



WARD'S CHAPEL

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter September 2024



A clergy family's three-year-old practiced their answering machine message: "Mommy and Daddy can't come to the phone right now. Please leave a message." But when it was time to record, he sweetly said, "They'll get back to you as soon as Jesus comes."

This innocent mistake, while humorous, also serves as a reminder of the mystery of God's timing. In our daily lives, we often find ourselves bound by schedules and deadlines, expecting things to happen according to our plans. Yet, the timing of God's actions, especially the anticipated return of Christ, is beyond our comprehension and control. Just as the early Christians eagerly awaited Christ's return, we too are called to live in faith.

Reflecting on God's timing fills me with excitement as we prepare to celebrate a significant milestone in the life of our church—our 230th anniversary. God has truly blessed this congregation and the community we serve. Our journey began in 1794 with the first official recording of a preaching place here and progressed in 1802 when Robert Ward and a small group of faithful believers started gathering in an old tavern for worship and fellowship. From those modest beginnings, this church was built, and for over two centuries, it has stood as a beacon of faith, serving not just as a place of Sunday worship, but also as a gathering place for the entire community, offering solace and support.

To honor this remarkable history, we have planned a series of celebrations on October 26-27, 2024. We will invite former members, pastors, and conference staff to join us in commemorating the work of our faithful ancestors. On Saturday, October 26th, we will gather for a day of fellowship, live music, and an open mic session where everyone is welcome to share their cherished memories of the church. On Sunday, October 27th, at 10 AM, we will have a special service of celebration. This will be a time to come together in worship, to thank God for His faithfulness over the years, and to seek His guidance as we look to the future.

Through this celebration, my hope is that we not only remember the beautiful history of our church and its ministry but that we also take this opportunity to envision the future. As we honor the past, let us also commit ourselves to continue serving God and the people around us with the same passion and dedication that has marked our church's history

Thank you, and I look forward to celebrating with all of you.

Pastor Steven

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

FINANCE

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

Bill Showman, Chair

TRUSTEES

By now, the bathrooms in the Fellowship Hall hallway should be finished. Once the roof had been repaired, we were fairly confident that the walls would hold up. We had the ceiling replaced, new lighting, new plumbing fixtures – sinks, toilets, faucets, etc., changing tables in both restrooms, and base tiles replaced. The walls were scraped, treated and painted. We did keep the stall walls and the wall colors the same. Although the tile floor really dates the rooms, there is nothing wrong with them, so they were not replaced.

We also had a new 22' x 10' cement pad poured near the playground and kitchen door for the picnic tables. Every week, the lawn service would move the tables off the grass and the next morning, the staff would have to move them back to use the playground. The tables will be more stable on the new surface as well.

Finally, we will be ordering new chairs for the Fellowship Hall. Ours are looking slightly sad. We will be replacing them with the same model and color. The money for the purchase will come from Star Fellowship and the Roast Beef Supper monies.

As always, please let us know if you have any concerns about the building.

Bridget

PROGRAM MINISTRIES

MISSIONS

The Mission Team met in early July to discuss possible projects and community organizations that could benefit from our funds earned from the William E. Martin Fund. The following list was recommended to a special meeting of the Church Council on July 21,2024.

- o Zoe Ministry - \$2,000
- o MD VOAD - \$2,500 (for a total of \$5,000 this year)
- o Cal Ripkin Children's Camp - \$1,000
- o Baltimore County Christian Work Camp - \$1,000
- o Boys & Girls Club Westminster - \$1,000
- o Friendship Beyond Borders - \$2,000
- o First Fruits Farm - \$2,000

All of these items were approved by the Church Council.

We are very fortunate and blessed to be able to have these funds available for use for Outreach and Good Works. The fund will be earning approximately \$40,000.00 annually for us to use.

If anyone has suggestions for other organizations or needs in the community, please contact the church office or anyone on the Missions Team for an application.

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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 continue to check the website for our needs.



Please see the full list on the church website for our regular needs.

### **September SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

- o Cooking oil
- o Boxes of brownie or muffin mix

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, Missions Chair

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### **NURTURE**

Working alongside other committees, we try to coordinate, plan, carry out, and evaluate the congregation's ministry in various areas. In more recent years, the COVID pandemic steered our focus toward member care and member visitations.

New initiatives from the Vitality Committee are making it possible for us to once again care for the community, too. However, without committee members it is hard for the few of us to keep up with everyone. We realize in today's fast-paced, hectic world the thought of a committee meeting after a long day of work and taking care of the home is the last thing on anyone's mind. We have come up with a way everyone can participate and help without committing to another committee.

Each one of us has our own way we can care for members. It can be as simple as sending a card, making a phone call, offering a ride, baking something, making a gift or lending a hand at church events. Perhaps you are already doing something and would like for it to grow or maybe you have an idea you would like to see the church implement.

If you have a suggestion or idea for ways to care for our members and community, or if you are already doing something and would not mind getting others involved, please share them with me, so that I can forward them on to the rest of the congregation. Look for updates in the bulletins and newsletters.

You can me via phone or email or catch up with me on Sundays.

Thanks,  
Melinda Perkins  
Nurture Chair

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**PRESCHOOL**

It's hard to believe that another year of educating our local preschoolers has begun. Did I miss summer? I feel like we just left! Despite that, the staff is energized about another year helping families instill a love of learning in their children along with the knowledge that God loves them.

As always, it will take the children a few weeks to become acclimated to school, some for the first time. It's a tough adjustment. We'll ease them into their new routine with lots of play and simple, age-appropriate expectations. Our first few weeks involve exciting instruction like learning to use the potty, how to open a glue stick, putting away your book bag, and the ever-unpopular clean up routine.

September will see the children talking about how God makes each of us special. We'll talk about similarities and differences, but that God made us all in his image. We'll add in the Creation Story and

how He made the rest of our world. We also talk about apples, eat apples, cook with apples, pick apples, dissect apples. By the end of the month, we won't want to see another apple any time soon.

You probably will have noticed the beautiful new paint job on our asphalt playground. We're really pleased with how well it turned out! Wish us luck and not too many tears this month!

Ms. Bridget

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our Church Picnic will be September 8 after our last 10:00 am service and Sunday School will resume September 15 at 9:45 am. See you then!

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
- 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 – at home
- Mary Libby Green – at home (*at Jay's*)
- Ralph Fletcher – at home

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Ward's Chapel QR code:** Please use the QR code below to easily access our new church website! (If you don't know how to scan a QR code with your phone, ask a tech-y friend or your favorite teenager, they'll know!)



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Link for recorded Sunday Service: Please let Pastor Steven or the church office know if you'd like the link to the recorded Sunday Service emailed to you (usually on Tuesdays.)

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**Volunteers Needed:**

- 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> – Volunteers needed, please contact the following people:
  - Set-up & decorating: Pastor Steven

- Food: Gerard Oakley
- History: Wayne Reisberg (help is needed gathering & displaying history info for the celebration)
- Entertainment/Music: Kevin Costa, James Carothers
- Worship Committee:  
Acolytes needed for both services. Contact Cindy Chambers.
- Altar Care:  
Help is needed with Altar Care & Communion Prep. Contact Lisa Ruff.
- Nurture Committee:  
RUBBER STAMPS needed: A friend of Wendy Miller has donated 2 large boxes of greeting cards for our card ministry. However, they are blank on the inside. Nurture needs rubber stamps that we could borrow to stamp salutations/greetings on the inside of the cards.  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to stamp salutations/greetings inside the cards for the card ministry. Contact Melinda Perkins.
- History Committee:
  - Help is needed to gather information and create a display/presentation of the info for our 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 26 & 27. Contact Wayne Reisberg.

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Cookie Bake:

We're considering a different goal for the Cookie Bake this year. Some of us love the fellowship and camaraderie and still want to participate, but we realize we just can't operate on the same scale anymore. We're considering making it mostly a working fellowship time, with the option to buy cookies. Any money remaining after all supplies have been paid for will be given to the church operating fund.

So, to decide if it is possible to proceed with our scaled-down Cookie Bake this year, we would like those interested to sign up to express your interest. Typically, we have people rolling & cutting, people sprinkling sugar, runners, a few people working the ovens, and a few packing. We could also use people to set up ahead of time (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. If you'd like to help, please let Donna know.)

Potentially, our re-designed event will start with Cookie Dough making on November 23 and

the **Cookie Bake will be November 29 & 30**, if we get enough interest. Details may change as we gather info. Please email the church office to let us know if you are interested, or go to this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45AFAF2AA0F5C43-51018927-2024> to find the Cookie Make/Bake interest sign-up.

Please sign up by October 6. Thank you!

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**FREE KEEPSAKES:** Please take a set of these wooden keepsakes from days gone by. They are on the table near the restrooms in the narthex.



# Restructuring

When considering how to restructure the Baltimore-Washington Conference for more vitality, more than a thousand clergy and laity made it clear. They were seeking a configuration that created increased relationships, collaboration, innovation, discipleship, and connection.

The new plan is intended to offer just that.

While the details of the plan are nuanced, in a nutshell:



- Five to 12 local churches are grouped in a Collaborative Hub in a shared, geographically-based mission field. Each hub will have a designated Connecting Church, to facilitate collaborative work and vitality.
- A group of hubs are organized in one of six non-geographic districts, based on population density. This creates opportunities to network across perceived boundaries and learn from one another in diverse, and yet similar, contexts.
- The hubs and districts are organized into two administrative regions.

On March 19, members of the conference participated in a town hall about the restructuring. The presentation video is below [and ppt may be found here](#). Questions asked at the town hall are answered in [an FAQ](#).

At the May session of Annual Conference, members voted to reduce the number of districts from eight to six.

Info from: <https://www.bwcumc.org/news/restructuring/>

Wards Chapel UMC Operating Fund  
Year to Year Comparison as of July 2024

**YTD Financial Summary:**

Offering for July YTD is \$7,900 less than for the same period last year. Giving units between the years decreased by 11 (82 vs. 71). \$1,500 of the reduction relates to 2023 having 31 weeks vs 30 weeks for 2024 Jan-July. We will continue to monitor this reduction to ascertain if this is a new giving trend.

Expenses are running at projected levels.

|                                        | <u>July YTD Amounts</u> |                    | <u>Incr/(Decr)</u>  |              |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                                        | <u>2023</u>             | <u>2024</u>        | <u>2022 to 2023</u> |              |
| <b><u>Total Gifts (sources):</u></b>   |                         |                    |                     |              |
| Offering                               | \$ 128,287              | \$ 120,354         | \$ (7,934)          | -6.2%        |
| Other Donations (note 1 )              | \$ 11,250               | \$ 11,750          | 500                 | 4.4%         |
| <b>Total Support to Operating Fund</b> | <u>\$ 139,537</u>       | <u>\$ 132,104</u>  | <u>\$ (7,434)</u>   | <u>-5.3%</u> |
| <b>Expense:</b>                        |                         |                    |                     |              |
| Blding/Grounds                         | \$ 41,171               | \$ 38,018          | \$ (3,153)          | -7.7%        |
| Ed./Ministry                           | \$ 3,320                | \$ 3,751           | 431                 | 13.0%        |
| Apportionments                         | \$ 19,626               | \$ 21,543          | 1,917               | 9.8%         |
| Pastoral/Staff/Office                  | \$ 113,369              | \$ 113,511         | 142                 | 0.1%         |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                   | <u>\$ 177,486</u>       | <u>\$ 176,823</u>  | <u>\$ (663)</u>     | <u>-0.4%</u> |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>               | <u>\$ (37,949)</u>      | <u>\$ (44,719)</u> |                     |              |
| <br><b>Available Cash on Hand</b>      |                         | <br>(19,567)       |                     |              |

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.

# September 2024

| Sunday                                                                                                     | Monday                                                                                 | Tuesday                                               | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                 | Thursday                                 | Friday                                                                                                      | Saturday                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                                          | 2<br> | 3                                                     | 4<br>Nominations Comm.<br>6:00 pm<br>Vitality Pathways<br>7:00 pm                                                                                         | 5<br>IN-Person Prayer Mtg.<br>7:00 PM    | 6                                                                                                           | 7                             |
| 8 Praise & Worship<br>Rally Day<br>Worship at 10 am<br>Church Picnic<br><i>after worship</i>               | 9                                                                                      | 10<br>Finance<br>6:30 pm<br>Church Council<br>7:00 pm | 11<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br>Liberty Goodtimers<br>11:30 am                                                                                           | 12<br>Men's Dinner at<br>Oscar's 7:00 pm | 13<br>4-H 7:00 PM                                                                                           | 14                            |
| 15 Heifer Sunday<br><br>Regular Schedule<br>8:30 Worship<br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship            | 16                                                                                     | 17<br>SPRC 7:00 PM                                    | 18<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br><br>Vitality Pathways<br>7:00 pm                                                                                         | 19                                       | 20                                                                                                          | 21<br>Food Pantry<br>9am-11am |
| 22 First Day of Fall<br> | 23                                                                                     | 24                                                    | 25<br>Bible Study<br>10:00 am                                                                                                                             | 26<br>Star Fellowship<br>12:00 pm        | 27                                                                                                          | 28                            |
| 29                                                                                                         | 30                                                                                     | 31                                                    | <b>CHURCH PICNIC</b><br>Sunday, September 8<br>following worship<br> |                                          | <b>Fall Worship Schedule begins</b><br>September 15<br>Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.<br>Sunday School 9:45 a.m. |                               |

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

# **60<sup>th</sup> Annual Roast Beef Supper**

Saturday, October 5, 2024

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Wards Chapel United Methodist Church  
11023 Liberty Road, Randallstown



**TAKE OUT ONLY- \$20**

Questions?

(410) 922-6595 or (410) 922-6556