



WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter April 2026



Dear beloved members of Wards Chapel,

Once again, we gather to celebrate this holy and joyful season of resurrection. Each year, Easter comes to us with familiar beauty—flowers blooming, music rising, and hearts lifting in hope. And yet, every Easter also invites us to see something deeper, something we may have missed before.

There is a story about a boy named Philip. Philip was born with Down syndrome and attended a third-grade Sunday School class. Like many children, his classmates were unsure how to fully include him. He was there among them, but not fully embraced.

One Sunday after Easter, the teacher gave each child a small egg-shaped container and asked them to go outside and find a sign of new life to place inside. The children returned with excitement—flowers, leaves, even a butterfly. Each one was opened with delight. Then one container was opened, and it was empty.

The children quickly reacted. “That’s not right,” they said. “Someone didn’t do it properly.” But then Philip quietly spoke, “That one is mine.” They told him he had done it wrong. But Philip gently replied, “I did do it. It’s empty. The tomb was empty.”

In that moment, everything changed. The room grew still. What seemed like nothing became the most powerful message of all. Philip understood what Easter truly means. Not long after, Philip passed away. At his funeral, those same children came forward, each carrying an empty egg and placing it on the altar. They had learned. They understood.

Dear friends, as we celebrate Easter again this year, we are reminded that the heart of our faith is found not only in what is visible and full, but in what may seem empty. The empty tomb is not a sign of loss—it is the beginning of new life.

There may be places in our lives that feel empty. Moments of uncertainty, unanswered prayers, or quiet waiting. As a community of faith here at Wards Chapel, we carry these spaces together. And Easter speaks into those very places with hope. The resurrection reminds us that God is already at work—even when we cannot see it. Even in emptiness, there is life. Even in silence, there is promise.

So this Easter, may we trust more deeply. May we see more clearly. And may we live as people of resurrection hope, knowing that God is bringing new life among us, even now.

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Steven Cho

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

TRUSTEES

Spring is here, the snow has finally melted, and that means sprucing up the outside of the church. We still have a few stubborn tulips and crocuses popping up that were pre-construction! New mulch has been spread in our beds around the building, and the lawn has been aerated and seeded.

In March, we had to have a circuit board repaired on the HVAC unit that controls the Narthex, music, and adult Sunday school rooms. It was a nippy 56° degrees for bible study one day! The fix is temporary, and sometime in the future we'll have to have the part replaced, but for now, it's working.

I hope our security camera project has begun by now. It was scheduled to start the week of March 23. We were waiting for backordered items before beginning. Once the job is complete, we'll have a demo for anyone who is interested.

If you are not aware, WiFi is now available in the Fellowship Hall. The login information is located on the bulletin board.

As always, don't hesitate to contact a Trustees member if you find something in the building that I've missed.

Thanks,
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 check expiration dates before you donate!

Extras needed for this month:

- Laundry detergent

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



PRESCHOOL

It's so hard to believe that by the time you read this, we will have less than 35 days left in our school year. The year ends on Friday, May 24. Despite that, we have so much packed into the next two months!

We return from Easter break on the 6th, and then we move on to talk about life cycles and hope that our chicks and butterflies hatch. The 4s will revisit Buppert's Farm in Sykesville to see the changes since we were there in the fall, and they'll plant their own vegetables. The 3s will go to Sharp's Waterford Farm in Howard County, where they'll learn about the farm animals, go for a hayride, and sow their own plant to bring home. The 2s will visit Playtime Pastures in Granite – an exciting trip where they feed the horses, pluck eggs from the henhouse, brush the goats, see cattle, and chase chickens.

Registration for next year is coming along! We're closer to being full than we were at this time last year. We currently have three spaces in each of the 2s and 3s classes, and the 4s have a full class of 15 children. We always pray for a full roster; God will provide what we need!

Ms. Bridget

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 – Augsburg Senior Living

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: <https://www.wardschapel.org/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.

The following info was taken from

<https://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/connectional-table-prepares-for-annual-conference-affirms-key-resolutions/>

Connectional Table Prepares for Annual Conference, Affirms Key Resolutions

Posted by on Mar 07, 2026

By Alison Burdett (Interim Director of Communications)

Leaders from across the Baltimore-Washington Conference gathered on March 7 for a meeting of the Connectional Table. Conference Lay Leader Amelia Duroska, who chaired the meeting, welcomed participants and guided the day's work, which focused on preparation for the upcoming Annual Conference Session, reviewing several proposed resolutions, and reflecting on the conference's mission to "Love Boldly." The morning began with worship and fellowship. Chuck Conjar opened with music, inviting participants to sing together, including "Here I Am, Lord." Kim Marie Walker, President of the BWC's United Women in Faith, welcomed attendees, noting the fog outside but reminding the group that "we are not in a fog with the Lord." Scripture readings from Ephesians 3:16–19 and Matthew 22:37–39 framed the conference's theme of Rooted in Christ: Love Boldly. Angela Fossett, lay leader of the Lakes District, led a devotional focused on living out the call to love boldly in daily life, particularly when patience is challenged and relationships are strained.

Preparing Hearts for Mission

In her opening remarks, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling emphasized that the work of the church must begin with transformation of the heart.

"God has called all of us," she said, noting the United Methodist understanding of the priesthood of all believers. While planning and preparation for Annual Conference are important, she reminded leaders that lasting change happens only when disciples intentionally live out their baptismal call each day.

The bishop also celebrated recent acts of faithful witness across the conference and beyond, including the more than 2,000 people who participated in the "Faithful Resistance" event addressing immigrant justice. The strong presence of laity, she said, was a reminder that the United Methodist Church remains committed and alive in its mission. "Mission and ministry are not at the mercy of money," she said. "Money is in service to the mission."

Connectional Table Reviews Resolutions

Four resolutions were presented to the Connectional Table for votes of concurrence ahead of Annual Conference.

Fossil Fuel Divestment and A Just Transition for Creation Care

The first resolution addressed fossil fuel divestment and a just transition as part of creation care. Presenters Sharee Wharton and Judy Smith highlighted the environmental and social impacts of fossil fuel extraction and called on the church to align its investments with its commitment to "do no harm." During the discussion, conference leaders noted that the Baltimore-Washington Conference already holds a relatively small percentage of fossil fuel investments while acknowledging the broader ethical questions surrounding stewardship and climate justice. The Connectional Table voted to concur with the resolution.

Faith in Action

A second resolution encouraged United Methodists to live out their faith through acts of justice, advocacy, and

service in their communities. Presenters reminded the group that United Methodists have long combined personal piety with social action and urged congregations to put their faith into practice in a divided world. The resolution received concurrence without discussion, though the opportunity for discussion and questions was offered.

Resolution to Revamp the Pastor's Evaluation Form

A third resolution proposed revising the current pastoral evaluation form, which presenters said has become outdated and overly focused on negative feedback. Discussion highlighted the need for clearer evaluation tools and more effective feedback processes that support both clergy and congregations. Bishop Easterling noted that conference leaders had already begun exploring improvements to the evaluation system and welcomed the resolution as an opportunity to move the work forward. The Connectional Table concurred with the proposal.

Establish Campus Ministry Sunday

The final resolution proposed was establishing a Campus Ministry Sunday to encourage awareness and support for ministries serving college students. With no presenters available, the group moved directly to a vote and concurred.

Reports on Discipleship and Stewardship

The meeting also included reports from conference leaders on discipleship council and stewardship. Members of the Discipleship Council introduced a congregational reflection process designed to help congregations reflect, discern, and commit to concrete steps that increase vitality. The end result is for the congregations to develop two clear goals; one related to discipleship and one related to community impact. The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) reported that the conference's 2025 collection rate for mission shares was 84.2 percent, slightly below the previous year but still showing stability as financial trends return to pre-pandemic levels. Leaders also presented the proposed 2027 budget and recommended a benevolence factor at 17.25 percent. Conference leaders noted that collaborative learning opportunities within the conference's Hubs could help strengthen financial stewardship and connect local church treasurers for shared training and support.

Closing Encouragement

As the meeting concluded, Bishop Easterling reminded participants that language shapes how the church understands its calling. "We're not volunteers," she said. "We're disciples. We're servants."

She encouraged leaders to speak not only about "money," but about stewardship rooted in spiritual discipline and commitment to God's mission.

In a time of political division and social challenges, she urged churches to remain faithful to the gospel's call to welcome, advocate for, and care for all people. "The church must be the church right now," she said.

The meeting closed with prayer and the singing of "Amazing Grace," as leaders continued preparing for the Annual Conference Session which will be held May 27-29 in Baltimore, MD.

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 10 am	2	3 Good Friday 7 pm Tenebrae Service	4
5 Easter 6:30 am Sunrise Svc. 10:00 am Worship	6 6:00 pm Crochet/Knit 6:30 pm Flexibility	7 Liberty Goodtimers 12:00 pm Ocar's - Waverly	8 Bible Study 10 am Congregational Vitality 6:30 pm	9	10 7:00 pm 4-H	11
12	13 6:30 pm Yoga	14 Church Council 7:00 pm (FH)	15 Bible Study 10 am <i>Lamplighter Deadline</i>	16 7 pm Men's Dinner at Oscar's	17	18 Food Pantry 9am-11am
19 Heifer Sunday	20 6:30 pm Flexibility	21 SPRC 7:00 PM	22 Bible Study 10 am Congregational Vitality 6:30 pm	23	24	25
26	27 6:30 pm Yoga	28	29 Bible Study 10 am	30	31	

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

YARD SALE

Saturday, May 9

8 am to 12 pm

Indoors - Rain or Shine

Household items, toys, clothing, books,
food, and much more.

Profits will support the Food Pantry of
Ward's Chapel United Methodist Church

