



WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter May 2024



In last month's sermon, I had the privilege of sharing insights from two remarkable books that beautifully encapsulate the essence of faith, resilience, and the profound beauty found in life's journey. These books not only captivated our hearts but also sparked introspection about our own faith and daily walk with God.

The first book, *Three Minutes for a Dog: My Life in an Iron Lung* by Paul Alexander, is a poignant memoir that chronicles the extraordinary life of a faithful man who overcame immense challenges. Paul Alexander, a man of unwavering faith, defied the odds by not only pursuing academic and legal careers but also by living a remarkable life spanning over seventy-eight years. Despite spending eight years confined to an iron lung, Paul's determination and resilience shine through in every page of his book. His story serves as a powerful testament to the triumph of the human spirit and the enduring strength found in faith.

The second book, *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley, offers a captivating narrative that intertwines personal reflection with the splendor of art and life. Patrick, a former editor at New York Magazine, undergoes a transformative journey following the death of his beloved brother. He finds solace and purpose as a guard at the Metropolitan Museum, where he rediscovers the beauty and meaning in life through the masterpieces adorning its halls. Through vivid storytelling, Patrick invites readers to contemplate the deeper significance behind art, life, and the interconnectedness of human experiences.

Through the lives of Paul Alexander and Patrick Bringley, we are reminded that faith is not confined to religious gatherings or church services but permeates every aspect of our lives. As Christians, we are called to embody our faith in our daily interactions, decisions, and pursuits. These two books serve as poignant reminders of the power of faith to transform lives and illuminate the beauty that surrounds us.

As you delve into these inspiring narratives, may you find moments of reflection and renewal, deepening your understanding of what it means to live a faithful Christian life. I hope the stories of Paul and Patrick inspire you to embrace your faith wholeheartedly and to seek beauty and meaning in every corner of your journey. I encourage you to immerse yourself in the pages of *Three Minutes for a Dog* and *All the Beauty in the World*, allowing their stories to resonate with your own experiences and faith journey.

Pastor Steven

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

FINANCE

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

Bill Showman, Chair

TRUSTEES

I'm hoping that by the time you read this, work will have begun on the roofs. The contractor will be tackling the organ chamber roof first. Once that's completed, and weather permitting, work will begin on the Fellowship Hall roof and the gaps between the exterior walls and the sidewalks and window wells.

The building will be closed Tuesday, **May 14** for the primary election.

If you have a key and use the gray kitchen door next to the Fellowship Hall, please be sure that the door has closed correctly before leaving! It's been noted that more than once the door has been left cracked open.

If you should be here on a Thursday and see a new face, it is Melissa from Lifebridge Health's Dove House. Jill Englar, director of the Dove House and wife to Rich, asked if they would be able to use a room to hold grief counseling for their Baltimore County clients. Many cannot make it to the Westminster facility. They will be meeting in the adult Sunday school room most Thursday mornings. Please direct any questions or concerns to me.

Finally, I'm still working on finding a contractor for the bathrooms in the Fellowship Hall hallway. Not for lack of wanting it done, I just haven't gotten to it yet.

Bridget

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
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May SPECIAL REQUESTS:

Small Mother's Day gifts:

- small bottle of lotion
- emery boards
- small tissue packs
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Keep in mind, we will take donations of any nearly new items such as clothes, towels, sheets, blankets, etc.!

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



PRESCHOOL

I've always loved the first day of school but, despite my countdown-to-summer board, I never look forward to the last. First days are all about beginnings. The last days of school are all about goodbyes. Some children we will see next year or their parents will keep us posted on their progress. Some may return with a younger sibling. Others we may never see or hear from again. What I hope for is that we've given them a great start to the rest of their lives and made the good impression that will help them to be successful in all they do.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Preschool Prize Palooza last month! We made \$4,740 for this fundraiser. A bit down from last year, but still the best fundraiser we have!

Enrollment continues for next year. Right now, we have 47 of 55 spaces filled. We would love to get back to having full classes. We'll have to see what the summer and fall provide.

In May, all of the 3s and 4s will be attending a field trip to the Maryland Zoo. In preparation to move up to the big leagues of elementary school, the fours will experience what it's like to eat lunch in

a cafeteria at our Kindergarten Lunch Day, complete with a service line and purchasing milk. We will have our annual school picnic at Cooper Park in Sykesville on May 14th. Finally, end of the year celebrations will take place the week of May 20 and our last day here will be Friday, May 24.

Have a wonderful and blessed summer!

Ms. Bridget

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our last day for Sunday School is May 19th. We came together as one group this year, growing in our faith through Bible verses and stories, fellowship, art, games and service. Our children never cease to amaze us with their compassion, energy and knowledge. Thank you parents for entrusting us with your children. We are blessed!

Ms. Julie, Ms. Karen, Ms. Gabriella and Ms. Lisa

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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**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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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.

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**A Few Notes of Appreciation:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thank you for the beautiful Easter greeting card. Thank you for calls, visits, gifts and prayers. They are all greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Janet Feezer

Many thanks for the Easter Cards. It was heart-warming to see the many signatures of the people thinking of me and wishing me Easter blessings.

~Diana Balick

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Free Community Breakfast: There will be a free community hot breakfast on May 4 from 8-10 am here at Ward's Chapel. Join us for a time of food and fellowship with our community. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors!

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**Link for recorded Sunday Service:** Please let Pastor Steven or the church office know if you'd like the link to the recorded Sunday Service emailed to you (usually on Tuesdays.)

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

**YTD Financial Summary:**

Offering for March YTD historically low. However, looking at details this appears to be timing of gifts more then a reduction of gifts or giving units.

Expenses are running at projected levels. Favorable variances are related to timing differences.

|                                        | <u>Mar 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                               | \$ 50,589              | \$ 45,708          | \$ (4,881)          | -9.6%        |
| Other Donations (note 1 )              | \$ 5,250               | \$ 6,250           | 1,000               | 19.0%        |
| <b>Total Support to Operating Fund</b> | <u>\$ 55,839</u>       | <u>\$ 51,958</u>   | <u>\$ (3,881)</u>   | <u>-7.5%</u> |
| <b>Expense:</b>                        |                        |                    |                     |              |
| Blding/Grounds                         | \$ 18,334              | \$ 14,374          | \$ (3,960)          | -21.6%       |
| Ed./Ministry                           | \$ 2,170               | \$ 1,908           | (262)               | -12.1%       |
| Apportionments                         | \$ 8,411               | \$ 9,233           | 822                 | 9.8%         |
| Pastoral/Staff/Office                  | \$ 53,206              | \$ 51,533          | (1,673)             | -3.1%        |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                   | <u>\$ 82,121</u>       | <u>\$ 77,048</u>   | <u>\$ (5,073)</u>   | <u>-6.6%</u> |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>               | <u>\$ (26,281)</u>     | <u>\$ (25,090)</u> |                     |              |

**Available Cash on Hand**

62

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.

# May 2024

| Sunday                                                                           | Monday                                                                                           | Tuesday                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                              | Thursday                                                                                     | Friday                                   | Saturday                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |                                                                                                  |                                                           | <b>1</b><br>Bible Study 10 am                                                                          | <b>2</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)<br>Online Prayer Mtg.<br>7:00 PM | <b>3</b>                                 | <b>4</b><br>Community Breakfast<br>8 - 10 am                                          |
| <b>5</b>                                                                         | <b>6</b>                                                                                         | <b>7</b>                                                  | <b>8</b><br>Bible Study 10 am<br><br>Liberty Goodtimers<br>11:30 am<br><b>Lampighter<br/>Deadline</b>  | <b>9</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)<br><br>7 pm Men's Dinner         | <b>10</b><br><br><i>Yard Sale set-up</i> | <b>11</b><br>Missions Yard Sale<br>8 am - 12 pm                                       |
| <b>12</b><br>Praise & Worship<br>Sunday                                          | <b>13</b><br><br>6:30 p Finance<br>7:00 p Church Council                                         | <b>14</b><br><i>Primary Election-<br/>building closed</i> | <b>15</b><br>Bible Study 10 am<br><br>Liberty Goodtimers<br>11:30 am<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</b> Heifer Sunday<br>Pentecost<br>last day of Sunday<br>School             | <b>20</b>                                                                                        | <b>21</b><br><br>SPRC 7:00 PM                             | <b>22</b>                                                                                              | <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><br> | <b>28</b><br><br>Star Fellowship<br>12:00 pm              | <b>29</b>                                                                                              | <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**

# **Missions Yard Sale**

**May 11**

**8 AM – 12 PM**



**Light breakfast & lunch available for purchase.**

**Look inside for more info!**