



WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter April 2023



For a better connection, we should remember “Methodist’s Connectionalism.”

Have you heard the term connectionalism? If you write this word in your Word document, you probably find a red underline, which means you need to correct it! Yes, it is a strange term but as Methodists, we have probably heard this term more often.

Connectionalism is a Methodist term to define the structure that we are in. Our denomination defines it in this way. “According to connectionalism, the church is defined not by formal structures or doctrine or lines of authority. It’s defined by connections between people: connections between pastor and pastor, between pastor and laity, and between laity and laity. When the United Methodist Church claims to be a connectional church, that means that we hold such interpersonal connections in so high a regard that we understand them as the essence of the church.”

Basically, the United Methodist Church understands our structure as an organic one, just like our body, and makes sure that each local part of the body is also very important because we are all connected. So it defines that from the local level, we have a group of Methodists in the local church, and one or several churches can make a charge. Many charges can form a district, and districts can form annual conferences. Then conferences can be part of a jurisdiction and General Conference. If I interpret this concept into our setting, we are Ward’s Chapel Charge, in the Baltimore Suburban District (approx. 70 churches) under the Baltimore-Washington Conference (approx. 700 churches in MD and DC).

I am explaining this term because through our congregational meeting on January 22nd, we paid more attention to the ways that we represent our voice in the Annual Conference. I believe it is a very positive outcome that has a strong impact on the current conversation about human sexuality.

We can make our voice heard during our Annual Conference (June 1-3, 2023) and all the decisions are made by each local church’s representatives. The process is clear and everyone can watch the meeting (live and recorded versions after the meeting). This is what our Methodist connectionalism is aiming for.

For better communication, I will share upcoming agendas this year and if you need any more detail, I will develop ways that we can find congregational consensus. Last, but not the least, as Methodists I hope you have a clear understanding of Holy Conferencing (God is under control) through our connectionalism, so that we can trust our Methodist structure. It has been working well, and it will continue to work.

Blessings,
Pastor Steven

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

TRUSTEES

Thank you for tolerating the lack of hot water in March for a couple of weeks. The circulation pump on our primary hot water heater shorted out and had to be replaced. The preschool staff washes their hands about 20 times a day and they were none too happy with the ice-cold well water!

Mulch has been laid for the spring and our flowerbeds are already popping up with new growth! We have had the air filters changed on each of the HVAC units, had a leak fixed from the Narthex men's room and had a running toilet fixed in the Fellowship Hall hallway. Please remember, if you change the thermostat in an area, reset it before you leave!

Thank you!
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, plus, the special requests for this month:**



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

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



Spring has sprung and sunny days have begun! What better time to have fun than spring? Everything is fresh and new; we all want to be outside. It gives us hope and a newfound energy. Take the time to look around you this spring with the eyes of a child and you'll find how fun things can be!

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the second Preschool Prize Palooza! It was another difficult year financially and the money raised is much needed to help us with our budget. We brought together approximately \$10,000 worth of prizes from local businesses, class baskets, staff baskets, and individual donations. Basket values range from \$100-\$400 dollars! We will draw one winner Monday through Friday and on Saturday and Sunday there will be two baskets with two winners. If you purchased a ticket in March, thank you! You will be notified by email when you win.

In April, our preschoolers will be learning about Easter before an early break and then farms and zoos afterward. We'll be visiting Playtime Pastures (2s), a farm belonging to a former preschool family. The 3s will visit Sharp's at Waterford Farm in Howard County where they will visit some farm animals, plant a flower and go for a wagon ride over the creek. The 4s will visit Spring Meadow Farm to learn about planting and plant their own clock garden. The first week in May, the 3s and 4s will be visiting the Maryland Zoo.

We will be changing our schedule for next year because of decreased enrollment and in an effort to control costs a bit more. We will now have one 2s class on Monday/Tuesday. The 3s will have a three-day class on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday and a smaller class

on Thursday/Friday. Finally, the 4s will only have a 5-day morning class. Our enrollment has gone from approximately 110 children pre-pandemic in 2019-20 to an anticipated 55 next year. Eight classes down to four. It's unfortunate, but necessary. We hope that it is temporary and we will have an uptick in enrollment in the years ahead.

Fondly,
Ms. Bridget



STAR FELLOWSHIP

Many thanks to everyone who helped measure, mix, weigh, mold, dip, decorate, and package the candy Easter Eggs. And, we sincerely appreciate everyone who purchased them. Thank you for supporting our biggest fundraiser of the year!

Cindy Reisberg

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, April 2nd is the Family Fun Service at 11:00 am. We will have the Easter Egg Hunt after the short service. We will NOT have an egg hunt during Sunday School.

April 9th we will not have Sunday School. There are three services- sunrise (6:30), 8:30, and 11:00. Please enjoy church and time with your family on Easter.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Julie Weller

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 Karagozi – Lorien Encore
- Margaret Hare – at home
- Mary Libby Green – at home (*at Jay's*)
- Ralph Fletcher – at home

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Friday: Please join us for food and fellowship on Friday, April 7 beginning at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Parker 443-255-1261.

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.

Guidelines for Holy Conferencing:

What God Expects of Us

For the full article see:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/guidelines-for-holy-conferencing-what-god-expects-of-us>

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ... And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:12-16a,17).

- Every person is a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable.
- As you patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of any or all parties in the discussion.
- Listen patiently before formulating responses.
- Strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views.
- Be careful in how you express personal offense at differing opinions. Otherwise dialogue may be inhibited.
- Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with a position.
- Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names, or an excited and angry voice.
- Avoid making generalizations about individuals and groups. Make your point with specific evidence and examples.

- Make use of facilitators and mediators.
- Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God -- not by the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.

We believe Christians can discuss important issues without the acrimonious debate and parliamentary maneuvering that can divide a group into contending factions. We see too many examples of that in secular society. We believe the Holy Spirit leads in all things, especially as we make decisions. We want to avoid making decisions in a fashion that leaves some feeling like winners and others like losers. We can change the world through honest conversation on matters about which we are passionate.

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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### **Why Strawbridge Shrine, and How Can We Support It?**

In Maryland, it is interesting to see small Methodist churches on many corners. It is mainly because diverse Methodist groups decided to become one denomination, the United Methodist Church. (Methodist Episcopal churches and Methodist Protestant Church became one in 1939, and Evangelical United Brethren Church joined in 1968). However, we do not want to forget the foremost tradition of circuit riders, and the laity movement in the early Methodism in the United States.

Robert Strawbridge was an immigrant from Ireland, and he was not an ordained minister, or a missionary sent to the New World. But he had a special passion to deliver the Gospel to the people in the new continent, and became a great example of a Methodist. Robert is credited with preaching and establishing Methodist Classes in many far-flung places. His journeys took him to Delaware and to the Eastern Shore of Maryland where he preached the first Methodist sermon to be heard there. He went beyond Maryland to Trenton, New Jersey, Georgetown, DC, and Leesburg, Virginia, where

it is thought he founded the Leesburg Church on land deeded in May 1766. And in 1774, in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, Philip Vickers Fithian, a Presbyterian missionary, noted the presence of a Methodist Society in Shirleysburg, in close proximity to land owned by Strawbridge.

It is such a great joy and we are so proud of to have the birthplace of United Methodism in this area. Robert Strawbridge was a great pioneer to begin the Methodist movement in the US, and we should be grateful for the great heritage that Robert Strawbridge and his other laity colleagues started.

But, his work and mission has been hidden in our Methodist history. American Methodism has not recognized the early laity movement, and the records and stories of the early laity were not discovered until early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Then later, in 1916 Strawbridge's old house was found by a member of First Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore (Lovely Lane UMC), Ruthella Mory Bibbins and the Strawbridge Shrine Association was founded in 1937.

There are a lot of stories still hidden, the stories about our precious and passionate ancestors and their devotions and commitments. It recalls the great achievement of the laity in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to deliver Good News for the newly immigrated people in this country, and we should remember the beautiful history of the Methodist laity.

There are many ways that we can support Strawbridge Shrine. You can send a check to:  
Strawbridge Shrine  
2200 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218-5805

Or you can visit  
<http://www.strawbridgeshrine.org/join--donate.html>

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### Winter 2023 Newsletter

#### Our New Website!

We recently updated the look and feel of the APT Webstudy website and we thank you for your suggestions and feedback in this process.

We are proud of the new look that we have created in collaboration with you and hope you enjoy the new user experience.

Click or Scan



<https://www.apwebstudy.org/>

Participants are the most important members of our research teams. Only with your participation and engagement will we prevent Alzheimer's Disease in the future. Thank you for working with us.

The Alzheimer Prevention Trials (APT) Webstudy

The APT Webstudy helps individuals 65 and older track their memory with a series of online memory tests that take just 10 minutes every three months.

Sign Up



What is the APT Webstudy?



Am I eligible?



How do I participate?



Monitor your memory with personalized, web-based tools to gain insights into your brain health.

Sign Up Today!

Be on the lookout for our new study called AlzMatch!

ALZ  MATCH

(More info on page 3)

We are grateful for your participation in 2022 and look forward to continuing with you in the new year!

2023

# April 2023

| Sunday                                                                                                                               | Monday | Tuesday                                                                           | Wednesday                                                                                     | Thursday                                                                            | Friday                                                   | Saturday                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30                                                                                                                                   |        |  |             |  |                                                          | 1                                                                     |
| <b>2 Palm Sunday</b><br>8:30 Worship<br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 Family Friendly Service & Egg hunt<br>2:30 pm Strawbridge Shrine | 3      | 4                                                                                 | 5<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br><br>Online Bible Study<br>7:00 PM                             | 6<br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                    | 7<br><b>Good Friday Meal &amp; Meditation</b><br>6:00 pm | 8                                                                     |
| <b>9 Easter</b><br>6:30 am Sunrise Svc.<br>8:30 am Worship<br>11:00 am Worship                                                       | 10     | 11<br>Church Council<br>7:00 PM                                                   | 12<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br>Liberty Goodtimers<br>11:30 am<br><b>Lampighter Deadline</b> | 13<br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                   | 14<br>4-H 7:00 PM                                        | 15<br>Food Pantry<br>9am-11am                                         |
| <b>16 Heifer Sunday</b>                                                                                                              | 17     | 18<br>SPRC 7:00 PM                                                                | 19<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am                                                                 | 20<br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                   | 21                                                       | 22<br><b>Missions Auction</b><br>Doors open 4pm<br>Bidding starts 5pm |
| 23                                                                                                                                   | 24     | 25<br>Star Fellowship<br>12:00 pm<br>at Winfield Inn                              | 26<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am                                                                 | 27<br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                   | 28                                                       | 29                                                                    |

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)