



# The Eastport Spire

## “Inspire Us to Great Things”

### July 2022

*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.*

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## From the Pastor

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### Eastport United Methodist Church,

Our time together on Sunday mornings is always on my mind; whether it was last Sunday, this Sunday, or a Sunday three months from now. One of my favorite things about my work is to prayerfully consider where God is leading us as a whole each week and consider what can be said, prayed, or sung that will honor God and help us listen to the Spirit to be shaped more and more like Jesus.

Every now and then I'll get to look at the calendar a couple of months in advance to plan far ahead. So this past week I have been immersing myself in scripture and in the songs of our faith, reflecting on conversations we have had (individually and as a community), and considering what faithful steps God is calling us to take.

But before doing this each day this week, I took a look at the "master list" of names of people connected to our congregation and I prayed for each of you by name – every person who gets this Spire newsletter, those who aren't on our email list, the visitors we've seen over the past years, the friends and family who have accompanied us to Easter and Christmas services, and those who have moved away.

Thanking God for you.

Praying and hoping each of you know how much you are loved by God. Adored, even.

I look forward to celebrating Holy Communion with you this Sunday – an outward and visible sign of God's great love for us. The best news of all.

~ *Grace and Peace,*  
*Pastor Chris*

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## SPLASHPORT

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Each Friday in July we will host a water field day on the lawn of the church. All kids PreK to 5th grade are welcome to join in the fun. We'll have a slip-n-slide, water toys, and water games. We'll start the fun at 1pm and wrap up around 3 pm.

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## Open Mic Night

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Put the kids to bed, go to dinner, come out for our late night open-mic on July 9 at 8 pm. Are you a poet? Writer? Musician? Interested in sharing? Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a054cabae2ca1ff2-open>

## Report on Annual Conference

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“Persevere in Hope, Faith and Joy” was the theme as the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church convened online for its 238<sup>th</sup> session in June. “We’re living through a time when we cannot catch our breath,

when the song will not form in our throat and the tears well up without provocation,” Bishop LaTrelle Easterling preached during the opening worship of the Conference. But, she said, the people of the Baltimore Washington Conference are still engaged in significant mission and ministry. “That is our reputation, that is our identity, that is our witness. United Methodists know to stop telling God about your problems and start telling your problems about God”.

Here are other highlights of the Conference:

### *In Hope*

- BWC members endorsed the Rev. Joseph Daniels of Emory UMUC in Washington, DC as its candidate for the episcopacy at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in November. Rev. Daniels received the requisite 66 percent of the vote on the third ballot. It was the first time that my individual vote was decisive in a BWC outcome.
- The Laity session focused on youth ministries and the creation of disciples. Members heard inspirational messages from a high school student and from a leader of the University of Maryland’s Terp Hub.
- Camps Monidoken, West River, and Harmison announced plans to open fully this summer.

### *In Faith*

- Members approved a \$18.2 million budget and set the collection rate at 90 percent and the benevolence factor at 17.55 percent. Members were assured that the apportionments of churches would not be increased due to any disaffiliations from the BWC.
- The Board of Ordained Ministry reported on an ongoing study of gender, race and ministry.

- Members passed five resolutions that 1) give the Black United Methodists for Church Renewal Caucus intentional input into decisions about the proceeds from the sale of African American churches in the BWC, 2) endorsed the Christmas Covenant, 3) made Salem Hispanic UMC in Baltimore a mission church of the Conference, 4) created a new position on the Action and Advocacy team to work in the area of ensuring housing for all, and 5) called for increased and nuanced discussion about climate change.
- Conference members approved closing Cherry Run UMC in Hedgeville and approved the request of Mountain View UMC in Damascus and New Beginnings Fellowship in Jarrettsville to disaffiliate from the denomination. The BWC Trustees presented a report clarifying the disaffiliation process for churches wishing to leave The United Methodist Church.
- The equitable compensation rate for clergy was increased three percent, bringing the base salary to \$47,990 and the recommended housing allowance to \$21,394.

### *In Joy*

- Bishop Easterling ordained and commissioned nine Elders and three deacons at a worship service.
- Six certified lay ministers were recognized for completing their training
- District superintendents paid tribute to 22 clergy retirees at a Service of Celebration
- The Conference celebrated Lovely Lane UMC in Baltimore, the oldest church in the Conference, which marks its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

If you have questions about the Conference or desire additional information about its proceedings, please contact me at [mjaykeller@outlook.com](mailto:mjaykeller@outlook.com) or 410-263-7409

~ Michael Keller, laity representative from Eastport UMC to the Annual BWC Conference

## July Garden and Maintenance News

Many thanks to our garden members for keeping their areas weed free, and thanks to Steve Duckett for trimming the cross hedge. I pulled weeds in the children's garden and playground and dug out another junk tree from the side garden. We were able to do a small fix on the riding lawnmower that eliminates lines in the grass. Jerry also installed a new blade and pins on the push mower after some damage. Thanks to Bill Schneider for cutting the grass while we were away. We received some estimates on trimming our huge trees and hope to schedule the work in the next month. All the sidewalks and curbs were edged too. Our church grounds are looking good. If you can help with any work outside, please contact Joanne or Jerry Christofel at [msjohara@yahoo.com](mailto:msjohara@yahoo.com) or 410-295-5474. ~ Joanne Christofel



## Summer Camp

Our Neighborhood Children's Education Fund has made something amazing possible. We have been able to sponsor tuition for each of the kids attending Ms. T's Helping Hands Summer Camp, a program occupying some of our space this summer, and it's a win-win for everybody! There are 41 campers from the Eastport neighborhoods ranging in age from 3 ½ to 13 years. Their first week featured a trip to Truxton Park swimming pool (pictured above).



## Homework and Reading Ministry

Anne Arundel County Public Schools concluded the academic year on June 24, and the Homework and Reading Ministry will take a well-deserved break for the summer.

This has been a rebuilding year for the program. It resumed in September 2021 after an 18-month interruption due to the pandemic and the suspension of in-person classes at the public schools. During that period, many of the students "graduated" from the elementary grades while some younger children missed having the Homework experience in kindergarten and first grade. Nonetheless, the program concluded its 13<sup>th</sup> year with 13 children on its rolls and nine being regular attendees.



In addition to helping the kids with their homework, volunteers in the program from both the church and the community worked with the children to strengthen their reading, writing, comprehension, math and analytical skills. The curriculum was expanded this year to include activities such as educational games, puzzles and crafts.

Many thanks are extended to those who volunteered with the program: Neil Bergsman, Joyce Conley, Valerie Devaris, Francesca Ducker, Molly Estabrook, Anne Heald, Max Makovitch, Maudy Kraus, Mike Mullins, Anne Owen and Juliet and Kyrie Plaster. Thanks as well to the Monday and



Wednesday evening support groups for setting up the tables and chairs in the fellowship hall for the program. And thanks to

Bill Schneider for expanding the church's WiFi into the fellowship hall and to Susan Schneider for obtaining an \$8,000 grant from St. Margaret's Church to enhance the digital resources of the program.

Homework and Reading will return on August 30 when classes are back in session at Anne Arundel County Public Schools. ~ Michael Keller

The Homework & Reading children topped off their season with a pizza party and trip to Barnes & Noble where they were able to choose books for themselves.



## July Birthdays



- July 2 Dawn Goodnow
- July 4 Richard Hughes
- July 5 Pat Parks  
Libby Cain
- July 6 Janet Mack  
Judy Bradford  
Michelle Outerbrige
- July 7 Ryan Elliott
- July 9 David L. Owen  
Carrie Vasquez
- July 12 Kathleen Liedy
- July 13 Jackson Kopp
- July 15 Catrina Smith
- July 16 Nicole Hughes  
Debbie Morgan  
Shirley Owen
- July 18 Harriett Newquist
- July 20 Megan Wurst  
Molly Parrish
- July 22 Kevin Heinz  
Alexandra South
- July 24 Nathan Vasquez
- July 25 James Wilcox
- July 26 Joyce Chesney
- July 27 Hattie Broadwell  
Nikki Scott
- July 29 Evan Wilcox  
Tyler South
- July 30 Jerry South

## July Anniversaries

- July 5 Mike & Lisa Stevens
- July 10 Jason & Shelly Wilcox
- July 17 Gary & Christina Hataway
- July 19 Russ & Lisa Parrish
- July 24 David & Cyndi Councill
- July 26 Gene & Lynn Swanner
- July 28 Jon & Kim Wilcox
- July 29 Mei-jen Hong-Hillary



The Eastport Volunteer Fire Department and Anne Arundel Medical Center are partnering in a blood drive Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 5 pm. If you are able to donate blood, please put this date on your calendar. Tell your family and friends. It's right here at the Eastport Fire Department.



*The Spire* is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410.263.5490  
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The bus trip to see "David" at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Strasburg, PA, is fast approaching (Aug. 23). To check on availability of seats, cost, times, and other details of the trip, please contact Carol Emory at [carolemory7@aol.com](mailto:carolemory7@aol.com).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Worship 10am		<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> SPLASHPORT Water Fun 1 to 3pm	<b>9</b> Open Mic Night 8:00pm @EUMC 
<b>10</b> Worship 10am	<b>11</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> Food Pantry 10:00 am 
<b>17</b> Worship 10am	<b>18</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> SPLASHPORT Water Fun 1 to 3pm	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Worship 10am	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Worship 10am						

**Eastport United Methodist Church  
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