



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

April 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

Here's My Heart - by Rev. Sarah Speed

As a child I made a nativity set
for my mother pinch pot clay,
uneven angel wings,
hair made with the help of a garlic press, Joseph's staff
rolled out like I was God and it was an earthworm.
There was nothing beautiful about it,
nothing whispering of talent,
but I made it for my mother!
So I wrapped that questionable piece of art in a box and
gave it to her like I was handing her a Picasso.
Here, mother, you carried me in your womb.
You bandaged my knees when I fell.
You made soup when I was sick.
You rocked me to sleep as an infant and sewed my
costumes by hand.
In return, I made you this haphazard nativity!
And in my childlike mind,
I thought that the small white lamb,
molded from a lumpy piece of clay,
could somehow make us even,
could somehow balance the scales,
could somehow pay her back.
And bless my mother,
because in her grace, she smiled
and she displayed that hodge-podge nativity set
on the mantel as if it were her pride and joy.
(I believed that it was.)



Maybe that's the way it is with God.
I say, Here's my heart and God smiles.
And God takes it.
And despite the ragtag nature of my human-hearted
faith
whatever I can give always ends up on God's mantel.
Whatever I can give always calls for pride and joy.

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org; Inspired by "The Lanyard" by Billy Collins; "The Lanyard" from The Trouble with Poetry: and Other Poems by Billy Collins. (Random House, 2005)

Easter Lily and Food Pantry Dedications 2024

In Memory of

Robert Gibbons given by Ruth Gibbons
Lyndsay Valentine given by Nana Gibbons
Mary Jones given by Ruth Gibbons
Loved Ones given by Dallas & Brenda Jones
My Max Boy given by Elizabeth Miller
Lee Bergsman given by the Bergsman-Devaris Family
Leonard and Vivian Keller given by Michael Keller
Susie Finkle given by Butch, Bo & Debbie
Olive Green given by Holly Ficca
Dorothy T. Sparrow given by her sister Connie Sparrow
Joe & Ethel Olszewski given by Joanne Christofel
Carl D. Corse, Jr. given by Eunice Corse
James P Hill, III given by long time family friend David
Emenheiser and husband

In Honor of

The glory of God and in honor of all our family, including
our church family! by Les & Mae Johnson
Mia & Elias given by Tommy & Elizabeth Eicher
Shirley Devaris given by the Bergsman-Devaris Family
Steve & Kathy Duckett given by Butch, Bo & Debbie
Jim & Mary Jane Finkle given by Butch, Bo & Debbie
Julian Conrad Fink, III given by Connie Sparrow
My Children, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren
given by Eunice Corse
Pastor Chris & his Family given by Eunice Corse



Many moons ago a very special couple tied the knot following a March 31 Easter Sunrise Service at Thomas Point. Happy Anniversary Barbara and Rawle!



Christ is Risen



Our District Superintendent

We were so very grateful to have District Superintendent Rev. Sarah Schlieckert deliver an incredible sermon on a beautiful Palm Sunday.

Rev. Schlieckert is a lifelong United Methodist, the fourth generation of clergy in her family, whose roots trace to the United Methodist predecessor Evangelical United Brethren Church. Bishop Easterling appointed Rev. Schlieckert Annapolis District Superintendent in 2021 and also serves as a delegate to the General Conference. She is a tremendous pastor and leader - a welcome gift to the district!



Staying Connected

As a church community, we share our joys and concerns with each other and lift each other up. On Sundays, people share some of these things in worship. Each month, we share birthdays and anniversaries in the Spire, our monthly newsletter. Our card ministry volunteers send out birthday, anniversary, get well, new baby, encouragement, and condolence cards.



We don't want to leave anyone out! So if you have not provided the birthdays, anniversaries, or other details for your family to the church office, please do so. You can send an email to office@eastportumc.org, phone the office, or drop a note in the collection plate.

Conversations in Faith



Tyrone Brown was officially welcomed into EUMC membership on Easter morning.



Conversations in Faith continues to grow. We meet in the Chapel each Sunday morning beginning at 9:15 a.m. to discuss selected verses from scripture, usually following the common lectionary. Participants have found the sessions to be enriching and interesting as we learn from one another.

Pamper the Pantry

April's food pantry drive is all about providing comfort and care from the bottom up! Your incredible support last month has left us brimming with appreciation. You've shown that compassion and a little generosity can stretch far, covering not just meals but also the essentials for dignity and health. Let's keep this wave of kindness rolling!

This April, we're collecting diapers/pull-ups, sizes four through adult. We're pampering the pantry and our community's littlest to biggest members with your help. Let's band together to ensure everyone can stay clean, dry, and comfortable.

Your support is more than just a donation; it's a gesture of love and care for those in need. Join us in making a difference, one diaper at a time!



Thank you to everyone who's brought or sent in diapers so far! And if you haven't already, whatcha waitin' for?!

Click here to purchase an item from the wish list:
<https://tinyurl.com/pamperthepantry>

~ Rachel Goad



March Dish Soap Donations

Garden & Maintenance News



Greenscape at EUMC will be held on Sunday, April 28 after our church service. Please come with your garden clothes and tools. We need everyone's help to put down mulch and dirt, weed, etc.

Thanks to Barbara Krebs for helping to cut back the liriope by our Hall door and Donna Armstrong for weeding in some of the gardens. Thanks to Sam for picking up leaves in the parking lot again and Jill for unclogging the kitchen sink. We sharpened the blades on the two lawnmowers, changed the oil, cleaned the undersides, and put in new air filters. We cleaned up the old nursery room for our little soccer players to have a space to meet when it rains. Jerry changed the filters on the roof, and we cut back Sedum Joy plants and the grass. We changed the time on the clocks, installed door closers on two doors, and took left-over materials from new wall to Habitat Restore.

We are very pleased to be awarded a big grant by the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist church for a new ramp to the lower level and some equipment for the basement rooms. It will be wonderful to have access for those with mobility issues.

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. Contact Joanne or Jerry Christofel at msjohara@yahoo.com or 410-703-0159.

~ Joanne Christofel

Homework Children Help with Streetscape Art Project

The City of Annapolis is working with a design team called Graham Projects to prepare what can be called "public art for the common good." One of its focuses is the preparation of artwork to be displayed at the intersection of Madison and President Streets to make the crossing safer for pedestrians.

The children in the Homework and Reading Program were naturals to participate, since most of them live in the private apartment complex located at this intersection. So at a recent Homework session, Pastor Chris led the kids in the development of individual pieces of artwork, some of which will be considered for display at the crosswalk. Ten of the 12 kids on the Homework roster attended this particular session, and all of them were delighted to take part regardless of their level of artistic talent.

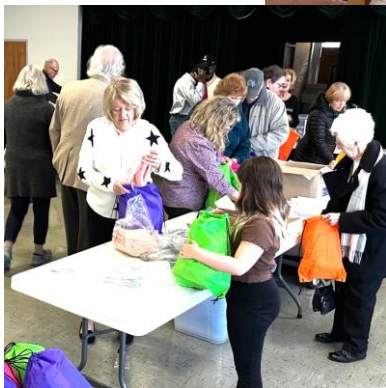


The contributions of the children are shown above. This is still another example of how the missions and ministries of Eastport UMC are impacting our community.

~ Michael Keller

Just One Sweater

Our Sunday school kids had the opportunity to sort and pack items for care bags that #JustOneSweater will distribute for people without housing. Following the service even the grownups joined in on the fun. Thanks Lisa!



UMW/Women in Faith

April UMW Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner

The United Methodist Women/Women in Faith will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 2, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a pot luck dinner, followed by a short business meeting and devotions. Please bring a dish to share for the dinner; however, if you forget, don't let that keep you from attending. 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. 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



Faith in Action Team



Following several listening sessions at the beginning of the year, the Faith in Action Team continues to build on the input from the EUMC congregation and our community. We aim to stay focused on those learnings to help with assessment, analysis, prioritization, and ways to move forward. In other words, determining where we are, where we're going, and how we get there.

One of our first priorities at the very beginning of our process is to ensure EUMC can reach you to share updated information and to hear what God is up to in your life. We want to make sure we have updated information for you and your family. This month, we will begin by updating our church directory – only the beginning of getting to know who we are and why you choose to be part of the “we.”

You are a crucial part of EUMC, so as part of this assessment of “where we are” and “where we are going,” your engagement, insights, and talents will be needed. We hope to have clarity on how to pursue and fulfill God’s calling for EUMC and our unique ways to love and make disciples.

~ David Emenheiser



Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

April 14 & 21; 2-6 pm.

Thanks to a grant from the *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration* we are able to offer free *Youth Mental Health First Aid* training at [Eastport United Methodist](#) in Annapolis. 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. This eight-hour course will be held April 14 and 21 from 2 to 6 p.m. RSVP by March 31 by completing this registration form:

[tinyurl.com/YMHFA-UMC](https://www.eastportumc.org/post/youth-mental-health-first-aid)

Read more about the course here:

<https://www.eastportumc.org/post/youth-mental-health-first-aid>

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



Support for Veterans

Shared with permission from EUMC member and friend, Will Cuhna...

Friends and Family -

As most of you know, the past six months have been quite the journey, to say the least. Although there have been some lows, I am thankful and feel very blessed for how things have turned out and for what is ahead. In terms of "what is ahead," this year I feel very fortunate to be running in the 2024 New York City Marathon on November 3. More importantly, however, I have the honor and privilege of running in support of our Veterans through the Home Base Organization, a non-profit that is dedicated to healing the invisible wounds of war for all Veterans.

This race means a lot more to me than any others I have run in the past. Not only am I conquering challenges that I have faced, but I can help my fellow Veterans conquer whatever challenges they might be facing as well.

*I am aiming to raise \$5,000 for Home Base by December 8, 2024, and appreciate any support you might be able to offer. Please visit my donation page [here](#) and join me on my journey to NYC and in supporting my fellow Veterans. **Thank you.***

*Best,
Will*

April Anniversaries



- Apr 5 Linda & Hillard Harrison
Apr 7 Mary Jane & Jim Finkle
Apr 16 Lindsey & David M. Owen
Apr 23 Kathy & Steve Duckett

April Birthdays



- Apr 2 Butch Stevens
Joe Nasatka
Apr 3 Ricardo Vasquez
Apr 5 Bill Schneider
Apr 6 David M. Owen
Apr 7 Jason Wilcox
Apr 9 Carole McNew
Apr 12 Sophia Hughes
Jessie Keller
Apr 19 Scott Hughes
Apr 20 Susan Schneider
Apr 26 Liam Smith
Traci DuPlayee
Apr 27 Jim Finkle
Apr 29 Evie Swink
Guy Goddard



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Homework & Reading 4pm UMW Meeting & Dinner 5:30pm	3 Lenten Study 7pm	4 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	5 Lenten Study 9am	6
	7 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am	8	9 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Lunch 12pm @Sammy's	10	11 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	12
14 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School Youth Mental Health Training 2-6pm	15	16 Homework & Reading 4pm	17	18 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	19	20 Community Food & Diaper Pantry 11am (Setup 10am)
21 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Youth Mental Health Training 2-6pm	22	23 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Supper Club Jack's 5:30pm Admin Council 7pm	24	25 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	26	
28 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School Greenscape @ EUMC after church	29	30 Homework & Reading 4pm				

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**Eastport United Methodist Church
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Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
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