



# WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

*The Lamplighter June 2024*



## A Hectic Season continues

For Methodist ministers, especially, the busiest time of year stretches from Lent to Annual Conference season, typically at the end of May. However, this year has proven to be even more demanding than others, particularly for pastors with new appointments. My wife, Pastor Dong Eun Lee, has received a new appointment. She will be moving from Glyndon UMC to Mays Chapel in Timonium. This means that I, too, need to prepare for the move: packing, trips to the landfill, and donating to downsize our belongings. So, my busy season has not yet come to an end.

This year, Methodists are facing several unique challenges. First, we have the Jurisdictional Conference, which is the main meeting for all annual conferences in the Northeastern area, from Maine to Maryland. One of the main agendas they will handle is the election of a new bishop. Secondly, we have the Annual Conference in the last week of May. Delegates from 650 churches in Maryland gather to address the conference agenda. This year, we will be voting on "re-structuring," with the idea being that local churches will collaborate with others in the same area for missional purposes, extending their reach even beyond district lines. I will provide more detailed information on this later. Thirdly, we had the General Conference in April. This year, we passed several significant agendas. The most notable change was the removal of discriminatory language from the Book of Discipline. I understand that some of our church members may have concerns about this, while others may welcome the decision. It's possible that this topic may lead to conflicts within our church group.

Regarding this issue, I want to promise two things. First, after this Annual Conference, our lay representative and I will provide more information. I will communicate with you clearly and transparently, updating you with all the resources you need. And also feel free to contact me if you have any concerns. Secondly, we do not need to change anything unless we choose to do so. This is a significant decision that we have been grappling with for a long time. Since it's a complex and challenging issue, neither the Annual Conference nor the General Conference will force us to make any immediate changes. We, as the local congregation, will decide whether or not to implement any changes. If we decide not to change anything, nothing will be altered by the conference. Both the General and Annual Conferences will respect the decisions of local churches, and in turn, we are asked to respect the decisions of the larger body of the United Methodist Church.

I am very sorry that some members feel hurt and are so concerned. I also heard some worries and rumors circulating. Once again, I want to reassure you that no one will force us to change. Ultimately, if we want to change, the decision lies with us. Wards Chapel's mission will be the same. The endless effort to approach our community will be the same. The pastor's preaching will be the same. And we can communicate with our Annual Conference if we have any concerns.

Again, I will provide updated information after this annual conference. Pray for me and pray with me during this challenging time.

Pastor Steven

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## ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

### FINANCE

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

The Finance Committee and Church Council have decided that we no longer need to maintain a separate fund designated as "Capital." Effective June 1st we will suspend designation to this fund. Any funds received noted as "Capital" after June 1st will be included with Operating Fund gifts. All existing Capital Fund gifts already received will only be spent on capital improvements.

Bill Showman, Chair

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### TRUSTEES

Please do not bring anything into the building to stay without the prior approval of the Trustees. This includes furniture, decorations, electronic equipment, and any other additions to any area of the building. We are beginning to accumulate a goodly amount of 'stuff' throughout the building and it's beginning to look junky in many areas. We have limited storage despite the size of building. Please check with Bridget or Shirley before bringing anything in and we will bring it to the Trustees. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

By now, the roofs have been repaired. The Fellowship Hall window wells and around the building have been filled with new backer-rod and sealed. This work allows us to move on to several other projects – the hallway bathrooms, painting the Fellowship Hall, and installing the new blinds.

We've finally received the three requested quotes for remodeling the hallway bathrooms and will be making a decision. We are hoping to have the work completed over the summer. The floors and stalls will remain. The ceiling, toilets, sinks, and mirrors will be replaced and the walls sealed and painted. New diaper decks will be installed in both bathrooms. Once the roof was repaired, we are confident that the cause of the mold in both restrooms has been resolved and we can start in on remodeling.

The Fellowship Hall will receive new paint on the east and west walls and all doors, same colors. The new blinds are fabric, contain a metal strip at the top so they will not dry out, and are a bit shorter.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have

any issues with the building.

Bridget

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## 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.

#### JUNE SPECIAL REQUESTS:

- Men's body wash
- Men's lotion (or unscented)

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

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### PRESCHOOL

I just *cannot* believe that we've completed another school year. Wasn't our apple orchard field trip just last week?

Last month, we had a wonderful school picnic at Cooper Park in Sykesville, despite the drizzly day. It was tough, as it is every year, to see the 4-year-olds graduate and leave us for kindergarten. Even harder was putting the names of former preschoolers on the sign as high school and college graduates!

Enrollment for the 2s and 3s for the coming school year is coming along, but we really need some 4-year-olds! We only have 11 of 18 4s spots filled, unfortunately. This year, the lack of enrollment for that class appears to be a variety of reasons. Some families don't want 5 days, some parents will both be working, some need longer days than we provide or full-time care, and a few have registered for the public school's pre-k program.

As always, we look forward to seeing how much our children grow over the summer and

beginning a new school year.

Have a wonderful summer!

Ms. Bridget

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our Church Picnic will be September 8 after our last 10:00 am service and Sunday School will resume September 15 at 9:45 am. See you then!

Julie Weller

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**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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Graduate Recognition** If you or a family member has graduated in the last year (since last June) or will be graduating this year, please contact the church office at [wardschapel@verizon.net](mailto:wardschapel@verizon.net) or call 410-922-6556. Please include the name of the graduate, the institution from which they are graduating, their honors/awards and future plans as well as highlights your graduate wishes to share. We will be sharing this information with the congregation on Sunday, June 2 and in the July/August Lamplighter. Please also let the office know if your graduate will be attending worship on June 2 to be recognized.

**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!)



**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.

**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 April 2024

**YTD Financial Summary:**


Offering for April YTD is historically low. Eleven less giving units account for \$2,650 of the reduction, \$1,500 of the reduction relates to 2023 having 18 weeks vs 17 weeks for 2024 Jan-Apr and we are monitoring the remaining decrease to determine if it is just a timing issue or reduction in planned giving.

Expenses are running at projected levels with the exception of utilities which are favorable by \$1,300. Other variances are related to timing differences.

	<b><u>April YTD Amounts</u></b>		<b><u>Incr/(Decr)</u></b>	
	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2022 to 2023</u></b>	
<b><u>Total Gifts (sources):</u></b>				
Offering	\$ 75,219	\$ 58,565	\$ (16,654)	-22.1%
Other Donations (note 1 )	\$ 6,750	\$ 7,000	250	3.7%
<b>Total Support to Operating Fund</b>	<b>\$ 81,969</b>	<b>\$ 65,565</b>	<b>\$ (16,404)</b>	<b>-20.0%</b>
<b><u>Expense:</u></b>				
Blding/Grounds	\$ 21,593	\$ 18,020	\$ (3,573)	-16.5%
Ed./Ministry	\$ 2,376	\$ 2,944	568	23.9%
Apportionments	\$ 11,215	\$ 12,310	1,096	9.8%
Pastoral/Staff/Office	\$ 69,088	\$ 67,124	(1,964)	-2.8%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 104,272</b>	<b>\$ 100,399</b>	<b>\$ (3,873)</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (22,303)</b>	<b>\$ (34,834)</b>		
 <b>Available Cash on Hand</b>		 <b>(9,682)</b>		

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.

# June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 Summer Worship Schedule begins 1 service at 10 am	3	4	5	6 Alcoholics Anonymous 6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH) Online Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	7 4-H 7:00 PM	8 <i>Private Event (FH)</i> 10a-6p
9	10	11	12 Liberty Goodtimers 11:30 am <b>Lamplighter Deadline</b>	13 Alcoholics Anonymous 6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)	14	15 Food Pantry 9am-11am <i>Private Event (FH)</i> 11a-11p
16 Heifer Sunday	17	18 SPRC 7:00 PM	19	20 Alcoholics Anonymous 6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)	21	22
23	24	25 Star Fellowship 12:00 pm	26	27 Alcoholics Anonymous 6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)	28	29
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**Ward's Chapel United Methodist Church**  
**11023 Liberty Road**  
**Randallstown, MD 21133**

## Summer Schedule



June 2 - Sept 8  
10:00 am Worship

Refreshments & fellowship  
following worship  
in the Narthex