



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

May 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

Beloved of Eastport United Methodist,

Many of us have been grappling with the mental health devastations of our isolation: grief, loneliness, fear, panic, depression, substance use and abuse, suicidal thoughts, and meaninglessness. Many of us are experiencing the symptoms of trauma: Upsetting dreams or nightmares; severe emotional distress or physical reactions to sights or sounds; avoiding places, activities or people; negative thoughts about ourselves, other people, or the world; hopelessness about the future; memory problems; difficulty maintaining close relationships; feeling detached from family and friends; lack of interest in activities we once enjoyed; difficulty experiencing positive emotions/feeling emotionally numb; being easily startled or frightened; hypervigilance/always being on guard for danger; self-destructive behavior; trouble sleeping/trouble concentrating; irritability, angry outbursts or aggressive behavior; and overwhelming guilt or shame. People are short with each other, incredibly quick to offer criticism, and slow to apologize. When we are traumatized, we are not at our best.

Our God is a God who binds up the broken; who comforts those who mourn; who will wipe every tear from our eyes. And God is a God of resurrection; who forgives our humanity; who makes dead things come alive; who replaces hearts of stone with beating hearts of flesh. Weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes in the morning!

One of the best antidotes to trauma is connection. A very large portion of the congregation at this point has received a vaccine (hooray for vaccine science!), and are beginning to tentatively, joyfully return. Still, many of us are not coming to church for a variety of

WELCOME



May 23, 2021



Join us for worship in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.

Masks and social distancing required.

Virtual worship will continue at

eastportumc.org/worship

reasons: we haven't yet been fully vaccinated, we are still very cautious, we are still at-risk health-wise, we have been "hermitting," we feel disconnected, or because it's just easier to participate in online services in our pj's with a cup of coffee. Or perhaps it is simply that we got out of the habit of going to church. There is nothing but grace, and abundant, wasteful, extravagant Love for all, whatever the reason you continue to worship from home.

While we have never stopped worshipping and being the church throughout this pandemic, I want to invite you back to the sanctuary for worship starting Sunday, May 23rd. We will keep our masks on and practice social distancing. The pews will be marked off, the room will be adequately ventilated, hand sanitizer will be in abundance, and we'll enter and exit through the double doors.

While we won't be gathering in the fellowship hall or other areas of the church, you are invited to come early for free coffee and donuts in the parking lot before the service (provided by CHOW). Following the service we can fellowship outside on the lawn. CHOW will also be offering a brunch menu so we can experience their great mission to serve veterans and our community. <https://www.letschow.org/>

I assure you that you are needed as well as wanted. If you feel safe enough (emotionally and physically), you are welcome to be with us in the flesh. Please bring your mask, your heart and your whole self, and join us on that beautiful Sunday morning. Whenever you feel safe enough, we can't wait to welcome you back indoors.

I love you. God loves you. God loves everyone else, too.

~ *Pastor Chris*

Watch our services on EUMC's YouTube channel every Sunday. You can go back and see any you missed or any you'd like to repeat. Another way to hear EUMC Sunday services is by phone at 1-410-233-3163 any time.

A Prayer from the Bishop and her Appointive Cabinet

O God:

When hatred is given voice. When racism goes unchallenged. When poverty is overlooked. When violence doesn't unsettle. When unity appears folly. Hear us, O God.

When words fail. When people disappoint. When abuse is hidden. When shame overwhelms. When loneliness seems insurmountable. Hear us, O God.

Yet, it is Easter. Hear us, O God.

May words heal; faithfulness abound. Truth shall conquer and honor prevail. Hear us, O God.

A song of love is rising. A day of equity is come. A Jubilee is being proclaimed. Swords are becoming plowshares. And Your people sing with one joyful voice.

May it ever be so, O God.

A Note from Pastor Chris

I am truly grateful we had the opportunity to worship together on Easter Sunday in so many different ways. All together, we had over 150 people worshipping with us at Thomas Point Park, online, and on the yard! It was really good to see so many of your lovely faces and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together! May we continue to celebrate Easter every day!



10:00 Easter Service on the Lawn

*May today there be peace within.
 May you trust God that you are exactly
 where you are meant to be.
 May you not forget the infinite possibilities
 that are born of faith.
 May you use those gifts that you have
 received, and pass on the love that has been
 given to you.
 May you be content knowing you are a
 child of God.
 Let this presence settle into your bones, and
 allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance,
 praise and love.
 It is there for each and every one of us.*

~ Teresa of Ávila

Coffee with the Pastor

Over the past year, Pastor Chris has been available for chats over Zoom and telephone. Pastor Chris is now making himself available for scheduled outdoor visits. Please reach out to him to schedule a time to get together to chat and to pray. Who knows, maybe he'll even bring his guitar with him!



Alleluia – Christ Is Risen



6:00 Sunrise Service at Thomas Point Park

The alarm rudely rattles my sleep ... and in confusion I wonder why on earth I set it so early. Oh wait ... it's Easter Sunday! We get to go to Thomas Point! My favorite Easter tradition since I was a

teenager - Sunrise Service at Thomas Point! I'm up and dressed and ready in just a few minutes - sweatshirt, jacket and gloves (just in case). It's so dark outside ... chilly and dewy. It's not the crisp, bright cold weather of fall ... it's that dull cold that slowly steals your warmth. But finally we glimpse the glow of the fire pit and I am smiling under my mask. I happily take in both the familiar sights and sounds (the bay, the lighthouse, the water lapping up onto the rocks; the distant memories of Girl Scout camping at Thomas Point; and JoAnn's piano gloves - you know the ones with the fingertips open) and I acknowledge the unfamiliar - I barely recognize anyone with masks AND hoods and hats. No matter though, soon the dawn will come and we will shout "He is Risen" and the sun will delightfully illuminate everyone this glorious morning!

We pray. We sing. We listen to Pastor Chris' message of *light, love, hope and joy*.

And I keep waiting for the sun to rise. I turn away from the fire and gaze towards the east - looking, searching. I am disappointed. Still cloudy. It's a little lighter now ... but no oranges or yellows on the horizon.

I turn back to the fire pit with embers glowing more brightly than the sky. I shift my position and take one more look across the bay ... it's still cold and dull and gloomy, I can't see any sunshine and the service has ended. "Sunrise service in the midst of masked faces and depressing gray skies," I mutter softly.

Shrugging, I look at the fire pit and long for the warmth and light those embers just cannot give me. I slowly look up and watch everyone approaching each other and I hear joyful expressions of "I missed you!" and "I'm so glad to see you!" "Happy Easter!" And suddenly there are bunches of air hugs and fist bumps and elbows connecting!

And there are smiles! You can't "see" the smiles under those masks ... but they are there. The smiles are SO bright and illuminating that you see them in the eyes of everyone present. So much *light, love, hope and joy* in those SMILES that were not visible. I found the sunshine! Or should I say the SONshine?

That horizon was still gray and dull and cloudy ... just a wisp of light on the bay ... Bill Riggs had already extinguished the fire ... but the light on Thomas Point was glorious! The light of brothers and sisters

gathered in Christ was more brilliant than the sun could ever hope to be. It was truly a SONRISE that Easter morning.

The Psalmist writes that "... joy comes with the morning" and for me JOY came that morning despite clouds and cold and masks.

Happy Easter. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

~ Sherrie Little, Worship Chair



10:00 Lawn Service at Eastport UMC

As the sun climbed higher in the sky and the temps rose, the next group of worshipers gathered on the lawn outside the church. And it didn't matter that we were dragging our lawn chairs, it was not important that we wore masks, and nobody cared that our chairs were six feet apart. We were worshipping together!

The message at Easter is simple. Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. And it's always a joyous occasion as we hear the scripture read, as we journey with the women and discover the empty tomb. Jesus is alive – alleluia!

This particular Easter, however, seemed even more joyous to me. Not only did I feel like Christ was risen, but I felt as though our church had risen too. After a year of meeting predominantly online, it was glorious to be in each other's physical presence again.

And everything WAS so alive. From the children who frolicked on the playground, to sharing communion together, even to the sound of the fire department's sirens as they answered a call, all of it was a reminder of how we care for one another, how we find joy in our companionship, and how we

"answer the call" to be Christians and share in God's love for us and for each other.

As I looked above me, I noticed the tree I was sitting under was full of new buds, new signs of life. And soaring above it was the steeple of our church. It was the perfect metaphor for the moment. New life, new hope, a new Easter. Alleluia – Christ is risen!

~ Barbara Krebs, Worship Committee Member

United Methodist Women's Meeting – In Person!

The United Methodist Women will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, May 5, at 5:30 p.m. in person! Jean Strucko graciously offered her patio as our meeting site. Food will be provided for dinner and then we will have devotions and discuss reorganizing the group. All women of the church are invited. If you are not a regular attendee, please let Jean Strucko or Kathy Duckett know you plan to attend by May 4 to ensure that we have plenty of food.

At our April meeting, the United Methodist Women voted to donate a total of \$1,500 to the following missions:



- Chrysalis House in Crownsville, a residential addiction treatment program for women and their children;
- Mirah's Closet, the Blue Ribbon Project's local foster care closet dedicated to providing children and teens in foster care with essential items, such as clothing, toiletries, school supplies, and other needed items;
- the Susanna Wesley House in Baltimore, which provides women and their children with group living in a home-like setting as well as schooling, job training, and counseling; and
- Missions supported by the Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW.

~ Kathy Duckett

Shiny New Toy

In the early '70s there was a song with a catchy melody and silly lyrics that I liked to sing. Called Brand New Key, the refrain went:

*Well, I got a brand new pair of roller skates
You got a brand new key
I think that we should get together
And try them out, you see.*

That song came back to me recently when I arrived to help pre-load boxes on Friday for the next day's food bank. As I drove up, I noticed the food truck was angled differently and something was snaking out the back. That something turned out to be a shiny new conveyor belt!

Donated to EUMC by the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (with funds from the Cares Act), the conveyor belt is fast and convenient! No more lugging heavy boxes up and down the back steps of the church! That puppy is expandable up to 24 feet, comes with adjustable leg heights for use on stairs, and boy, do those rollers spin as the boxes fly up the line!



My fellow workers and I were definitely like kids with a brand new toy. Bill Schneider, who had just picked up the conveyor belt from the Food Bank, said

with a grin (I know it was there behind his mask), "This is going to save us all a chiropractor bill!"

So as we passed the food up the line with minimal effort, my head was already rewriting Melanie's song:

*Well, I got a brand new, bright conveyor belt
You got some brand new food
I think that we should get together
And do the world some good.*

You just can't go wrong with the classics!

~ Barbara Krebs



National Day of Prayer Gathering

On Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 12 p.m. you are invited to gather at Trinity United Methodist Church on West Street for an hour long prayer service. The prayer focus will be on public servants and the communities they serve.

Parent Connect

Susan and I are launching a new ministry in the Annapolis area called Parent Connect. The goal of Parent Connect is to provide a safe environment for parents of LGBT children to experience community and personal growth. In Parent Connect, you will: 1) Experience a safe environment in which to connect with other parents of LGBT children. 2) Explore God's purposes for you as the parent of an LGBT individual. 3) Learn how to love your LGBT son or daughter well, in harmony with your faith.

Parent Connect groups meet monthly in homes and are led by group facilitators. Our first group will meet in Susan's and my house once per month. It'll be a relaxed, casual group experience with Susan and me

hosting the group as we build community with one another and engage in group conversation about the experiences of parenting children who identify as LGBTQ+.

If you know of someone for whom this group would be beneficial, please contact Susan or me on their behalf, or pass along our contact information to them. We can be reached at:

bschneider812@me.com or
susan.schneider62@gmail.com.

~ Bill Schneider

Trustee Update

The Board of Trustees met on April 27th for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Here are the highlights from that meeting:

- We have some preparation work ahead of the first in-person worship service on May 23rd, including signage to inform attendees of COVID-19 protocols.
- We must get weekly lawn care under contract, especially as the use of the lawn increases during the summer months.
- We will be replacing our dumpster with a locking dumpster, in response to a dramatic increase in unwarranted use by folks not associated with the church.
- We continue to explore options for installing new benches on the church "front yard."

Please direct any ideas or inquiries with regard to church property to Bill Schneider, Trustees Chair.

~ Bill Schneider

A Note From Della

We at the monthly Food Pantry are grateful for the thoughtful egg carton donations and we now have sufficient stock.

If anyone has interest in participating in a community food preservation skill sharing group, I am planning to start one and would love to hear from you.

~ Della Sztuk, EUMC Administrative Assistant



Let's CHOW!

You may have passed by the church recently and noticed a food truck in the "Lot of Love." How odd!? One might say. Well, this food truck is a mobile kitchen with a mission by an organization called Chow. Chow is a non-profit serving veterans and military spouses that are seeking to enhance their culinary talents and develop their skills. Chow launched "Kitchen with a Mission" (KWM), and now provides a pipeline to provide culinary training to veterans while aiding the local homeless community.

Under KWM, Chow first identifies a local organization with a pre-existing model for providing food and aid to the Maryland homeless community. Chow then asks a corporate sponsor to cover the costs of food and supplies for an event where fresh food is prepared and served to those in need.

We are so glad to partner with them. You will definitely see more from them in the future. To learn more, go to: <https://www.letschow.org/>



May Birthdays

- May 1 Shirley Ford
Louis Bergsman
- May 6 Cindy Macey
- May 10 James Stevens
- May 12 Tyler Johnson
- May 13 Braden Clary
- May 15 Caitlin Peddicord Holt
- May 16 Brenda Jones
- May 18 Abigail Wilcox
- May 19 Ruth Gibbons
Betty Storton
- May 24 Gene Swanner
- May 25 Mike Keller
- May 26 Ashlyn Hughes
Frances DuPlayee
- May 30 Mitch Krebs
- May 31 Kathy Volz



May Anniversaries

- May 1 Gerald & Lorraine Crouch
- May 4 Tom & Paulette Schwallenberg
- May 5 Robert & Ruth Gibbons
- May 14 David & Kathy Moreland
Ricardo & Carrie Vasquez
- May 16 Tom & Harriet Newquist
- May 18 Curtis & Vicki Clary
- May 21 Dallas & Brenda Jones
- May 22 Steve & Pat Parks
- May 23 Joe & Sue Nasatka
- May 24 Butch & June Stevens
- May 25 Neil Bergsman & Val Devaris



THE CONNECTION



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

eastportumc.org

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Online Worship	3	4 History of Hymns Online 7:30pm	5 UMW MEETING In person! 5:30PM	6 National Day of Prayer Gather at Trinity UMC 12 noon	7	8
9 Online Worship	10	11 History of Hymns Online 7:30pm	12	13 Virtual Hymn Sing 7:00pm	14 Pickup & sort food for tomorrow's food pantry	15 FOOD PANTRY 10:30 AM 
16 Online Worship	17	18 Admin Council Meeting 7pm History of Hymns Online 7:30pm	19	20	21	22
23  In-Person Worship 10am	24	25 History of Hymns Online 7:30pm	26	27 Virtual Hymn Sing 7:00pm	28	29 
30 Worship Service 10am	31	Welcome back to our beautiful church! Spread the word – we're open! For those unable to be with us in person, you can still find us online.				

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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