



WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter March 2026



This year, Easter arrives early, even while the winter chill lingers. While the world outside still feels cold, we are already preparing for the joy of the Resurrection. To help us move from this wintry season into the warmth of spring, we look to the example of John Wesley—a man whose faith remained on fire no matter the weather.

For many of us, Easter is a day of quiet reflection, flowers, and a festive family breakfast. But for John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, Easter was anything but a day of leisure. His diaries reveal that he treated the holiday as a marathon of ministry. In his early years, Wesley often delivered sermons in a college chapel, a local castle, and a public square, all before noon.

As he aged, his pace rarely slowed. He routinely crossed rivers by boat at dawn to lead worship in one town before hurrying to the next to read prayers and serve Communion. Neither rain, wind, nor exhaustion could deter him. If the weather turned foul, he simply moved the gathering into a house, a barn, or even a local jail. His singular purpose was to proclaim the Resurrection as a living reality, urging everyone he met to "live for Christ."

Central to this tireless work was the Lord's Supper. Wesley believed Communion should be a frequent, joyful encounter with God. On some Easter mornings, he administered the sacrament to hundreds of people at once. In other years, he held Communion every single day for the entire week following Easter, ensuring that anyone hungering for grace could partake. To Wesley, the bread and wine were more than symbols; they were tangible anchors of God's love.

Perhaps Wesley's most melodic legacy is the music that still fills our sanctuaries today. In 1739, he and his brother Charles published a hymn specifically for Easter Day. Its exuberant chorus—"Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!"—was designed to teach theology through melody, allowing the message of victory to resonate in people's hearts long after the service ended.

Wesley's example challenges us to broaden our own celebrations. He invites us to move beyond a single hour in a pew and instead weave worship into the entire fabric of our day. Whether it is attending multiple services, inviting a neighbor to share a meal, or singing with newfound conviction, Wesley shows us that Easter is more than a date on the calendar. It is a lifestyle of active, joyful faith.

This Easter, may you find inspiration in Wesley's deep piety and discover new ways to celebrate the Resurrection with the people in your life.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Steven Cho

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

TRUSTEES

The Trustees are currently arranging a date for the installation of the building's security camera system. The system will include 12 cameras and a 16-channel on-site hard drive with a DVR, as well as remote access. This means someone will be able to watch the doors from the sanctuary during services or another remote location while the building is occupied. The funding for this project comes from the Wm. B. Martin Fund and will total approximately \$16,000.

The same company has installed Wi-Fi in the Fellowship Hall. Information can be found on the bulletin board above the coffee bar.

Thanks,
Bridget

PROGRAM MINISTRIES

MISSIONS

Auction

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Annual Auction on Saturday, February 28 such a success. Whether you donated items, sponsored the event, volunteered your time, brought food for the pantry, bid generously, or helped behind the scenes — you made this happen.

Because of you, we are able to continue supporting:

- Our **Food Pantry**, serving families in Baltimore, Carroll, and Howard Counties
- **Baltimore County Christian Work Camp**, helping homeowners who need repairs, ramps, and extra support
- Other mission efforts that serve people both locally and beyond

This auction isn't just about raising money. It's about coming together as a church and doing something that matters.

We are truly grateful for our business donors, our volunteers, and every single person who showed up to support the evening. Your generosity will directly impact families who need it most.

Thank you for showing up. Thank you for giving.
Thank you for serving.

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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:

- \$20 gift cards for Easter

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



Punxsutawney Phil's 2025 prediction of six more weeks of winter was incorrect. The Pennsylvania rodent predicted the same this year, and I sincerely hope he's incorrect! Regardless of Phil's forecast, at preschool, we're moving on to spring this month.

March 2 is Dr. Seuss's birthday, and the 4s will talk about all kinds of books in the weeks to come. I recently read yet another article that reinforces the theory that children who are read to every day ultimately do better academically than those who are not. By being read to just one book a day, those children enter kindergarten having heard approximately 300,000 more words than their peers. The experts all agree—reading is vital to a well-rounded childhood, and leads to better academic outcomes down the road in nearly every measurable category. Even something as simple as having a book-filled home is a statistically significant factor in predicting how well a child will perform later in school.

The 3s will explore Dr. Seuss, and we'll all talk about life cycles for chicks, frogs, and butterflies. Look for our incubators to be filled mid-month. The 2s and 3s will cover the color brown, diamonds, and the extremely popular topic of dinosaurs.

We will have two field trips in March. The 3-year-olds will go to the theatre to see *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Arts on Stage, and the 4s will visit the Eldersburg branch of the CCPL to explore what the library offers. We will also have hearing/speech/language assessments by Towson

University's audiology students and parent-teacher conferences mid-month.

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.

Preschool Prize Palooza: Tickets are now on sale for the 5th Annual Preschool Prize Palooza! Ticket donations are still just \$20 for an opportunity to win one of over 30 amazing prize baskets. This year, we have baskets ranging from \$50-\$600! Please let Donna or Bridget know if you'd like tickets. You can email or call the preschool.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Tea Party: The Woman's Club of Glyndon is hosting a Tea Party with the proceeds used for outreach programs to the community.

Date: Sat., **March 21** /// Time: 1-3 pm ///

Location: 4627 Butler Rd, Glyndon (handicap parking in back)

Cost: \$25 /// Reservations: call Kathy Wist 410-833-2756 before March 14

(Request gluten free if needed)

The following info was taken from the UMC's General Council on Finance & Administration: <https://www.gcfa.org/resource/pastor-impersonation-scams>

Pastor Impersonation Scams: What Church Leaders Need to Know

Across the country, churches and ministries are seeing a troubling rise in **identity spoofing scams**—particularly those that impersonate pastors or other trusted church leaders. These scams often arrive as emails or text messages that appear to come directly from a pastor and urgently request gift cards, financial assistance, or sensitive information. In many cases, congregants and staff come dangerously close to falling victim before realizing the message is fraudulent.¹

This is not an isolated issue affecting only a few congregations. Reports from faith-based publications, church accountability organizations, and news outlets show that **pastor impersonation and phishing scams are a common challenge facing churches, ministries, and faith-based organizations nationwide.**

Cybersecurity experts note that churches are frequently targeted because of their culture of trust, publicly available contact information, and limited technical safeguards.^{2 3}

How Pastor Impersonation Scams Work

Cybercriminals often:

- Spoof a pastor's name or email address
- Use urgent or emotional language ("I need your help right now")
- Request gift cards, wire transfers, or confidential information
- Target staff and trusted congregants who want to respond quickly and helpfully

Because these messages appear to come from familiar leaders, they can be especially convincing.

Practical Steps Churches Can Take Right Now

Church leaders can significantly reduce risk by putting a few clear safeguards in place:

1. Use Official Church Email Accounts Only

Pastors and staff should communicate using official church email addresses (for example, pastor@yourchurch.org), rather than personal Gmail or other consumer accounts.

2. Set Clear Communication Expectations

Educate staff and congregants on how pastors and leaders will—and will not—communicate. Make it clear that pastors will **never** request gift cards, money transfers, or sensitive information via email or text.

3. Encourage Cyber Awareness

Remind staff and members to:

- Scrutinize unexpected emails or texts
 - Avoid clicking suspicious links or attachments
 - Use strong, unique passwords
 - Disable unused Bluetooth and Wi-Fi connections on mobile devices
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The following is a thank you note from the HOFFA Foundation:

THANK YOU!

DEAR WARD'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE HOFFA FOUNDATION!
YOUR GENEROUS DONATION WILL PROVIDE TEN FREE RIDES
FOR INDIVIDUALS BATTLING ADDICTION, HELPING THEM ACCESS
IMMEDIATE TREATMENT THROUGH OUR HOFFA
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. YOUR SUPPORT IS TRULY
SAVING LIVES AND GIVING HOPE TO THOSE SEEKING RECOVERY.
WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

WITH GRATITUDE,
TOM HERB

HOFFAFUNDATION.ORG

The following is a thank you note from The Shepherd's Staff:

LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND, NEVER JEALOUS, BOASTFUL, PROUD OR RUDE. LOVE ISN'T SELFISH OR QUICK TEMPERED... LOVE REJOICES IN THE TRUTH... LOVE IS ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE, LOYAL, HONEST, AND TRUSTING. LOVE NEVER FAILS. WE DON'T GO TO THE HEAVENS WITH JUST AS GOOD AS WE COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDS US. FOR NOW, THERE ARE FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE, BUT OF THESE THREE, THE GREATEST IS LOVE.

— 1 CORINTHIANS 13

C A P I T A L C A M P A I G N

December 31, 2025

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

Dear Eugene and Judy,

Thank you feels far too small for the generosity you have shown to The Shepherd's Staff. We are truly blessed to have supporters like you, and we are deeply grateful for your remarkable gift and belief in our mission. Because of your generosity, breaking ground in Spring 2025 is now within reach. Your support brings us significantly closer to our campaign goal for *The Home That LOVE Built* and will have a lasting impact on every life touched by this project.

Your gift of \$2,000.00 (check #17251, dated 10.24.25)—is transformative. Our team was humbled by your generosity. With your partnership, a long-held dream is becoming a reality: a new "home" that will offer showers, laundry facilities, and a shop where individuals can access clothing and household goods. Most importantly, it will be a place rooted in dignity, compassion, and respect—something everyone deserves.

By consolidating our offsite workspaces and storage into one central location, we will be able to operate more efficiently and steward resources more effectively. Even more meaningful, your gift allows us to welcome our guests into a safe, supportive environment where they can share their joys and concerns. For some, this will be the only home they step into—a place where they are seen, valued, and cared for.

Thank you again for your extraordinary support and partnership. Because of you, we can continue making a profound difference in the lives of so many. If you have any questions or would like to connect, please feel free to reach out to me by email at Brenda.Meadows@shepstaff.org or by phone at 443.244.0453.

Grace and peace,


Brenda Meadows
Executive Director

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, INC.

The Shepherd's Staff is a Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit. No substantial goods or services were provided in exchange for your gift. Please consult your tax advisor regarding deductibility.

ShepStaff.org/WelcomeHome

410.857.5944



TEMPORARY OFFICE:
75 John Street
Westminster, MD 21157

MAILING ADDRESS:
PO Box 127
Westminster, MD 21158

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 6:30 p Flexibility class	3	4 Bible Study 10:00 am	5 Online Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	6	7
8 <i>Daylight Savings Time begins</i> 	9 6:30 pm Yoga class	10 Church Council 7:00 pm	11 Bible Study 10:00 am <i>Liberty Goodtimers Lunch Bunch 12pm</i> Congregational Vitality 6:30 pm	12	13 4-H 7:00 PM	14
15 Heifer Sunday	16 6:30 p Flexibility class	17 SPRC 7:00 PM	18 Bible Study 10:00 am	19	20	21 Food Pantry 9am-11am
22	23 6:30 pm Yoga class	24	25 Bible Study 10:00 am Congregational Vitality 6:30 pm	26	27	28
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Family-friendly Service & Egg Hunt	30	31				

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



*Ward's Chapel
United Methodist
Church*

ANNUAL AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
DOORS OPEN - 4:00 PM
BIDDING BEGINS - 5:00 PM

Come on out, join the fun, and get some great deals!

**Soup,
sandwiches,
snacks, and
dessert available
for purchase**



*All proceeds benefit our
mission work with
our food pantry, Baltimore County
Christian Workcamp, Volunteers
in Mission, and other local and
global ministries.*

**Only \$2 to bid or bring
2 or more items for our Food Pantry.**