



# The Eastport Spire

## “Inspire Us to Great Things”

### December 2016

*We share our experiences of God's Kingdom with all, through our faith, love, fellowship, and service. It is our vision to have everyone actively involved in worship that enriches, ministries that empower, and evangelism that embraces all.*

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### From the Pastor

Dear Church,

In case you missed it, the sermon this past week on the first Sunday of Advent was about John the Baptist's call to “Prepare the Way of the Lord!” Often our preparing is about decorating our houses for Christmas, buying and wrapping presents, lots of baking, and going to holiday parties. But what if this year, we really tried to prepare the way for Jesus in our hearts, not just for our celebration of Christmas? What would we do differently? What would we make more room for? What would we do less of? Who would we prioritize with our time and our money?

Advent is a time of waiting and hoping and longing for the coming of God and for the world to be made right. This year, I invite you to participate with the Holy Spirit in preparing the way for Jesus, by doing a “reverse” Advent calendar. I have seen this done in different ways. Some families will put a box in their house and add an item of food or clothing to it daily until they have 25 items to donate to those in need. Others make their own Advent wreaths and light the candle(s) each night as they chose someone to pray for. The possibilities are endless, but I would invite you to think about what might make this season of Advent more meaningful to you.

In case you are in need of inspiration, I created a special Advent calendar of daily activities that you can join me in. This calendar is for EVERYONE - single or family, young or old! It starts on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and each activity should only take a few minutes. It is attached to the Newsletter, or you can pick up a hard copy this Sunday.

As we celebrate again the mystery of heaven and earth, divine and human, coming together in a precious baby boy.

May we find more than we seek,  
May any despair birth new hope,  
May we discover light in the darkness,  
May joy bubble up anew,  
And may the Spirit spark our holy imaginations  
for what is possible with God.

In holy anticipation,  
~ Pastor Michelle



### Arundel Vocal Arts Society

JoAnn Kulesza, Conductor

### Fall Concert

Featuring

Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*

Conrad Susa's *Christmas Garland*

and other Holiday favorites

**Sunday, December 4, 2016, 3:00 p.m.**

Eastport United Methodist Church

926 Bay Ridge Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403

Tickets: \$20 per person

Free to all students

Tickets can be purchased at the door

For more information, please go to

[www.arundelvocalarts.org](http://www.arundelvocalarts.org)



## Card Ministry

Our Gracious Greetings folks have been busy crafting Christmas cards and gift tags. Please stop by the table in fellowship hall on December 11 and help sign the lovely cards for our Timothy House friends and purchase some gift tags. Gift tag proceeds will assist in defraying craft supplies.

~ Joyce Conley

## UMM Toy Drive

The Eastport United Methodist Men are conducting a Christmas gift and toy drive for needy children at Eastport Elementary School. This year, we will help 40 preschool children selected by the school. School officials have told us the presents we provide represent the only ones received by many kids because of the economic circumstances of their families. We are asking **all men** of the church to donate a new toy or gift (or a used item in good condition) suitable for a child ages 4 or 5. The value should not exceed \$20. For those who wish to take part, please place the item **unwrapped** in the specially marked box in the fellowship hall no later than **Sunday, December 18**. The toys and gifts will be wrapped on **Monday, December 19 at 7 p.m. in Multipurpose Room A in the church basement** and delivered to the school the following morning. **Help is needed from members of the church, men and women, in wrapping the gifts.** ~ Mike Keller



## Missions News

Winter Relief Homeless Shelter 2016 has come and gone. We housed 32 men this year. Many thanks to those faithful who volunteered. Some special thanks to Sam Coates who stayed with the men every night and Ann Rawls, Audrey Howard and Jean Strucko who joined me in the kitchen at 5:00 a.m. every morning to prepare breakfast and lunch. This is such a worthwhile mission and when you volunteer it changes your mind about homelessness.

Missions prepared 40 Thanksgiving baskets this year to be distributed to students at area elementary schools. Special thanks to Kevin and Sally Hight for their leadership, and thanks to all who gave food products and money for the baskets.

Don't forget food pantry is the third Wednesday of every month – you can come and help at 10:00 a.m. to unload the truck and set up the food or 12:00 p.m. to distribute the food.

**Note:** The next mission meeting date has been changed to Monday January 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

~ Jackie Cunningham



*EUMC thanks you,  
Jackie Cunningham,  
for your tireless efforts  
in running the 2016  
Homeless Shelter. You  
are truly a Volunteer  
Extraordinaire!*

## United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women meet on the first Wednesday evening of each month, from September until June at 5:30 in the fellowship hall. We each bring a “brown bag” meal and dessert is provided by volunteers. We have a short business meeting, beginning at 6:00 followed by a program which lasts 30-45 minutes. This is a new feature and it seems the women are enjoying the new addition. The theme for the year is *A Call to Community*. Through these programs, which incorporate Bible study and prayer with information, we are learning and exploring new ideas for our global and local mission work, to which we will designate funds at the end of the year.

In October, Audrey Howard presented a program entitled *Deaconesses and Home Missioners Serving Communities*, about how these United Methodist Women devote their lives to service in local and global communities, and by standing up to injustice in many forms throughout the world. We noted several women in our church who fit this description very closely, making sacrifices for the well-being of the larger community.

In November Paulette Schwallenberg presented *A Community for Climate Justice – Be Just, Be Green*. She led us in a prayer and a reading from Genesis, focusing on God’s creation and what it means to us. Then she led us in an auditory exercise (crunching plastic containers and cups): “*This is the noise of poor stewardship, the sound of environmental abuse, the noise of wasted resources—oil, water and money, to name a few,*” suggesting that we commit to using reusable containers.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas social, including a true pot luck meal – just bring a dish to share and take pot luck with the UMW! Just surprise us – it could be all desserts – nothin’ wrong with that.☺ In the past we have enjoyed a crazy gift exchange involving a fast-paced hysterical game. Bring a \$5.00 gift to exchange and join the fun! Plan to join us – whether you’re here for almost every meeting, or you’ve never attended before – ***you are welcome!*** Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. Be there with bells on!

~ Wendy Edstrom



## Thoughts from EUMC Administrative Council Chair

We have just finished up a week of Winter Relief at Eastport UMC. Volunteers prepared and served 693 meals, and warmed, cleaned and spiritually blessed men who would have had nowhere else to go. The members of this church certainly follow the teachings found in 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV).

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.*

Stewardship is an ongoing process for us and shows itself in many ways. I would like to highlight one of our teams that is looking ahead to 2017. The Finance team is working to prepare a budget for the church for next year. They work thoughtfully and frugally, just like in your household, to pay the bills and support the ministries of the church. We all know that money is a tough subject. Everything costs more today, including the costs to operate our church. I would ask that you consider Pastor Michelle’s request for EUMC members to prayerfully consider your offerings to the church and to sign up for e-giving. This allows them to plan ahead and be good stewards of the blessings that are received and given. You can download the form from the link on the church website homepage – [www.eastportumc.org](http://www.eastportumc.org). If you have any questions or concerns, please ask.

Thanks for all you have done and will continue to do in the life of our church.

~ Jill Peddicord, Administrative Council Chair

## Homework & Reading Ministry Christmas Party



The Homework and Reading Ministry will hold its Christmas party for the children in the program and members of their immediate family on **Tuesday, December 20 from 4 to 7 p.m.** in the church fellowship hall. There will be Christmas games, crafts and stories for the kids; a light meal; and an appearance by Santa. Each of the children will receive a book as a gift, courtesy of the Colonial Nursery. The Homework Christmas party has been a fun occasion for both the kids and the volunteers. Please try to join us. ~ *Mike Keller*

### New Year's Eve Interfaith Service

Spread the word about our Interfaith Service on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Gathering music begins at 6:30 p.m. The service is at 7:00, and we're happy to announce that The Rev. Diana Carroll, Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Eastport, will give the reflection this year. This is a time to share faith and hope with our brothers and sisters of other traditions - a time to build bridges of unity and peace.



### Please Note:

#### New Times for Christmas Eve Services

**5:30 p.m. – Family Service**

**8:30 p.m. – Pre-Service Concert**

**9:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service**



### Advent/Christmas Schedule

#### Advent Study

Wednesdays, 11/30 – 12/21  
at 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

December 4, 3pm – AVAS Concert 3:00 p.m.

December 11 – 10:00 a.m. Cantata

December 18 – 10:00 a.m. Children's Pageant  
Cookies with Santa (following worship)

December 24 – Christmas Eve  
5:30 p.m. – Family-Centered Service  
8:30 p.m. – Pre-service Christmas Concert  
9:00 p.m. – Communion & Candlelight Service

December 25 – Christmas Day  
10:00 a.m. – Worship, a Service of Lessons & Carols

December 31 – New Year's Eve Interfaith Service  
6:30 p.m. – Pre-Service music  
7:00 p.m. – Interfaith Service  
(refreshments following)

January 1, 2017 – New Year's Day  
10:00 a.m. – Worship, Service of Reflection & Renewal

## Happy Birthday



Our 2016 Trick or Treat for UNICEF campaign brought in \$200.07. We thank all who participated in this year's endeavor to help make the world a better place for children. Contributions help provide countless children around the world with medicine, nutrition, clean water, emergency relief and education. Our eleven year total contribution is \$1,593.40. Be on the look-out next October for the little orange boxes!  
~ Joyce Conley



### Fellowship Hour Volunteers

Thanks to everyone for their contributions to our Sunday fellowship times this past year. You are the best! We have a newly designed sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you want to host a special Sunday to celebrate an event or honor someone, please put your name and your special date in the left column. If you would like to be a frequent contributor (just a plateful) please put your name in the right column.  
~ Eunice Corse

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[eastportumc@verizon.net](mailto:eastportumc@verizon.net)

[www.eastportumc.org](http://www.eastportumc.org)

Pastor: Michelle Mejia

Editor: Eunice Corse

Dec 1	Leela Wurst
Dec 5	Val Devaris
Dec 7	Andrew Stevens
Dec 8	Margie Hughes
Dec 9	Sharon Owen Sherrie Ugolini
Dec 11	Lynn Goddard Kristen Stevens Chelsea Snodgrass
Dec 15	Joanne Christofel Addie Parrish
Dec 18	Ernie Mutschler
Dec 19	Jon Wilcox Anita Andrews
Dec 20	Russ Parrish Leona Bergsman Mark Goodnow
Dec 21	Michelle Anderson Brian Duckett
Dec 22	Audrey Howard
Dec 23	Margaret Terry Ryleigh South
Dec 25	Chris Pulley
Dec 27	Lorraine Crouch
Dec 31	Jack Little Dick Strucko

## Happy Anniversary

Dec 8	Bob & Carol Emory
Dec 27	Bob & Donna McWilliams
Dec 27	Philip & Evelyn Beall

December

2016



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

27

28

29

30

1

2

3

Eastport UMC's  
Prepare the Way!  
Advent Calendar

Give out  
compliments to 5  
people today

Make a box  
for the needy  
and put one  
item in it

Bake cookies  
for a neighbor

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Come to Worship  
@10am

Send a  
handmade card  
or thank you  
note

Do an extra  
chore in the  
house without  
being asked

Say a prayer  
for all the  
world's hungry  
people

Add another  
item to your  
box for the  
needy

Phone a  
friend or  
family  
member

Do an  
EUMC Mission:  
Fill a bag for  
Timothy House or  
buy a toy for a  
preschooler

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

Come to Worship  
@10am

Be kind to the  
planet today -  
pick up litter

Say a prayer for  
the children  
around the world in  
places of conflict

Add another item  
to your box for  
the needy

Be nice to  
someone you do  
not like a lot

Say a prayer  
for the  
homeless

Send a Christmas  
card to an EUMC  
homebound  
member

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Come to Worship  
@ 10am

Be joyous to  
strangers today -  
smile at everyone

Add another  
item to your box  
for the needy &  
deliver the box

Write an "I love  
you" note to a  
family member  
and hide it under  
their pillow

Look at the  
wonder of the  
night sky and  
say thanks to  
God tonight

Hug everyone in  
your family today

Come to  
Christmas Eve  
Service at  
5:30pm or 9pm

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

Come to Worship @  
10am  
Read Luke 2:1-20 &  
Sing Christmas  
Carols!

\*\*Bonus: Write thank you notes for  
the gifts you received

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Homework 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am SunSchool 10:15  <b>AVAS CONCERT</b> 3pm	<b>5</b> Bells 7pm	<b>6</b> NY Eve Mtg 2pm  Homework 4pm	<b>7</b> Kids Art 4pm  <b>UMW Christmas Party 5:30pm</b>	<b>8</b> Homework 4pm  Choir 7pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>CANTATA</b>  Discussion 9am Worship 10am SunSchool 10:15	<b>12</b> Bells 7pm	<b>13</b> <b>CHILDREN'S CLOTHING GIVEAWAY</b> 9am  Homework 4pm	<b>14</b> Kids Art 4pm	<b>15</b> Homework 4pm  Choir 7pm		
<b>18</b> <b>CHILDREN'S PAGEANT &amp; Cookies with Santa</b>  Discussion 9am Worship 10am	<b>19</b> Bells 7pm	<b>20</b> <b>HOMEWORK PARTY</b> 4pm  Trustees 6:15  Admin Council 7:15	<b>21</b> Food Pantry 12-2pm  Kids Art 4pm	<b>22</b> Homework 4pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve:</b> Family 5:30 Music 8:30 Candlelight 9pm  
<b>25</b> <b>SERVICE OF LESSONS &amp; CAROLS</b> 10am	<b>26</b> Bells 7pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Lunch Bunch 12:15	<b>29</b> Choir 7pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve Interfaith:</b> Music 6:30pm Service 7pm  