



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

March 2024

We share our experiences of God’s Kingdom with all, through our faith, love, fellowship, and service. It is our vision to have each person engaged in worship that enriches, ministries that empower, and missions that embrace and affirm all people.

The Pastor’s Corner



We marked the beginning of our Lenten journey with a beautiful and meaningful Ash Wednesday service. Ash Wednesday services are unlike any other. Beyond placing ashes on our foreheads, it requires confessing with a certain

honesty that we don’t always keep present before us and we get real with God about who we are: humans in need of grace. Thank you for joining in this rich celebration and if you missed it – make a note to attend next year.

Gracious and merciful God,
you who are slow to anger, rich in love,
we have gathered here,
to journey to the table, cross, the empty tomb.

We gather to be in the presence of one another,
where we can draw strength,
knowing that wherever two or three of us are
gathered,
you are present among us.

Guide us throughout these holy days,
let us turn from that which
separates us from each other and from you.

May we know your presence is always with us,
the power of your transformative love is within
us,
and may we know your grace surrounds us
and is beyond us.

In the name of Jesus,
our companion on this journey of faith, we pray.
Amen.

A Note from Our Finance Team

Thank you for being part of our vibrant, welcoming church family. Contributing is an important part of our Christian practice. The Administrative Council has set a goal to increase giving from the members by 10 percent in 2024 to improve our financial position. As we journey through Lent, remember: your commitment to support this local church through your presence, prayers, service, and witness is just as crucial as your financial gifts.

You are loved,

The Finance Team of Eastport United Methodist
~ Neil Bergsman, Treasurer
~ Elaine Fors-McKellar, Chairperson



Holy Week & Easter

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday (March 24, 10 am) where we walk with Jesus through the last moments of his life to prepare ourselves for the resurrection of Jesus.

We gather around the Table on Maundy Thursday (March 28, 7 pm) and remember Jesus' mandate to love. On Good Friday we gather around the cross at noon, to recount the depth of love that God has for us.



We invite you to celebrate the power of life over death at the Sunrise service at Thomas Point Park. The service on March 31st will begin around 6 am; you are

encouraged to dress for warmth and bring a lawn chair.

Finally, we gather at 10 am in the church sanctuary for a festive celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and God's redeeming love for the world.

Join us!

Take a Breath

Unwind with our new reflection stations.

Find a peaceful spot at one of the memorial benches or picnic tables and allow yourself a few minutes, contemplate a thought-provoking prompt, and reconnect with yourself and the world around you. Take a Breath, Reflect, and Reconnect. Open to all, any time! Come solo, with friends, with your pup, or with family.



(These are in place until Easter.)

Gerald Crouch

January 16, 1929 – February 20, 2024

Jerry was a long-time member of Eastport United Methodist Church. We pray for Lorraine and her family – may they find comfort and love at this sad time.

Lenten Bible Study: Just Faith

Join Pastor Chris and Pastor Jenna for Lenten Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 pm or Friday mornings at 9 am thru April 3.

Often overshadowed by other New Testament writings, James' epistle packs a powerful punch. Written by Jesus' brother, it's a treasure trove of practical wisdom, challenging us to move beyond mere passive belief and embrace an active, transformative faith.

Over the coming weeks, we'll delve into key passages, unlocking the practical gems James offers for everyday living. We'll explore themes like God's unwavering goodness, the power of listening and discernment, and the crucial role of action in demonstrating genuine faith.

This series is designed for anyone seeking to:

- Deepen their understanding of faith's practical application.
- Discover fresh perspectives on God's character and intentions.
- Translate their beliefs into tangible acts of love and service.
- Grow in their walk with Christ and make a positive impact on the world around them.

Whether you're a seasoned Bible scholar or a curious newcomer, this study welcomes you with open arms.

Why James? Aren't we talking about faith through Peter's eyes on Sunday morning? Yes indeed! Why another character? James' letter is perhaps one of the earliest documents we have from the beginnings of the Christian movement. We'll discover that Peter and James, despite their different backgrounds and roles, shared commonalities and differences in their faith journeys within the early Christian movement. Their journeys reflect the diversity within early

Christianity and how different leaders contributed to the faith's development and spread through their unique perspectives and missions. ~ *Pastor Chris*

The 'How' of It



On the last Sunday of February, I had the honor of serving Communion for the first time. I was taken aback when Pastor Chris asked me; he wanted to play and sing a certain song at Communion, so we switched places, and roles. In the Catholic Church (my background), one has to be certified as an Extraordinary Minister and have one's hands blessed

As I was distributing the bread, I was struck by the many different ways the congregation receives what is offered to them. Some put out one hand, some both, in a 'cupped fashion'. Some 'grab' the bread with their thumb and forefinger. Some receive with great humility, some with reverence, some very casually.

This experience led me to ask if there is significance in 'how' we receive, in life. We are not 'commanded' to receive, but the act begins with us. Do we receive with open hands? Are we grabbers? Do we accept our gifts, our blessings humbly, casually or with reverence? Are we grateful?

Perhaps our receptiveness to the Lord and to the gifts offered by those He sends our way – be that friendships, help, solace – deserves some review. After all, in the words of Mame, "Life is a banquet." As at God's table, all are welcome!

~ *JoAnn Kulesza*

Sunday School

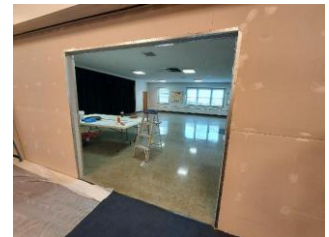
Sunday School continues to be a special place for the children of the church. Here the kids made scenery and acted out the story of Peter walking on water.

~ *Molly Estabrook*



Garden & Maintenance News

The new wall between the chapel and Fellowship Hall is finished. Thanks to my husband, Jerry, for all his hard work the last 3 weeks. Also, thanks to the strong guys at the fire station for carrying over the heavy doors when they were delivered to them by mistake.



We also fixed another toilet that needed a new wax ring and bolts, cleaned tarnished brass handle plates and kick plates (with salt, lemon, and fine steel wool), installed a missing outlet plate, made a latch for a baby station, washed doors, touched up paint in a bathroom, Fellowship Hall and the hallway, put down dirt, seed, and straw on area damaged in the front yard by tree trimmers for BGE, replaced 5 of the little red light bulbs that work with the bathroom light switches, painted coat closet and inside of back door, replaced 5 burnt out light bulbs in ceilings, and repaired and scrubbed a lot of dirty tables. Thanks to Ruth Gibbons for washing walls and Tony Fowler for picking up trash in the yard and replacing some wall baseboards. Thanks to strongman Sam who helped Jerry carry the heavy drywall and other materials from the parking lot into the chapel.



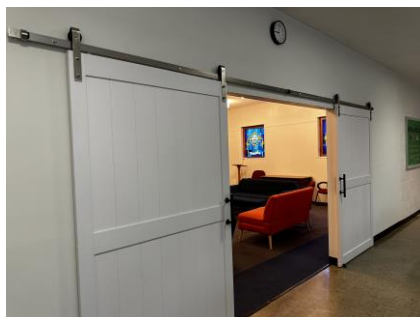
Please keep all our workers and volunteers in your prayers to stay safe while they do repairs on our church. If anyone has any extra time and can help with church gardens, lawns, and maintenance, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Joanne or Jerry Christofel at msjohara@yahoo.com or 410-295-5474.

~ *Joanne Christofel*

More than Just Elbow Grease: Love.

We are thankful for the gift of this wonderful building and those who take care of it. We thank Mike Keller for his generosity and the Christofels for their contribution of time and talent and extraordinary energy for leading the way on taking care of so many projects big and small throughout the church.

It's beautiful to see us coming together in this way, like Ruth giving a few spare hours so the bathrooms receive a super deep, deep clean. If you are looking for a simple way to contribute during the week, reach out to Joanne Christofel. at msjohara@yahoo.com and she'll find you something within your capabilities!



This photo hardly does any justice to the recent work on the chapel. We removed the 26-foot prehistoric accordion wall and constructed a

wall and attached sliding doors. A replacement of the accordion wall would have been in the ballpark of \$30,000, so thanks to the generosity of church members we were able to make it look much nicer at a twelfth of that cost. ~ *Pastor Chris*

Food Pantry – Thank You



In February you brought us laundry detergent. EUMC and our food pantry community are really grateful for these items.



March is dish soap month and we're hoping you'll pick up an extra container when you grocery shop – these will be distributed at our March 16th food pantry. Thank You, Thank You!!!

UMW/Women in Faith



March UMW Meeting: The United Methodist Women/Women in Faith will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 5, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a short business meeting followed by devotions. You are welcome to bring a bagged meal and drink; dessert will be provided. All women of the church are invited to participate.

Bus Trip to Sight & Sound Theatre to see "Daniel" in June 2024: Please join us on June 27, 2024 (Thursday) on a bus trip to the Sight & Sound Theatre in Strasburg, Pennsylvania, to see the brand-new, original stage production of "Daniel," one of the Bible's most epic sagas. Taken from his people, Daniel is exiled far from home in the powerful kingdom of Babylon. Now this faithful servant of God must navigate his new life inside a palace filled with golden statues and shifting empires. As royal pressures mount, Daniel is faced with a dangerous choice. Will his trust in the one true God remain steadfast through every test of faith? Please come join Eastport and Trinity Churches and witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life. From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, "Daniel" is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family to enjoy! After the show, enjoy a delicious smorgasbord lunch at Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant in Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania. Tickets cost \$175 per adult or \$120 per child (ages 5 - 12) and include transportation, reserved seats for the show, smorgasbord lunch, and all taxes and tips.

Itinerary:

8:00 AM Depart Annapolis, MD...PARKING LOT OF EUMC
10:15 AM Arrive Strasburg, PA, at Sight & Sound Theatre
11:00 AM Showtime! **"DANIEL"**
1:45 PM Depart Strasburg, PA
2:00 PM Arrive Bird-in-Hand, PA, at Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant
2:15 PM Smorgasbord Lunch
3:45 PM Depart Bird-in-Hand, PA
6:00 PM Arrive Annapolis, MD

For more information, contact Jean Strucko (410-268-7175 or jeanstrucko@gmail.com). Ticket availability is first come, first served. Jean will collect cash or checks (checks should be made payable to Carol Emory) and asks that you provide your email and phone number along with your ticket request. ~ *Kathy Duckett*

Youth Mental Health & First Aid

Eastport United Methodist is offering Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training thanks to a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).



Why is this important? Young people today face unique challenges that can impact their mental well-being. By equipping ourselves with the knowledge and skills to identify and respond to these challenges, we can create a more supportive and understanding community for our youth.

What is YMHFA? This 8-hour course covers:

- Typical adolescent development (ages 12-18)
- Common mental health challenges faced by youth
- A 5-step action plan for assisting youth in crisis and non-crisis situations
- Local resources available to help

Who should attend? This training is valuable for anyone who interacts with youth, including:

- Parents and caregivers
- Teachers and school staff
- Youth leaders and mentors
- **Community members

When and where?

Dates: Two-part session on April 14th and 21st

Time: 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Location: Eastport United Methodist Church

Register Today! Space is limited, so please RSVP by March 31 by completing the attached registration form: <https://forms.gle/8naczn9UEPeEfDki8>

We encourage you to take advantage of this free opportunity to learn valuable skills and make a difference in the lives of young people in our community. Together, we can create a brighter future for our youth!

Thank you to Tommy & Elizabeth Eicher who are sponsoring the hospitality table for the YMHFA class in April.



We will donate \$500 to EUMC on your behalf, for any Real Estate transaction resulting in a sale for all EUMC members, family and friends.

"Your Chesapeake Connection"

Tommy & Elizabeth Eicher

Real Estate Professionals

Cell 410-212-3383/410-279-1702

410-263-8686



Charting Careers



Another great Family Night is in the books, with so much to celebrate!! - Two high school seniors were present who have already received multiple college acceptances! - Staff shared some of their memorable summer experiences and scholars brainstormed summer experiences they want to have. - We were able to spend quality time with scholars, families, volunteers, board, staff, and partners over healthy and delicious food!

*Thank you, Eastport United Methodist Church, for being such generous hosts to us!!

#grateful #joyfulcommunitybuilding

*A special welcome to to the Barss family
– Reg, Jane, and Emily –
who officially joined our
church family in February.*

Laissez le bon temps rouler!

Thanks to everyone who turned out for our impromptu Mardi Gras party at Forward Brewing. Long time members and new folks gathered for a great time. With homemade king cake! We'll definitely have to do something like that again soon.



Welcome ECA

We welcome the **Eastport Civic Association** as they rent our Fellowship Hall for their regular meetings. They were great guests and very appreciative of the use of our space.



Divine Diners

Since the EUMC drop-in lunch and supper groups began last August, we have enjoyed some great informal semi-monthly meal gatherings, at Sammy's Italian Kitchen, Jack's Fortune, and Adam's Grill. About eighteen people have participated so far on one or more occasions. Everyone is welcome and no advance planning is needed. We hope you will join us for food, fun, & fellowship.



If anyone wants to attend and needs a ride, please reach out to Elaine at 301-461-4646 so we can try to make arrangements for you.



You
Are
Loved.

Safe Streets

The City of Annapolis and our friends at the Housing Authority are teaming up with Graham Projects to make our streets safer and more fun to walk on. We're hoping to add colorful art right on the road and some cool stuff around the bus stops to make them nicer for everyone. We want your ideas! Be a Part of It! Make it your intersection!



Everyone's invited - kids, grown-ups, everyone! Come, have some snacks, and share your brilliant ideas!

Saturday Fun: March 2, 1-3 pm at Eastport United Methodist Church

Or Share Your Ideas Online – Can't make it? No worries! Visit: <https://eastportcni.grahamprojects.com/> to tell us what you think should be added!

Let's Make Our Streets Beautiful Together! This cool project is part of the **Eastport Choice Neighborhood Initiative**, thanks to a special grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Questions? Ask Eric at ejleshinsky@annapolis.gov.



March Anniversaries



- Mar 16 Ernie & Virginia Schultz
- Mar 18 Rusty & Janet Mack
- Mar 31 Rawle Green & Barbara Schwarz

March Birthdays



- Mar 1 Christy South
- Mar 3 Jean Wilcox
Katherine Wilcox
- Mar 5 Molly Estabrook
Ernie Schultz
Stephen Jones
- Mar 9 Carol Ann Stevens
- Mar 10 Andy Little
- Mar 11 Chris Broadwell
- Mar 13 Jill Peddicord
- Mar 14 Vern Renshaw
- Mar 18 Sue Hadaway
- Mar 19 Eric Smaridge
- Mar 26 Barbara Nutwell
- Mar 27 Catherine Elliott
- Mar 29 Thomas Owen
- Mar 31 Jennifer Smith
Sue Nasatka

The Spire is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410.263.5490
office@eastportumc.org
www.eastportumc.org
Pastor: Christopher Broadwell
Editor: Eunice Corse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Lenten Study 9am	2 Safe Streets Gathering @ EUMC 1-3 pm
3 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am	4	5 Homework & Reading 4pm UMW Meeting & Dinner 5:30pm	6 Lenten Study 7pm	7 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	8 Lenten Study 9am	9 
10 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School Daylight Savings Time Begins	11	12 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Lunch 12pm @Sammy's	13 Lenten Study 7pm	14 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	15 Lenten Study 9am	16 Community Food & Diaper Pantry 11am (Setup 10am)
17 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am 	18 Finance Meeting 7pm	19 Homework & Reading 4pm 	20 Lenten Study 7pm	21 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	22 Lenten Study 9am	23
24 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School 	25	26 No H&R Divine Diners Supper Club Adam's 5:30pm Admin Council 7pm	27	28 No H&R Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	29 Good Friday Service 12pm	30 
31 Sunrise Service Thomas Pt. 6am  Easter Service 10am						

Methodist Women will meet on
Tuesday, April 2nd at 5:30.

PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

**Eastport United Methodist Church
926 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403-3091**



**Pastor Christopher Broadwell
Church Office 410-263-5490
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
www.eastportumc.org**