who preached in his home in what was then Sam's Creek, Maryland, and continued to establish Methodist Classes in other locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. He is remembered as an excellent singer and preacher, and his influence was out of proportion to his short life. Strawbridge died in 1781 on a preaching mission at about the age of 49, leaving behind a significant legacy.

To commemorate the wonderful work of Robert Strawbridge and the lay leaders that became the first seed of the abundant ministries and missions of our denomination, Strawbridge Shrine Association (501.c.3) was founded on June 18, 1937.

Our Mission Committee decided to support Strawbridge Shrine this year, and we planned a fieldtrip to this Shrine with our confirmands on April 1. If you want to join this trip, contact pastor Cho for more information.

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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  
Bev Carter – at home (at Diane's)  
Dorothy Miller – Transitions Oakland Manor, Rm.D-1  
Janet Feezer – at home  
Janis Miller – at home

Lulu Karagiozi – Lorien Encore  
Margaret Hare – at home  
Mary Libby Green – at home (at Jay's)  
Ralph Fletcher – at home

## Wards Chapel Preschool

# PRIZE PALOOZA

30 DAYS OF  
PRIZES IN APRIL

**TICKETS \$20**

**ONE PRIZE ISSUED EACH DAY,  
INCLUDING WEEKENDS!**

### PRIZES INCLUDE:

- Family Fun Night Basket
- Downtown Sykesville Basket
- Scratch-off Tree
- Kid's Summer Fun Basket
- Professional Photo Package
- Gift Card Basket
- Home Depot Gardening Basket
- Rustic Revival
- Kid's Craft Basket
- Pampered Chef
- Maryland Themed Basket
- Orioles/Ravens Basket
- Tea & Flowers Basket
- Sundae Funday Basket
- and MANY MORE!



All prizes valued  
from \$50 to \$250!

See the attached prize calendar.

Tickets may be purchased from a Preschool family or in the Preschool office.

# March 2023

| Sunday                                                                      | Monday                           | Tuesday                                                        | Wednesday                                                                                                                      | Thursday                                                     | Friday    | Saturday                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                             |                                  |                                                                | <b>1</b><br>Bible Study 10 am<br><br>Online Bible Study<br>7:00 PM                                                             | <b>2</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>                                                                              |
| <b>5</b>                                                                    | <b>6</b><br><br>Trustees 7:00 PM | <b>7</b>                                                       | <b>8</b><br>Bible Study 10 am<br><br>Liberty Goodtimers<br>11:30 am<br>Online Bible Study<br>7:00 PM                           | <b>9</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)  | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b>                                                                             |
| <b>12</b><br><i>Daylight Savings<br/>                     Time begins</i>   | <b>13</b>                        | <b>14</b><br><br>Church Council<br>7:00 pm (FH)                | <b>15</b><br>Bible Study 10 am<br><br>Online Bible Study<br>7:00 PM<br><br><b>Lampighter<br/>                     Deadline</b> | <b>16</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH) | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br><br>Food Pantry<br>9am-11am                                              |
| <b>19 Heifer Sunday</b><br><br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>Family Lent Project | <b>20</b>                        | <b>21</b><br><br>SPRC 7:00 PM                                  | <b>22</b><br>Bible Study 10 am<br><br>Online Bible Study<br>7:00 PM                                                            | <b>23</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH) | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b>                                                                             |
| <b>26</b>                                                                   | <b>27</b>                        | <b>28</b><br><br>Star Fellowship<br>12:00 PM<br>at Serra Bros. | <b>29</b><br>Bible Study 10 am<br><br>Online Bible Study<br>7:00 PM                                                            | <b>30</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH) | <b>31</b> |  |

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

## Wards Chapel UMC Annual Missions Auction

All proceeds benefit our mission work with  
Camp Hope, Baltimore County Christian  
Workcamp, Volunteers in Mission,  
and other local and global ministries.

Saturday April 22, 2023  
Doors open at 4:00 pm  
auction starts at 5:00 pm



**Soup, sandwiches, snacks,  
desserts available for  
purchase**

**Only \$2 to bid or bring  
2 or more items for  
our Food Pantry.**

COME ON OUT, JOIN THE FUN, AND GET SOME GREAT DEALS!

WARD'S CHAPEL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
11023 LIBERTY RD RANDALLSTOWN, MD  
[www.wardschapel.org](http://www.wardschapel.org)