



Camp Chapel
United Methodist
Church

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A Message from Pastor Carol

Whenever I feel spiritually “stuck,” trying a new (or returning to an old) spiritual practice is often what refreshes my relationship with God.

A new practice may become a lifelong habit. A new discipline may just last a season. Some ways of engaging with God may not be helpful. The only way to discover what is helpful or not is to try. You may wish to try a few of the suggestions below:

🌿 **Praying in color** – grab a notebook and some colored pencils or paint and brush and create a visual prayer. Illustrate the cries of your heart with color and form. Because it is for you and God alone, you are free to follow the leading of the Spirit and not worry about being ‘artistic.’

🌿 **Praying with movement** – Does your mind wander while sitting still with your head bowed and hands folded? Praying as you walk, crochet, or move in any repetitive way may be good for you. Whether you concentrate a verse of Scripture, pray for the recipient of your handiwork, or let your surroundings guide your conversation with God does not matter. What matters is being intentional about being present to God.

🌿 **Praying with holy imagination** – Choose a story from the life of Christ you will dwell on for a few days. Each day, read the passage and then enter the story. Imagine yourself as an onlooker one day – what do you see and hear? The next day become a character – what do you experience and how does it make you feel? Become part of the story each day until you experience each character.

🌿 **Praying with the eyes** – Find an object that brings God to your mind: a leaf, a lit candle, the cross, the Bible, a bowl of fruit, or another item. As you gaze at the object, marvel at our God who created the natural world, sent light into our hearts and minds, provided the Scriptures for our souls, or blessed you in other ways. Offer prayers of adoration and thanksgiving for God’s gifts to you.

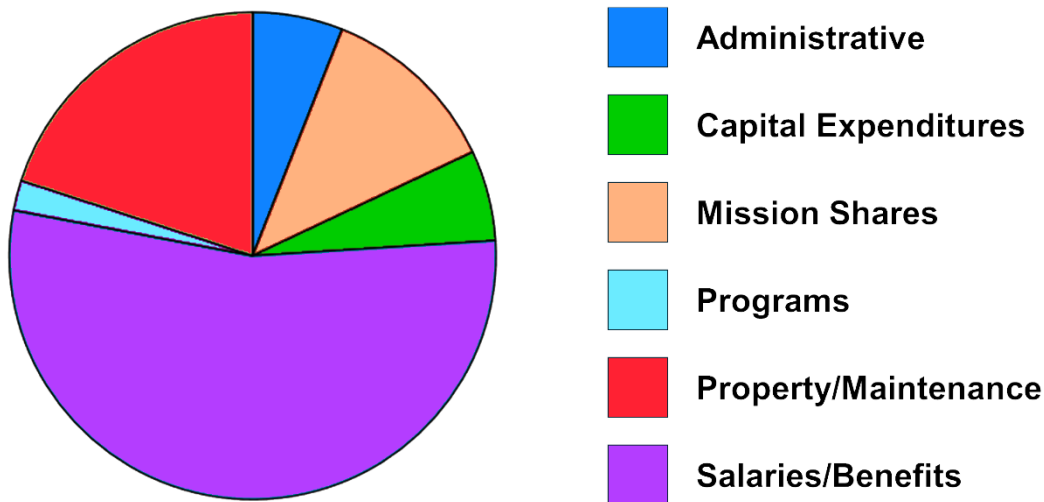
There is no limit to ways in which we can be present to God, worship God, and celebrate God’s work in the world. Explore new ways of being with God and joyfully receive the blessings God intends for you.

Peace,
Carol

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

2026 BUDGET RELEASED - \$358,796

The Finance Committee is pleased to share information about our 2026 budget. The pie chart gives you a breakdown of how General Funds will be spent during the coming year. General Funds come entirely from our congregation's tithing and offerings and are used to pay our operating expenses. This does not include our ministries that carry out their work from donations that are above and beyond offerings and tithing.



Here's a bit of further explanation:

Administrative costs include office supplies, photocopier use, postage, our Zoom membership, website costs, and Safe Sanctuaries, which pays for background checks for our members who interact with children.

Capital expenses is the money spent on acquiring and maintaining fixed assets.

Mission Shares are determined by and paid to the Baltimore Washington Conference to contribute to mission and ministries beyond our local congregation and community.

Programs include adult Bible study, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, hospitality, marketing, history, and other worship costs.

Property maintenance includes ground and building maintenance, upkeep, insurance and utilities.

Salaries and benefits are for our pastor, music director, and church administrator, including Social Security, Medicare, State and federal withholding taxes. Benefits include health insurance and pension for our pastor.

In God's Peace,
Sharon Ward, Treasurer

CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

CAMP CHAPEL GARDENING UPDATE

Our small but mighty group met to continue planning the spring 2026 gardens at Camp Chapel! We would like to add a winter-interest native shrub or bush to brighten up the subdued winter landscape. Any suggestions you may have of a favorite plant would be appreciated. Send any suggestions to me at rtalley3@comcast.net.

We are also striving to honor the "Leave the Leaves" method of supporting pollinators and birds but will be busy in the spring incorporating this mulch into our beds.

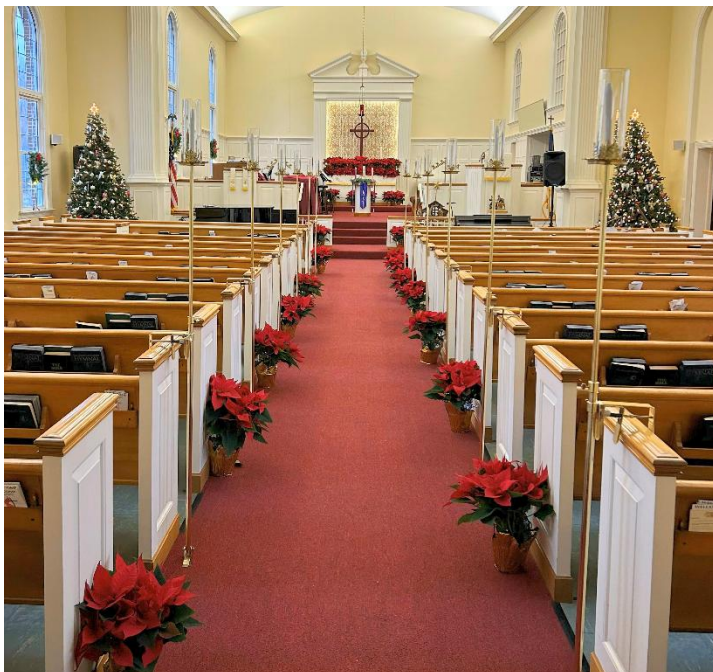
Leave the Leaves

From the U.S. Department of Agriculture: Leaves create a natural mulch that helps to suppress weeds while fertilizing the soil as it breaks down. The leaves also serve as a habitat for wildlife including lizards, birds, turtles, frogs, and insects that overwinter in the fallen leaves. These living creatures help keep pests down and increase pollination in your garden, so having a habitat for them in the fallen leaves can help to keep them around when you need them the most.

Rita Talley



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



I would like to thank the following volunteers for their time and hard work decorating the Sanctuary and the Chapel for Advent and Christmas. I received several compliments on how beautiful everything looked as we worshiped together. The lush poinsettias, the decorated Christmas trees, the creche, and the altar and pew candles truly set the mood for Christmas Eve.

Thank you all: Mike Ryan, Don Stipek, Allen Zink, Mary Smith, Cheryl Stephens, Carolyn Glorioso, Susan Wallace, and Sue Garrison.

Cathy Zink
Altar Guild



CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

CREATION CARE UPDATE

Though the weather has been cold, your Creation Care team has been busy.

December Activities

- Winter veggie gardens at a Christmas tea - Rita and Kathy had a wonderful teatime at Mt. Olive UMC in Randallstown. Though we worship and live across town, we had many topics and people in common for a delightful afternoon. Afterward, we toured their vegetable garden that was still growing winter greens. They run a three day a week food pantry including produce from their gardens.
- Our gardeners met to review 2025 and plan for 2026. Please talk to Rita Talley if you feel called to help the Creation Care team to help in any way.
- Faith by Pizza - Camp Chapel was highlighted by Blessed Tomorrow Celebration who granted us \$500 to run a three-part series helping folks to grow vegetables, eat healthy and enjoy fresh produce. Ten of us gathered to watch the celebration from five faith communities.
- Winter greens arranging – we hosted a demo on how to reuse old containers to enjoy a fresh winter greens arrangement.



Plans for 2026

- Creation Care Meeting in January – please join us Wednesday, January 21, at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing innovative ideas as well as viewing some of the Blessed Tomorrow Celebration.
- 2026 National Faith & Climate Forum – We have started making plans to host on Saturday, April 25, at 12 noon the kickoff to Faith by Pizza for 2026. Please plan to attend. Camp Chapel raises money based on our attendance.
- Faith By Pizza – Many of our close neighbors are hurting and in need of a nearby nurturing community. At the four schools within walking distance, 34%-76% of their children are eligible for free and reduced meals. How can Camp Chapel be their light?
- IDEAS – Please reach out to Frank, Rita or Kathy with any ideas or questions you have. We love to talk how to best care for God's gift, Creation!! Wintertime saunters, plastic reduction, recycling, litter patrol, little library, native plants, pollinator gardens.

Blessings,
Frank Long,
Rita Tally/Gardens,
Kathy Martin



CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



An unexpected snowstorm canceled all but the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, December 14, but it wasn't enough to postpone the Christmas concert featuring Ryan Wilson, tenor. Ryan treated the audience to sacred and secular Christmas favorites accompanied on piano by Camp Chapel's music director, Gary Lushbaugh. During Ryan's breaks, Josh Klemm showed his talent as a cellist. While Josh was setting up and stowing his instrument, Gary regaled the attendees by playing requests, including his innovative version of "Rudolph, the Red-Nose Reindeer."

BALTIMORE BOOTS



Camp Chapel is proud to be a supporter of Baltimore Boots. The mission of Baltimore Boots is to provide essential support to those in need. The nonprofit focuses on community empowerment and helping individuals regain their footing in life by providing shoes and boots to those who are most in need within our community. The founders, our own Landen and Ryan Beveridge, hope that by providing a new pair of boots or shoes, their organization will help individuals get back on their feet, obtain employment, and reenter society as participants in our community.

Your contribution can help Baltimore Boots transform lives and create a brighter future. More than 90 percent of all financial donations are allocated directly to purchasing new footwear for the homeless in our community. If you would like to contribute to this mission, their website is <https://baltimoreboots.com/>, or you can scan this QR code ►



CAMP CHAPEL NEWS

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, ONE PILLOW AT A TIME

The year 2025 marked the 25th anniversary of Camp Chapel's Pillow Ministry in providing heart-shaped pillows to patients at Union Memorial and both heart-shaped and TLC (rectangular) pillows to patients at Franklin Square. Over the past 25 years, we have touched 28,021 patients' lives with our pillows!

This ministry is a blessing to many but could not be possible without the numerous volunteers who dedicated many hours over the last 25 years, so a special thank you to all of them for making this ministry possible.

Joyce Williams
Debbie Kalendek

SECOND ANNUAL LIVE NATIVITY A SUCCESS



The shelters were set up, the lighting was turned on, the props were in position, the costumes were fitted, and the actors took their places. The evening of December 20 saw a steady line of automobiles passing through Camp Chapel's drives and parking lot to view the second annual drive-through nativity scene.



Snow and Ice Policy

In the event of inclement winter weather (snow or ice), we may have to close the church. During the week, any time Baltimore County schools close for winter weather, all activities at the church are cancelled. Saturday events are cancelled if a snow emergency is in effect. Sunday worship will be cancelled to protect our members' safety if our parking lot and walks cannot be safely cleared. The decision about cancellation of worship is made the evening before based on information we have at that time. Safety is always a priority. Announcements of closure will be posted on our website and on the church office answering machine.



Devotion for Home and at Camp Chapel Gatherings

Over the past 2 years, we've been holding space and time at the beginning of Camp Chapel meetings for devotion. It's a good and joyful thing to reflect as we begin anew.

Last January, I shared United Methodists background on devotions. To refresh, I urge you to reread and take a few moments to watch the powerful video message *'Is A World of Peace Possible?'* found at www.umc.org/en/ways-we-grow/worship-and-devotion.

Recently, our UMC General Secretary Bishop Julius C. Trimble shared a powerful message in his column titled, *'Don't Invite Me to Preach'*, where he remembered a young student pastor stating that she served *"in a community and a time when people need extra Jesus."* The bishop continued with a call: *I believe we are in a critical spiritual season where we could benefit from some "extra Jesus." The Jesus who was unambiguous about rejecting violence, loving your neighbors and enemies, doing good and embracing the work of peacemaking. ...Jesus' promotion of the ethic of love was not at the expense of ignoring injustice or passive resignation in the face of humanitarian crises in need of faithful response."*

In a pre-read of United Women of Faith book club selection, Jill Duffield offers her wisdom, in a section called Fools, Not Experts, *'Jesus doesn't ask us to be experts; Jesus has a lack of reverence for experts; consensus is often the enemy of the courageous and halt the will of Lord as they sought expert advice rather than being fools for Christ.*

How are we being called? These themes call us to stretch ourselves as we immerse ourselves in more of the bishop's and Duffield's words in the coming months. Take time to chew on these so that when we meet, gathering in his name, our spirits and work will be transformed in ways that strengthen Camp Chapel as the center of healing to our community.

With Peace and Blessings,
Kathy Martin



Coming Events

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



Wednesday, January 7, 11 am in Fellowship Hall

Join us and enjoy an afternoon of lunch, games, and fellowship with other Camp Chapel members. Bring a sandwich and a drink for lunch (dessert will be provided). Feel free to bring your favorite board game, cards, or dominos. **All Are Welcome!**



The Deadline for Submitting Articles for the February
Acorn Is Monday, January 19



Camp Chapel Film Seminar Presents:
Saturday, February 21, 6 pm Via Zoom

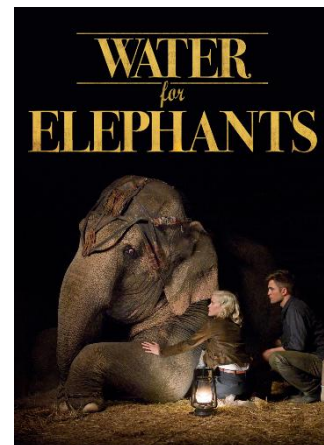
Jacob Jankowski is old – in his late eighties at least, but that doesn't stop him from running away to join a circus!

Water for Elephants (2011), directed by Francis Lawrence and starring Reese Witherspoon, Robert Pattinson, Christoph Waltz, and Hal Holbrook, has a running time of 120 minutes.



Check the flyer on our web site:
<https://campchapel.org/event/film-seminar-water-for-elephants>

◀ Or scan the QR code.



You must be 18 years or older. Zoom invitation will be sent via email



SAVE THESE DATES!



January 6	Trustees (Zoom)	February 3	Trustees (Zoom)
January 7	Band of Brothers	February 4	Band of Brothers
January 13	Finance Committee (Zoom)	February 10	Finance Committee (Zoom)
January 14	Circle of Sisters	February 11	Circle of Sisters
January 21	Band of Brothers	February 18	Band of Brothers
January 27	Church Council (Zoom)	February 24	Church Council (Zoom)
January 28	Circle of Sisters	February 25	Circle of Sisters



Things I Learned in 2025

It's that time! Let me tell you some things I learned or thought about in a fresh way in 2025.

1. This year, I came to realize that one of the reasons I am a United Methodist has to do with the appearance of our church. I spent many years worshiping God in spaces filled with statuary, ornate murals, light flowing in through sumptuous stained-glass windows, scores of candles, and enough gold paint to make Donald Trump's mouth water. When I came through the doors of Camp Chapel back in 1980, I was struck by the sparseness and lack of decoration, and I loved it without even being aware of my feelings on a conscious level.
2. I am coming to understand that, for some Millennials, and most Gen-X, Gen-Z and Gen-Alpha people, getting a tarot reading or having one's astrological chart done has largely been replaced by Internet click bait posts that have titles like "Which Disney character are you most like? Click here to find out!" or "Which Star Wars character are you?"

These all work the same. You click, and the widget shows you some random choice from the obvious possibilities along with a made-up set of qualities that you might flatter yourself thinking you have. Nobody ever gets the Wicked Witch from *Snow White* or Emperor Palpatine from *Star Wars*. But why do I always get Princess Leia? I'm nothing like Princess Leia!

Am I?



3. There is a subset of Americans who have been trying to convince the rest of us that this is a Christian nation, and some go so far as to advocate that the government should declare Christianity to be our official religion. In my opinion, that movement lost all credibility this year when the U.S. shut down USAID, then burned a warehouse full of food that was earmarked for feeding starving people in third world countries, and most recently cut funding for school lunch programs here at home. Feeding the hungry seems to me to be the most basic thing that Christians ought to be doing. Read Matthew 25:31-46 and tell me I'm wrong.



4. There are two kinds of people in the world: those that go crazy over "Wicked" – the book, the musical, the movies – and those who couldn't care less. Guess which type I am.

5. I think the members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) deserve a bunch of credit for what they have done this year, and prayers for 2026. Finding replacements for two church administrators in less than nine months was a much bigger headache than most members of our congregation will ever know. And now Pastor Carol is retiring.

Bill Smith

Birthdays

January Birthdays

Barbara Thompson	January 3
John Olcott	January 4
Abigail Craven	January 6
Debra Kalendek	January 8
Winston Bain	January 13
Anita Obinger	January 15
Hannah Warren	January 15
Elizabeth Day	January 21
Alan Amador	January 22
Ryan Gaskin	January 25
Joyce Williams-Joiner	January 25
Angela Gaskin	January 26
Elly Delkoon	January 28
Kellie Smith	January 28
Jackie Brawn	January 30
David Dziuk	January 31
David Whitson	January 31

February Birthdays

Philip Graham	February 2
Darlene Greif	February 3
Paul Gyr	February 4
Alexander Heyne	February 4
Benjamin Craven	February 7
Andrew Brawn	February 12
David Borgerding	February 13
Ron Wolf	February 13
Lucas Howard	February 17
Carolyn Glorioso	February 20
Cathy Zink	February 22
Allison Anderson	February 24
Faye Labar	February 27



Having a Birthday?

The *Acorn* would love to celebrate every single birthday of every member of our congregation. Each month, we list the birthdays for this month and the next. If your birthday does not appear, please send an email to acorn@campchapel.org with your name and the month and day you were born. WE DO NOT NEED TO KNOW THE YEAR! Your age can be your secret!



Lectionary Readings

January

January 4: Epiphany Sunday

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20 (UMH 859)

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 11: Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-10

Psalms 29 (UMH 761)

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

January 18: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11 (UMH 774)

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

January 25: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 10-18 (UMH 758)

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23



February

February 1: 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15 (UMH 747)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

February 8: 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

Psalms 112:1-9 (10) (UMH 833)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

February 15: Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2 (UMH 739) or Psalms 99 (UMH 819)

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

February 18: Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:1-17 (UMH 785)

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:-6, 16-21

February 22: 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalms 32 (UMH 766)

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Bible Is the Word of God



What's Happening in January?

Among other observances, January is Cervical Health Awareness Month, National Glaucoma Awareness Month, National Birth Defects Prevention Month, National Blood Donor Month, Thyroid Disease Awareness Month, and National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Other celebrations include month long attention to: Walking Your Pet, Teen Driving Awareness, Skating, Soup, Polka Music, Poverty in America, Braille Literacy, Financial Wellness, Bath Safety, and Bird Adoption. Here's what else is happening:



- 1 Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
- 1 New Year's Day
- 1 World Day of Peace
- 2 National Cream Puff Day
- 2 Swiss Cheese Day
- 3 Full Moon (Wolf Moon)
- 3 National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- 4 Perihelion Day (Earth is closest to the sun in its orbit)
- 4 World Hypnotism Day (You're getting sleeepy!)
- 5 George Washington Carver Day
- 6 Feast of the Epiphany
- 8 National Bubble Bath Day
- 10 National Cut Your Energy Cost Day
- 11 Baptism of Our Lord
- 11 International Thank-You Day
- 11 Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day
- 13 Korean American Day
- 13 Public Radio Broadcasting Day
- 16 National Fig Newton Day
- 16 National Religious Freedom Day
- 17 Betty White Day
- 17 Popeye Day
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 20 New England Clam Chowder Day
- 22 Roe v. Wade Day
- 24 National Compliment Day (You look marvelous!)
- 26 Spouse's Day
- 27 Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 28 Christa McAuliffe Day
- 31 Gorilla Suit Day

