



WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter December 2024



The Month of Reflection: December

In November, I had the privilege of meeting with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee to evaluate my ministry here at Ward's Chapel. The good news? I was deeply encouraged by their kind comments and warm, constructive advice. Their thoughtful feedback touched my heart and inspires me to keep striving for excellence in serving this wonderful congregation.

One key area I've been reflecting on this year is the message I deliver each Sunday. Preaching is a passion of mine, and I pour my heart into crafting sermons that are meaningful and relevant. Still, I recognize the ongoing need to ensure these messages resonate even more deeply with your daily lives and spiritual journeys.

This reflection led to the Fall Sermon Series, *Christian Foundation*. Over the past seven weeks, we've explored topics such as *God Who Pleases*, *Daily Conversion*, *Worshiping in Spirit and Truth*, *Learning Lessons from Scripture*, *Stewardship*, and *Family in Faith*. My prayer is that these lessons have not only addressed some of your life's questions but also enriched your understanding of God and His presence in your life.

As the year draws to a close, I've taken time to reflect on my spiritual growth and my ministry here at Wards Chapel. This year has been filled with remarkable experiences: vibrant ministries and missions, the launch of new initiatives, and the joyful celebration of our 230th anniversary, among many others. I am deeply grateful for these moments. At the same time, I recognize areas where I can grow and serve you even better in the future.

Thank you for your unwavering support, your patience, and, above all, your steadfast love for God. You are truly amazing, beloved children of God. Let us continue walking together in faith as we look forward to the year ahead.

May God bless you richly this Christmas season and always.

In Christ,
Pastor Steven Cho

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

FINANCE

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

Bill Showman, Chair

TRUSTEES

Please remember, if you are with a group that uses the building in the evening, all fire doors should be closed and all lights should be turned off. Fire doors have a red sign on both sides that say 'Fire Door Keep Closed'. Thanks so much for helping to keep our building safe.

The Trustees are in the process of purchasing new chairs for the Fellowship Hall with money donated from Star Fellowship and the William B. Martin fund. We are hoping to have them by our community event on December 7. If you'd like to purchase some of the old chairs, please make a donation to the church and help yourself. If we still have them left, we will find a group in need to gift them to.

The church now has a new pest service. We haven't had any pest control since prior to COVID. Weston Pest Service is our new contractor. Donald is a member at Milford Mill UMC, does their service, and came highly recommended. You may notice large, black boxes anchored around the outside of the building. Please do not disturb them; they are traps. We will have monthly spraying and inspections. Should you notice any mice or other pests, please let me know.

Have a wonderful holiday!

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 continue to check the website for our needs.



Please see the full list on the church website for our regular needs.

For the holidays:

- \$20 gift cards to Aldi, Weis, Wal-Mart
- Cookie mix
- Canned green beans
- Cream of mushroom soup
- Fried onions
- Boxed potatoes
- Corn muffin mix

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

I almost can't believe that we're at Christmas already! I feel like the children just arrived for the year! In reality, though, they're all well settled and love being here at preschool. Our staff make the learning experience so fun for the children; it's hard for them not to have a great time.



December, for the preschool, is all about the Nativity Story. We introduce the players and small portions of the story to the children so that they have time to digest the significance of each part of the tale and the role each person had in Jesus' birth. We will have our Christmas programs the week of December 16 and then return on January 6, 2025.

This month, in addition to the Nativity Story, we'll make Christmas cookies, a gingerbread house, gumdrop trees, and lots of special ornaments for the families' Christmas trees. Even though my kids are 30 and 27, we still hang those ornaments on the tree every year! There's nothing like a paper plate, glitter-covered angel to really add some festiveness to the tree. Merry Christmas!

Ms. Bridget

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mitten Tree: We are collecting mittens, hats, and gloves for Everstand (formerly Board of Child Care). Please note that the children are ages 12-20, so more adult-sized items are needed. Thank you!

Family Advent: Sunday School invites parents to join their children for a Family Advent celebration on Sunday, December 15. We will meet in our Sunday School room during Sunday School.

Julie Weller

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
- Jim Hong – at home
- Lulu Karagjozi – Lorien Encore
- Margaret Hare – at home
- Ralph Fletcher – at home

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wreaths Across America: On **Saturday December 14**, the R. Wayne Feezer Memorial Foundation will have 70 wreaths from "Wreaths Across America" delivered to Ward's Chapel cemetery. We would appreciate anyone who would like to help place the wreaths on veteran's graves. We will meet in the cemetery at **10:00 am** for a brief service and the laying of the wreaths.

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**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WISH:** Ward's Chapel Missions recently helped the lady on Ward's Chapel Road who lost her house to a fire. In meeting with her we found that she got out of her house with only a night shirt, her dog and her cell phone. Everything was destroyed and her house has to be totally rebuilt. If anyone would be interested in donating gift cards for Christmas from TJ Maxx, Kohl's, Walmart, or gas stations. please give gift cards to Shirley Tucker, Clarice Thresher or Lisa Barry by December 8. If you want to just donate cash, we could purchase the gift cards. **She has been so appreciative of the help we have given her so far and as she waits for her house to be rebuilt;** we feel this would help lift her spirits. Thank you.

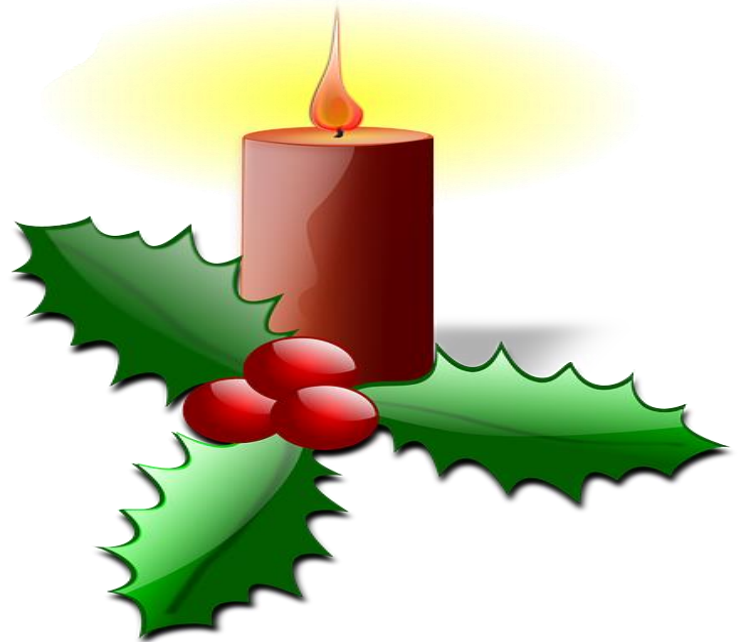
**CHAIRS FOR SALE!**

Star Fellowship and the Roast Beef Supper Committee would like to purchase new chairs for the Fellowship Hall. Our acquisition can your gain too!

Would you like to purchase any of the current chairs? If so, please make a donation to the church and help yourself. Just let Karen, Bridget or Donna know.

Thank you!

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**Wards Chapel UMC Operating Fund
Year to Year Comparison as of Oct 2024**

YTD Financial Summary:

Offering for Oct YTD is \$15,985 (9.2%) less than for the same period last year. We have been averaging a 6% to 8% reduction in total offerings consistently in 2024.

Expenses are running at projected levels.

(note 1) Due to the declining level of Offering receipts and the negative cash balance \$35,000 was transferred to the Operating Fund from the Wm B. Martin fund in September. Only interest/dividends earned in this fund can be withdrawn to cover budget deficits and extraordinary expenses and repairs. The principal balance of the Wm B. Martin fund cannot be withdrawn, thus ensuring these investments will continue to earn interest and dividends in the future.

	<u>Oct YTD Amounts</u>		<u>Incr/(Decr)</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023 to 2024</u>	
<u>Total Gifts (sources):</u>				
Offering	\$ 174,405	\$ 158,420	\$ (15,985)	-9.2%
Other Donations (note 1)	\$ 16,500	\$ 51,950	35,450	214.8%
Total Support to Operating Fund	<u>\$ 190,905</u>	<u>\$ 210,370</u>	<u>\$ 19,465</u>	<u>10.2%</u>
Expense:				
Blding/Grounds	\$ 57,355	\$ 54,890	\$ (2,465)	-4.3%
Ed./Ministry	\$ 4,124	\$ 4,155	31	0.8%
Apportionments	\$ 28,037	\$ 30,776	2,739	9.8%
Pastoral/Staff/Office	\$ 158,499	\$ 160,072	1,573	1.0%
Total Expense	<u>\$ 248,014</u>	<u>\$ 249,892</u>	<u>\$ 1,878</u>	<u>0.8%</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ (57,109)</u>	<u>\$ (39,523)</u>		
(note 1 above) Deficit without the \$35,000 transfer		\$ (74,523)		
Available Cash on Hand		(14,371)		

note 1 - other donations consist of Preschool funding of \$600 per month while school is in session, Parsonage Endowment of \$4,000 at the end of each quarter , R W Feezer Foundation annual gift and transfers from the Wm B. Martin fund to cover budget deficits.

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2	3	4 Bible Study 10:00 am Congregational Vitality 7:00 pm	5 Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	6 STAR Fellowship 12:00 pm 4-H 7:00 PM	7 <i>Christmas Party Community Event 2-4 pm</i>	
8	9	10	11 Bible Study 10:00 am Liberty Goodtimers at Winfield Inn 12 p Lampighter Deadline	12 Men's Dinner at Oscar's (E-burg) 7:00 pm	13	14 Wreaths Across America (cemetery) 10 am	
15 Heifer Sunday 9:45 Family Advent Party	16	17	18 Bible Study 10:00 am Congregational Vitality 7:00 pm	19	20	21 Food Pantry 9am-11am	
22 ONE Service at 10:00 am	23 <i>Office Open 10-1</i>	24 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 pm</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i> 	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27	28	
29 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	30	31				<i>Normal Office Hours T, W, Th 10-1</i>	

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



December 22

10 am Worship

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

7 pm Candlelight Service



December 29

Regular Worship Schedule