



WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter March 2024



Calling All Men

Four preachers were visiting informally one day and began to confess their weaknesses to one another. One said, "My weakness is stealing. I have a strong compulsion to take things that do not belong to me." The second said, "My weakness is alcohol. I love to drink and I often drink too much." The third replied, "My weakness is women. I love beautiful women."

The fourth said, "My weakness is gossip. And I can't wait to get out of here!"

One Sunday in January during my sermon, I shared my personal take-away from a previous congregation in Carroll County. I grew up in a very traditional environment of spiritual life, attending formal services, participating in church activities, and trying to go to mission camp as much as I could. Consequently, my brain has automatically drawn a very traditional picture of what church life means. The key words that I think are mission, prayer vigil, soup kitchen, and spiritual disciplines like fasting, praise and worship, etc. Things with very special focuses and goals.

However, when I joined the men's group meeting at the church in Carroll County, I found something interesting. We just met once a month at a local restaurant. There was no agenda, no discussion topic, and no biblical conversation needed (anyway, none of them participated in my bible study meeting at the church). We simply ate, talked, and some of them enjoyed savoring wine. They did not drink a lot due to their pastor's presence, but it was a very relaxing and comfortable moment.

Can I say it was the communion of saints? We did not talk about God, church mission, and there was no church agenda. But church members gathered together and enjoyed dinner. Most of them faithfully attended those meet-ups; they were VERY faithful!

Last year, with some men at Ward's, I had dinner at Oscar's in December. I did not CHOOSE any person to invite, but just tapped random members' shoulder, saying, "I am going to have dinner this Thursday, would you join?" It was a light invitation without any expectation, thinking a couple of men would show up. Then, surprisingly, eight men attended, and we really enjoyed that night. Nothing fun or serious. Just eating dinner and some talk ... that was it. Then we all agreed to have another meeting. Isn't it interesting? What would you call this meeting? It does not need any name, though. No RSVP required. No commitment. Then they became good friends to each other, and good friends to me, too.

So, now I extend my invitation to all men in the Ward's Chapel community. Every 2nd Thursday evening, we will have a relaxing time at Oscar's. If you have time, come and enjoy this gathering.

Just show up at 7 pm on March 14th. And enjoy our friendship at Oscar's. See you then, men!

-Pastor Steven

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

FINANCE

Please find the latest update near the end of the newsletter

Bill Showman, Chair

TRUSTEES

We recently have had our roofs scanned for water pooling and leakage. I am awaiting the results from the company, but initially, they could tell me that there is significant wet insulation above the bathrooms in the Fellowship Hallway. Surprise! They found and repaired two small leaks on the Narthex roof. Once we go over the scan results with the company, the Trustees will make a plan to go forward with the appropriate repairs.

Mulching should be completed this month and we will be getting different plants for around the sign.

We have some electrical work to be done throughout the building. A replacement fixture outside of the red doors of the Fellowship Hall, two new lights for the flagpole, a new light for the monument sign, and ballasts for several fixtures throughout the building will be replaced.

The heat has been adjusted in the Narthex and the sanctuary so, of course, spring will come early and we'll all complain it's too hot!

Please, as always, let me know if you find anything in the building that needs to be addressed.

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
- chicken
- tuna
- paper towels



March SPECIAL REQUESTS:

- \$20 gift cards to either Weis, Aldi, or Wal-Mart

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 at wrmille@gmail.com or texting/calling our Food Pantry number 410-756-0665. Thanks so much!

Wendy Miller, Missions Chair

Auction

It is time to start getting excited about the 2024 Mission Auction!!!

Donations will be accepted for the 2024 auction beginning **NOW** and can be placed in one of the Sunday School rooms downstairs by the elevator. The room is labeled.

The Live Auction will be held on Saturday, March 23rd. The donation process is similar to last year. We will continue to accept new and gently used items as well as baked goods, handcrafted items, gift certificates from businesses, and services. Please be creative.

Label all items with a donation form. Forms can

at the drop-off area, and on the Ward's Chapel website, or you may use a sheet of paper containing the following information:

- Donor Name & Donor Email or Telephone #
- A list of the items you are donating and a little descriptive information that will help attract bids.

If you prefer to email this information to wardschapelauction@gmail.com, label all items with your name.

Please no electronics or clothing. If you are unsure whether or not your item is appropriate for our auction, donate the item and the Missions team will decide. Anything not used in the auction will be held for the yard sale that will be held later in the year unless you want it returned to you.

Please turn in all items and forms prior to March 16, 2024. The exception is baked goods, which should be turned in the day of the auction, but the forms or notification are still needed by March 16.

Contact me, Laurie Bateman, if you have any questions or would like to help with the auction in any way. Contact info: wardschapelauction@gmail.com or call my cell (in the church directory).



PRESCHOOL

Thank you again to all the church members who supported the Super Bowl Sub Sale fundraiser for the Preschool! We sold a whopping 247 subs this year! One of our best years yet.

Tickets go on sale March 1 for our third annual Preschool Prize Palooza. Tickets will still be \$20 and you have the chance to win one of 30 fantastic baskets, many valued at \$200+. Winners will be drawn daily during the month of April. Prizes this year include children's book baskets, a summer fun basket, a BBQ themed basket, Maryland-themed basket, and two baskets from vendors of downtown Sykesville, plus many more! If you'd like to purchase a ticket, please ask one of the staff.

The Preschool children will be collecting coins during Lent for Heifer International. This year, the Preschool has chosen to sponsor The Basket of

Hope – ducks, rabbits and chicks. Baskets are \$50 each and we hope to sponsor 2-3.

Finally, the children will have speech, language and hearing assessments completed by Towson University's Audiology Dept., the 3s will go to the theatre to see *The Cat in the Hat*, the 4s will visit the Eldersburg Branch of the Carroll County Public Library and then at the end of the month, they will go to the American Visionary Arts Museum.

Ms. Bridget

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School class is helping out the Easter Bunny by making 20 Easter Baskets for children through Shepherd's Staff in Westminster.

During our March 3rd class, we will participate in our Family Lent activities with our Sunday School families. We will meet in our Sunday School room instead of the Fellowship Hall.

March 24th is the annual Easter Egg Hunt after the Family Friendly 11:00 am service. We hope to see you there!

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

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
- Janet Feezer – at home
- Janis Miller – at Future Care Old Court
- Lulu Karagjozi – Lorien Encore
- Margaret Hare – at home
- Mary Libby Green – at home (*at Jay's*)
- Ralph Fletcher – at home

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chocolate Easter Eggs: Chocolate Easter Eggs will be available for purchase beginning March 17 and available while supplies last. The cost is \$2.50 per egg. Flavors will include peanut butter, coconut, and vanilla buttercream. Call 410-922-6556 for more info.

~~~~~

**Congregational Vitality Pathway Update:**

The Wards Chapel Vitality Pathways team is now actively engaging in community outreach endeavors as part of its overall goal of making disciples of Christ both within our congregation and the surrounding community at large. Specifically, our team is now working in conjunction with our church's Food Pantry team to host a breakfast event for our Food Pantry recipients. This event will take place on the next scheduled Food Pantry date, which is Saturday, March 16. Afterwards, the Vitality Pathways team will review lessons learned from the breakfast to decide what community outreach events to undertake in the future. It should also be mentioned that the Baltimore Washington Conference has endorsed our Food Pantry breakfast idea and provided a small sum of "seed money" to help support us in this.

On a related note, Vitality Pathways course study is now focused on the topic of discipleship and what it really means. Updates on this and other community outreach endeavors will be provided to the congregation in March.

~~~~~

Scholarship Opportunity: 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.

~~~~~

**RAFFLE**  
*Sponsored by The Woman's Club of Glyndon*  
**\$100 Glyndon Grill Gift Certificate  
and 2 Tickets to "Tina Turner Tribute"**  
**Saturday, April 6th • 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.**  
*Gordon Performing Art Center, Gwynbrook Avenue, Owings Mills*  
**TICKET COST: \$10.00 each | 3 for \$25.00**  
**Drawing Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024**  
*Tickets courtesy of Bransfield Motor Company*  
*223 Main Street - Reisterstown • Phone 443-650-3091*  
**NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**

~~~~~

**The latest issue of
*The Bulletin,***

a monthly reproducible message from the
Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference
on vitality for local churches.

https://www.pdcbbc.org/uploads/1/0/2/7/102773790/volumn_2_issue_2_newsletter_ab.pdf

From: Vol. 2, Issue 2:

Living Like Christ: A Banquet of Spiritual Exercises

This Lent, United Methodists are joining in a Banquet of Spiritual Exercises as they seek to "Live Like Christ." You can start the adventure at www.bwcumc.org/lent2024.

Written by the Rev. Rod Miller, *Living Like Christ* draws on foundational principles from the book and the movement of Positive Intelligence, also known as PQ. The Lenten online resource offers six weekly themes with devotional materials, a prayer and a prompt.

PQ, Miller said, "points to the mysterious and wonderful unfolding of God's love and power within." It is a tool for unblocking wisdom and assisting us in more fully becoming the people God created us to be. PQ stresses, said Miller, that it's not what you believe, but how you practice and live."

Part of this practice is participating in spiritual disciplines and taking time for devotional practices. Below are six prompts from "Living Like Christ" for you to consider this Lent:



Building spiritual muscles: Reflect on what spiritual practice you consistently do that feeds your soul. Which spiritual practices do you want to do more of? Don't feel like writing? Alternatively, take a picture of something that reminds you to make time for spiritual disciplines.



Gratitude: Reflect on: "What and who am I paying attention to?" Who gives you every perfect gift? Are you relying on your own strength or on the grace of God? Don't feel like writing? Alternatively, take a picture of something that makes your heart glad.



Honoring your pain: Ponder and then write your response to the prompt: "God, right now I feel..." Alternatively, take a picture that captures how you feel and "how it is with your soul."



Unblocking Love: Take some time to journal your thoughts on the question: "What's preventing me from feeling/hearing/attending to God's still, small voice?" Or, if you'd like to approach this from a different angle, take a photo that illustrates a fear or anxiety that you're moving beyond.



Making Space for the New to Emerge: 1 Cor. 3:9 says that we are God's field. What does that mean to you? What do you believe that God is wanting to grow in you? Or, if you prefer, go out into nature, and find a field or garden where God's magnificent work is on display and take a picture to remind you of what is possible when new things emerge.



Deepening Awareness: In poetry or prose, describe the last time God granted you new insight. What needs awakening in you now? Take five to ten photos of the same thing, each time reimagining new ways of seeing that thing. How many new perspectives can you find?



bwcumc.org/lent2024



CRAB FEAST

BUS TRIP to FISHERMAN'S CRAB DECK

Grasonville, Maryland

Thursday, July 25, 2024



Arrive at Kohl's in Eldersburg by 9:45 am.

Bus Leaves promptly at 10 am.

Travel east across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Enjoy Crab Feast from 11:45 am to 2 pm.

Menu includes:

- Maryland Crab Soup
- All you can eat Steamed Crabs
- Chicken Tenders
- Corn on the Cob
- Cole Slaw
- Hush Puppies
- Iced Tea, Soda, or Coffee
- Draft Beer
- Dessert



2:45 pm to 3:45 pm - Visit the Pennsylvania Dutch Farmers Market in Annapolis.

Return to Eldersburg about 5:15 pm



Contact Shirley Tucker -

Cost is \$100.

A Deposit of \$10 is due ASAP to hold your reservation.

First come first serve. Your balance is due June 1, 2024.

Make checks payable to Shirley Tucker.

Sponsored by the Liberty Good Timers thru Rill's Bus Service.

Wards Chapel Preschool

PRIZE PALOOZA

30 DAYS OF
PRIZES IN APRIL

TICKETS \$20

ONE PRIZE ISSUED EACH DAY,
INCLUDING WEEKENDS!

PRIZES INCLUDE:

- Family Fun Night Basket
- Downtown Sykesville Basket
- Scratch-off Tree
- Kid's Summer Fun Basket
- Professional Photo Package
- Gift Card Basket
- Home Depot Gardening Basket
- Rustic Revival
- Kid's Craft Basket
- Pampered Chef
- Maryland Themed Basket
- Orioles/Ravens Basket
- Tea & Flowers Basket
- Sundae Funday Basket
- and MANY MORE!



All prizes valued
from \$50 to \$250!

See the attached prize calendar.

Tickets may be purchased from a Preschool family or in the Preschool office.

Wards Chapel UMC Operating Fund
Year to Year Comparison as of Dec 2023

YTD Financial Summary:

Offering and Other Gifts ended the year as anticipated with Offering slightly higher than 2022

Pastoral/Staff/Office variance is the result of 5% salary increases, increased staff salaries related to Choir starting back up in 2023.

Overall expenses as compared to 2022 decreased slightly with the exception of Pastoral/Staff/Office expense which was explained in note above

	<u>Dec YTD Amounts</u>		<u>Incr/(Decr)</u>	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022 to 2023</u>	
<u>Total Gifts (sources):</u>				
Offering	\$ 212,646	\$ 213,382	\$ 736	0.3%
Other Donations (note 1)	\$ 71,750	\$ 72,000	250	0.3%
Total Support to Operating Fund	\$ 284,396	\$ 285,382	\$ 986	0.3%
<u>Expense:</u>				
Blding/Grounds	\$ 81,486	\$ 80,890	\$ (596)	-0.7%
Ed./Ministry	\$ 4,771	\$ 5,227	456	9.5%
Apportionments	\$ 35,494	\$ 33,644	(1,850)	-5.2%
Pastoral/Staff/Office	\$ 173,280	\$ 182,754	9,474	5.5%
Total Expense	\$ 295,030	\$ 302,514	\$ 7,484	2.5%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (10,634)	\$ (17,133)		
 Available Cash on Hand		 25,152		

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.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Holy Communion Sunday 9:45 am Family Lent Project (Youth room)	4	5 7 pm Catalyst mtg.	6 Bible Study 10:00 am 7 pm Music Team practice	7 Alcoholics Anonymous 6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH) 7 pm Online Prayer meeting	1	2
					8 4-H 7:00 PM	
10 UMCOR Sunday Praise & Worship Sunday	11	12 Church Council 7:00 PM	13 Bible Study 10:00 am Liberty Goodtimers 11:30 am Lampighter Deadline	14 Alcoholics Anonymous 6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH) 7 pm Men's Dinner at Oscar's	15	16 Food Pantry 9am-11am
24 Palm Sunday 8:30 Regular Worship 9:45 Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 Family Fun Service	25	26 Star Fellowship 12:00 pm 7 pm Catalyst mtg.	27 Bible Study 10:00 am	28 Alcoholics Anonymous 6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)	29 Good Friday	30
					Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm (Sanctuary)	
31 Easter Day 6:30 Sunrise Svc. 8:30 Worship 11:00 Worship						

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

Annual Missions Auction

Saturday, March 23

Doors open at 4 pm

Bidding starting at 5 pm

Soup, sandwiches, snacks and dessert
for sale throughout the evening

