



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

September 2023

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,

As a number of folks have inquired about some local churches that are choosing to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church, I wanted to take this opportunity to address the issue.

First, Eastport UMC will remain a United Methodist Church in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. This has been unanimous in church council discussions. By remaining part of the United Methodist connection, we will continue to contribute to the greater mission, and ministry, and more specifically—the inclusive witness of the church.

Second, we have found a lot of confusion and misinformation surrounding the topic of disaffiliation. At our last regional gathering in June, we approved the disaffiliation of 22 local churches in our Baltimore-Washington Conference. These are congregations who have followed our conference’s disaffiliation protocol; while it was heart-breaking we gave thanks for and blessed them. However a small number have decided to litigate their exit, refusing the path for a graceful separation (payment of only 50% of their property value, 12 months of mission shares, and a *pro rata* share of the unfunded pension obligation). There are local churches who are hopeful their case will be tried in court.

Across the country, cases are being dismissed as courts show disinterest with intervening in matters already decided by church law. Congregations who have chosen to sue our regional governing body over disaffiliation may find themselves disappointed when their cases are dismissed. Additionally, by choosing a path of litigation instead of the disaffiliation path provided, local churches are then disqualified from the graceful exit as they would not

be able to be approved by the BWC in a timely manner. This holds the possibility of being incredibly disappointing and confusing for those who choose this path and find the legal dead end.

Finally, we remain United Methodist because we value the Christ-centered sense of identity, shared values, and supportive connection it provides. That being the case, we pray for our Christian kinfolk in churches going through this process, the district superintendents, the Bishop, and those now searching and longing to root themselves in an inclusive church.

At Eastport United Methodist, we plan to continue moving forward filled with the Spirit and keeping our eyes on Jesus. So come and take another step into this beautiful, life-giving movement of God’s people.

Grace and peace,
~ Pastor Chris

United Women in Faith



The United Methodist Women/Women in Faith will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, September 5, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a business meeting to discuss plans for the upcoming year, followed by devotions. You are welcome to bring a bagged meal and drink; dessert will be provided. All women of the church are invited to participate. ~ Kathy Duckett



Divine Diners



Everyone is invited to join EUMC's "Divine Diners" for drop-in dining. This month we'll meet for lunch Tuesday, September 12, 12 noon at Sammy's, and dinner Tuesday, September 26, 5:30 p.m. at Adam's, both in the Eastport Shopping Center.



AUGUST'S DIVINE DINING

For questions, contact Ruth Gibbons ruthgibbons2020@gmail.com, or Elaine Fors-MacKellar forsdavis@yahoo.com.

Garden & Maintenance News



Thanks to Steve & Kathy Duckett for trimming the cross hedge and Barbara Krebs for pulling weeds again in the children's playground. A big thanks to two church members who donated the funds to purchase the blinds for the hallway and the hall. It really helps keep our electric bill low. Pine tree debris was swept up and outside drain unclogged. The other sump pump was cleaned out and bleached. Weeds in the sidewalks were sprayed again (and it worked!). Grass was cut every five days for some of August – Bummer!

We have been working on providing classes for our young people in the community here at church. We started doing some planning with Anne Arundel Community College to have Kids in College classes next year at our church.

I took three pairs of glasses to Brilliant Optical for the Lions Club to use with those in need. Please remember to put any old pairs in the basket in the hall above the coat rack.

Please keep all our workers and volunteers in your prayers to stay safe while they do repairs on our

church. A big thanks to Craig Leydig for volunteering to help us cut grass next summer. We can really use the help! If anyone has any extra time and can help with church garden and maintenance, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Joanne or Jerry Christofel at msjohara@yahoo.com or 410-295-5474.

Sunday School Happenings

In July the kids were all about yokes and burdens. In August it was Psalm 105, praise and hallelujahs and making musical instruments, like this jingle stick. Sunday School takes place the second and fourth Sunday each month. Thank you Ms. Molly and helpers!



Food Pantry Needs

Our community coordinator has let us know that there are some basic items needed at our monthly food pantry that the Anne Arundel County Food Bank is unable to supply. So we would like to start collecting one item per month to help our neighbors. This month we are collecting **toothbrushes**.

There will be a basket to collect your offerings and then they will be distributed at the food pantry on the third Saturday of the month.

Volunteers in Mission

Help sponsor and support Volunteers in Mission "VIM" team trip to Navajo Nation:



I will be traveling to the Navajo Nation in New Mexico with five VIM Team members of the Prince Frederick, MD Trinity United Methodist Church. VIM Team members will depart on 9/20 and return on 9/25/23. The UMC church in Prince Frederick has maintained a special sister relationship with 'Light in the Mountain Church,' located in Sheep Springs, Navajo Nation, for over 20 years. Teams have performed numerous repairs as needed to the church building, church school facility and to some individual homes. In 2019, an addition was made to the church. Currently, items to be completed in the church's addition for it to be fully functional include installation of floor tiles and baseboards, painting of bathroom areas, installation of toilets and sinks with plumbing connected. After review of the outstanding needs, this VIM team will be focusing on correcting electrical issues in various buildings and installing floor tiles in the 2019 church addition.

I'm asking for your support, through prayer and donations towards the costs of this mission. Our traveling team AND the Navajo friends appreciate all your prayers. If you would like to help support the expenses of the mission team and the material for our tasks, please note clearly on your check in the memo "Light in the Mountain Church." Donations can also be made online at eastportumc.org/give by selecting the appropriate donation category.

With gratitude, Katie Willie

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) 'Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'



Laurelin Elaine Cannon
Born July 19, 2023
to
Lisa Hozey & Dean Cannon
A big welcome and congratulations
from EUMC!

Tues. Homework/Reading
+ Wed Arts/Crafts/STEAM begins 9/27
+ Thurs. Homework/Reading
+ Fri. Field Day Fun

After School at Eastport
United Methodist
4-5 PM
more info at eastportumc.org/afterschool

After School at EUMC

Your (kid's) afternoon just got cooler. Four days a week from 4-5 pm there is something enriching, engaging, community building happening at 926 Bay Ridge Ave. We have our much-loved homework and reading program on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Arts & Crafts & STEAM activities on Wednesdays (starting late Sept) thanks to our 12-year partnership with Creating Communities/Maryland Hall. Finally on Fridays, we'll have a ball on the front lawn. Maybe more than one ball. Maybe a frisbee as well. 😊 Red rover, red rover bring your K-5 grader on over.

Interested in volunteering? Let us know, we'd love for you to be a part of the fun. Oh – and it's free!

Vacations & Staycations

At home, at work, or traveling to new places, we'd love to hear about your escapades as summer comes to an end. Send a picture and short description to corseec@msn.com for the next Spire.



Jerry and Joanne Christofel camping and hiking at World's End State Park in Pennsylvania.



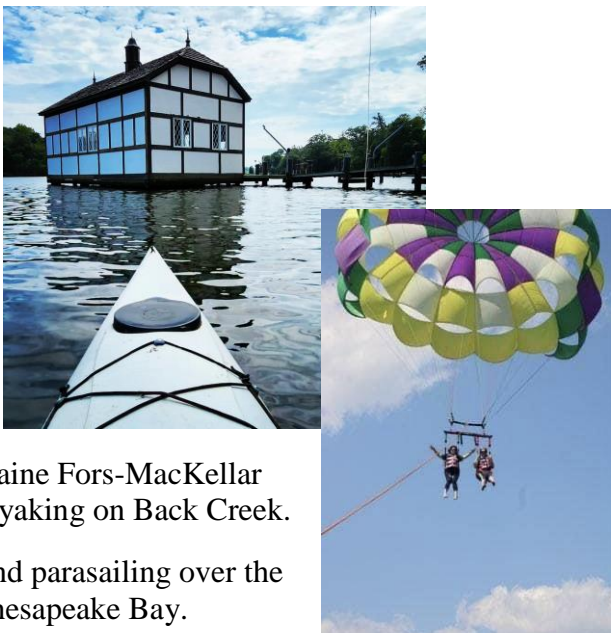
Ruth Gibbons and son Robert traveled west to visit friends and take in some awesome sights including Old Faithful and the Grand Tetons.



Katie Willie traveled to Scotland this summer.



Jill Peddicord's grandson (Eunice Corse's great grandson) Ben, came from Denver for a visit in early July. They saw the B&O train museum, lots of baseball and fireworks!



Elaine Fors-MacKellar kayaking on Back Creek.

And parasailing over the Chesapeake Bay.

YOGA ON THE LAWN RETURNS TO ITS REGULAR SCHEDULE



Yoga on the Lawn

Free Yoga on Tuesdays and Fridays
6 am on the front lawn

Donations benefit Community Food Pantry



Linked By Love Children's Retreat

The children's ministry retreat is a chance for children and families to come together for a weekend of fun and fellowship at West River. We'll have traditional camp activities, worship, and fellowship time for our children and families from around the connection to build relationships. You can come as a family or bring children from your church with a chaperone. The weekend is designed for 1st through 5th graders but if families have older or younger children, they are welcome too! For more details, contact Jenna at:

assistantdirector@westrivercenter.org

We Said Goodbye



*Frances Estelle (Clark) DuPlayee
May 26, 1943 – August 7, 2023*

September Anniversaries



- Sept 6 Vern Renshaw & MaAn Barcelow
- Sept 17 Mike & Megan Wurst
- Sept 23 Earl & Harriet Macey
- Sept 25 Mark & Sharon Stevens

September Birthdays



- Sept 1 Andy Owen
- Sept 2 David Emenheiser
- Sept 5 Bill Bowen
- Sept 8 Nyima Smith
- Sept 13 Vicki Clary
- Sept 15 Mike Stevens
- Sept 16 JoAnn Kulesza
David Peddicord
- Sept 18 Bo Chesney
Gage Savoy
- Sept 21 Taylor Stevens
- Sept 23 Sherrie Little
- Sept 26 Sally Colburn
Allen Macey
- Sept 27 Barbara Schwarz
Cierra Ploof

The Spire is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410.263.5490
office@eastportumc.org
www.eastportumc.org
Pastor: Christopher Broadwell
Editor: Eunice Corse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HAPPY SEPTEMBER!						
					1	2
3 Service 10am	4 	5 Homework & Reading 4pm UMW Women in Faith 5:30pm	6	7 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	8	9
10 Service 10am	11	12 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Lunch Bunch 12 noon @ Sammy's	13	14 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	15	16 Food & Diaper Pantry 10:00 am 
17 Service 10am Run for the Lighthouse @ Quiet Waters	18	19 Homework & Reading 4pm	20	21 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	22	23 
24 Service 10am	25	26 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Supper Club 5:30pm Adams Eastport Admin Mtg 7pm	27	28 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	29	30
United Methodist Women next meeting: October 3, 5:30pm						