



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

November 2021

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.

From the Pastor

Friends of Eastport United Methodist Church,

My favorite season is underway and I couldn't be happier. The air is crisp, the sun sets a bit earlier, and the leaves are turning to more radiant colors reminding us that change is not just constant, but it can also be beautiful. I also love autumn because it gives way to some very meaningful holidays – All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, the season of Advent, Christmas, and the New Year.

Those holidays are just around the corner for us. In fact, Advent begins the last Sunday in November. I'm especially excited for this Advent as we will be hearing from a number of other pastors. Alicia O'Brien, Pastor Jenna Johnson (both have led worship with us before), and Rev. Sarah Schlieckert (our District Superintendent) will be joining me in leading worship throughout Advent as we look at the song of Mary found in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke.

In other news, I am excited to share that we have hired a new church **Office Administrator** Rose Maple. Rose has previously worked as a Colonial Nursery School teacher and prior to that as an office administrator for many years. We've also hired Diesha Contee as our **Community Navigator**; she brings a number of skills as a caterer, a community organizer, mentor, mom, and student advocate and will be responsible for the food pantry and beyond, connecting our neighbors to available resources. I am grateful they both have chosen to work with us and look forward to all the gifts they bring to our community. Please join me in welcoming them to our church.

~ Grace and peace, Pastor Chris

Our Saints

On All Saints Sunday, November 7th, we name the pain of loss and grief and give thanks for the lives of saints among us who now rest from their labors. We give solemn thanks for their presence in our lives. May their light shine perpetually through those who loved them.

Robert “Bobby” Stevens
Nadine Clark
Judith K. Peifer
Louis B. Krebs, Jr.
Catherine M. Daywalt
Norman Jones
Ann Rawls
Kevin Scott Boettcher
Leona Bergsman
Marie Sims
Raymond “Buddy” Finkle
Betty Moreland
Mike Owen
Betty Tillack
Robert D. Rawls
Elda Mae Swanner
Gene D. Swanner, Sr.
MaryLou Malone



UMW Meeting & Christmas Mission

The United Methodist Women will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, November 3, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a short business meeting followed by a program from the 2021-2022 UMW book entitled *Healing and Joy: On our Journey to God*. All women of the church are invited to participate.



 For many years, we have provided Christmas gifts for the residents at Bowman Place in downtown Annapolis. At our October meeting, we decided to once again provide grocery store gift cards instead of gift bags. We hope you will continue to support this effort to provide a little bit of Christmas cheer to the Bowman Place residents by purchasing a \$25 grocery store gift card from Giant or Safeway. We need 60 gift cards (one per apartment) and would like to have them by December 12 so that we have time to arrange delivery before Christmas.

You can bring the gift cards with you to church and give them to me or one of our officers, including Jean Strucko, Harriet Macey, Harriet Newquist, or Debbie Morgan. If you are unable to get to the store to purchase a gift card but would like to support this mission, you can mail a check (made out to United Methodist Women of EUMC) to Harriet Newquist at 1215 Marda Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403. You can also mail gift cards to Harriet Newquist or call me at 410-268-6467 with questions or to arrange to pick up gift cards you have purchased. Thanks in advance for supporting this local mission. The residents have always been very appreciative of EUMC's generosity. ~ Kathy Duckett

On Saturday night, November 6th.....



Chromebook Sought

The Homework and Reading Ministry plans to integrate a new tool to assist students with their educational development and especially their proficiency in reading. The instrument is Skybrary, a digital library featuring hundreds of digital books, each with optional narration; real-world video field trips; standards-aligned lessons; and easy-to-use teacher instructions. Skybrary combines several components that help children develop their literacy skills: high-interest books, read-to-me features, and encouragement for independent reading. The extensive library of books, videos, and lesson plans is designed for students in grades K-3 (on whom the Homework program is focusing this year) across multiple subject areas.

Eastport Elementary School is ordering four Chromebooks to assist us—at no cost to the church. But we need to confirm that Skybrary can be accessed using the Chromebooks. It should, since Skybrary is an internet-based program and the WiFi in the fellowship hall has been expanded. Does anyone have a Chromebook that they can loan to us for the purpose of conducting a test? If you can help, please contact Mike Keller at:

mjaykeller@outlook.com or 410-263-7409.

Rejecting Resiliency

One of my friends recently posted on Facebook (not ready to call it Meta yet) that she was tired of being called resilient and she was exhausted to always be viewed as so strong. She has had a rough two years, and was just now beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel. And despite the horrible challenges she had to face, she is indeed resilient and strong.

Nevertheless, after hearing this repeatedly, despite the best intentions of those who described her that way, she confessed to being ready for softness and ease. She didn't want to be patted on the back for how well she could take a hit.

What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger. Who hasn't heard that? And yet, when it applies to you, let's get real here. We'd all prefer a cushy existence

to one that makes us stronger. Who hasn't been faced with a crisis, and cried, "Why me?"

As always, the why-me question is not one we can answer. And the glib 'why not me?' reply that some people respond with just makes you want to hit something (usually them!).

As we get ready to enter the season of Thanksgiving, and then of Advent, I must confess to a certain melancholy at this time of year. Sure, there's lots to look forward to with the holidays – way too much delicious food, seeing family and friends again, picking gifts that will make someone smile. Yeah, that's all good.

And yet behind all that there is the approaching darkness of winter, the reminder of who won't be around our holiday table this year and the knowledge that the game face is just that. Like my friend, I don't want to be strong or resilient. I want someone to comfort me. I want soft, warm blankets. I want cuddly kittens and dazzling rainbows.

So if this time of year is tough for you, I think it's just fine to reach out to people who bring you comfort and joy, and allow someone else to lend that shoulder that you so often offer. I think it's a good idea to acknowledge our sadness, despite the joy of the season. I think it's okay to reject resiliency.

~ Barbara Krebs

EUMC Thanksgiving Basket Mission

Dear Family and Friends of EUMC:

Thanksgiving is a time of joyful celebration, yet also a time of reflection – of gratitude for our blessings and bounty. While making your holiday plans and reflecting on all you have to be thankful for, it's also a good time to think about those less fortunate, and consider whether you can be of assistance to them. At EUMC, we are committed to providing extra assistance to needy families during the holidays. With the pandemic, loss of employment, and limited resources, there are more people seeking assistance than ever before. We depend on the generosity of donors like yourselves to provide assistance to our neighbors in Eastport.



I am writing today to ask you to consider making a tax-deductible donation to support the Thanksgiving Basket Mission of EUMC. No donation is too small; any amount will be greatly appreciated. Donating is easy. You can contribute to EUMC online at [Give | Eastport UMC](#) (Budget offering/choose Thanksgiving Fund) or by calling (410) 263-5490 during the week. You may also send a check to the church at 926 Bay Ridge Ave, Annapolis, MD 21403. Be sure to specify "Thanksgiving" on your check.

All funds received and designated for Thanksgiving Basket Mission will be used for grocery store gift cards which will go directly to those families designated by the elementary schools. What better way to celebrate Thanksgiving than to make a conscious decision to help your neighbors who are in need?

~ *In His Grace,*
Kevin Hight, Chair, Thanksgiving Basket Mission

Annual Session Report Balt.-Wash. UM Conference



"Stand. Transform. Rise" was the theme of the 237th session of the Baltimore/Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. Clergy and laity from 615 churches participated virtually. Bishop LaTrelle Easterling set the tone in the opening worship service by observing that "We are rising to claim a new day, rising to model what it really looks like to live, love and liberate as one. The state of our conference is strong. We are still one"! The Conference focused on three areas: stewardship, discipleship, and laity leadership. This overview captures the highlights.

Stewardship

Delegates approved an \$18.1 million budget for 2022, including \$13.1 million for mission share income. To account for financial circumstances resulting from the pandemic, delegates adopted a new way of calculating "mission share" that uses a three-year average (2018 through 2022) rather than from just 2020. In other business, the Conference trustees were granted a green light to create a BWC Cemetery Association that will oversea funds for the upkeep of three historic cemeteries.

Discipleship

Reports from the Discipleship Council and the We Rise United initiative supported the Conference's commitment to becoming an inclusive, diverse, equitable and anti-racist church—and provided information about resources for those involved in this priority work. Delegates passed three social action resolutions calling on the BWC to become a “green” annual conference, to endorse an amendment to Maryland’s constitution on environmental human rights, and to declare gun violence a public health emergency. The Conference also passed a resolution endorsing the General Conference legislation on the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation. The resolution was introduced jointly by two delegates on the opposite sides of the issue of human sexuality which has roiled the denomination. The Protocol is expected to be an attempt to settle the division at the postponed 2020 National Conference.

Laity Leadership

The laity address encouraged United Methodists to claim their stories of faith and share them with others. This message was amplified during the laity session by one delegate who observed “Laity in the BWC continues to adapt communication strategies by deed and word that are helping to manifest Scriptural wholeness or holiness.

~ Michael Keller, EUMC laity representative to the Baltimore/Washington Annual Conference

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

On Sunday, October 10th, we had a good time showing our appreciation for Pastor Chris with a gift and a song. Composed by our own JoAnn Kulesza, the song was sung by all to the tune of “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart.”



Give thanks for our Pastor Chris, ♫♪♫

Give thanks for his leadership.

Give thanks because He gives us so much love and care. ♫♪

Give thanks for his music skills, give thanks for his iron will,
Give thanks that he's attentive and he's always there. ♫♪

He plays the guitar and sings along,
picks the hymns, readings, praise songs.
Gives good sermons, shares his insights,
too. ♫♪

He's not just a pastor, he's a friend,
father, confidant, he'll lend
you his ear and put you back at ease.
That's Chris, Pastor Chris, we love
Pastor Chris!!! ♫♪♪



Storm Brothers Ice Cream

Did you know that Sveinn Storm, of Storm Bros. Ice Cream on Dock Street, Annapolis, is our community outreach partner for fresh eggs for the community food pantry. He provides 60-80 dozen eggs monthly from his Eastern Shore chicken farm to support our efforts. EUMC members and friends might be interested in reading about and supporting his mission in El Salvador

A few years ago, after numerous family trips to Morazán, El Salvador, Sveinn started a mission called "Mission to Morazán." Their goal is to share God's love by meeting the most urgent needs of the people in Morazán, El Salvador. They provide food, medicine and medical supplies, in-home water filtration systems and clean burning cook stoves. They build pilas (water storage units), homes for the homeless and they repair homes. They also have a scholarship program to enable young people in Morazán to continue their education.

Sveinn told me this story from one of his trips:

“Concepción, eighty years old, lives in a house on the side of a steep hill with her 40 year old son, Cristino. The home's main room has block walls but the rest of the home is pieced together with wood posts, sticks and scrap tin. Our purpose in visiting Concepción was to assess her need for us to build her a pila, which functions as a water storage receptacle as well as a sink. The trek down the path to her home was quite steep and all I could think of was how treacherous it would be to carry the materials down the mountain. On arrival, Concepción greeted us warmly. As I looked at this frail woman, I couldn't imagine how she could possibly negotiate the path to and from her home. We inquired as

to her health and she explained that a few months back she had become ill and run a fairly high fever for several days. She said since this illness she felt a bit weaker. Much as I suspected, she had not gone to see a doctor due to the steep climb to the main road. She explained that she had fallen a few times trying to do so and had hurt her wrists badly catching herself as she fell. Both of her wrists had slight bends to them and I suspect they had been broken and had not healed properly. As we further assessed her situation, we noticed that all she and her son had been eating recently were tortillas. Tortillas help to fill the void in your stomach but have very little food value. Later in the day, we returned with rice, eggs and beans and she beamed with delight. Concepción will get her Pila and a few other repairs, including a stair step path with a handrail to make the steep climb to her outhouse much safer. The path is under construction and now all our other sites will be evaluated more closely in the future to address the safety level.”

In El Salvador, and in Maryland, Sveinn and Storm Bros. are our community partners. We are all called Blessed to be a Blessing.

<https://www.facebook.com/missontomorazan/>

~ Susan Schneider



Sight & Sound Excursion

The Book of Esther is a candidate for the most exciting adventure story in The Bible. The events, which take place at the opulent residence of the king of Persia, center on a Jewish heroine whose great

courage and devotion to her people thwart a plot to have them exterminated in an act of genocide.

The Millennium Theatre of Sight & Sound brought the story to life in its most recent production, *Queen Esther*. The performance featured the largest set ever built for a Sight & Sound show, along with all of the usual special effects. Consistent with the tradition of Sight & Sound, the program was faithful to the Biblical text. A lively band of more than 30 folks from Annapolis, representing four United Methodist congregations (and led by Eastport), ventured by bus to Pennsylvania to see the production and enjoy an all-you-can-eat lunch afterwards.



It is not too early to reserve a spot on our next trip to Sight & Sound on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 to see the story of “**DAVID**”, the legendary Biblical figure who had many different roles: a shepherd, anointed king, master poet, and fearless warrior, For all his heroics, David had serious flaws and his personal life was far from admirable.

Do not wait too long to reserve your ticket to this exciting show about one of the most extraordinary Biblical figures and brought to life with original music inspired by the Psalms, spectacular special effects, massive sets, and live animals. **The cost of \$130 per person (\$96 for children ages 3 to 12) covers a great seat to the show, roundtrip bus transportation, a family style lunch at Hershey Farms Restaurant in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country, and all tips.** This event customarily is a sell-out, and those who have already expressed interest would fill half the bus seats.

Make checks payable to Carol Emory and mail to her at 506 Duvall Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403. For further information, contact Carol at: carolemory7@aol.com.



Remember **#justonesweater??** We're collecting again. Sweaters, hoodies, jackets, warm winter clothing – gently used and clean. We'll be collecting through mid-November. There is a container outside the church office, or you can bring your items to church when you come on Sundays.

The Connection

The Connection is a community group to foster connection, conversation, and resources for LGBTQ people, their partners and family who are exploring the Christian faith. The group will meet virtually twice a month starting in October, if there is enough interest it will be in-person. If you or someone you know may be interested in participating, please contact Pastor Chris at chris@eastportumc.org.

THE CONNECTION



A twice-monthly group seeking to foster connection, conversation, and resources for LGBTQ people, partners, and family exploring faith.

eastportumc.org

Creating Communities



Creating Communities is an arts education program that we are working with to connect with our community. You'll notice them in the parking lot on Wednesdays from 4-5pm creating beauty and fun!



We love this lady who keeps our grounds picked up so faithfully!

Anne Arundel County Food Bank

A 73% reduction in donated food:

The pandemic has negatively impacted the amount of food being donated to our Food Bank. Prior to the pandemic, we were only purchasing 1% of the food we distributed, but today, we purchase 71% of the food we distribute. We need your help to [collect food](#) or [donate funds](#) to help us continue purchasing at such high levels.

Meeting an increased need:

Since the pandemic started in March 2020, Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) has witnessed a 482% increase in the number of people seeking assistance at food pantries. In response we distributed over 7.9 million pounds of food throughout Anne Arundel County. It takes many, many hands to collect enough food to meet the food needs of our Anne Arundel County neighbors. The Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) is fortunate to have an army of students, realtors, businesses, and neighbors host a Harvest for the Hungry food and fund drives each fall.

Already this fall, we have 60 Anne Arundel County Public Schools signed up to help us meet the challenge of raising money to purchase food for AACFB. We also have realtors throughout the county who are hosting food drives and collecting much needed items. There is power in community and fighting hunger needs your help more than ever.

Please consider a Harvest gift to the Anne Arundel Food Bank. Your \$10 donation can purchase \$80 of bulk foods. Your \$25 donation can purchase \$200 of bulk foods. Please consider helping our neighbors through the approaching Winter months by donating here.

[Anne Arundel
County Food
Bank](#)

[Donate](#)

PO Box 650
Crownsville, MD
21032
(410) 923-4255
www.aafoodbank.org

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufuyrrzMoHtEeXd1yq745Sw1EnfZJfWXF>

November Birthdays

- Nov 4 Christina Valentine
Nov 7 Sally Malamphy
Nov 9 Mei-jen Hong-Hillary
Nov 10 Steve Ploof
Nov 12 Curtis Clary
Chuck Ferrar
Nov 12 Bill Riggs
Nov 15 Robert Gibbons III
Lindsey Owen
Nov 15 Holly Green
Nov 17 Kevin Hight
Nov 27 Kathy Duckett
Finn Smith
Nov 28 John "Bo" Morgan



Living and loving outloud

OUTLOVE

October 29, 2021

New Date November 12



Join us to hear from Julie Rodgers, author of Outlove, and featured in the powerful Netflix documentary, Pray Away. It will be a night of storytelling and song from local LGBTQ leaders, and a chance to fellowship with a community of LGBTQ+ and allies. All are welcome!

SANCTUARY
171 DUKE OF GLOUCESTER ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

STARTS AT
7 PM

It will be livestreamed and recorded!

OUTLOVE
A QUEER CHRISTIAN SURVIVAL STORY
by Julie Rodgers

CO-SPONSORS: ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL, GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN, ARK AND DOVE PRESBYTERIAN, ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL, EASTPORT UMC, CHRIST OUR ANCHOR PRESBYTERIAN, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, UU - ANNAPOLIS

November Anniversaries



- Nov 14 Guy & Lynn Goddard
Nov 27 Stephen & Sherrie Ugolini
Nov 30 Chris & Emily Broadwell

Recordings of Sunday's services can be viewed on EUMC's website,
www.eastportumc.org.

You can also listen by phone to our prerecorded services by calling
1-410-233-3163.

The Spire is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410.263.5490
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VETERANS DAY SERVICE

Sunday, November 7, 2021, 3pm

St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1120 Spa Road, Annapolis 410-263-4723 stmartinsannapolis.org



Please join us this afternoon for patriotic hymns and readings as we honor those who have served. We are delighted to welcome RADM Tom Jurkowsky, USN (Ret.) as our guest speaker. Among many other positions held during his distinguished career, Admiral Jurkowsky was the Chief Information Officer of the US Navy.

All who are presently serving or have served in the past are invited to wear uniforms for the service.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Homework 4:00pm	3 UMW Dinner Meeting in Fellowship Hall 5:30pm	4 Homework 4:00pm	5	6 Set Clocks Back One Hour 
7 All Saints Worship 10am (outside) Rawls Funeral 3pm	8	9 Homework 4:00pm	10	11 Homework 4:00pm 	12 OUTLOVE 7pm @ First Presbyterian Church Annapolis	13
14 Worship 10am	15	16 Homework 4:00pm Admin Council Zoom meeting 7pm	17	18 Homework 4:00pm	19 Prepare for Food Pantry	20 FOOD PANTRY 10:00 AM
21 Worship 10am	22	23 Community Thanksgiving Dinner 5:30pm	24	25 	26	27
28 Worship 10am First Sunday in Advent	29	30 Homework 4:00pm		<p><i>"How superstitious are they who scruple giving God solemn thanks for the lives and deaths of his saints!"</i></p> <p>John Wesley Concerning All Saints Day</p>		

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