



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

July 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.

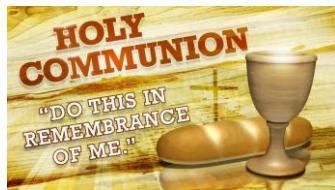
From the Pastor

Friends of Eastport United Methodist Church:

It is a beautiful thing to see what is emerging in this time of newness. What a joy it is to see your face in worship, to hear our voices lifted up together, to watch the children play on the playground. It fills my heart to greet folks who are coming to our building for our monthly food pantry, or for recovery groups, or to gather with the Seventh Day Adventist congregation. While we know that many aren't quite ready to resume worship indoors, and some are taking this time to connect with family members or do some traveling, we know that you will join in when you're comfortable.

Each Sunday we've had new faces join us, I hope you'll join me in providing a warm welcome to them. On the first Sunday in July we'll gather in the shade of the lawn for worship (provided it's not raining and there isn't a heat advisory). We'll be joined by someone I consider a friend and a colleague in ministry, Alicia O'Brien, who will preach for us on the 4th. Alicia is an Annapolis native, received her Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School, a certified candidate for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church, an incredible parent, and will join the teaching team at Colonial Nursery School for the 2021-2022 school year. We'll celebrate Holy Communion together and celebrate God's great grace not just for us but for the world.

So receive this invitation:



*"Come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a while
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come.
It is Christ who invites us here."*

~ Pastor Chris

Blessings Abound

2 Corinthians 9:8

God is able to bless you so abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Blessings Abound, EUMC! Blessings Abound.

Eastport United Methodist Church receives its third, fourth, and fifth grants! We find ourselves in a Season of Abundance, when our efforts have been blessed by our community. Before I share the details, I'm going to take a step back to ensure our readers understand the beauty of grants.

A grant is a funding gift. It is not a loan; it is not paid back. It is a gift of funding from a donor organization that has read about a project through a grant application after which they vote to provide the funding. The project description from the grant giver narrowly defines how the funding would be used. The funding organization's board reads and

comments on the applications and slowly narrows the recipient field. It may be that there are as many as 50 applications asking for funding but only 5-6 will be selected. The funding given may vary in any amount – \$500 or \$50,000.

Through several rigorous review processes, three separate funding organizations have selected EUMC as a funding recipient. The Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County gifted us \$10,000 to hire a Community Coordinator. The Annapolis Rotary has gifted us \$3,000 to purchase additional shopping hand carts for our Food Pantry recipients. The Eastport Civic Association has gifted us \$500 for our Food Pantry.

In 2020 EUMC community outreach was given \$1500 for the Annapolis Backpack Collaborative project and the community Christmas party and \$8400 to fund the food and baby pantries.

Additionally, the Food Bank of Anne Arundel County has gifted us a brand new \$1600 conveyor belt to slide the supplies from the Food Bank into our facility, which avoids our volunteers having to carry up to 7000 pounds of food supplies up those Fellowship Hall steps.

And speaking of Fellowship Hall steps, the Food Bank is helping us meet ADA requirements to ensure that all persons are served by our Food and Baby Pantries. The Food Bank is providing supplies and labor to build a handicap ramp into the EUMC building. This costs EUMC nothing. The Food Bank is bearing the \$14,000 expense.

Friends, these blessings overflow but they are not for us to keep to ourselves. This is an affirmation that we are on the right path, doing God's work in this neighborhood. May we rightly give praise where thanks belong. We are blessed so much too that we can be a blessing.

2 Corinthian 8:7

Since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

~ Susan Schneider



Elizabeth "Betty" Moreland
September 19, 1933 – June 19, 2021

Betty Moreland was a long-time member of Eastport United Methodist Church. Our condolences to Cyndi Councill, David Moreland, Jr., and all who knew and loved Betty. A celebration of her life will be held in August for the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions in Betty's memory be made to Eastport Elementary School's PTA via their website:

<https://www.eespta.org/>

Betty's obituary is here:

[https://www.kalasfuneralhomes.com/memorials/elizab.../4647852/obituary.php](https://www.kalasfuneralhomes.com/memorials/elizabeth-moreland/4647852/obituary.php)

Peach Festival

Eastport United Methodist Church has been the home to the Peach Festival for 45 years. This is a huge event featuring a chicken dinner, a bake table filled with homemade items, a silent auction, yard sales, our traditional peach cakes and pies, our famous pickled beets, and real peach jelly and jam. It takes months of preparation as well as the time and energy of a multitude of volunteers. Throughout the decades countless people have worked to make it happen. Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for those who have baked, boiled, barbecued, canned, chopped, cooked, cleaned, peeled, welcomed, loved, and served throughout the years.

Like with most things, the pandemic has led to a lot of reflection about time and energy and resources. We are sad to share that we won't be hosting the Peach Festival this year, but our commitment to the true reasons behind this event- our mission of enriching, embracing, and empowering each other and our neighbors- remain steadfast. We are excited

to continue living into that mission in deeper ways and discovering new ways in the process. The spirit of the Peach Festival, evidenced in hospitality, gratitude, fellowship, and meaningful service lives on in us.

~ *The Administrative Council of Eastport United Methodist Church 6/15/2021*



Memories ...

... of the way we were. With the recent announcement about the Peach Festival, several of us discussed the idea of a memory book. We felt it would be a beautiful way to pay tribute to an important event that most of us have either worked on, sweated over, or ate at.

So we're asking for YOUR Peach Festival memories – what stood out in your mind as amusing, significant, loving, annoying, or just plain weird? (Yes, Sherrie, puh-lease send me the story of the hungry lady and her, ahem, "aggressive" walking stick!) I'll be gathering these stories and editing them for inclusion in a Peach Festival Memory Book. Send photos, too! And feel free to reach out to people who have moved away but have fond memories to share. We want to include as many diverse stories and experiences as we can.

I'm trying to gather these so that we can compile them in time for the first weekend in August, so time is of the essence. Best way to send them to me is via email at barbarakrebs@verizon.net. But I can also work with handwritten accounts. Send those to me at 314 Heathfield Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403.

And for everyone who sends me a memory to include, all I can say is, you're a peach!

~ *Barbara Krebs*

MusikTheater Bavaria – in Upstate New York????

The Pandemic hit us all pretty hard, especially musicians, actors, independent contractors. The recovery from this time of isolation, social distancing and business collapse will take a long time. We know all about the particular dangers of singing because we didn't sing in church. Heck, we didn't even MEET in church. The particulates from speaking, shouting, singing, playing a wind instrument were deemed especially dangerous in spreading the COVID virus. We were literally shut up.

So, it was no surprise that the Opera 'summer camp' program, in Bavaria, Germany, where I have been Head of Opera for the past nine years was not going to be in operation last summer. Believe me, I really missed my 'soul food': the Austrian Alps, the charm of the town of Oberaudorf, the wonderful people and food. Even though the travel restrictions to Europe have now been lifted, MusikTheater Bavaria will not take place for another summer...at least not in its usual format. It turns out that the town needs the larger spaces we would be using to rehearse for its own school classrooms, keeping desks & students distanced. School runs through the end of July, the same month we would be utilizing those spaces. So...

MusicTheater Bavaria (MTB) is operating a two-week 'Retreat' this summer – July 11th through the 24th - at the very remote but nationally recognized Christian College of Houghton College in Caneadea, New York. Population: 2,285 in 2018. This would be considered a sizeable population in Bavaria; but here in the U.S? NOT: one Chinese take-out place, one pizza parlor and a brand new coffee shop. A booming town, but conducive to work and study! Now, it is well-known that cancelling a 'season' or program for two years in a row is very likely the death of said institution. This interim session will hopefully keep MTB alive and take the four week program back to its idyllic home in the southeast corner of Germany in 2022. I am so looking forward to seeing my colleagues, but I have to tell you, I will miss all that great 'soul food'. Thank God, there is COFFEE! Stay tuned for a report on MTB in NY...after I return.

~ *JoAnn Kulesza, EUMC Music Director*

School's Out!

Colonial Nursery School, which has for many years rented the basement from EUMC, wrapped up the 2020-2021 School Year in June. Like many schools, they had to think on their feet and adapt to the rapidly changing environment due to COVID-19. They managed to pull off a great and inspiring program for their 2, 3, and 4 year olds – much of it outdoors on the lawn at Eastport UMC. The lovely staff arranged for regular playdates off-campus at local parks and playgrounds – like the beautiful Quiet Waters Park and Sandy Point State Park. Below is a photo from their water day at the end of the school year!



Charting Careers

Charting Careers and EUMC have begun a partner relationship recently, beginning with providing space for their weekly staff meetings. We're excited to provide this amenity to this organization, because their mission perfectly aligns with the mission of the church in our efforts to bring equity and dignity to the marginalized. Charting Careers seeks to: "Breaking the cycle of poverty and inequity in Annapolis through mentoring, education, and family partnerships."



Through their excellent track record, Charting Careers has gained the attention and confidence of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools, such that AACPS has contracted Charting Careers to provide Community Navigators in several neighborhoods around Annapolis where statistics show that some students are falling behind in their educational achievement. These Community Navigators help to identify those students in need of additional support, and they connect those families with additional educational resources. To learn more about Charting Careers, go to chartingcareers.org

Celebrating Community



Food pantry volunteers, neighborhood and nursery school kids gathered over the past month to create “Community,” a visual celebration of our community that has endured and persisted throughout the pandemic and beyond. We give thanks for the beauty they’ve created together. Special thanks to the church members who helped put this together.

What's with the Kona Ice Truck?

If you saw the Kona Ice truck in the parking lot (aka, the Lot of Love) it's because Eastport United Methodist teamed up with the Parent Teacher Association of Annapolis Middle School to support their fundraising efforts. We give thanks that we can be a resource for our neighbors.



The Only Choice I Made Was to Be Myself

There has been much discussion, research, varying opinions about the topic of gender identity, i.e. whether someone ‘chooses’ to identify as homosexual, other sexual or heterosexual. For some people, they are clear and secure in their identity from childhood. For others, the self is governed by society’s expectations to live ‘true’ to the body parts they are born with...until it is no longer feasible to do so, through some event or realization that spurs the need to shed the untrue for the true.

In my life, I have been entrusted with the confidence of people who are dealing with issues of self-identity, who feel at ease to share their stories with me. One such occasion presented itself recently (the latter of these two posts). I was also touched by this one, shared by a friend of mine who came out to me in Alaska (at the age of 50+), after many years of marriage and those around him recognizing that he was a gay man – before he himself did. His perspective: being gay is but a small part of who he is. ~ JoAnn Kulesza

I am a child of God and a follower of Jesus Christ, which is the best description of the whole of who I am, of which I am proud every day. That whole person I am has many attributes, none of which defines me as a whole, but when combined with all of the rest, constitute the whole. I choose not to highlight one over the others; doing so devalues what is not highlighted. At the risk of leaving something out, I am:

White
Male
American-born
Scottish ancestry (among others)
Musician
Conductor
Singer
Actor
Teacher
Gardener
Genealogist
Cook
Graphic artist
Writer
Story teller
Son

*Brother
Cousin
Uncle
Godfather
Father
Grandfather
Friend
Divorced from a wife of 35 years
Husband
And, lastly, Gay.*

Proud I am, and have no need to proclaim and define who I am by what I do behind closed doors. That is represented by only one aspect of who I am. That one thing is NOT who am, nor is it the source of my pride. I am the whole, of which I am grateful to my Heavenly Father for making me, and of which I am proud 365 days a year.

And, I also include the journey of a classmate of mine from undergraduate school, a female trumpeter, who knew from the age of six that something was incongruous. Here is her, now HIS, story:

I have tried to gain the courage my whole life to be who I really am. I just turned 66 and have kept something hidden I have known about myself since I was 6. I have always been too terrified to share it with anyone. As the end of another pride month comes to a close, I am finally going to take a leap of faith and share it here with you.

I am the same person I always have been. I've just decided to finally accept that I am transgender. I have struggled my whole life with gender identity. I remember a day in elementary school when I was somehow alone in the house long enough to try on my dad's suit coat and one of his ties. It felt so natural and good because it was what I wanted to dress like. It lasted only a few seconds because I was afraid of being caught. My sister is four years older than me and I would watch her get dressed every morning and pray to God to not give me breasts, I was 6 years old. I always felt like a boy inside.

As I grew older and started identifying as a lesbian, but it never completely felt right. I always felt like I didn't quite fit in that world either. Although, so much of me is woman identified and I have had profound experiences, like being involved with the XXXXXXXX XXXXXX for 24 years. If it hadn't been for that organization, I wouldn't have had the musical

career I did. Many of the members were lesbian, but not all. Socially, it still didn't feel quite right. Hanging with guys in my other orchestras felt oddly natural but still not right too.

Fast forward to 20xx when I had breast cancer which resulted in a double mastectomy. After the initial shock of the surgery and as I began to get used to my new body, it was profoundly liberating. Something I had dreamt about as a child was finally a reality. However, to fit in with my assigned role in the world, I wore prosthesis breasts, I was scared to make the change in public.

So again, fast forward to 20xx. I had started therapy with a wonderful therapist. I mentioned to her in our first meeting that if I had been born later and if I were braver I would probably be transgender. We have been slowly working through that over the past couple of years. She passed on a fantastic book by a local transgender man that helped me tremendously. So when I retired I told xxxx that I did not want to wear my prosthesis any more. I declared myself non-binary. In January I declared that I couldn't wear women's clothes anymore. I hadn't been thinking of making such a declaration, it just sort of came out! I had purchased some men's shirts and pants and had decided that they fit well, made me feel fantastic and that was it! XXXXX has been amazingly supportive, telling me I look great, loving the clothes and saying she sees a difference in my confidence. I have completely switched my wardrobe. I packed away all of my women's clothes and I'm not looking back. It feels fantastic!!! I feel like I am walking in the world differently. More true. So with that, I have decided that this is the time to declare that I am transgender. I have chosen the name xxxx zzzzzz. I really like the name xxxx zzzzzz (Middle name) is was my maternal grandmother's maiden name. I chose it to honor her because she was instrumental in me becoming a musician.

So, dear friend, I am now living life as a transgender man. As I said in the beginning, I am the same person I have always been, just finally true to everything I am. I hope that this is something you can accept and support.

~~~~~

I am sharing these stories, with the permission of my friends. Why? Because to my knowledge, coming to terms with one's true self is often a long journey. It is usually not a 'snap your fingers' decision, as those looking from the outside may perceive, but can involve denial, shame, confusion, ostracizing by family and friends and, in the worst case scenario, mental illness, depression and suicide.

We walk not in anyone's shoes but our own. The world is comprised of people made in the image and likeness of God, all of us God's children. Aren't we all so much MORE than just our gender? What are our gifts? Perhaps we can focus on our essence as human beings, who hunger, thirst, need shelter, love and to be valued, just like everyone else. I think that God probably does. CARPE DIEM! ~ JoAnn

May God bless you with discomfort,  
at easy answers, half-truths,  
and superficial relationships  
so that you may live  
deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
at injustice, oppression,  
and exploitation of people,  
so that you may work for  
justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears,  
to shed for those who suffer pain,  
rejection, hunger, and war,  
so that you may reach out your hand  
to comfort them and  
to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you  
with enough foolishness  
to believe that you can  
make a difference in the world,  
so that you can do  
what others claim cannot be done,  
to bring justice and kindness  
to all our children and the poor.

~ Sr Ruth Marlene Fox

## 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



**On the go? On top of Mt. Everest without WiFi? Unable to do the in-person service or YouTube service for any reason? You can listen to the pre-recorded service via phone each week.**

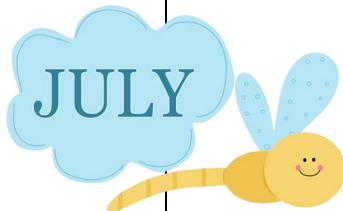


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Eastport United Methodist Church

# July 2021

410.263.5490

| Sunday                                     | Monday                                                                            | Tuesday                                                                                          | Wednesday                                                                                       | Thursday                                                                           | Friday                                                                                             | Saturday                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                            |  |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 | <b>1</b>                                                                           | <b>2</b>                                                                                           | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                        |
| <b>4</b><br>Worship<br>10am<br>on the lawn | <b>5</b><br>Happy<br>4 <sup>th</sup> of July!                                     | <b>6</b>                                                                                         | <b>7</b>                                                                                        |  | <b>8</b>                                                                                           | <b>9</b>                                                                                                                        |
| <b>11</b><br>Worship<br>10am               | <b>12</b>                                                                         | <b>13</b>                                                                                        | <b>14</b><br> | <b>15</b>                                                                          | <b>16</b><br>Pickup & sort<br>food for<br>tomorrow's<br>food pantry                                | <b>17</b><br>FOOD<br>PANTRY<br>10:30 AM<br> |
| <b>18</b><br>Worship<br>10am               | <b>19</b>                                                                         | <b>20</b><br> | <b>21</b>                                                                                       | <b>22</b>                                                                          | <b>23</b>                                                                                          | <b>24</b>                                                                                                                       |
| <b>25</b><br>Worship<br>10am               | <b>26</b>                                                                         | <b>27</b>                                                                                        | <b>28</b>                                                                                       | <b>29</b>                                                                          | <b>30</b><br> | <b>31</b>                                                                                                                       |

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**926 Bay Ridge Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21403-3091**

**The Rev. Christopher Broadwell, Pastor  
Church 410-263-5490**

**Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Nursery 10:15 a.m.  
Office Hours 9:30-3:30 Monday-Friday  
Office Closed 12-1 p.m. for Lunch**



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