



# The Eastport Spire

## *“Inspire Us to Great Things”*

### **December 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,

One of my favorite selections in the United Methodist Hymnal reads “There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God...” While it is not a common Advent hymn, I feel that it speaks to the season that many of us find ourselves in: longing to be near Christ, to find rest, as we are tired and weary of the constant adjusting to this “next normal.” It beautifully expresses James 4:8, “Draw near to God and God will draw near to you.”



Amidst the business of Christmas gatherings for work or for family, advent calendars, food preparations, and gift giving, I pray that you take time for rest. Not crashing from exhaustion, but restorative rest. Rest in which you are able to stop and appreciate the goodness of God at work in your life and in our community.

When we are able to create space for rest (Sabbath) in our lives, we might find that Christ is able to enter into our lives.

Fra Giovanni, a 16th-century Italian architect, wrote “No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today.”

So may we, this season, make room for Christ and make our prayer “be near us, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay.”

*~ Grace and peace, Pastor Chris*

---

## Methodist Women News

### **UMW Christmas Social:**

The United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will be our Christmas Social, which will be a pot luck meal - just bring a side dish or dessert to share (fried chicken will be provided). We plan to have a gift exchange involving a fast-paced, fun game, so bring a wrapped \$10 gift and join the fun. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Harriet Newquist by Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, to ensure that we have enough food. You may reach her at 443-481-7088 or by emailing [newquist1959@aol.com](mailto:newquist1959@aol.com).



### **Grocery Store Gift Cards for Bowman Place Residents:**

Once again, we are collecting \$25 grocery store gift cards from Safeway and Giant for the residents of Bowman Place. We hope that you will continue to support this effort to provide a little bit of Christmas cheer to the Bowman Place residents. You can bring the gift cards with you to church and give them to me or one of the UMW 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. We would like to have them by December 12 so that we have time to arrange delivery before Christmas. Thanks in advance for supporting this local mission. The residents have always been very appreciative of EUMC's generosity.

*~ Kathy Duckett*

## **Gimme the Presents/Presence!**

---



Yes, it's that time of year again when we start thinking about gifts, both giving and receiving. And I tend to feel a bit overwhelmed with it all. Is it a present that will bring joy? Is it the right color? Is it the right size? How do I wrap this thing? Where do I hide it until it's wrapped?

However, some recent conversations made me wonder if it's even possible for us to focus on what's really important. All of us get so wrapped up (pun intended) in our own little worlds, in our own echo chambers, that we forget to look outside of our immediate surroundings, our immediate friend circle into the wider world.

Perhaps the questions we should be asking ourselves should run more like this. Am I a presence that will bring joy? Am I the right color? The right size? How do I wrap this thing (me) in a way that will spark interest in others, not avoidance? Where do I hide the unruly emotions that prevent me from being a positive presence in the world?

Instead of presents, maybe we should focus on giving presence instead. What does that mean?

I think that means something different to each person who dares to ask that question of themselves. Each of us has a different journey in this world, and each of us responds to events around us differently. For instance, one person avoids confrontation, retreating into silence or avoidance, while another becomes a trapped animal, snarling and biting at anyone who approaches. Both scenarios are natural extensions of who we are as human beings but neither brings forth our best self, nor the person we hope to be in Christ.

I know this seems to be a little heavy for what's supposed to be a light-filled, joyful time of year. But I also know that many people struggle even more now because it's so hard to be happy, happy, happy when that is not what you're feeling inside.

So I come back to the idea of giving our presence to the world. And for me that means, trying hard to not let my own negative emotions overrule my sense of community. It means counting to 10 before I speak, hoping that by the time I reach double digits, I've rethought that pithy, scathing, "perfect" retort into something more generous and hopeful.

It means working to make my presence in the world a comforting, joyful present for others.

~ *Barbara Krebs*

## **Poinsettias for the Sanctuary**

---

Beautiful poinsettias from Bru-Mar Gardens will be here in our sanctuary for Christmas. You may dedicate one in honor of/or in memory of a loved one for \$20. Dedications may also be made by donating to our Food Pantry. The forms are available in the Sunday bulletin or you may contact Rose in the church office at 410-263-5490 or [office@eastportumc.org](mailto:office@eastportumc.org).



Please submit your forms by December 15<sup>th</sup> so that your dedication will be in the bulletin. You may take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve service.

## **Chrismons**

---

Chrismons, meaning "Christ monograms," first developed in 1957 are white and gold designs made of Christian symbols that signify Christ. Often displayed on an evergreen tree during the Christmas season, symbols such as stars, crosses, fish, crowns, and the alpha and omega remind us of Christ's identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity. What symbols do you see and how do they remind you of Christ's life, death, and resurrection?



## **Meet our New Staff Members**

---

We are so excited to announce not just one, but two new staff members! They are absolutely incredible and we hope you will give them a warm welcome.



### **Diesha Contee is our new Community Navigator!**

Diesha is a superstar. Diesha tirelessly works to connect our community and resources through the Eastport Community Food Pantry and many other community events.



### **Rose Maple is our new Office Administrator!**

Not only does Rose keep our office in shape, but she also serves as the connection point for all kinds of work we do as a church in the community. She's a local Eastport-er and brings years of administrative experience to our shared work.

## **Charge Conference**

---



On October 5<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Chris and several church team leaders met with our new District Superintendent, Sarah Schlieckert, by Zoom for our Charge Conference. In the United Methodist Church, the charge conference meets at least once a year and is responsible for recommending candidates for holy orders (ordained ministry), establishing salaries for the pastor and staff, and evaluating the ministry of the parish (local) church.

This was Rev. Schlieckert's message to the District when she was appointed this past summer.

*As I begin my time with you on the Annapolis District, I do so at a time of deep uncertainty and*

*of ongoing anxiety. You, our Annapolis District clergy and laity, have led your local churches through incredible challenges as well as opportunities over the past year and a half. You have done so with great grace, flexibility and faithfulness. I am so proud to serve alongside you as we enter this new season of ministry together.*

Rev. Schlieckert was very supportive of EUMC and its work in the community. I'm really excited to hear her deliver the message during worship on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

We have reached the end of the "church year" and are beginning a new year with Advent. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of our church leaders and members for your hard work and support over the past year and a half. There have been challenges that we have faced head-on, led by our Pastor Chris. He has shepherded us through this difficult (and ongoing) time and I am confident that we will continue as a strong, positive and significant force for good in our community.

The mission statement of the United Methodist Church is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." In other words, loving God and our neighbors will transform the world. I look forward to continuing our mission of service and love in our community.

*~ Jill Peddicord*

## **Our Choir is Back!**

---



Thank you so much to our lovely choir for bringing some thoughtful pieces of music to our Sunday services. We love the joy you add to our community.



## EUMC Garden Committee

We are looking for a few people who can help for an hour or two just once or twice a year to help with the church trees and gardens. We are really trying to keep an inviting and well-maintained property (that is the least amount of work for church volunteers) and will provide a wonderful space for church and community activities. There are 10 gardens at church and we would love if some people would sign up to take care of just one small garden twice a year. We also need people who know how to change the oil or clean the underside of the lawn mowers or like to use a chain saw to cut up dead trees. You will have someone to help you too. Just picking up trash or branches would be great. Many thanks to Jason and Donna Armstrong for their work on the gardens this past year. Please contact Joanne Christofel at [msjohara@yahoo.com](mailto:msjohara@yahoo.com) or 410-703-0159 if you can help.

~ Joanne Christofel



## Community Thanksgiving Dinner

It was so nice to have our community together for our first dinner together after the COVID-19 shutdown. What a day of Thanksgiving! There were plenty of familiar faces and even more new faces. Special thanks to Diesha Contee and her crew of volunteers that made an incredible meal for all. Here are a few photos of our time together.



## Special Thanks to Forward Brewing!

It's not often that you'll see a beer brewery supporting a local church, but we are so grateful for this partnership with Forward Brewing. The owners Claire and Cam Bowdren reached out to us to see how they could support our work with the Eastport Community Food Pantry during the Giving Tuesday donation drive. They have now overwhelmed our pantry with baby supplies and a cash donation and we are so very grateful.





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

## 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](#)

PO Box 650  
Crownsville, MD  
21032  
(410) 923-4255  
[www.aafoodbank.org](http://www.aafoodbank.org)

[Donate](#)

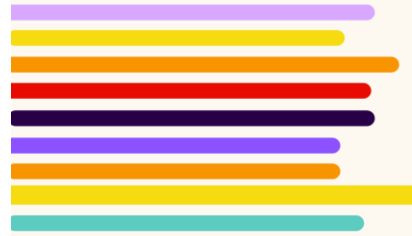
## December Birthdays



Dec 1	Leela Wurst
Dec 5	Valerie Devaris
Dec 7	Andrew Stevens
Dec 8	Margie Hughes
Dec 9	Sharon Owen Lynne Rittenberg Sherrie Ugolini
Dec 11	Lynn Goddard Kristen Stevens Chelsea Snodgrass
Dec 13	Natalie Somers
Dec 15	Joanne Christofel Addie Parrish
Dec 18	Ernest Mutschler
Dec 19	Anita Andrews Jonathan Wilcox
Dec 20	Mark Goodnow Russ Parrish
Dec 21	Michelle Anderson Brian Duckett
Dec 22	Audrey Howard
Dec 23	Rylan Standiford Ryleigh South
Dec 24	Gary Hataway
Dec 25	Chris Pulley
Dec 27	Lorraine Crouch
Dec 31	Jack Little

EUMC is hosting a COVID vaccination clinic December 12 at noon in the fellowship hall in partnership with the Annapolis Education Commission and the National Guard. The aim is to give families with limited transportation a chance to vaccinate their children if desired.

## THE CONNECTION



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

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

## December Anniversaries



Dec 8	Bob & Carol Emory
Dec 29	Bo & Joyce Chesney

We are asking that all wear masks while indoors unless drinking, eating, or speaking at a microphone. We thank you for your help in creating a safe atmosphere for all!



Recordings of Sunday's services can be viewed on EUMC's website, [www.eastportumc.org](http://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  
[office@eastportumc.org](mailto:office@eastportumc.org)  
[www.eastportumc.org](http://www.eastportumc.org)  
Pastor: Christopher Broadwell  
Editor: Eunice Corse





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Homework 4:00pm	3   THE ANGEL said unto them, Fear not, for I bring you GOOD TIDINGS of great joy, which shall be to all people LUKE 2:10	4
5 Worship 10am	6	7 Homework 4:00pm	8 UMW Dinner Meeting in Fellowship Hall 5:30pm	9 Homework 4:00pm	10	
12 Worship 10am  COVID Vaccine Clinic 12:00	13	14 Homework 4:00pm	15	16 Homework 4:00pm	17 Prepare for Food Pantry	18 FOOD PANTRY 10:00 AM
19 Worship 10am	20	21 Admin Council Zoom meeting 7pm	22	23 Breakfast for Dinner with Santa 5:00 	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 	25 Christmas Blessings 
26 Worship 10am	27	28 	29	30		

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