



# WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

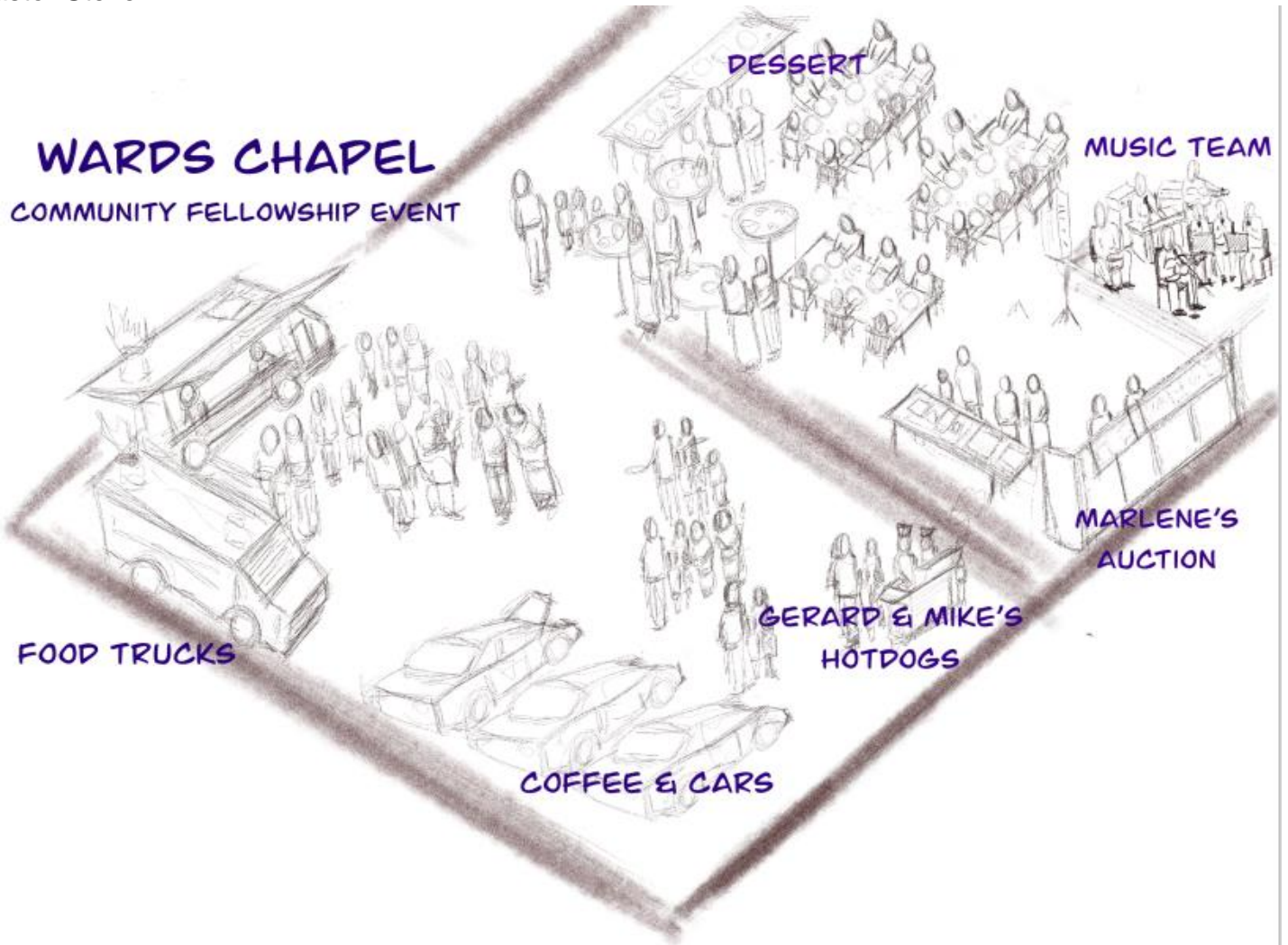
*The Lamplighter November 2023*



Thank you, everyone, for supporting our pilot community outreach program. Again, currently, we are measuring how much we can do, and to see if this is a good way to reach out to our community. I think the first start was fine. We had good music, food, and a wonderful auction event. Thank you, Carol Parker, Barb Charnock, Gerard Oakley, Mike Thresher, Mike Blank, our music team, and other volunteers. Also, I deeply appreciate Ms. Marlene's wonderful support as well.

We will have another event on Dec. 2nd, 3-5 pm (time change), and two more events next year before our grand launching. (Project: A Table Church) I hope you do not feel any stress, but enjoy yourself in the following events . . . because it is all about sharing Christian fellowship in Christ. I will keep you updated with more details!

-Pastor Steven



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## ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

### FINANCE

Please find the latest update near the end of the newsletter

Bill Showman, Chair

### TRUSTEES

The Trustees will meet on Monday, November 6 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing roof repairs, bathroom remodeling and other smaller projects.

Bridget Wetzel, Chair

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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. **Please see below for what items we need to re-stock our shelves:**

- soup
- peanut butter
- jelly
- chicken
- tuna



#### November SPECIAL REQUESTS:

- corn muffin/bread mix
- stuffing
- sauerkraut
- canned sweet potatoes/yams

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

### NURTURE

Each week leading up to Christmas we will be setting up a table in the narthex with Christmas cards addressed to our shut-ins and those we have not seen for a while. Each week there will be a different set of cards. The exception will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month when we will sign the traditional Get Well & Thinking of You cards for members on our prayer list.

Please stop by the table either before or after church and sign the cards. With your help we should be able to send Christmas cheer to a lot of our church family.

Other ways you can help:

- Provide us with names of church family you would like to see receive a card.
- Donations of Get Well, Thinking of You, or sympathy cards. Cards with something printed inside are preferred. (Currently we have plenty of Christmas cards.
- Donations for postage or 1<sup>st</sup> class Forever stamps.

With your help, we can spread a lot of cheer this Christmas season!

### PRESCHOOL



The children are settling into their routines and getting used to being back at school. Our attendance holds fast at 50 children.

In November, the children will talk all about families and sharing to prepare for Thanksgiving. Each class will make something special to eat for our Thanksgiving feasts. The 3s and 4s will put on special programs for their families, and the 3s will also have Grandparent's Days.

When we return from our Thanksgiving break, it will be a quick three weeks preparing for Christmas and then we'll be off until after the New Year!

Ms. Bridget

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Thank you to our Sunday School children for packing 20 Senior Christmas Bags. These bags will be given out to Carroll County Seniors through Shepherd's Staff. Your hard work will make someone's holiday a little brighter.

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The Mitten Tree for Board of Child Care starts Sunday, November 19 through Sunday, December 10th. We will collect new mittens/gloves, hats, scarves, socks and underwear for kids though age 21. A majority of the children are teenagers, so larger sizes are appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

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Mark your calendar. Family Advent will be December 3 during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. All families are invited to join us as we celebrate the Christmas season together. We will have activities and prepare our own holiday snack.

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
- 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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Roast Beef Supper:**

A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in some way to help make the Roast Beef Supper this year a success! We just can't thank you enough.

We sold 102 dinners this year. After the expenses, we profited approximately \$2,000.

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**Thank you:** I wanted to thank the many church members who supported me through my, thankfully, very short stint with cancer. I was very touched by all the cards and well wishes that I received. It was an unbelievable five weeks from my initial complaint to my doctor to testing to surgery to a healthy diagnosis. I know how blessed and lucky I've been!

Fondly,  
Bridget

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**Thank you:** Thank you from my family for the cards and prayers so many people sent us when my brother died. The 3 F's keep me going ... faith, family, and friends, especially in times of sorrow. ~ Carol Parker

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**Community Fellowship Event:**

Ward's Chapel Community Fellowship and Silent Auction, which took place in our fellowship hall on Saturday, October 14, was a joyous, community-building sing-along! The walls, lined with gorgeous quilts meticulously crafted by Marlene Stivers, were sold to bidders through a silent auction that brought in generous donations for our church. Indeed, the hall was full of generations of parishioners who enjoyed homemade food, desserts, and other treats. Whether people were catching up with each other around the table, appreciating Marlene's exquisite work, or singing along with the band, one thing was obvious: Ward's is a community of good, caring, and generous people who come together in fellowship to strengthen our faith and each other.

If you missed this inaugural event, don't worry! We have another planned. Please mark your calendars now for the evening of **Saturday, December 2 from 3:00 - 5:00**. We will revive last Saturday's magic with music, food, quilts, and conversation. And if you have music requests, we're taking them! Please send them to Kevin Costa.

Kevin Costa,  
A Table Church Music Leader

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**Congregational Vitality Pathways Initiative:** For

those unfamiliar with the Wards Chapel Vitality Pathways initiative, or just need a reminder, we were invited by our Conference to participate in this 12-month process of discovery, exploration, and renewal. This initiative is designed to further understand our church and surrounding community and ignite our own faith into action. Our end goal, and the result of our action, is to cultivate discipleship more deeply and intentionally throughout our community.

Thus far, our team of five has completed two of the required six study modules in our Vitality Pathways course work. The first module focused on learning as much as we can about our community, first producing very detailed demographic reports describing our surrounding populace. This work is subsequently supplemented by the personal touch of reaching out to church members and those in our community in "Relational 1-1s" to gauge their feelings, views, concerns, and motivating interests, as well as discerning their viewpoints on religion in general and Wards Chapel in particular. We have spoken to some church members in this regard, and also reached out to individuals coming to our Food Pantry. Additionally, we have touched base with some pre-school parents.

Our second module's emphasis was on empathy, a vital tool for establishing deep and lasting connections with those whom we contact in our work. It calls for understanding what people are seeing, saying, feeling, and doing, touching on worship preferences, hospitality preferences, and outreach preferences as well.

Please note that a more detailed update on the progress and plans of the Vitality Pathways team will be provided as either part of, or a follow-on to a Wards Chapel church service during November.

Mike Blank

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

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

From: Vol. 1, Issue 8:

**Bishop's Message**

Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling

Episcopal servant, Peninsula-Delaware &  
Baltimore-Washington Conferences

Beloved of God,

I greet you in the name of our Savior, Jesus, who lived, died, and is resurrected for the sake of reconciliation and peace. On Oct. 7, as many Jews had just observed the Jewish festival of Sukkot, Hamas launched thousands of rockets into Israel, killing more than 900 individuals and injuring thousands more. The carnage was exacerbated as individuals were taken hostage, brutally attacked and terrorized. This reprehensible act was wrought by air, land, and sea, harming many innocent civilians, including women and children. In response to this violence, Israel declared war against Hamas.

The world rose to condemn these heinous acts, as it should. There simply is no justification for such loss of life.

And the full truth requires an acknowledgment of the multi-faceted issues and longstanding conflicts in this region. The conflict is deeply rooted in a complex web of historical, political, social, and territorial issues. There has been aggression, violence, and bloodshed at the hands of both Israel and Palestine. Both claim rightful ownership of common land. Multiple administrations have worked tirelessly for a two-state solution, one Israeli and one Palestinian, with neither side being willing to compromise to bring this plan to fruition. That unwillingness has cost countless lives and frustrated efforts for peace since World War I. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., very aptly stated, "It is not enough to say we must not wage war. It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it."

We all weep with the families who have lost loved ones, both Israeli and Palestinian, and we pray for peace.

And we must weep for those around the world who are also living through war, prolonged violence, and terrorism. There are myriad armed conflicts in the world right now. According to

Global Citizen, over 2 billion people currently reside in conflict-affected areas. I lament that we seem to call attention to pain in some parts of our world while ignoring the suffering and devastation in other parts. While God detests violence anywhere, God holds all life sacred everywhere.

There is not a single mainstream religious tradition founded upon the notion of hate, domination, or hierarchies of human worth. All those who believe in peace and the right for every human being to reach their highest potential must work together for an end to violence of any kind. The World Council of Churches invites all religious communities to embrace an embodied ecumenism that will “never seek to divide or conquer, to exploit or humiliate, to overwhelm by violence or enforce unity, nor to collude anymore with the inequalities of the world.” I join them in rejecting politics shaped by deepened individualism, dangerous nationalism or increasing militarism.

The United Methodist Book of Resolutions is clear on this subject. It states, “Peace is not simply the absence of war. ... It is that emerging dynamic reality envisioned by prophets where spears and

swords give way to implements of peace; where historic antagonists dwell together in trust; and where righteousness and justice prevail. As the children of God, we believe this prophetic vision is not just a dream or a passive prayer; rather, it is our calling. We are called to acts of mercy, peace and justice.

As Mother Teresa stated, “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” May we remember our common bond, common calling, and common Creator and may we be willing to sacrifice for peace.



**Wards Chapel UMC Operating Fund  
Year to Year Comparison as of Sept 2023**

**YTD Financial Summary:**

Offering and other gifts are trending as planned. The negative cash balance will continue until December when we should receive "Other Donations".

Pastoral/Staff/Office variance is the result of 5% salary increases, increased staff salaries related to Choir starting back up in 2023 and an increase in office expense. The office expense increase should just be a timing issue.

Overall expenses are trending as expected with the exception of the \$4,523 amount related to prior years services performed but not billed until 2023.

Comparative Analysis Adjustment - The \$4,523 was expensed in 2023 but the services were performed from 2017-2021. This amount is excluded for year over year analysis only. The \$6,565 represents one additional month of salary paid early for tax purposes. It is excluded for year over year analysis only.

|                                        | <u>Sept YTD Amounts</u> |                    | Comparative<br>Analysis<br>Adjustment | <u>Incur/(Decry)</u><br><u>2022 to 2023</u> |           |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                        | <u>2022</u>             | <u>2023</u>        |                                       |                                             |           |
| <b><u>Total Gifts (sources):</u></b>   |                         |                    |                                       |                                             |           |
| Offering                               | \$ 154,408              | \$ 156,650         |                                       | \$ 2,242                                    | 1%        |
| Other Donations (note 1 )              | \$ 15,000               | \$ 15,750          |                                       | 750                                         | 5%        |
| <b>Total Support to Operating Fund</b> | <u>\$ 169,408</u>       | <u>\$ 172,400</u>  |                                       | <u>\$ 2,992</u>                             | <u>2%</u> |
| <b><u>Expense:</u></b>                 |                         |                    |                                       |                                             |           |
| Balding/Grounds                        | \$ 47,736               | \$ 52,650          | (4,523)                               | \$ 391                                      | 1%        |
| Ed./Ministry                           | \$ 4,076                | \$ 3,667           |                                       | \$ (409)                                    | -10%      |
| Apportionments                         | \$ 26,620               | \$ 25,233          |                                       | \$ (1,388)                                  | -5%       |
| Pastoral/Staff/Office                  | \$ 126,696              | \$ 143,628         | (6,565)                               | \$ 10,367                                   | 8%        |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                   | <u>\$ 205,128</u>       | <u>\$ 225,178</u>  | <u>214,090</u>                        | <u>\$ 8,962</u>                             | <u>4%</u> |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>               | <u>\$ (35,720)</u>      | <u>\$ (52,778)</u> | <u>(41,690)</u>                       |                                             |           |
| <b>Available Cash on Hand</b>          |                         |                    |                                       |                                             |           |

(note: Insurance proceeds of \$22,291 and related expense (\$22,291) to repair sign not included in total)

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, R W Feezer Foundation annual gift and other one time gifts.

# November 2023

| Sunday                                                                                    | Monday                                                            | Tuesday                                            | Wednesday                                                                                                         | Thursday                                                                                                                                                           | Friday                              | Saturday                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           |                                                                   |                                                    | <b>1</b><br>Bible Study 10 am<br><br>Worship Comm.<br>on Zoom - 7 pm                                              | <b>2</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)<br>Online Prayer Mtg.<br>7:00 PM                                                                       | <b>3</b>                            | <b>4</b>                                                                   |
| <b>5</b><br><i>Daylight Savings<br/>           Time ends</i>                              | <b>6</b><br><br>Trustees 7:00 PM                                  | <b>7</b><br><br>Congregational Vitality<br>7:00 pm | <b>8</b><br>Bible Study 10 am<br><br>Liberty Goodtimers<br>11:30 am<br><b>Lamplighter<br/>           Deadline</b> | <b>9</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                                                                                        | <b>10</b>                           | <b>11</b>                                                                  |
| <b>12</b> Praise & Worship<br>Sunday<br><br>Operation<br>Christmas Child<br>shoeboxes due | <b>13</b><br><br><i>Private Event<br/>           6:30 pm (FH)</i> | <b>14</b><br><br>Church Council<br>7:00 pm (FH)    | <b>15</b><br>Bible Study 10 am<br><br><b>Lamplighter<br/>           Deadline</b>                                  | <b>16</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                                                                                       | <b>17</b>                           | <b>18</b><br><br>Food Pantry<br>9am-11am<br><br>Cookie Dough Making<br>TBA |
| <b>19</b> Heifer Sunday                                                                   | <b>20</b>                                                         | <b>21</b><br><br>SPRC 7:00 PM                      | <b>22</b><br>Bible Study 10 am                                                                                    | <b>23</b> Thanksgiving<br><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH) | <b>24</b><br><br>Cookie Bake<br>TBA | <b>25</b><br><br>Cookie Bake<br>TBA                                        |
| <b>26</b> UM Student Day                                                                  | <b>27</b>                                                         | <b>28</b><br><br>Star Fellowship<br>12:00 PM       | <b>29</b><br>Bible Study 10 am                                                                                    | <b>30</b><br><br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>6:30 pm - 9 pm (FH)                                                                                                       | <b>31</b>                           |                                                                            |

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

*Daylight Saving Time Ends*  
*November 5*



*Don't forget to set your  
clocks back!*