Ward's Chapel

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter October 2026

A Pastor's Evaluation

A pastor preached a sermon on honesty one Sunday. The next Monday morning, he took the bus to his office. He paid his fare, and the driver gave him too much change. During the ride, the pastor began rationalizing, "Maybe God has provided me with a little extra money this week." But he just couldn't live with himself. Before getting off the bus, he told the driver, "You made a mistake. You gave me too much change," and returned the extra money.

The driver smiled and said, "There was no mistake. I was at your church yesterday and heard you preach about honesty. So I decided to put you to the test this morning." I suppose that is one way to conduct a pastor's evaluation!

Every October, we have our annual Pastor's Evaluation. It is an opportunity to reflect honestly on our ministry together. If there is something you would like to share, something that is going well, something that could be improved, a concern, or simply an encouragement, please feel free to speak with any of our SPRC members. They are: Mike Blank, Rich Englar, Ben Palmer, Gerard Oakley, Jennie Jones, our Lay Leader, Barb Charnock or our Ad Council Chair, Charlie Dell. We are open to your feedback, and we genuinely care about your reflections.

And yes, positive feedback is welcome, too! Sometimes when I read evaluations, I wonder if I accidentally handed out a form titled, "Please Tell the Pastor Everything He Does Wrong." So if there is something you appreciate, please tell me that, too!

And one more thing: if you share a concern with the SPRC, it does not mean you will have a new pastor next Sunday! Give your pastor a little time to listen, reflect, and work on things. After all, we don't normally decide to get a divorce after the first disagreement! Sometimes concerns can be addressed, conversations can bring understanding, and changes can be made.

So, as we enter October, I encourage you to be honest, thoughtful, and gracious. Your voice matters, and your feedback helps us grow together as a church.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steven Cho

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ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

FINANCE

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

Bill Showman, Chair

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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:

- **Broth**
- **Noodles**
- **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

Our students are beautifully settling into their daily routines! They are busy exploring their classrooms, building confidence, and forming new friendships. Every day, our dedicated staff provides a warm environment filled with exploration, hands-on stimulation, and developmentally appropriate learning opportunities.

Lunch Bunch Highlights

Our Lunch Bunch program for the 3- and 4-year-old classes is a wonderful success this year. Running on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, this supplementary time allows students to share a meal, enjoy unstructured play, and naturally practice vital social and emotional skills. It also gives parents a well-deserved opportunity to run errands, spend one-on-one time with a sibling, or simply recharge. We currently have 43 of our 45 spaces filled!

Exciting October Events

October brings a busy season of fire safety, fall festivities, and school pictures:

- **Fire Safety Visits:** To learn about fire safety, our younger classes will enjoy a visit from the Liberty Road Volunteer Fire Department. Our 4-year-olds will take a special trip to the Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Company on **Monday, October 5**.
- **Pumpkin Patches & Hayrides:** The 3-year-olds will venture out to our patch, and both the 2s and 3s will enjoy a festive hayride pulled by Mr. Klingelhofer's tractor—the classic John Deere is always a huge hit with the kids!
- **4s Field Trip:** The 4-year-olds will visit Buppert's Doran's Chance Farm to wrap up their fall unit, pick pumpkins, navigate the corn maze, and feed the goats.
- **Pictures & Parades:** Individual school pictures will be taken for all children this month, and we will close out October with our annual, adorable costume parades.

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Fundraisers

Please save the dates for our two major annual preschool fundraisers:

1. **Super Bowl Sub Sale:** Orders open right after the New Year and are due on **Sunday, January 31**. Sub pickup will be on **Saturday, February 13**.
2. **Preschool Prize Palooza:** This favorite event returns for the entire month of April, with tickets going on sale **March 1, 2027**.

As always, we are deeply grateful for the continuous love, prayers, and support our church family pours into the preschool!

Fondly,
Ms. Bridget

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School, for those under 18 years of age, will now be called The Children's Program.

We will be meeting from 8:45 am to 9:45 am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

Exceptions being November and December, where we will meet the 2nd and 3rd Sundays.

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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Picnic Recap

What a wonderful **Church Picnic** we enjoyed last month! Thanks to your incredible enthusiasm, we had a **record turnout** with approximately **50 people** in attendance.

The food was fantastic, the fellowship was exactly what we all needed, and the energy was high. We had plenty of games for all ages, and our brand-new **pickleball court** was finally christened! A great time was truly had by all.

A massive thank you to **Pam Horn**, **Clarice Thresher**, and **Karen Jaeger** for their beautiful decorating, hard work, and excellent organization. This event wouldn't have been possible without you!

I am already looking forward to next year—or maybe we will do it again even sooner! **Let us know your thoughts** if you would love a second picnic before the year ends.

Fondly,

Bridget Wetzel

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.

FIRST FRUITS FARM

Friends, The holidays may still be months away, but the work that makes them possible is already underway.

Will you help nourish hope this holiday season with a gift today?

For more info or to donate:

https://www.firstfruitsfarm.org/

Thank you for partnering with us to put faith into action and help move God's provision from farm fields to family tables.

With gratitude,

Jordan Martin, Executive Director

Boscov's Day "Friends Helping Friends"

The Woman's Club of Glyndon is selling $5 tickets to Boscov's Day "Friends Helping Friends." This is for one day on Wednesday, **October 21** from 8 am-11 pm. You donate $5 to the Woman's Club and you receive a ticket that gives you 25% off discount shopping pass. The Woman's Club of Glyndon uses the donations to help fund our outreach programs to the community.

Ask Barb Charnock or Carol Parker for a ticket and enjoy shopping while helping the ROG community programs.

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

YTD Financial Summary:

Offering is 2.3% ($2,500) less then the same period in 2025. This minor shortfall appears to be timing.

Building and Grounds variance relates to higher BGE bills ($1,800), Weather related expenses for parking lot clearance ($690) and a maintenance contract dispute on 2025 related services paid in 2026 ($1,500).

	Aug YTD Amounts			
	2025	2026	Incr/(Decr) 2025 to 2026	
Total Gifts (sources):				
Offering *	$ 108,983	$ 106,471	$ (2,512)	-2.3%
Other Donations (note 1)	$ 11,000	$ 11,000	-	
Total Support to Operating Fund	$ 119,983	$ 117,471	$ (2,512)	-2.1%
Expense:				
Blding/Grounds	$ 50,759	$ 56,540	$ 5,781	11.4%
Ed./Ministry	$ 4,624	$ 3,827	(797)	-17.2%
Apportionments	$ 25,551	$ 24,634	(916)	-3.6%
Pastoral/Staff/Office	$ 123,436	$ 127,579	4,143	3.4%
Total Expense	$ 204,369	$ 212,581	$ 8,211	4.0%
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	$ (84,386)	$ (95,110)		
Deficit Draw from Wm B Martin Fund	$ -	$ 75,000		
Deficit with Drawdown from Wm B Martin Fund	$ (84,386)	$ (20,110)		
Available Cash on Hand		$ 18,807		

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**

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Online Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	2	3
4 **Crochet/Knit Class** **11:30 am (youth room)**	5	6	7 6:30 p Vitality mtg.	8	9	10 *Private event* *8a-4p* *(upper & mid levels)*
11 **8:45 a Children's Program**	12	13 Church Council 7:00 PM	14 ***Lamplighter Deadline***	15	16	17 Food Pantry 9am-11am
18 **Heifer Sunday** **Crochet/Knit Class** **11:30 am (youth room)**	19	20 SPRC 7:00 PM	21 6:30 p Vitality mtg.	22	23	24
25 **8:45 a Children's Program**	26	27	28	29	30	31

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

Children's Program

(formerly Sunday School)

2nd and 4th Sundays

8:45-9:45 am

Adult Sunday School

every Sunday

8:50-9:45 am