



The Point

February 2024

Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church

1912 Old Court Road
Towson, MD 21204
Phone: (410) 339-7770
Fax: (410) 339-7790

Online

Search for @huntschurch on
YouTube and social media

Worship

8:30am Contemporary
10am Traditional + Online

Staff

Rev. Carissa Surber, Pastor
443-353-0439 (cell)
carissa@huntsmc.org

Beth Woody
Administrative Assistant
beth@huntsmc.org

Cameron Lacque
Communications Director
cam@huntsmc.org

Chase Simpson
Music Director
chase@huntschurch.org

Kelley Unger,
Preschool Director
www.huntschurchpreschool.com
410-296-3500

One of the first artists to ever capture my imagination was Normal Rockwell. I love his detailed depiction of Americana, the way he includes little hints of the story behind the story. Made famous by his many 'Saturday Evening Post' covers, the work I most often think of is his "Four Freedoms" series: *Freedom from Want*, *Freedom of Speech*, *Freedom from Fear*, and *Freedom of Worship*.

While much can be said about these four oil paintings, my mind is drawn to the prepositions in the titles. Freedom, as it turns out, can be "from" and "of" something – and it can also be "for" or "to" something. Freedom *from* want means freedom *for* abundance, generosity, and gratitude. Freedom *of* speech means freedom *to* advocate for those who have no voice. Freedom *from* fear means (as it says in 1st John 4:18) freedom *for* love, because "perfect love casts out fear."

When Jesus stepped into his ministry, he did not do so as a powerful influencer or a gentle guru. In many ways, Jesus led like a revolutionary. He talked about changing kingdoms, predicted the fall of Jerusalem, and worked in secret until the time was right to reveal his hand. And most revolutionary of all was Jesus' work as **liberator**.

Wherever he went, Jesus turned the power dynamics upside-down. In a time when it seemed like the best route to freedom was a Jewish army rebelling against the Romans, Jesus drew his followers to another way. Instead of predicting his triumphant ascension to a throne in Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his death. And instead of showing us disciples who "get it," the gospel of Mark joins Jesus in this upside-down initiative by showing us unnamed women who (over and over) have a clear understanding of what it means to give your whole life to Christ.

All this upside-down movement was Jesus' way to **set us free**. Rather than being bound by our scarcity or ailment, Jesus provides healing and food for the journey. Rather than being bound by our own ambitions to be 'the greatest in God's kingdom,' Jesus frees us for a life of humble service.



In This Issue:

- 2 – Lent, Catalyst Initiative
- 3 – Worship, Scout Sunday
- 4 – Worship Pics
- 5 – Lenten Activities
- 6 – Community Life
- 7 – Family Ministries
- 9 – Hunt's Church Preschool
- 10 – Columbarium: Meeting
- 11 – Missions Corner
- 13 – Missions Pics
- 14 – Moment in Time
- 15 – Memories
- 15 – Empty Bowls
- 16 – Financial News
- 17 – Stewardship Information
- 18 – Easter Flowers Order Form
- 19 – February Calendar
- 20 – Stay Connected
- 20 – Office Volunteers Needed

*The next edition of
"The Point" will be released
on March 1, 2024.*

*If you have a contribution for
the March newsletter, please
submit it to the church office
no later than Thursday,
February 22.*

During the season of Lent, we'll be exploring what it really means to be 'free in Christ.' After all, when Paul writes that "for freedom Christ has set us free"



(Galatians 5:1), it wasn't about living a life without limits or accountability. It was all about living a life that is unbound by those things that bind our hearts, minds, and souls.

Before Lent begins, I invite you to take some time for reflection: **what are the things that bind you?** Is it worrying about other people's opinions? Is it comparison? Maybe it's financial strain, a tight schedule, or a particularly difficult season of life. There are no

exemptions from the struggles of life that get us locked up and tied up in knots.

I encourage you to reflect on this question, and then spend time throughout Lent praying for God to show you the way to freedom. Jesus did not come to give us overly burdened lives – he came that we might have life and have it abundantly! By the power of the Spirit, we can be set free from each thing that binds us. What better way to prepare for the resurrection?

May you find freedom *from* your chains – and may Christ set you free *for* a life of abundant love and grace.

grace & peace,

Rev. Carissa

Catalyst Initiative

Vitality is all about living life to the fullest (John 10:10). A vital church is one that makes a definable and notable difference in the lives of those in their community. Vital churches see all the people, deepen discipleship, live and love like Jesus, and multiply their impact. None of this happens without intentional discernment!



Over the past year, our Church Council has held deep and wide-ranging discussions about the vitality of Hunt's Church. Using the data from the February 2023 Readiness360 survey, Church Council members reflected upon the current state of Hunt's Church and where we feel God calling us in the future.

Over the next year, you will see a number of activities aiming to prepare us to invest fully in the Catalyst Initiative in 2025. Stay tuned for more details!

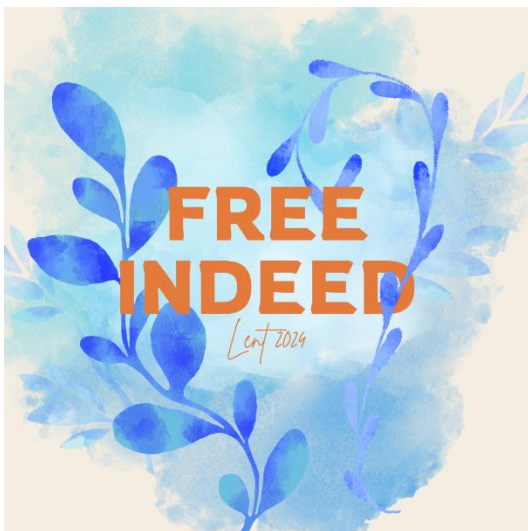
Worship

On Your Mark...

As we pivot from January to February, there's no denying that we have truly entered this new year. During our current worship series, Rev. Carissa has begun preaching through the gospel of Mark. This story of Jesus shows a relentless rabbi who calls disciples to a rigorous life of following.

As Methodists, we believe that the spiritual disciplines of *prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness* are key to following Jesus. That's why Church Council has begun a study of these disciplines, and we've spent time during worship each week discussing these very topics. On *Sunday, February 11*, you'll be invited to consecrate your commitment to these disciplines as we place our pledges for 2024 on the altar. These pledges are not a financial tool for building a church budget – they are a spiritual tool for your own reflection, as you build a life of faithfulness. We hope you will prayerfully consider how God is calling you to deepen your faith in 2024.

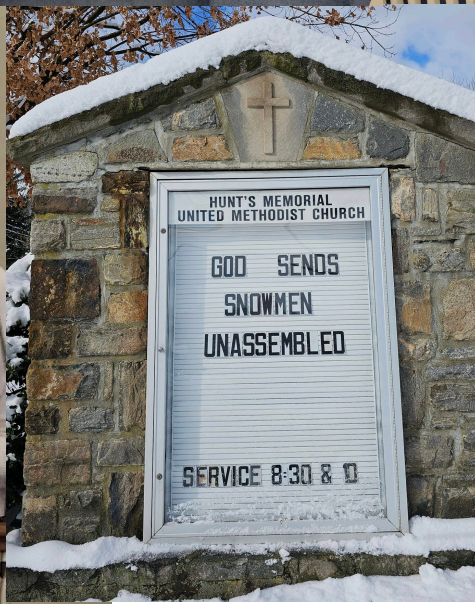
If you have not received a pledge card (or would like to return yours at another time), please reach out to the church office: beth@huntsunc.org



Lent 2024: Free Indeed

What keeps you bound? Do you long for release? Wherever he went, Jesus set people free - sometimes in ways they never expected. This Lent, we are journeying through the gospel of Mark, following Jesus' path to the cross and the empty tomb. Join us as we seek the freedom that only Christ can give.

February 14, 7pm	Ash Wednesday - Free Indeed (Mark 5:1-20)
February 18	Freed for Life (Mark 5:24b-34)
February 25	Free from Scarcity (Mark 6:30-43)
March 3	Freed for Healing (Mark 7:24-30)
March 10	Free from Limits (Mark 9:2-9)
March 17	Free to See (Mark 10:46-52)



Lent 2024



This year, the season of Lent begins on Valentine's Day. Unlike that romantic holiday, Lent is a season of repentance and reflection that prepares us for Easter – the holiest celebrations of the Christian year. Here's what we have planned:

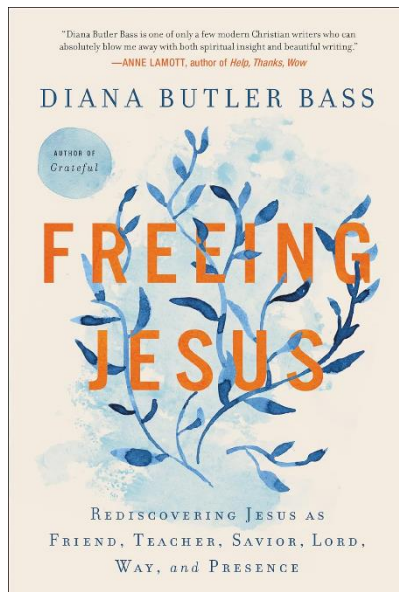
Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with a reminder that we are fully dependent on God. On Wednesday, February 14, take a moment for prayer and imposition of ashes. You can either drop by for **Ashes-to-Go** (8-9am) or you can attend the **Ash Wednesday Service** at 7pm.

Church Dinners

Lent 2023 includes 2 opportunities to gather around the table with other members and friends of Hunt's Church. Start the season with the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on Tuesday, February 13 from 6-7:30pm. Contact Ellie Lott to help out: wdlott@verizon.net

As we draw close to Easter, we'll gather for another meal on **Maundy Thursday** (March 28 at 6:30pm). This potluck gathering will help us enter into fellowship together before we remember the Last Supper during the 7pm worship service (also held in VanMetre Hall).



Lent Study: "Freeing Jesus"

Who is Jesus to you? Author, historian, and public theologian Diana Butler Bass believes that even when we find ourselves disappointed and disillusioned by church, our experience of Jesus still keeps us centered. *Freeing Jesus* is part memoir, part theology - and fully illuminating - as she reflects on six identities of Jesus: friend, teacher, savior, lord, way, and presence. Weaving together personal memories with her rich knowledge of Christian tradition, *Freeing Jesus* invites the reader to embrace their own personal experience of Jesus Christ.

Join Rev. Carissa for a midweek **Lenten Lunch & Learn** to talk about Jesus. We'll explore one chapter of *Freeing Jesus* each week as we gather over Zoom to eat together. Click the sign-up link below to register and get more details!

- When & Where: Wednesdays at 12pm on Zoom
- Get the Book: Order your own copy in paperback, on Kindle, or via Audible or pick up a copy at church for \$14 starting February 4.
- How It Works: Read ahead of time. Log on. Let's discuss over lunch!
- Sign Up here: <https://huntsmemorial.breezechms.com/form/FreeingJesus>

Mark Your Calendar for Holy Week

Make plans to be part of church's activities during Holy Week. In addition to Sunday services, we will have a dinner and an informal service on Maundy Thursday and a traditional Tenebrae service on Good Friday. Those services marked here with asterisks will be livestreamed at www.youtube.com/c/huntschurch.

March 24	Palm Sunday	8:30am Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary) 10am Traditional Worship w/ Palm Parade (Sanctuary)*
March 28	Maundy Thursday	6:30 Potluck Dinner + 7pm Worship (VanMetre Hall)
March 29	Good Friday	7pm Tenebrae Service (Sanctuary)*
March 31	Easter Sunday	6:30am Sunrise Service (Agape Lawn) 8:30am Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary) 10am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)*

Community Life

Welcome to Hunt's Church!

If this is your first time reading The Point, welcome! We are thrilled that you have come to Hunt's Church, where we believe in the welcoming love of God for all people.

Funhunters Luncheon is February 9 at 11:30am

Let's do lunch! All adults are invited to attend the Funhunters Luncheon on Friday, February 9th. Gather for a fun-filled time of fellowship and delicious food at the Ashland Café (10810 York Road in Cockeysville). Please contact Lynn at 443-600-2325 to RSVP.

Women's Fellowship

All women are invited to gather with old friends and new faces on Saturday, February 10th (weather permitting) at 10am in the Adult Education room. Bring a dish to share! RSVP to Linda Flavin at l.flavin@verizon.net or by texting/calling 410-746-3433 to get updates in case of snow.

Let's Celebrate!

Birthdays

Bernadette Parrish (2/1); Joseph Howard (2/1); Amy Walsh (2/1); Denise Brennan (2/2); Skip Lipman (2/2); Melissa Erdman (2/3); Lauren Kroeger (2/3); Hayden Howard (2/6); Caroline P. Hudson (2/6); Kim Craft (2/7); Colin Forsyth (2/7); Tom Flavin (2/11); Ellie Lott (2/11); Elizabeth McDonald (2/11); Sabrina Kuhn (2/12); Beth Woody (2/13); Beth Barns (2/15); Matthew Cairns (2/15); Pat Parrish (2/16); David Harrison (2/17); Shannon Band Biser (2/18); Harriett Schwarzkopf (2/19); Chase Simpson (2/20); Jack Davis (2/21); Cheryl Eisenhauer (2/21); Eleanor Hudson (2/21); Andrew McDonald (2/22); Ella Snead (2/22); Will Walton (2/22); Jim Ruckle (2/23); Jen Brown (2/26); Ann Gallant (2/27); Piper Starleper (2/27); Dorothy Amelang (2/28)

Anniversaries

Maggie & Joe Shannon (2/24)

Baptisms

Naomi McMillan (Parents: David & Krista McMillan)



Family Ministries

Children's Choir

Palm Parade! – On Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, the children are invited to meet the Sunday School teachers in the hallway (off of the foyer) before the 10am service. After the congregation is seated and the service is started, we will process into the Sanctuary waving palm branches and offer a song that we will have prepared during the preceding weeks in Sunday School.

Sunday School

We love helping your children grow in their faith! Sunday School will continue to meet in VanMetre Hall during the 10am worship service, as the children learn about the same scriptures you hear in worship. Want to help out? Email Lisa McMillan: dmcm6366@aol.com

Mid High

If you are in 4th-8th grade, please join us this winter and spring in VanMetre Hall from 11:30am to 1pm (after the 10am worship service) on the following Sundays: [February 18](#), March 17, April 21, May 19. To get on the email list for this new group, reach out to Merrilee Peske at mjpeske@gmail.com

Senior High

The Hunt's Church Senior High youth group has had an awesome start to 2024! This month we will meet on [February 4](#) for group at 6:30pm. Our current project is our Super Bowl Sub Sale. Don't forget to turn in those order forms by February 4 (or order online here: <https://huntsmemorial.breezechms.com/form/SubSale2024>) and pick up your subs on February 10. Thank you for ordering subs, and for your ongoing support of our Senior High group!

Community Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 30



Saturday, March 30th at 11:00am, RAIN or SHINE, the Easter Bunny will be at Hunt's Agapé House lawn for our Community Easter Egg Hunt. The children will bring their empty baskets and have a fun time hunting for eggs and having their photo taken with the Easter Bunny. The "young-at-heart" might also want to snap a photo or two with the Easter Bunny! So, parents bring your cameras and take plenty of photos.

In order for this to be successful, we need YOU to help by filling plastic eggs with goodies for all our hunters. Bags of empty plastic eggs will be available for you at the Sanctuary door on March 3rd, March 10th and March 17th. The filled eggs need to be returned to church by Palm Sunday, March 24th. We are looking for volunteers to help with fun activities and games for the children.

Since this is open to the community, please share this invitation with your neighbors and friends. We hope to see a lot of "egg-cited", smiling children on March 30th, ready to find the eggs and look inside. If you have any questions, please call Howard Lin at (410) 241-4807.

Vacation Bible School Dates

Looking to get your child's summer scheduled? Make sure to include Vacation Bible School with Hunt's Church! VBS 2024 will be from *9am-12pm on June 24-28* on the Hunt's Church campus. This year we're diving deep below the surface to build a strong faith with our theme, "Scuba." Donations of \$35 per child are recommended but not required.

Children of (almost) all ages are welcome! From 3-year-olds to 3rd grade, children can participate as campers. Children in 4th through 6th grade serve as "junior helpers" with their own special time of learning. Adults and Youth (7th grade and older) serve as volunteer counselors. Email Lisa McMillan with questions: dmcm6366@aol.com

Dive Below the Surface to Build a Strong Faith!

Monday June 24 to
Friday June 28!



Hunt's Church Preschool



Love is in the air! Preschool children get such a hoot out of Valentine's Day! They are so excited to make heart crafts, Valentine cookies and share cards with their friends. It is a special time in school when we talk a lot about being an extra special friend, good listeners for our parents and teachers and how to help those that are sad or lonely. The children love to point out their acts of kindness throughout the month. We are looking forward to our classroom Valentine's Day parties later this month!



Congratulations goes out to Ms. Taylor, a 3-year-old teacher, who gave birth to Lillie James Kimble in January. Lillie's big brother, Chase, loves her so much but reminds us often she is too "wittle" for school!

Registration for the 2024-25 school year is in full swing. There are a few spots open in our classes. Please send friends, family and neighbors our way. They can call the school office (410-296-3500) to set up a time to tour the school.



I would like to recognize our Parent Volunteer Group (PVG). This group is responsible for many of the community preschool events that take place and are a big part of behind the scenes planning for classroom parties, fundraisers, in house field trips and so much more! AK Parks and Shelly Mason are the presidents of the group, this year, and they have done such an amazing job organizing all the events, making fliers, contacting teachers and parents and so much more! A big thank you goes out to Ak and Shelly along with all the parents that help to make this group so amazing! The saying "It takes a village" really is true!



Thank you to all that have gotten accustomed to checking into the office when they are visiting during school hours. As part of our new security plan and to adhere to Safe Sanctuaries we are asking everyone that is not preschool staff to stop in the office, sign-in and get a badge to wear showing you are a visitor.

I hope everyone has a great month! Happy Valentine's Day!

Kelley Unger, Hunt's Church Preschool Director



Columbarium: Congregational Meeting



Please mark your calendar for 11:15-12:00 on February 25th to learn more about the columbarium being built this spring on Hunt's campus. We will meet in the sanctuary after the 10:00 worship service. We are working on arrangements to livestream the meeting for those unable to attend in person. At this meeting, you will hear more details about the columbarium and the timeline for its construction. You will also hear about how you can financially support this project as well as how you can purchase a niche to secure your final resting place. Although we will discuss fundraising for this project at the meeting, I couldn't wait until then to share some great news with you – the Carroll's-Gill's Permanent Endowment Fund has approved a gift of \$25,000 for this project. Adding this to some initial gifts we received brings the total raised to date to \$75,000 or ½ of the total cost of the project. What a great start! Hope to see you on the 25th.

Yours in Christ,

Ted Ochs



Reconciling Ministries

With the start of a new year, the newly convened Reconciling Ministries Committee met and is excited to continue promoting the work within Hunt's Church toward inclusion for all! We have committed to three primary areas of focus over the next year: **Support, Education, and Advocacy**. Watch for upcoming announcements and opportunities to engage with and support the work of this team! We hope that you will join Hunt's in faithfully going forward with compassion and justice, both with and for the LGBTQAI+ community.

Still have questions about what it means to be a Reconciling Church? Reach out to Rev. Carissa or any of the committee members with your questions:

- Sara Howard, sa.shoaf@gmail.com
- Leslie Kintner Brown, ljintner@gmail.com
- Sarah Kintner Brown, saraebrown2416@gmail.com
- Elizabeth McDonald, elizabethmcdonald@gmail.com
- Lauren Melfa, laurena1980@gmail.com



Missions Corner

Baltimore County Christian Workcamp

The 41st annual BCCW will occur July 21-27, 2024. Its mission is home repair and assistance for the needy in Baltimore County by volunteers of all ages. Hunt's Church has been supporting BCCW financially and with volunteers since the beginning.

In addition to or in lieu of volunteering during the July week to help with house repairs, another way to support BCCW is by financially giving to Hunt's special Lenten offering, which, for decades, has been split



between (1) BCCW to help fund building supplies and materials, and (2) Camp Hope to help fund the Hunt's Senior Highs trip to go for a week to repair homes in the Western Maryland area.

Your support of BCCW through the Lenten offering is appreciated. Ramps which have been "Hunt's Team's" preferred work projects, especially for the past decade, vary in cost from \$750 to \$2,000+ per ramp, depending on their length and complexity; historically, we have tried to do two ramps during each BCCW week, except during a shortened "COVID" week in 2020 and when we spent a full week on a 164' ramp system, which is BCCW's longest ramp effort. Some years we have even built a third ramp too in the Fall (like in 2023).

The next BCCW planning meeting on Tuesday, February 6, will be virtual only via Google Meet at 7:00 pm. This is an open meeting for anyone interested in BCCW. If you would like the link, contact Howard Lin or Steve Lippy. For information on BCCW, see Hunt's website (<https://huntsumc.org/project/baltimore-county-christian-workcamp/>) or BCCW's (www.bcchristianworkcamp.org); or ask Lizzie McMillan, Joe McMillan, Howard Lin, Glenn or Linda Keatts, or Steve Lippy.

Update on Possible Jubilee Micro-Lending Mission

We have held three information sessions for a possible new mission: the Jubilee Micro-Lending Program. Eight people attended the sessions. After learning about the program, all attendees agreed it is a good idea and five people have volunteered to work on implementing this mission at Hunt's.

One question that came up during an info session was: How is this mission different from the Start A Business - Change Your Life Program? These missions are different in two key ways: 1) the Jubilee mission would be a mission created and operated by Hunt's (modeled after a successful program at Good Shepherd Church), the Start A Business program was created by the Urban Poverty & Business Initiative and is being implemented in Baltimore by Morgan State University with support from Hunt's and several other organizations; 2) the Jubilee mission would involve Hunt's directly helping disadvantaged individuals and small businesses with small "loans" which they repay, the Start a Business program is a comprehensive training and support program for disadvantaged entrepreneurs. The missions are complementary, yet each is unique.

During discussions in the information sessions a few points have emerged. The Jubilee mission would be a high impact mission with a relatively low labor or volunteer hour requirement. We estimate that 3-5 people could define the ground rules for the Jubilee Mission in several one to two-hour work sessions. Then funds would be solicited for this mission. Finally, a three to five-person review committee would be formed to review and approve applications. This committee would initially meet quarterly or every 2 months. The mission would be evaluated after one year and any needed adjustments made.

If you have any questions, want to learn more, or want to volunteer please contact Mary Foster at drmfooster135@gmail.com or 443-310-5116.

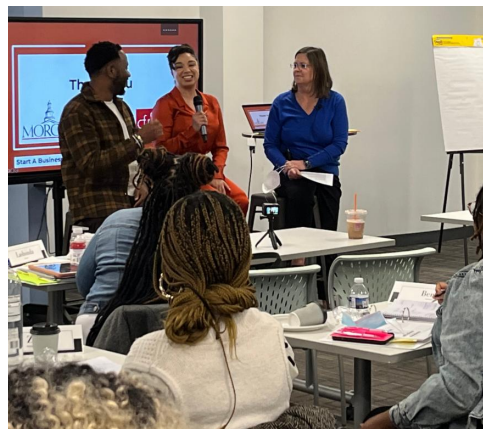
Update on "Start a Business – Change Your Life"

Everything is on track for a February 10th launch of Cohort 2 of this 10-month program to help people with low incomes create a sustainable business. As of January 28th, 148 people have applied to the Program. There is only space to accommodate 60 people in the training room, so the remainder are on a waiting list and have the first chance to sign up for Cohort 3 which will start February 15, 2025.

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to help with the Program:

- On February 10th, Pat Barkdoll, Becky Pauliny, and Jim Foster will help with the sign-in desk and welcoming members
- On February 17th, Ted Ochs will share his business and financial expertise with these aspiring entrepreneurs
- The Mid-High group has volunteered to take photos on February 24th, creating headshots for each Program member. Thank you Merrilee Peske, Sara Howard, and Terri Dotterer for your leadership of the Mid-High group.

We still need snacks for most Saturdays, so if you feel like baking something, please contact Mary Foster at drmfooster135@gmail.com or 443-310-5116. For other one-time, 2-3 hour volunteer opportunities click on this link: <https://forms.gle/jLPfRza7uPomMoHY6>



Moment in Time: 1922

Roldrew Avenue Appears on the Map

by Cheryl Eisenhauer

Many interesting roads and avenues twist and turn throughout the Ruxton/ Riderwood area. One of these, **Roldrew Avenue**, just down the hill from Hunt's Church, has a particularly interesting history, one that explains both its unusual name and how it got its start. It all began with two local residents who were Hunt's Church members back in the early 1920's.

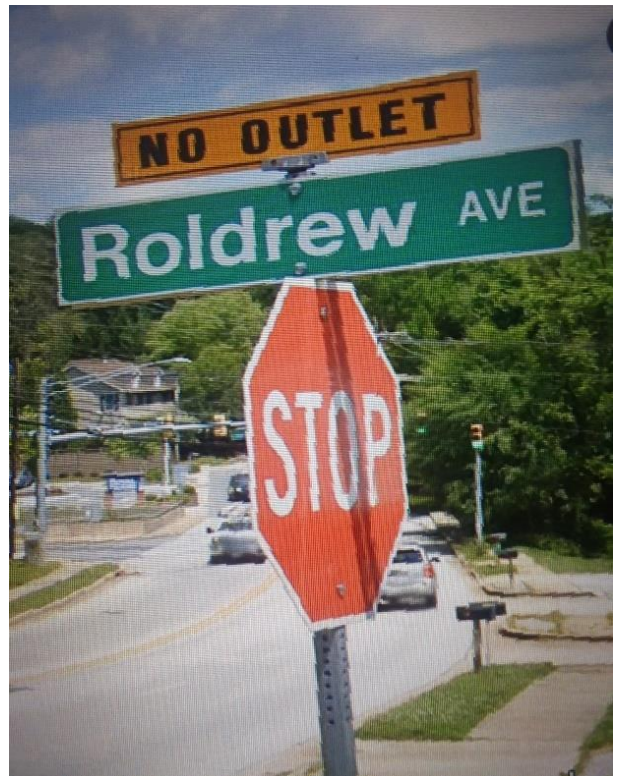
The following description comes from a family memoir written in 1975 by Louis R. Andrew, at the time a member at Hunt's for 72 years. The following excerpt from his notes provides a peek at the part he played in Riderwood's early land development in 1922.

*When the war came [WW1] the private carpentry work I had been doing dried up. Rev. Heavener, our new pastor at Hunt's, knew the main superintendent at the Maryland Shipyard and introduced me to him, and I began work there in the ship refinishing department. By the time the Armistice was signed in 1918, I was managing a crew of 15 men. This success and experience gave me the push to start my own carpentry business, R.L Andrew, with my wife Mary as secretary. Things went well.... In 1922, Roy Roller [a friend and fellow church member] and I bought the old property in the Riderwood area nicknamed Jigger Hill and cut an avenue through it, naming it **Roldrew** [combination of Roller and Andrew.]*

Louis Andrew, later to become known as "Uncle Lou" by his fellow church members, went on to describe how he and Roy Roller began building and selling houses along **Roldrew Avenue**, later running a second avenue to the stream and calling it **Willow**. As he put it, "We built quite a little village." In the beginning he explained they even dug a well and ran water pipes to some of the properties, supplying water for \$60 a year until they sold out to the county which then ran new pipes and installed meters.

Longtime Hunt's Church member Jim Shaffer has many memories of Louis Andrew and his family. As a youth, he recalls a variety of part-time jobs helping out "Uncle" Lou and "Aunt" Mary, later working for their son Wilson and his wife Lib in their farm/orchard/nursery business. The last Riderwood land transaction "Uncle" Lou made was the sale of 1.75 acres (a double lot) on Willow Avenue to Jim's parents, fellow church members Walter and Ruth Shaffer. In 1974, Jim built a home on this Willow Avenue property. He and his wife Candy reside there today.

The Andrew family and the Roller family were actively involved in every aspect of life at Hunt's Church as well as being "movers and shakers" in the surrounding area as it began to emerge from rural farmland into a residential community. The Andrew construction company also played a major role in Hunt's Church's early restorations and additions. The church's 1924 addition, 1933 fire restoration, and 1973 wing were all Andrew company construction projects.



Thanks for the Memories



Throughout the past year, the 250th Anniversary Team kept us updated on anniversary celebrations by way of photographic displays on the large bulletin board in the downstairs center hallway. The current one shown here will remain on display until the end of February. It not only highlights some recent anniversary events, it gives thanks to all those who made the yearlong celebration a success, and welcomes in the year 2024 as a new chapter begins in the life of Hunt's Church. Please stop by sometime soon to view the photos and read the two message boxes included... **"Hats Off" to 2023** and **Forward with Faith in 2024**.

(Thanks to Howard Lin and Cheryl Eisenhower for taking charge of this bulletin board display throughout 2023. Additional thanks to photographers Howard Lin, Pegg Melfa, and Joe and Jacqueline Stigall for the many different photos displayed)

Save the Date: April 20 for "Empty Bowls" at the Maryland State Fairgrounds

Sponsored by ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

On April 20, 2024 (4pm to 7pm), you are cordially invited to attend the 18th Annual Empty Bowls to benefit the programs of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore! – Fun Family Activities – Handmade ceramic keepsake bowls – Soup tastings and food from Baltimore area restaurants – A local artisan marketplace!

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: Buy tickets before midnight Feb. 20 for \$5 off per ticket or \$50 off per table

Visit emptybowlsbaltimore.org for more information.

NEW THIS YEAR! Empty Bowls Preview Party on Friday, April 19, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. – Featuring food tastings from Baltimore area restaurants, complimentary drinks, music, silent auction, handmade ceramic keepsake bowls, and other entertainment.

Financial News: The Year Ahead!

In January's newsletter, I updated you on our 2023 financial performance and thanked you for your generous response to our year-end appeal. Your fantastic response helped us reduce the shortfall we were facing, which was a relief for your Finance Committee. Well, we need your help again in 2024. Your Church Council approved the 2024 operating budget at its January meeting. The budget continues to support the rejuvenated ministries and missions of the church and fully funds all staff positions and other operating expenses expected to be incurred sometime this year. Although the budget reflects a shortfall of just under \$60,000, the council believes it is important to support all the good things happening these days at Hunt's.

This table summarizes the key components of the budget compared to last year's actual results (note: the preschool is budgeted separately).

As you can see, we have budgeted a shortfall of over \$59,000. While this is a bit uncomfortable and not ideal, the church has adequate reserves to cover the budget gap in the short term. For example, our operating fund ended 2023 with a balance of \$71,000. This is the first place we would look to cover any shortfall. Our challenge going forward is to grow our giving to support our operating expenses.

Over the last three years, we have seen offerings increase in the 5-6% range annually after many years of flat or decreased giving. We have assumed the trend of increased giving will continue in 2024, and therefore, we budgeted a 4% increase in offerings. We would ask you to prayerfully consider how you can support the church this year with your time, talent, and treasures. Please consider if you can "grow one step" and increase your financial support this year.

If you ever have questions about our finances, please do not hesitate to contact me at tedochs@msn.com.

Yours in Christ,

Ted Ochs, Finance Chair

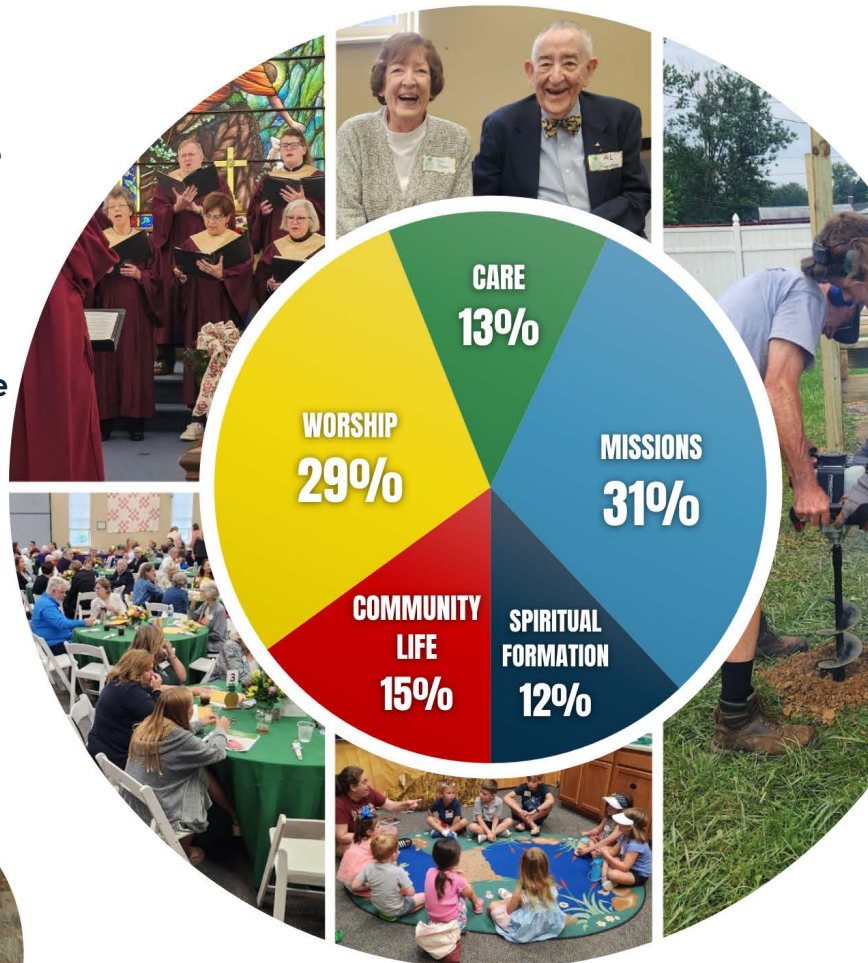
	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Income		
Preschool Contribution	\$48,000	\$48,000
Offerings	\$346,106	\$360,000
Education and Music Fund	\$42,000	\$42,000
Fundraisers	\$2,910	\$1,800
Other	\$10,939	\$7,901
Total Income	\$449,955	\$459,701
Expense		
Fundraisers	\$346	\$300
Administration/Office	\$17,776	\$12,823
Christian Education	\$3,617	\$6,215
Conference/Apportionment	\$49,925	\$55,818
Finance	\$13,804	\$11,155
Outreach/Life	\$1,959	\$4,700
Music	\$4,082	\$5,270
Payroll	\$272,765	\$297,875
Property	\$120,097	\$122,425
Witness/Reconciling	\$150	\$300
Worship	\$7,313	\$2,016
Total Expenses	\$491,834	\$518,897
Shortfall (Expenses > Income)	- \$41,879	- \$59,196

OUR MONEY STORY...

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Where does my support to Hunt's Church go? How is our church impacting the life of this community? Are the leaders of Hunt's Church returning the generosity of the congregation back to God's world? If you have ever asked yourself these questions, you are not alone! To help explain how Hunt's Church puts your generosity to work for Jesus, the Finance Committee has put together a brochure for you.

While you can always access complete financial reports by contacting Ted Ochs (Finance Committee Chair), this narrative shows how our church actually spent \$735,106 over the past year. This data includes spending from January to December 2023, and splits up the operational costs of the church into the missional actions of the church. We are proud to be a church that uses the blessings we have received to bless others!



READ MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR GIVING IMPACTS EVERY ASPECT OF THE CHURCH.

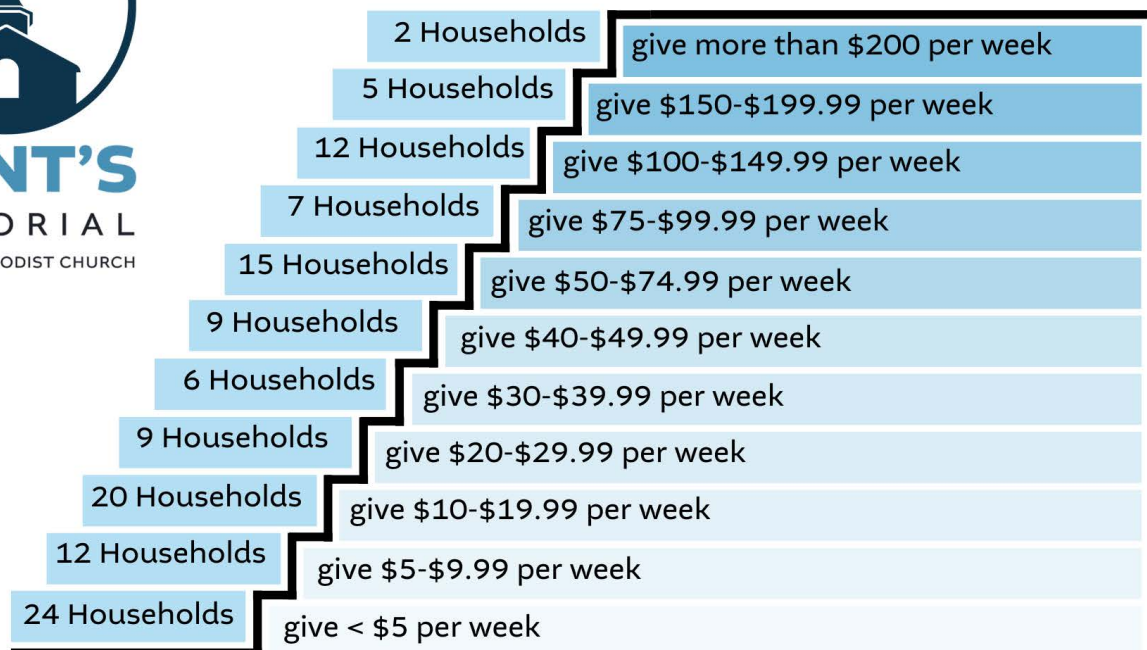
Your generosity has enabled our church to reach so many people through Spiritual Formation ministries, Community Life, Worship endeavors, Missions, Congregational Care, and more.

SCAN ME:



This chart shows our church's giving patterns during 2023. Where are you?

Will you grow one step this year?



EASTER FLOWERS - 2024

Each year at Easter we remember, and honor, loved ones by having spring flowers adorn our worship area. The choices this year are as follows:

___ Hyacinths (3 blooms; 6" pot) \$12.00

___Purple ___Pink ___White

___ Tulips (6" pot) \$12.00

___Yellow ___Red ___Pink

___ Daffodils (6" pot) \$12.00

___ Dutch Asiatic Lilies (Non-Fragrant) \$15.00

___White ___Yellow

___ Hydrangea (4-5 blooms; 8" pot) \$31.00

(Assorted Colors Only)

___ Azaleas (12" across; 1.5-gallon pot) \$26.00

___Red ___White ___Pink

\$_____ Total of Order

NAME_____

Amount included with this form: \$_____ Paid by ___check ___cash

(Checks made payable to **Hunt's Memorial UMC** --- On memo line, please write **Easter Flowers**)

FLOWERS ARE PRESENTED

In loving memory of_____

In honor of_____

Presented by_____

(Please PRINT all names as you wish them to appear in the bulletin)

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE MISSION FUND – In Lieu of Flowers

In loving memory of_____

In honor of_____

Given by_____



ORDERS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED by SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8am Men's Fellowship Group	11am – 2pm Scouts Pinewood Derby Weigh-In
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion 8:30am Worship (Contemporary) 10am Worship (Traditional) 11:15am Christian Ed. Committee Mtg. 12pm Pinewood Derby 6:30pm Sr. High		7pm Zoom BCCW Planning Meeting 7pm Praise Band Rehearsal	12:30pm AA 7pm Committee Meetings	7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8am Men's Fellowship Group 11:30am Funhunters Luncheon	10am Women's Fellowship Potluck 10:30-11:30am Pick up Subs from Senior High
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Scouting Ministries Sunday 8:30am Worship (Contemporary) 10am Worship (Traditional) No Sr. High Mtg.	Beth Woody out of office (2/12-2/16)					
	7pm Zoom Community Life Committee Meeting	Shrove Tuesday 6-7:30pm Pancake Supper 7pm Praise Band Rehearsal	Ash Wednesday 8-9am Ashes-To-Go 12:30pm AA 7pm Worship	9am - 12 noon <i>Office Volunteer:</i> <i>Susan Meyers</i> 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8am Men's Fellowship Group 9am - 12 noon <i>Office Volunteer:</i> <i>Susan Meyers</i>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
First Sunday in Lent 8:30am Worship (Contemporary) 10am Worship (Traditional) 11:30am Mid High Group No Sr. High Mtg.	Church Office & Preschool Closed <i>(President's Day)</i>	7pm Praise Band Rehearsal	12:30pm AA 7pm Church Council	7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8am Men's Fellowship Group	
25	26	27	28	29		
8:30am Worship (Contemporary) 10am Worship (Traditional) 11:15am Columbarium Presentation No Sr. High Mtg.		7pm Praise Band Rehearsal	12:30pm AA	7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		

Stay Connected

Talk with Your Pastor

Rev. Carissa would love to spend time with you! If you would like her to visit you, just reach out: call 443-353-0439 or email carissa@huntsmc.org. You can also schedule a meeting with her at www.calendly.com/revcarissa.

Office Volunteers Needed

Our Administrative Assistant, Beth, will be on vacation February 12-16. If you would like to volunteer to answer the office telephone, from 9am to 12noon, on (Monday) February 12, (Tuesday) February 13 – Shrove Tuesday & *Beth's birthday*, or (Wednesday) February 14 – Ash Wednesday, ... Please contact Beth at the church office. – Thank you!

Worship Online

If you or a loved one is unable to come to church on Sunday – or simply not comfortable at this time – then you can connect with your Hunt's Church family by worshipping online! Livestream the 10am Traditional Service each Sunday (or watch it later) at www.youtube.com/c/huntschurch or through the YouTube app on your iPad or smart TV.

Follow @HuntsChurch

Stay connected with your church wherever you live online. Just search for *@huntschurch* on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Make sure to click "like" and share our posts whenever you're inspired!

Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church

1912 Old Court Road
Towson, MD 21204

Address Service Requested