Ward's Chapel

United Methodist Church

The Lamplighter September 2026

Dear Church Family,

You are warmly invited to our annual Church Picnic on **Sunday, September 13th**, immediately following our morning worship service.

We will gather down in the Fellowship Hall and outdoor grounds to share a meal, laugh, and catch up with friends we may not have seen across the busy summer months. The church will provide fresh fried chicken and cold drinks. If you are able, please bring along a favorite side dish or dessert to share. We will have plenty of indoor and outdoor seating prepared, along with cornhole, pickleball, and card games for all ages.

While this picnic is a cherished tradition we have enjoyed for many years, you may notice my tone in inviting you feels a bit different this season.

As we step into this autumn, our church life will look and feel somewhat different. Some of our familiar weekly programs will not resume in their previous format, and our Sunday School ministries are entering a period of necessary restructuring. Change can be unsettling, but I want to assure you: this is not about stepping back or winding down. It is about intentionally pausing to discern where God is calling us next. We are actively seeking new, vibrant directions to make our shared fellowship, discipleship, and spiritual life even more active, focused, and meaningful.

To build that future, we need to stand together. Renewal begins not in committee meetings, but around the table, listening to one another, praying together, and reaffirming the bonds of our church family.

This picnic is our first collective step to re-orient our hearts, our fellowship, and our common vision for the season ahead. Your presence, your voice, and your heart are vital to where we go from here.

Please mark your calendars for **September 13th**. Come hungry, come ready for fellowship, and let us celebrate this new beginning together as one body in Christ.

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

Sharing Hope and Blessings at Wards!

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.

Our clothing area has been incredibly blessed lately, and we are currently receiving a joyful abundance of clothes! To help our volunteer team manage this wonderful influx and serve our patrons best, here are a few quick, helpful tips for your next drop-off:

- **Quality Check**: Please peek through your items to ensure they are gently used and completely undamaged.
- **Socks & Underwear**: To ensure the dignity and comfort of our patrons, we ask that these specific items be brand new.
- **Got a Huge Batch?** If you have a large bundle of items to share, we highly recommend checking out the wonderful new thrift shop on **the Liberty Christian School** campus! Their shop directly funds their own food pantry ministries on Wednesdays and Saturdays, making it a fantastic alternative way to bless our local community.

Thank you for always being the hands and feet of Jesus in our neighborhood! We appreciate you!

Extras needed for this month:

- **Eggs**
- **Spam**
- **Cheese slices**

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

Welcome to Our 46th Year! 🏫

Dear Preschool Families,

It is hard to believe we are gearing up for our 46th year at the preschool! As of mid-August, our enrollment is sitting at 38 children, and we look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

September Transitions

September is all about settling in and building connections. It naturally takes a few weeks for children to adjust to a new routine and separate from parents after summer. Whether your child transitions easily or needs a little extra comfort, please rest assured. Our staff is ready with warm welcomes, big hugs, and gentle encouragement to dry any tears.

This Month's Themes 🍎

Our classrooms will focus on several exciting topics this month:

- **Faith**: Learning how God makes each of us special and unique.
- **Concepts**: Exploring the color **red** and the shape of **circles**.
- **Science & Nature**: Investigating everything about **apples**.

Staff Updates & Welcomes

We have a few exciting staffing changes following the well-deserved retirements of Ms. Julie and Ms. Heather:

- **Jennifer Thuman** joins the 3s team after serving as a substitute for two years.
- **Kelly Grosskopf** joins the 2s team after two years of substituting and sending four of her own children through our program.
- **Jennifer Shekels** steps into her new role as the lead 2s teacher.

We are incredibly excited to get this year started and look forward to a wonderful season of growth together!

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.

Our first day of The Children's Program will be on September 27.

I look forward to an exciting year of service and learning with your children!

Ms. Lisa

****

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

Card Ministry Volunteer needed:

Do you enjoy connecting with people via greeting cards? If so, this may be the ministry for you!
We are searching for someone in the Congregation who would like to take on the very well received, and appreciated, Card Ministry.
Please contact Lisa Ruff or Cindy Chambers for details. Thank you!

Church Picnic
September 13, 2026

Join us for food, games & fellowship!

Fried chicken, yummy homemade sides & desserts, and games inside and out!

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.

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant: A reflection on 48 Years of CAMP HOPE

Posted by on Jun 18, 2026
https://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/well-done-good-and-faithful-servant-a-reflection-on-48-years-of-camp-hope/

By: Amy A. Willis
Program Director - CAMP HOPE

It was my dream job.
I got the call - I was offered my dream job.

I had been waiting since I was 14 years old and had my first experience at CAMP HOPE as a camper. I fell in love with every aspect of the program, and as I drove home from my first week of CAMP, I knew I wanted it to be a part of my life for as long as possible. After 3 years as a camper, 4 summers on staff as a counselor, and a few years as an adult leader, I had the opportunity to apply for the position of Program Director. I jumped at the chance. After the interview, I was nervous for days as I awaited the outcome. Driving home from work on 95 one afternoon, I got a phone call offering me the position. I played the game and asked for time to think about it and get back to the Board of Directors with my response, knowing I could not say no. When I called and spoke to my now-husband about the offer and tried to have a conversation about how it would impact our lives, his immediate response was that we would make it work no matter what it took - He knew I had been hoping for this job since my teens. Although I knew the impact the program had on me previously, I never could have imagined how it would shape every aspect of my life.

CAMP HOPE was started in 1977 by Reverend Tom Kaylor. At the time, he was the pastor of Frostburg United Methodist Church and went on a mission trip to help rebuild and renovate homes for those in need. While on the trip, Reverend Kaylor began reflecting on similar needs in the greater Frostburg area, and committed to bringing the

program back to Western Maryland. One member of the current Board of Directors for CAMP HOPE has been involved since the program's inception, and she fondly recalls visiting worksites that first summer and handing out popsicles to campers as they renovated houses in the scorching heat. From there, the program steadily grew.

We started staying on campus at Frostburg State University, giving campers the unique and exciting experience of living on a college campus while still in high school. After working on their worksites each day, campers returned to the dorms for a quick shower and change of clothes, then jumped into both structured and unstructured relationship- and community-building. Each evening, the four college-aged counselors led campers in a game or activity, including volleyball, going to the campus pool, kickball, family game nights, family movie nights, and the all-time favorite Capture the Flag. Capture the Flag was the type of controlled chaos that can truly only occur at a summer camp - Picture 60 high schoolers wearing shirts of either black or white, carrying the other, as they trudged across campus towards the Quad, where the combination of wide open space and surrounding buildings created the perfect arena for the high-octane version of hide-and-seek. Others staying on campus that evening would frequently look up into a tree to see an ex-Marine adult leader hiding with black face paint on as he crept his way towards the opposing flag, or notice two giggling teens crawling under bushes in a mediocre attempt to not be caught by their fellow campers.

The game became so intense that it was put on pause for a few summers, much to the chagrin of campers and adult leaders alike!

While planned activities were foundational to the program, unstructured time in the evening was when friendships and relationships truly flourished. One summer, a church brought a foosball table to CAMP and a full-blown bracketed tournament was born. Two campers from different churches became so close during this summer that they went on to be college roommates and best men at each other's weddings. One leader was notorious for hosting the largest and longest card games every night, bringing campers from every church together for the evening. And, of course, there were the pranks. Light-hearted and fun-loving campers would plan playful tricks on one another, their adult leaders, and especially the counseling staff. One summer, all of the counselors were brought together and turned into ice cream sundaes, being covered with chocolate syrup, whipped cream, and sprinkles. Another summer, an adult leader came back to her dorm room to find it completely filled with balloons. A counselor had their car gift wrapped for them in the middle of the night, waking up to a large bow and the need to hitch a ride to breakfast. Relationships between campers were forged, fortified, and solidified during these in-between moments of laughter with a bottle of chocolate syrup in hand or casual chatting while waiting for your turn to play foosball.

After all of the evening shenanigans, campers were up early each morning for devotions and breakfast. Each day, morning devotions and evening vespers services were held, one planned by the counselors and one planned by the campers. Services were based on a weekly theme and gave campers the opportunity to connect their service work to their faith. After the morning service and meal, campers headed to their assigned worksites. Each team of 5-9 campers was matched with a homeowner for the week and worked with them on approved projects throughout the week. CAMP HOPE is about repairing and rebuilding homes for those who physically or financially cannot do so themselves, and the projects we've worked on run the gamut from painting a porch to building a one-bedroom home. This work is vital. Important. Life-changing. On the surface, it looks like the program is just about these construction and repair projects. While that is an element of the program, and while I am not the first or last camper to fall in love with power tools during my tenure at CAMP HOPE, the true focus is on curating and facilitating interactions with others. Building relationships with people you might not otherwise have the opportunity to get to know. Campers are encouraged to take time at their worksites each day to talk with their homeowner and get to know them. Play with their children and grandchildren. Snuggle their pets and hear their stories. Going into the week, the task of painting a porch might seem inconsequential. Then, you meet Mr. Brooks. You learn that Mr. Brooks built the porch when he purchased the house 40 years ago, because his late wife wanted a place to look out over the mountains together while they drank their morning coffee. Mr. Brooks painted the porch 15 years ago for his daughter's prom pictures, the summer before she moved across the country and their interactions were whittled to monthly FaceTime calls. Mr. Brooks was diagnosed with cancer a year and a half ago, and has trouble with the things that used to come easy to him. He is not one to ask for help, and having someone pick him up to drive him to his weekly appointments

takes a little chunk of his pride each time. When his neighbor encouraged him to apply, he thought he would give it a shot, but he knew he wouldn't be selected because it was "just a porch." Mr. Brooks' porch is more than a porch to him - It is the background of his life's movie. Seeing it restored in turn restores him. Being a part of that story is life-changing to all involved, but only if you have taken the time to put down your paintbrush to get to know Mr. Brooks.

We could share so many stories similar to Mr. Brooks', and for many of our homeowners, the projects had far-reaching implications. We have built many handicap ramps to give homeowners a safe way to get out of their homes when their health has necessitated using a cane or wheelchair. We have repaired many roofs, one of which was so degraded that the homeowners had to put a plastic shower curtain over their bed each day in case it rained or snowed, as there was a hole in the roof directly over their bed. One summer, we worked with a homeowner whose only point of egress from their home was an 8-foot ladder, and we provided them with two sets of steps to safely get in and out of their home. We worked with a homeowner who had a hole in their bathroom floor so large that the toilet was balanced on 2 by 4s, and we were able to give them a bathroom they could finally use with peace of mind. The projects we completed over the years brought safety and security to our homeowners in a way they hadn't felt in too long.

Throughout the 48 years CAMP HOPE was in existence, over 100 churches brought youth and adults to the greater Western Maryland area. Over 3,000 homeowners had a week of their life filled with laughter and smiles, and ended the week with part of their home in a better place than it was before. Thousands of campers had the opportunity to come to Frostburg, enhance their construction skills, and create bonds that last a lifetime. Based on our estimations, we believe about 7,500 campers engaged in the program throughout the years, the majority of whom attended multiple years in a row. When COVID occurred, we lost two years of CAMP HOPE and have been working to build our way back since. Each year, we have had fewer homeowners apply for assistance, fewer campers volunteer to attend, and fewer counselor applications. The Board of Directors has worked tirelessly to continue the program and had to make the incredibly difficult decision that the summer of 2025 would be the final summer of CAMP HOPE. We know the positive impact our program had in Western Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania throughout the years and are forever indebted to Reverend Kaylor for creating a program where so many people found forever friends, found their faith, and found themselves.

We close each week of CAMP HOPE by singing Pass It On as a reminder to take our good works and share them throughout the year. After spending the week acting as the hands and feet of Christ, we committed together to continue that work in service after leaving our week together in Frostburg. As the CAMP HOPE era comes to a close, the final verse rings truer than ever. I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found. You can depend on God; it matters not where you're bound. I'll shout it from the mountaintops - I want the world to know - the Lord of Love has come to me. I want to pass it on.

For more information on CAMP HOPE, or to purchase CAMP HOPE t-shirts from years past, please explore camphopemd.com.

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Quilt Sale & AUCTION

QUILTS OF VALOR

FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY
Sept. 5, 2026
10am-2pm

American Legion Sykesville
Post 223, 7327 Slacks Rd
Sykesville, MD

Handcrafted Quilts,
Food & Beverages
Available for Purchase

SILENT AUCTION
Quilts &
Other Items

POTLUCK AUCTION
Various
Gift Baskets

BROWSE, BID & WIN!

RAFFLES & DOOR PRIZES

PROCEEDS BENEFIT ELDERSBURG QUILTS OF VALOR

Proceeds support the mission of providing comforting quilts to service members and veterans touched by war.

Follow us on Facebook @Eldersburg Quilts of Valor
For more information, contact Pam Adams at:
443-802-3734 | pamela.adams@qovf.org

Payment accepted via check, Venmo, Zelle & PayPal

DONATIONS WELCOME!

The following pages are thank-you letters received in response to donations from our Missions Committee:

The Arc Baltimore

A WORLD WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE VALUED, THEIR VOICES ARE HEARD, AND THEIR IMPACT IS FELT.

June 10, 2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Renaye James
Healthcare Advisors

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

Dear Friends:

Thanks to your incredible support, **The Arc Baltimore continues to provide essential services and programs that empower people with developmental disabilities** to lead fulfilling lives filled with independence and opportunity.

Your contributions fuel our ongoing mission to create a world where every voice is heard, respected, and valued. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in building a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Thank you!

Kathleen Durkin

Kathleen McNally Durkin
Chief Executive Officer

p.s. Please contact Chris Knoerlein, chief advancement officer, with questions regarding your gift receipt (or for other information) at 410-296-2272 ext. 5217 or cknoerlein@thearcbaltimore.org.

Credit Date:	5/26/2026
Amount Received from You:	$500
Goods/Benefits Provided by The Arc Baltimore:	-
Charitable Contribution:	$ 500.00

The Arc Baltimore is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Maryland Secretary of State's Office for the cost of copying and mailing.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

A Christian Outreach and Support Center

June 09, 2026

Ward's Chapel United Methodist Church
11023 Liberty Road
Randallstown, MD 21133-1036

Gift changing donation!
Thank you!

Dear Ward's Chapel United Methodist Church,

We are so grateful for your recent gift of $2,000.00 (check # 17396 dated April 29, 2026) to The Shepherd's Staff. Your kindness is the foundation of our mission, and it makes a life-changing difference for our neighbors in need.

As Carroll County transitions into warmer days, we are constantly reminded of how vital steady support is for our community. While seasonal challenges change, the financial hurdles - like keeping up with laundry, restocking cleaning supplies, and managing utility bills - remain a constant pressure for local families. Often these basic everyday essentials are the first things sacrificed when a household is trying to keep a roof overhead.

Your generosity provides a vital safety net. It ensures that when our neighbors reach out, we can offer more than just a temporary fix; we can offer the stability they need to move forward.

We've enclosed our Gifts of Hope flyer so you can see the ways your support is being transformed into real-world relief. Thank you for being a light in our community.

Grace and peace,

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Brenda Meadows
Executive Director

Enclosures (2)

"The people at Shepherd's Staff are generous, kind, and caring. They are a blessing to the community. Thank you for all you do."

"The Shepherd's Staff is a Section 501(c)3 nonprofit. Under IRS guidelines you have received no substantial benefits in return for your gift. Your gift may qualify for a charitable deduction for income tax purposes. Please consult with your tax adviser or the IRS to determine whether a contribution is deductible."

P.O. Box 127, Westminster, MD 21158
410-857-5944 | info@shepstaff.org | www.shepstaff.org

How Your

"Gifts of Hope"

Helped The Shepherd's Staff Serve Others!

January 2025 - December 2025

Neighbors Helped - **8,309** Households Helped - **3,191**
New Carroll County Households Served - **562** (including 19 veterans)

Emergency Financial Assistance	**880** Households
Rx Financial Assistance	**36** Neighbors
Back-to-School Program & Year Round Essentials	**1,836** Students
Blessings Closet Items	**1,931** Households
Call for Coats (new coats only)	**351** Neighbors
Spiritual Easter Baskets	**1,042** Children
The Shepherd's Staff Table Noon Meal	**3,500** Meals
Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner	**325** Meals
July 4th Picnic	**175** Meals
Christmas Stockings/Senior Sacks	**1,427** Distributed
Laundry Facility	**12** Neighbors
Gas Vouchers	**179** Neighbors
Mail Service	**113** Neighbors
Emergency Food	**357** Households
Pet Food	**170** Pets

Hundreds of Other Requests Were Granted For:

Compassionate Listening
Referrals to Eliminate Duplicate Services
Advocacy Provided Based on Need
Emergency Clothing & Household Items
Religious Literature
Referrals and Advocacy

Our Deepest Appreciation To All!

he Shepherd's Staff is the recipient of the 2026 Carroll Magazine's Readers' Choice Awards as Best Nonprofit, 2026 Carroll County Human Relations Commission Award, 2026 Westminster Elks #2277 Citizen of the Year Award, 2023 Light of Carroll Award, the 2021 Sylvia Canon Community Champion Award, the 2017 Sylvia Canon Humanitarian Award, the 2016 McDaniel College featured Nonprofit Award, the 2016 Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit Partner in Business Award, the 2014 Wm Donald Schaefer People Helping People Awards, and the 2008 Nonprofit Philanthropist of the Year Award.

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

YTD Financial Summary:

Offering is 7.9% ($7,500) less then the same period in 2025. At this time approximately $2,500 (33%) of the shortfall appears to be a reduction in offering and the balance is timing.

Building and Grounds variance relates to higher BGE bills ($2, 000), Weather related expenses for parking lot clearance ($690) and a maintenance contract dispute on 2025 related services paid in 2026 ($1,500). The balance of the variance is 90% timing related and 10% increase in expense.

	July YTD Amounts			
	2025	2026	Incr/(Decr) 2025 to 2026	
Total Gifts (sources):				
Offering *	$ 94,901	$ 87,367	$ (7,534)	-7.9%
Other Donations (note 1)	$ 11,000	$ 11,000	-	
Total Support to Operating Fund	$ 105,901	$ 98,367	$ (7,534)	-7.1%
Expense:				
Blding/Grounds	$ 38,351	$ 49,712	$ 11,361	29.6%
Ed./Ministry	$ 4,427	$ 3,643	(784)	-17.7%
Apportionments	$ 22,357	$ 21,555	(802)	-3.6%
Pastoral/Staff/Office	$ 108,794	$ 110,549	1,755	1.6%
Total Expense	$ 173,929	$ 185,458	$ 11,530	6.6%
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	$ (68,027)	$ (87,092)		
Deficit Draw from Wm B Martin Fund	$ -	$ 50,000		
Deficit with Drawdown from Wm B Martin Fund	$ (68,027)	$ (37,092)		
Available Cash on Hand		$ 1,825		

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**

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Online Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	4	5
6 **Communion**	7	8 Finance 6:30 pm Church Council 7:00 pm	9 6:30 p Vitality mtg. ***Lamplighter Deadline***	10	11 4-H 7:00 PM	12
13	14	15 SPRC 7:00 pm	16	17 Men's Dinner at Oscar's 7:00 pm	18	19 Food Pantry 9am-11am
20 **Heifer Sunday** *Private Event (FH)* *11a-6p*	21	22	23 6:30 p Vitality mtg.	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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

Church Picnic

September 13

following worship

We'll provide fried chicken and drinks,
so please bring a side or dessert if you are able.

We'll have cornhole, pickleball, card games,
and seating inside and out.

Come down to the fellowship hall after the worship service and catch up with other members you may not have seen over the summer!