



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

June 2026

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 this season of ministry comes to a close, I find myself reflecting less on programs or accomplishments and more on people, on the relationships, conversations, prayers, laughter, and sacred moments we have shared together along the way.

Thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you. Over this time together, I believe we have continued building something deeply important: a church where people truly belong. A place where love is not shallow or performative, but something that grows deep roots. A place where people can show up honestly, carrying faith, doubt, grief, hope, and questions, and know they will be welcomed.

That matters more than we sometimes realize.

In a world that often feels loud, divided, transactional, and exhausting, this congregation has become a different kind of witness. I have watched you create space for authentic faith instead of easy answers. I have seen people with deep “church hurt” walk through these doors cautiously and slowly begin to trust again. I have seen kindness offered quietly, without recognition or fanfare. I have seen compassion practiced in ways both large and small.

And beyond our walls, I am grateful for the ways this church has chosen connection over isolation. Through partnerships with 17 community agencies and nonprofits, you have reminded our neighbors that the church can still be a force for healing, justice, mercy, and hope.

None of this happened because of one person. It happened because of the spirit of this congregation — because you chose, again and again, to lead with grace.

I hope you know how rare and needed that is. As I prepare to leave this appointment, I do so with deep gratitude and genuine hope for what comes next for this church. The world needs communities like this one: communities where people can rest, ask hard questions, encounter authentic love, and be reminded that they are not alone.

Thank you for trusting me, supporting me, challenging me, and walking alongside me in ministry. It has been a profound gift to share this chapter with you.

*Grace and peace,
~ Pastor Chris*

EUMC received this note from the family of Barbara Schwarz.

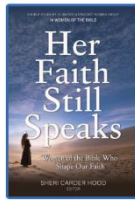
Pastor Chris & Eastport UMC,

Words cannot express how much our family appreciated your support on our mom's big day. Mom helped us by planning her service, but you all carried it out and truly made her day special.

Pastor Chris, your embellishments to what was planned were perfect. To the organist, vocalists and all those behind the scenes, absolutely what she would have wanted. She loved you all and you loved her back. God's wink.

Book Study

This study begins Thursday, June 4th, 7:00pm in the Chapel.



Her Faith Still Speaks: Women of the Bible Who Shape Our Faith brings together the voices of 14 United Methodist women, including our Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, who explore the lives of biblical women whose stories continue to shape our faith today.

Everyone is very welcome and encouraged to join in. Each chapter will be a stand-alone discussion, so please don't think that you must make a long commitment.

~ Jill Peddicord

Conversations to Get to Know EUMC

Two more weeks! The series ends June 14, 2026. If you think it's too late to show up, NEVER! Please join us in Classroom A on the church's lower level at 9:00 AM. We end in time for everyone to migrate to the sanctuary for Sunday worship.



United Women in Faith



The United Women in Faith will hold a potluck dinner at their next meeting on Tuesday, June 2, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a short business meeting, followed by devotions. All women of the church are invited to participate. This will be our last meeting until we reconvene in September.

~ Kathy Duckett

Pentecost Potluck

On Pentecost Sunday, Eastport UMC celebrated the Church's birthday by recognizing a few long-serving members: Ed Owen, Jean Strucko and Mary Jane Finkle. We are grateful for their many years of solid support for this church and its ministries. Along with the formal acknowledgements, we held a potluck lunch with a great turnout of people and food and festivity!



Church Council Corner

Eastport UMC is undergoing a **season of changes**. Pastor Chris is leaving and Pastor Raimon Jackson is coming. Change can be difficult as we are faced with not knowing the unknown future. And sometimes we forget the depth of what we *do* know. We know our mission and work of the church continues. The EUMC people and ministries will keep serving our community in love. The EUMC Admin Council is strong in our resolve. We are working closely as a team and with the congregation and DS Cogman to make this transition a smooth one.



The **EUMC Unified Board Framing Principles** are under final review. We will hold several town halls for the congregation and community to become informed of the new governance structure.

The next Admin Council Meeting is **7 pm on June 16**. All are welcome to attend.

The Admin Council is Tim Williams, Jean Strucko, Jill Peddicord, Michael Keller, Ruth Gibbons, Elaine Fors-MacKellar, David Emenheiser, Tonya DeMedici, Neil Bergsman, and Tracy Alexander. All comments and questions go to David Emenheiser, Admin Council Chair.

Annual Conference News

As you know, Michael Keller is EUMC's Lay Representative to Annual Conference. Mike received the following letter from our Bishop and District Superintendent. The letter is shared here for all of us. A comprehensive report from this year's Annual Conference will be provided in next month's newsletter.

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON &
PENNSYLVANIA-DELAWARE AREA

Bishop La'Trelle Miller Easterling
EPISCOPAL LEADER



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SOPHIE AMES, Executive Assistant

REV. ERICA ROBINSON-LEWIS, Chief Administrative Officer

May 29, 2026

Dear Mr. Keller,

Congratulations and blessings as we begin a new conference year. The Cabinet, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, discerned that Pastor Raimon Jackson has the gifts and graces to partner with Eastport United Methodist Church in Annapolis MD, to continue God's work of disciple-making, congregational vitality and transformation. Some of those gifts include life-transforming sermons, engaging bible-studies, leadership development, youth and young adult ministry, and extensive community service. The fruitfulness you desire cannot be achieved by the pastor alone. In collaboration with your new pastor, community members and ecumenical partners, you have the opportunity to deepen discipleship, strengthen relationships and nurture the beloved community.

As we embrace our new structure and position ourselves for even greater outward-facing ministry, this is an exciting time in the life of our conference. And we recognize that along with those changes, this is also a time of transition from one servant leader to another. Times of transition can be both exciting and tender for everyone involved. Recognizing this reality frees you to lament and celebrate in appropriate ways, while always believing that God is still in our midst and still pouring out blessings more numerous than we can receive. As you live into this new appointment, it will be important to support your new pastor, allow them to lead in their unique way, and help them foster a meaningful relationship with you.

Please begin this appointment with a focus on helping your pastor develop a sustainable rhythm. That rhythm must include dynamic pastoral leadership, a regular day of Sabbath and adequate self-care. No one can offer water from an empty well. The pastor and SPRC are crafting a covenant that will concretize these expectations and help your new servant leader begin well.

We are praying for you and want to assist you in every way we can to ensure fruitfulness. Please be proactive in naming any assistance you need from the cabinet. May our annual conference theme, Rooted in Christ: Love Boldly, continue to inspire and encourage every aspect of our shared mission and ministry.

Blessings and love,

La'Trelle Miller Easterling
Bishop La'Trelle Miller Easterling
Baltimore-Washington and Pennsylvania-Delaware Area

Johnnie W. Coghlan
Rev. Dr. Johnnie W. Coghlan
Two Rivers District Superintendent

June's Special Pantry Focus

This month, our special focus is on the **Little Free Pantry** at the corner of the church parking lot by the playground. We try to keep it stocked with flip-top cans of soups, beans, chili, chicken, tuna and other items easy to use on the street. As you might imagine, they go pretty fast. We would welcome your contributions on Sunday mornings or during the week at the church office between 9:30 and 2:00 Tuesdays through Fridays.



Please note this month's food pantry is June 27th. In July we return to the regular third Saturday.

Sunday School

For Mother's Day Sunday we talked about our mothers and how they care for us. Our mothers feed us, watch over us, and provide us with everything we need. (Just like God does.) The kids each chose herb plants, potted them, and decorated the pots. The pot markers said, "Thank you for helping me grow." 🌱



For the last Sunday School of the school year we learned the story of Pentecost. Instead of putting our cut-out flames on our heads, we continued to cut in spirals so the flame could reach farther. We are called to spread the message of love just as our paper flames could spread out far. May we all be in touch with the Holy Spirit to be closer to God's message for us.



Last month we bid a fond farewell to our dear friend Lisette De Groot as she returned to her homeland to be with her family in The Netherlands.





EUMC Missional Alignment Project

Eastport UMC developed three organizing objectives to align our activities with our mission. During this season of changes, we invite everyone to share their ideas for improving our ministry.

Reach Out: We will connect with community more frequently and intentionally

Reach In: We will connect across generations and identities

Reach Deep: We will connect with God by developing our spiritual practices.

Learn & Play Program

Children in the AfterSchool Learn and Play Program prepare hand-written cards, flower arrangements, and decorated ready-to-eat muffins for their mom in recognition of Mother's Day.



Yard Work Thanks!

On a beautiful Sunday in May we accomplished some needed outside work around the church grounds. Mulch was spread, foliage trimmed and general cleanup was done by a few hardy souls: Joanne & Jerry Christofel, Val & Neil Bergsman, Kathy & Steve Duckett, Mike Keller, Anne Heald, and Jill Peddicord. Our partners at Charting Careers spread all the mulch in the playground. Many thanks to each of you!



Before



After



Sight & Sound Theatre Trip

The Sight & Sound Theatre in Strasburg, PA will present an original first-time stage production of the story of *Joshua*. From the banks of the Jordan River to the towering walls of Jericho, *Joshua* is an adventure that tracks the journey of the people of Israel as they navigate their new-found freedom in an unforgiving wilderness. When Joshua is called to succeed Moses as their leader, tensions mount and Joshua's trust in God's plan is put to the test.

Please join Eastport and Trinity Churches in experiencing one of the most redemptive tales in the Bible. Then after the show, enjoy a smorgasbord lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant. Included: round trip bus transportation, prime reserved seats for the performance, lunch and all taxes and tips. The cost: \$185 per person. The date is Tuesday, September 29, 2026. We will depart Annapolis at 8 a.m. and return at about 6 p.m. To guarantee your reservation, send a check to Carol Emory, 2900 Shipmaster Way #204, Annapolis, MD 21401. Please direct questions about the trip to Michael Keller at 410-263-7409 or mjaykeller@outlook.com.

June Anniversaries



- June 4 Pam & Chris Pulley
- June 11 Wendy & Eric Edstrom
- June 20 Mae & Les Johnson
- June 22 Holly Green & Matt Ficca
- June 26 Molly Estabrook & Tony Fowler

Tommy & Elizabeth Eicher
Real Estate Professionals
3 Church Circle Annapolis 21401
Cell 410-212-3383/410-279-1702
Office 410-263-8686



We will donate \$500 to Eastport United Methodist Church on your behalf for any Real Estate transaction that results in a sale



June Birthdays



- June 9 Pam Pulley
Shelly Wilcox
- June 10 Teresa Keller
- June 17 Vaughan Parrish
- June 21 Noah Somers
Lynn Swanner
Randi Aaliah Savoy
- June 22 Jan Hopping
Cindy Lahoff
- June 23 Alaina Ugolini
- June 24 Darcey Schultz
- June 25 Sharon Stevens
- June 26 Lauren Peddicord
- June 27 Ginny Davidson



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Learn&Play 4pm United Women of Faith 5:30pm	3	4 Learn&Play 4pm Book Study 7pm	5 Praise Band 10am	6
	7 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am	8	9 Divine Diners Lunch 12pm @Sammy's Learn&Play 4pm	10	11 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Learn&Play trip to Barnes & Noble 4pm Book Study 7pm	12 Praise Band 10am
14 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am CELEBRATION OF PASTOR CHRIS	15	16 Last Learn&Play for the summer 4pm Admin Council 7pm	17	18 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Book Study 7pm	19 Praise Band 10am 	20
21 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Summer Begins 	22	23 Divine Diners Adam's 5:30pm	24	25 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Book Study 7pm	26 Praise Band 10am	27 Charting Careers Innovation Hub 9 to 11am Community Food & Diaper Pantry 11am (Setup 10am)
28	29	30				

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

CONVERSATIONS IN FAITH 9:15 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 10 AM
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 2ND/4TH 10:15 AM
COFFEE HOUR 11 AM

MONDAY

AFTERSCHOOL W/ CHARTING CAREERS 3 PM
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS 7 PM
NAPTOWN PHILHARMONIC CHOIR 7 PM

TUESDAY

ESL CLASSES W/ CENTRO DE AYUDA 10 AM
AFTERSCHOOL LEARN & PLAY 4 PM
DIVINE DINERS 2ND TUES, 12 PM / 4TH TUES 5:30 PM
CREATING COMMUNITIES: ARTS & ROBOTICS CLASS 5 PM

WEDNESDAY

CHAIR CARDIO EXERCISE CLASS 9 AM
AFTERSCHOOL W/ CHARTING CAREERS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 8:30 PM

THURSDAY

MORNING PRAYER 9:30 AM
ESL CLASSES W/ CENTRO DE AYUDA 10 AM
AFTERSCHOOL LEARN & PLAY 4 PM
ARTS & ROBOTICS CLASS W/ MD HALL 5 PM
EUMC CHOIR REHEARSAL 7 PM

FRIDAY

BUILD A BETER BOOTCAMP 8 AM
EUMC BAND REHEARSAL 10 AM
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 7 PM

SATURDAY

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY 3RD SAT, 10 AM
LA INGLESIA ADVENTISTA DEL SEPTIMO DIA 9 AM

**Eastport United Methodist Church
926 Bay Ridge Avenue
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**Pastor Christopher Broadwell
Church Office 410-263-5490
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
www.eastportumc.org**