



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

September 2022

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

As the long, hot days of summer come to a close, I’d like for you to take a few moments to reflect with me on this familiar scripture from the 23rd Psalm:

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name’s sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.*

What are the images in this scene that stick out for you? Are there any single words or small phrases that have a big impact on you?

One of the things I’ve learned in my study is that at the center of the 23rd Psalm (at least in the Hebrew it was written in) is the phrase, “for you are with me.” – Isn’t that something? Maybe you’ve never noticed that in all your years of hearing this scripture.

At the center of our lives is the understanding that Christ, Emmanuel, is God with us.

At the center of our being is the Holy Spirit, sustaining us each day – whether we are in green pastures or in the darkest valley.

I pray that you are comforted by the loving presence of God this day.

~ Grace and peace, Pastor Chris

Singing and Ringing



It’s time to tune up the voices after a LONG summer break! The Wesleyan Choir will begin rehearsals on September 1st at 7pm, specifically to prepare to sing at the Anne Arundel County Fallen Firefighters Annual Memorial Service on September 7th. We will sing the National Anthem, America the Beautiful, Are Ye Able Said the Master and, if WE are able, a Vince Gill song – Go Rest High Upon That Mountain. Thereafter, rehearsals will take place at our usual 7pm time on Thursdays. If you are interested in joining the choir, please see me after a church service on Sunday.

I am also inviting anyone who finds themselves more in the Praise Band camp, either as a singer or instrumentalist, please come and talk to me as well.

The Heavenly Bells rehearsals will move to Sundays immediately following our church service. We’ll start up again on the first Sunday in October. We will be playing on the first Sunday in November (6th), the Sunday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 20th) and either on the 4th Sunday of Advent (Dec. 18th) or Christmas Eve (the 24th), dependent on when we have enough players to ring.

Whether you're a singer or a ringer or you finger an instrument and would like to do any of these things with others in the church, please don't linger, and come see me, the Music Overseer!

~ JoAnn Kulesza



Masking while in our sanctuary is now **optional**. We encourage making the decision about your personal masking and social distancing as you feel comfortable. We will be watching the recommendations of city, state and national leaders and may revert to temporary masking if indicated by spikes of Covid-19 in our area. Thank you for your willingness to protect our children and community over the last 16 months.

~ Administrative Council



Women in Faith

The United Methodist Women/Women in Faith will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, September 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the EUMC fellowship hall. We will have a business/planning meeting followed by a program from the 2022-2023 UMW book entitled *Mosaic of Faith: We Are All Part of God's Story*. 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



Donna Marie Nuckels

October 22, 1930 – August 28, 2022

Donna was a long-time active member of Eastport United Methodist Church and will be remembered by many. A graveside service for Donna will be held Tuesday, September 13, 11:30 a.m. at Hillcrest Memorial Garden, 1911 Forest Drive, Annapolis.



Ernest "Ernie" Mutschler

December 18, 1945 – June 28, 2022

Ernie died at Autumn Lake Healthcare in Chestertown, Maryland. He was a veteran of the United States military and a gentle soul.

We will have a memorial service for him at 11:30 am on Sunday, September 4, 2022 in the sanctuary of Eastport United Methodist Church.

His remains will be interred at Springfield Cemetery in Sykesville, Maryland at a later date.

Homework and Reading



The Homework and Reading Program at Eastport United Methodist Church resumed on August 30. Classes at Anne Arundel County Public Schools started the previous day.

Beginning its 14th year, the all-volunteer program offers after-school assistance to children in

kindergarten and the elementary grades. Volunteers from the church and the community help students with their homework; provide the opportunity to strengthen their reading, writing, comprehension, math and analytical skills; and engage in other activities such as educational games, puzzles and possibly videos (all of which have been popular with the kids). All materials are provided. Participants meet twice a week: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Volunteers are not expected to attend all sessions. They can come as often as their schedules allow. The program operates like a “one room schoolhouse”. Volunteers are not assigned to any particular child, so participants have maximum flexibility in terms of attendance. If you are interested in helping with the program but are unable to attend sessions, we welcome “snack” contributions for the kids. These can include packaged items, fruit or home- baked goods.

Safety of the children and volunteers is paramount. The following COVID 19 protocols are in place. All volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated. Volunteers are encouraged to wear face coverings during the Homework sessions (especially when working with children who are masked). Children may wear face coverings, but it is not required. These protocols may be adjusted to reflect the policies adopted by Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

Here is history about the program:

The program began with two volunteers and two children. It grew. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the latest full-year before the arrival of the pandemic, there were 67 Homework sessions serving 24 children. There were 20 ”regular” participants – children who often attended. The average (mean and median) number of children was 13. On average, six or seven volunteers were on hand to assist the kids.

The program resumed last September after an 18-month interruption due to the pandemic and the suspension of in-person classes at Anne Arundel County Public Schools. It proved to be a rebuilding year. We had 13 children on our rolls and averaged four to eight in each Homework session.

The program has helped about 85 children during its history, most of them for many years.

The program was inducted in the Volunteer Project Hall of Fame of the Volunteer Center for Anne Arundel County in 2011.

The church received gifts totaling \$65,000 to initiate a Neighborhood Children Education Fund, which is designed to provide money to support educational programs, activities and scholarships to enhance the learning and school endeavors of neighborhood children and especially those participating in the Homework and Reading Program. It also received a grant of nearly \$8,000 from St. Margaret’s Church in Broadneck to expand the digital resources available to the program.

This past summer, the Neighborhood Children Education Fund was tapped to cover the tuition for 21 low-income children to attend an eight week camp at the church and for two additional kids to participate in a summer camp at the West River Center of the United Methodist Church.

For questions about the program, please contact Mike Keller at 410-263-7409 or mjaykeller@outlook.com.

~ Mike Keller

Imagine This ...

Some of you may remember my friend, Gayle Danley. She’s a slam poet and she delivered a message at our church last February. For those who got the opportunity to hear her, you know how inspiring and powerful her words are.

As for me, I got another chance to see/hear her in action recently. As usual, her delivery included poems I had heard before (but loved hearing again) and new material that crashed its way into my heart and soul.

I cannot adequately express how her willingness to share her stories vulnerably, openly, angrily, painfully, joyfully and tenderly affect me. But what I can verbalize is that her poems are archetypal, that we all LIVE these basic human stories. While the details will differ, we all feel the pain of rejection, the longing for connection, and the sadness of being omitted or ignored.

Sept. Garden & Maintenance News

As I thought about the emotions she stirred in me, I wanted to use those feelings to reach out, as she does to her audience, to find a way to share the common human experience. After all, isn't that really what we all want? To be a part of something, to help others, to reach across the manufactured differences that our human minds construct.

Sitting with these thoughts, Psalm 23 came to me. There is obviously a reason that it's one of the most oft repeated and memorized chapters in the Bible. Not only is it beautifully crafted but it also contains comforting imagery and peaceful visualizations intended to soothe the troubled soul.



Lying down in green meadows, being led to still waters. Yes, sitting quietly, imagining oneself sitting in a beautiful outdoor setting while listening to the sound of a burbling brook – these are standard psychological visualization practices to help calm agitation.

Rereading the familiar verses, I allowed myself to soak in the rich words: “restoreth my soul” (I admit it – when I hear Psalm 23 in my head, it's always the King James version), “thy rod and thy staff they comfort me,” “goodness and mercy shall follow me.”

I must confess, I don't revisit this Psalm often enough. To be honest, I don't revisit the Bible itself often enough. But just like Gayle's poems, the Bible is full of the wide range of human emotions, both good and bad, and we find ourselves there repeatedly.

So now, whatever it is that you're sitting with – pain, joy, something in between – now might be a good time to allow the words of a familiar scripture to wash over you, to immerse yourself in still waters and find comfort in images of overflowing cups and bountiful tables.

~ *Barbara Krebs*

I think the crab grass is winning this month! It's growing so fast this summer. Many thanks to Steve Duckett who cleaned up around the playground, ramp, hedge cross, etc. Looks great. The last two trees have been trimmed! All the thunder we've been getting has broken off a bunch of new small limbs but that is to be expected. We have been lucky.



We plan to have a fall clean-up day after church when the leaves have fallen and need to be raked. And if anyone has extra time and can help us cut grass, weed, or pick up trash, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Joanne or Jerry Christofel at msjohara@yahoo.com or 410-295-5474. ~ *Joanne Christofel*

Baby Pantry

Let's offer a BIG SHOUT OUT to Molly and Ruth who have single-handedly done an exceptional job serving our youngest community families by providing diapers and wipes on alternating Tuesday evenings in our parking lot (weather permitting). What a difference maker for parents to arrive to a warm greeting, and be offered nearly unlimited supplies for their babies and toddlers. Recession woes are impacting the decision to change a diaper or not; we are doing all we can to make the healthiest decision!



We are seeking two more volunteers who can join Molly and Ruth on alternating Tuesdays 4:30-6 pm. 40+ families are in line by setup time at 4:30. The work is easy, constant, and cheerful – who doesn't love greeting the newest babies?

~ *Susan Schneider*

Backpack Festival

We are happy to report that our **Backpack Festival** on August 13th was a huge success. We are so very grateful for each of those who made it possible by donating their time and resources. The weather was

perfect, but seeing kids delight in community (bounce houses, face painting, snow-cones) was the coolest. Of special note, we were able to show the ropes to our school board president and the new county school superintendent.



Annapolis Police helped with the cooking!

Summer Camp

MS. T'S HELPING HANDS SUMMER CAMP!



Throughout the two months of summer the children of the summer camp have painted, danced, swam, hiked, bowled, skated, basketballed, visited museums, and met an environmental scientist at a local farm and so much more. Mrs. T's Summer Camp has been an incredible opportunity for so many children in our neighborhood – we cannot even begin to imagine the impact it made on the lives of our neighbors. This was made possible by your support of EUMC's Neighborhood Children's Education Fund as we provided tuition for 21 children! THANK YOU! ~ Pastor Chris

Community Wonder, Diesha Contee

August was packed full of community events – 3 baby pantries, 1 community food pantry, 1 school backpack festival, 1 children's carnival, and 1 Hair Braid, Barber & Blow out event. Whew! Our Community Navigator Diesha Contee didn't get a moment to rest – for the very next morning after a 14-hour hair braid-athon, Diesha was off to Eastport Elementary with her 7-year old son Jamir who is a proud second grader.

For those of you on social media, Diesha shared her deep appreciation for the support and encouragement from Eastport UMC. We in turn shout our appreciation and respect for all that Diesha is doing in our neighborhood. So next time you see Diesha, please share your thanks for the good work she is doing.

By the way, we aren't the only ones noticing what Diesha has been accomplishing. A news crew from Baltimore came down to interview and feature Diesha and her Back-to-School Hair Braid-Barber & Blow out event. Read more here at [Baltimore news](#)

~ Susan Schneider

Game of HORSE Anyone?

Sometime during the 2020-2021 time period, I raised the idea at Administrative Council of basketball in our parking lot. Since then, local youth have begged for a half court in the lot. Middle schoolers in Charting Careers' mentorship program have promised to attend Homework & Reading classes IF they are rewarded with a game of Hoops at the conclusion. Our summer campers begged for basketball so often that Bill and Sam erected a small court down in the entry well to multi-purpose classroom A.



The Parole Rotary has offered to fund our efforts and the same local non-profit that built our picnic tables, Superior Future, has offered to do the work.

Now I'm back to asking for your input about a half basketball court in our parking lot. Please email me your thoughts, support and opinions to Connect@EastportUMC.org.

~ Susan Schneider

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 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

Miscellaneous Items

We invite you to contribute financially to our shared work by placing your gift in the offering box near the exit, or in the offering plates near the front during communion. You can also give online at eastportumc.org/give.

Our next **food pantry** will be in the Lot of Love on Saturday, September 17. Set up begins at 10 am.

If you are interested in having your picture added to the **church directory** please email a photo to Rose in the office at office@eastportumc.org.

Please bring **any used and unwanted eyeglasses** to donate to the glasses recycling program. The donation basket is in the fellowship hall above the coat rack.

*Interested in connecting deeper?
Between the ages of 21 and 40 and
interested in hanging out with other
young-ish adults? Contact Pastor Chris
at chris@eastportumc.org to learn more.*

The Spire is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410.263.5490
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www.eastportumc.org
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Sept

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HAPPY SEPTEMBER!				1	2	3
						
4 Worship 10am Memorial Ernie Mutschler 11am	5	6 Homework & Reading 4pm	7 AA County Volunteer Fire- fighters Assoc. Annual Memorial Service 7pm @ EUMC	8 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	9	10
11 Worship 10am	12	13 Hillcrest Cemetery Donna Nuckels 11:30am Homework & Reading 4pm Baby Pantry 4:30pm	14 	15 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	16	17 Food Pantry 10:00 am 
18 Worship 10am	19	2 Homework & Reading 4pm	21	22 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	23	24
25 Worship 10am	26	27 Homework & Reading 4pm Baby Pantry 4:30pm	28	2 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	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.
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