Ward's Chapel

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter November 2026

Dear Members of Ward's,

Beginning in November 2025, I have poured my heart into launching an international mission project with you, Building Churches in Tanzania. Now, I sense it is time to pause and stop pushing our congregation in this direction.

My conviction has not changed. I still believe this project can deeply bless our church and challenge us, as American Christians, to rethink who we are and what we are called to do. I feel I have explained this vision fully through sermons, meetings, the task force team, and personal conversations. Even so, the overall response shows that we do not yet have the collective energy and excitement needed to carry it forward.

Perhaps this is simply not the right season. Therefore, I am officially letting go of this mission project at Ward's. I will continue to pray that God prepares our hearts and opens another opportunity in His time.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steven Cho

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

FINANCE

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

Bill Showman, Chair

TRUSTEES

Trustee Updates & Property Maintenance

Sanctuary Repairs

The Trustees are currently reviewing quotes from several plastering companies to repair the sanctuary ceiling and a crack on the back wall. While the ceiling crack is completely safe and not a hazard, it is becoming unsightly and we want to keep our worship space looking its best.

- *Bonus Project:* While the contractors have their equipment up near the ceiling, we will also have them replace that one burnt-out lamp in the front, right chandelier.

New Exterminator Service

We have hired a new pest control company, **Home Guard**, which has been voted a "Carroll's Best" business since 2020.

- **Routine Care:** They will provide the same quarterly services as our previous provider, covering both kitchens and the entire exterior of the building.
- **Recent Actions:** They have already been on-site and successfully treated three wasp nests on the east walls of the building (two on the Fellowship Hall wall and one on the sanctuary wall).

Savaria Lift

The Fellowship Hall handicapped lift is officially repaired and fully operational.
The technician discovered that the root cause of the months-long issue was a loose wire inside the unit. Every time the lift ran past this specific wire, it brushed against it and caused a short circuit, which instantly triggered the safety mechanism and shut the lift down.
The wire has been securely re-routed and fixed, eliminating the short circuit and restoring reliable service to the hall.

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PROGRAM MINISTRIES

MISSIONS

Food Pantry: Our mission at the Food Pantry at Wards is to love our neighbors by opening our doors once a month to provide food, comfort, and hope. We have the most wonderfully generous congregation! Thank you so much to everyone who regularly fills our shelves with food, clothing, and personal care items.

Extras needed for this month:

- **$20 gift cards to Aldi, Walmart, Weis**
- **Boxes of hot chocolate packets**

Note: We can only accept grocery-store-sized paper bags. Thanks!

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

PRESCHOOL

Preschool Update:
Busy Seasons & Exciting Events Ahead!

I cannot believe that we are preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas already—my tan hasn't even faded!
We are having a fantastic year so far. We are still holding steady at 42 children, and our Lunch Bunch program is completely packed with all 45 spaces filled.

The Parent-Staff Board met in September, and we have some exciting events on the calendar:

- **Super Bowl Sub Sale (January):** Our annual sub sale is returning! Pick-up will be on **Saturday, February 13**.
- **Preschool Prize Palooza (April):** After a great meeting, we have officially decided to host this wonderful event again.

Look for more detailed information in the Sunday bulletin as we get closer to both events!

Staff Team Building: On October 16, our staff took a trip to McFadden Art Glass in Baltimore. The team learned all about the art of glass blowing, and everyone got to make their own custom piece of art or drinkware. It was a great time and a much-needed day together!

A Note of Gratitude: I just wanted to thank everyone in the church for your continued support of the preschool! It truly means the world to Donna, the staff, and me.

Fondly,
Ms. Bridget

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Children's Program

We had our first class and compiled a list of ideas for ways to help others throughout the year.

This month we will be filling Christmas boxes and packing bags for the Food Pantry.

If your Birthday takes place this month, keep an eye on your mail box...you may receive a Birthday card from our class!

Please contact me with any questions and to check the dates we'll be meeting in the next few months.

Ms. Lisa

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MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Please pray for those who are not able to join us for worship due to health issues.

Ansie Sundberg – Golden Crest – St. Paul
Barbara Hartman – at home
Diana Balick – at home
Janet Feezer – at home
Jean Haines – at Homewood at Plum Creek
Lulu Karagjozi – Lorien Encore
Margaret Hare – Augsburg Senior Living

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes:

Starting Sunday, October 18 through November 15. Families once again, have the opportunity to pick up a shoebox (or 2) to fill with age-appropriate gifts for children in need around the world. The Sunday School children will be packing 60 extra shoeboxes during a class. We are collecting postage from the congregation to cover the costs of these 60 shoeboxes, Postage is again $10 per box, so our goal is to raise $600. Checks may be made out to Wards Chapel Church and in the subject line, "shoebox donation". You may also put money in the offering plate with a note, or hand directly to Julie Weller. Thank you for your generosity as, together with the message of the Gospel of Jeus Christ, we can help change the world.

Altar Care: We are looking for volunteers to help with the changing of our Altar cloths and with Holy Communion.

The Altar cloths are changed at the end of our church services, as needed.
Holy Communion takes place on the first Sunday of each month. We need help with setup before the service and with cleanup afterwards.

Another way to help would be to purchase the Communion Elements for us. We use King's Hawaiian Round Loaf bread and Welch's 100% Concord Grape Juice in 6 packs of 10oz. bottles. If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Lisa Ruff or Cindy Chambers.

If you would like to donate bread or juice, they can be placed in the Narthex refrigerator.

Thank you!

Mitten Tree: Our annual Mitten Tree is in the Narthex from November 22 through December 13. We are collecting new mittens/gloves, scarves and hats for our Food Pantry families. Item sizes are for older children and adults please. They will be distributed at the Food Pantry on December 19. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season.

Wards Chapel UMC Operating Fund
Year to Year Comparison as of Sept 26

YTD Financial Summary:

Offering is 2.5% ($2,900) less then the same period in 2025. This minor shortfall appears to be timing.

Building and Grounds variance relates to higher BGE bills ($3,560), Weather related expenses for parking lot clearance ($690) and a maintenance contract dispute on 2025 related services paid in 2026.

	Sept YTD Amounts			
	2025	2026	Incr/(Decr) 2025 to 2026	
Total Gifts (sources):				
Offering *	$ 118,083	$ 115,111	$ (2,971)	-2.5%
Other Donations (note 1)	$ 15,600	$ 15,000	(600)	
Total Support to Operating Fund	$ 133,683	$ 130,111	$ (3,571)	-2.7%
Expense:				
Blding/Grounds	$ 55,243	$ 63,556	$ 8,314	15.0%
Ed./Ministry	$ 5,173	$ 3,914	(1,259)	-24.3%
Apportionments	$ 28,745	$ 27,714	(1,031)	-3.6%
Pastoral/Staff/Office	$ 138,518	$ 143,086	4,567	3.3%
Total Expense	$ 227,679	$ 238,270	$ 10,591	4.7%
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	$ (93,996)	$(108,159)		
Deficit Draw from Wm B Martin Fund	$ 25,000	$ 75,000		
Deficit with Drawdown from Wm B Martin Fund *	$ (68,996)	$ (33,159)		
Available Cash on Hand		$ 5,758		

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 and R W Feezer Foundation annual gift.

*** Offering for 2025 excludes special one time gift of $40,000 for comparative purposes**

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 *Daylight Savings ends* All Saints Sunday Crochet/Knit Class 11:30 am (youth room)	**2**	**3** **General Election** ***(building closed)***	**4** 6:30 p Vitality mtg.	**5** Online Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	**6**	**7** 3p Church Conference at Hiss UMC
8 **8:45 a Children's Program**	**9** Community Table at Wesley Freedom UMC 12:00 pm Holbrook/Chapeldale Homeowners Assoc - 7p	**10** Church Council 7:00 pm	**11** ***Lamplighter Deadline***	**12**	**13** 4-H 7:00 PM	**14**
15 **Heifer Sunday** **8:45 a Children's Program** Crochet/Knit Class 11:30 am (youth room)	**16**	**17** SPRC 7:00 PM	**18** 6:30 p Vitality mtg.	**19**	**20**	**21** Food Pantry 9am-11am
22 **8:45 a Children's Program**	**23**	**24**	**25** Congregational Vitality 7:00 pm	**26** Happy Thanksgiving! 	**27**	**28**
29 *1st Sunday of Advent*	**30**	**31**				

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