



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

May 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

Friends of Eastport United Methodist,

I truly feel that the Spirit is bubbling up and over in and among us here at Eastport. We had a beautiful season of Lent & Easter. For each person that joined in the many services throughout the season, for each person that helped with the services, you know who you are, I am so grateful that we were able to have such a meaningful experience of worshipping together.

Our engagement with the community continues to grow. We have formed The United Cooperative, a collaboration of our Eastport UMC, with our neighborhood Eastport Elementary community school, non-profits (Charting Careers, #JustOneSweater, Ethan’s Buddies, CHOW, Annapolis Maritime Museum, Maryland Hall Jovénes Artistas, Arundel Lodge), county agencies (AACo Department of Health and the AACo Conflict Resolution Center), and the Housing Authority to bring more after-school programming to our community.

We continue to leverage our resources, both the gifts that you give and the grants we receive, to do the most good in our neighborhood. We deeply appreciate your support of the work of Eastport UMC through contributions to the General Fund. These contributions keep the lights on; support the worship and mission of the church; fund the salary for the Pastor, Director of Music, Church Administrator, and Custodial Staff; and so much more. Thankfully, we have had success in receiving grants to fund a number of efforts. So far in 2022, we have received \$27,600 in grants that will fund our Community Navigator (Diesha), purchase fresh produce for pantry families; stock our diaper pantry; and make

incredible improvements to the WiFi infrastructure of our facility. It is amazing what we can do together.



SOUL CAFE

A Divine Experience

| | |
|---|--------|
| THE UNEXPECTED GUEST Luke 24:13-35 | May 1 |
| THE UNEXPECTED HOST Luke 5:27-32 | May 8 |
| THE IMPOSSIBLE ORDER Matthew 14:13-21 | May 15 |
| THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT Luke 11:37-40 or 54 | May 22 |
| THE FISH FRY John 21:1-19 | May 29 |
| THE GUEST LIST Luke 14:15-24 | June 5 |

Throughout the month of May, I invite you to join me at *Soul Café: A Divine Experience*, a series exploring just a few of the meals Jesus shared with others in the Gospels. I'll also be reading an incredible memoir titled "Take this Bread" by Sara Miles. This is one of my favorite memoirs by a person of faith. Here's an excerpt:

“[The life of Jesus] pointed to a force stronger than the anxious formulas of religion: a radically inclusive love that accompanied people in the most ordinary of actions—eating, drinking, walking—and stayed with them, through fear, even past death. That love meant giving yourself away, embracing outsiders as family, emptying yourself to feed and live for others. The stories illuminated the holiness located in mortal human bodies, and the promise that people could see

God by cherishing all those different bodies the way God did. They spoke of a communion so much vaster than any church could contain: one I had sensed all my life could be expressed in the sharing of food, particularly with strangers.”

— Sara Miles, “Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion”

Come and join the feast on Sunday.

~ Grace and peace, Pastor Chris

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women/Women in Faith will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, May 4, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a short business meeting followed by a devotional program from the 2021-2022 UMW book entitled *Healing and Joy: On our Journey to God*. 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

Joy does not simply happen to us.
We have to choose joy and keep
choosing it every day.

— Henri Nouwen —

AZ QUOTES

Going to the Dogs

Last month I talked about how we determine how we react to a situation. I used the popular game, Wordle, to illustrate that we choose whether to turn “fears” into “dread” or “cheer.” Because life is always throwing us curveballs, my mind has continued to focus on how our attitude about events defines whether we react positively or negatively.

Obviously, some things are inherently negative (death, cruelty, hate come to mind). But despite how

awful these things are, we can still choose to find a way to react that will bring something good to light. This was reinforced for me this past month when I attended a Humane Society fundraiser with my daughter, Colette.

You see, Colette has been fostering dogs for about a year and a half. She has always been dog crazy and never wavered in her request for a dog as a five-year-old until we finally relented and adopted Eve, a beagle mix, when Colette was nine.

Eve was definitely a challenge. She suffered extreme separation anxiety, which instead of getting better in a stable home environment, only got worse with old age. Several of our doors still bear the marks of her claws, and on one memorable occasion, she ate our drywall in an escape attempt. Thank goodness we’re reasonably handy DIYers, as repairing Eve anxiety would have been far more costly otherwise.

Colette learned firsthand that her dream come true of owning a dog was not exactly a cake walk, ahem, dog walk. Dogs, while giving you unending affection and love, also need walks in all kinds of weather – rain, cold, snow, beastly hot. If they’ve come from a shelter, they generally have some sort of issue that will need to be worked through. But none of this deterred her.

The adult Colette fosters dogs – all kinds of dogs. Unruly puppies, skittish strays, attention-starved hounds, sick dogs, injured dogs. It doesn’t matter. She meets them where they are and tends to their needs, whether they’re physical, mental or both. So much so that her local Humane Society has asked her to film a video for them about why she fosters. As I was reading the script she wrote, I was struck by how she summed it all up. “I foster for a lot of reasons. Because it’s free, because I love dogs, because I am making a difference. These are all part of it, but the real reason is simply because it brings me joy.”

It brings me joy. Instead of the dictionary definition of “going to the dogs,” which means to “become ruined: to change to a much worse condition,” she is taking the negatives that accompany these lost-soul dogs and working to turn them into positives, one dog at a time.

I think the Dutch priest Henri Nouwen said it best: “Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.” Yes, thank you, I choose joy. ~ Barbara Krebs

Annapolis Pride 2022



As part of the 2022 Annapolis Pride Parade and Festival events, a number of congregations are gathering together to celebrate an Interfaith/Ecumenical Pride service and all congregations are invited to participate.

Various faith communities, including our own, have come together to create a joyful and welcoming event for all people regardless of their religion, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The event will feature congregational singing, performances from the Baltimore Men's Chorus, as well as an address from guest preacher Dr. David Gushee, a Christian ethicist. Dr. Gushee is well known as the author of *Changing Our Mind*, which has aided families and congregations to carefully and compassionately rethink traditional religious teachings about full LGBTQ inclusion.

While the Pride Parade and Festival are June 4th from 12-4, St. Anne's Episcopal Church (Church Circle, Annapolis) will host the ecumenical service at 3 pm on Sunday, June 5, 2022. A pre-service performance by the Baltimore Men's Chorus will begin at 2:30 pm.

It is our prayer that the service will be an unmistakable call to hope, love, mercy, compassion; so that all might experience bright hope for tomorrow.

A COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE will be held on May 3 @ 7 pm. We'll be focusing on praying for law enforcement and community servants in our city and county. We're hoping this will become a regular monthly prayer meeting for the entire Annapolis community, rotating hosting churches and keeping up with prayer concerns in our city. The May 3 service will be held at Trinity UMC on West Street.

The Bishop's Reply

In last month's newsletter we posted a copy of our letter to Bishop Easterling regarding the continued delay in voting on the issue of LGBTQ inclusion in the United Methodist Church. For your information her reply is below.



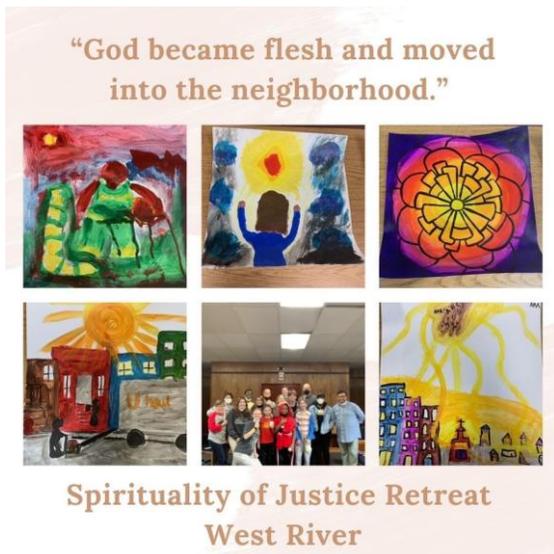
United Methodist Camp

West River Camp and Retreat Center, our local United Methodist Camp, provides summer camp opportunities for kids of all ages- both overnight and day camps. During these camps they have all kinds of fun, from sailing and canoeing to low ropes and worship opportunities. They still have plenty of spots available for kids as well as volunteers. They're looking for part-time cooks, life guards, program staff, kitchen aides, and day camp counselors. Contact Pastor Jenna to get in on the action: johnsonjenna93@gmail.com

Spirituality of Justice Retreat

In early April, 14 youth from eight congregations attended the first “Spirituality of Justice” retreat at West River. Participants created images based on a reflection from the first chapter of John: “God became flesh and moved into the neighborhood” (MSG).

Participants were asked to reflect on specific projects in their congregations and communities that respond to justice. Jenna Johnson, Assistant Director for the West River Center (and our Deacon-in-Connection/Minister of Play) will work with youth to take their projects to the next step in their congregation so that they can engage the community not only with mercy and compassion ministries but also with justice and advocacy ministries.



Creating Communities

Creating Communities, an Annapolis-based arts and mentoring nonprofit, has resumed its arts program in the parking lot of Eastport United Methodist Church for children living at 1000 Madison and throughout Eastport. Led by acclaimed educator and author Mary Ostrowski with assistance from new mentor Maleah Sims, the program provides quality arts activities to students at no cost every Wednesday afternoon for up to twenty youth. All arts activities are based on children’s books to increase interest in reading. Creating Communities is led by Rob Levit, 2021 recipient of the Excellence in Arts Leadership Award. Creating Communities received the Innovation Award from the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County in 2020 for its service during the pandemic



Church Directory



Our office administrator, Rose Maple, has been tidying up member information and is preparing a new church directory. Over the next two months or so, Molly Estabrook will be taking photos before and after Sunday morning worship. We are excited to include you in the directory! Please make sure the office has your birthday, anniversary, and current contact information.

May Garden & Maintenance News

A big thank you to everyone who helped with raking, pulling weeds, and putting down mulch to make our gardens look beautiful. Best gardeners ever! Thanks to Barbara & Mitch Krebs, Neil Bergsman, Kathy & Steve Duckett, Jason & Donna Armstrong, Barbara Schwarz & Rawle Green, Pam & Chris Pulley, Molly Estabrooke & Tony Fowler, Susan Schneider, James Pawlowski, Harriet Newquist, Pastor Chris, my husband Jerry (who loved driving the lawnmower around to deliver mulch), and Eunice Corse (for taking pictures). We even put in a few more flowers. You all are the best!



We keep working on maintenance at church too: blades on riding mower were sharpened and joints greased (which are supposed to be done at every use); glued and mortared more stones; dirt, grass seed and straw were laid down; lintel over lower doors, doors, and windows on back stairwell were scraped clean of rust, cleaned, primed, caulked, and painted; and replaced damaged wood on front stairwell door frame. We finished all 15 window wells and rescued another toad! Halleluiah! I am hoping they will eat all the bugs in my yard this summer. As usual all the normal chores like cutting the grass and picking up trash and branches continues. If you can help with any work outside, please contact Joanne or Jerry Christofel at msjohara@yahoo.com or 410-295-5474.



~ Joanne Christofel



Our Graduates

Please send us pictures and information about your graduates. We will feature them in the next two newsletters.



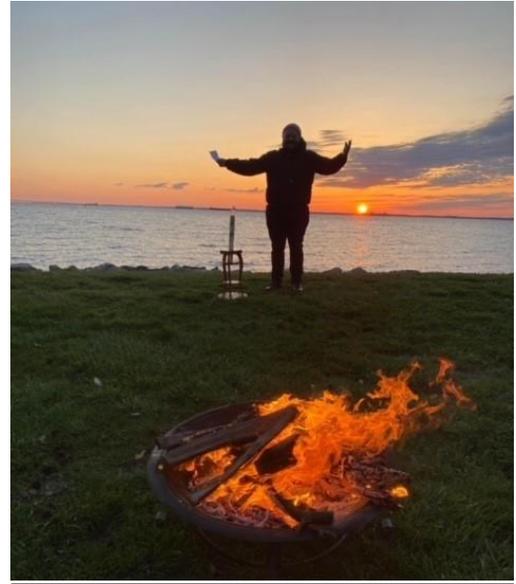
We were proud to sponsor a Spring festival for the Robinwood community on Friday, April 8, 2022. Thank you to Diesha for making this event for the children so successful. We were very glad to do this with Downtown Hope and Leadership Anne Arundel.

Charting Careers

Charting Careers recently hosted a Family BBQ Night and it was a huge success! It was such a joy for them to spend time with the scholars and their families, to fellowship around delicious food, and enjoy the beautiful grounds of Eastport United Methodist Church. Diesha Contee our Community Navigator is pictured below serving a huge meal she prepared for the event. Learn more about their work here: chartingcareers.org



Easter Morning 2022



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
- May 24 Gene Swanner
- May 25 Mike Keller
- May 26 Ashlyn Hughes
Frances DuPlayee Clark
- May 30 Mitch Krebs
- May 31 Kathy Volz

SIGHT & SOUND BUS TRIP

August 23, 2022 (Tuesday)

Sight & Sound Theatre – “DAVID”
& Family-Style Lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant
Strasburg, Pennsylvania

\$130 – Adult

\$96 – Child (age 3-12)

Includes transportation, reserved seats for the show,
family-style lunch, and all taxes and tips.

Depart EUMC parking Lot 8:00AM

Return 6:00PM

Make checks payable to Carol Emory at 506 Duvall
Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403 to secure your seat.

Questions? Contact Carol at her email

carolemory7@aol.com.

May Anniversaries



- May 1 Gerald & Lorraine Crouch
- May 4 Tom & Paulette Schwallenberg
- May 5 Robert & Ruth Gibbons
- May 14 David & Kathy Moreland
- 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

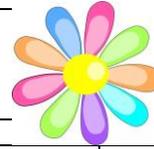
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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1 Worship 10am | 2 | 3 Homework 4:00pm | 4 UMW Dinner/Meeting 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall | 5 Homework 4:00pm Choir 7pm | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Worship 10am  | 9 Bells 7pm | 10 Homework 4:00pm | 11 | 12 Homework 4:00pm Choir 7pm | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Worship 10am | 16 Bells 7pm | 17 Homework 4:00pm Admin Council Zoom Meeting 7pm | 18 | 19 Homework 4:00pm Choir 7pm | 20 | 21 Food Pantry 10:00 am  |
| 22 Worship 10am | 23 Bells 7pm | 24 Homework 4:00pm | 25 | 26 Homework 4:00pm Choir 7pm | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Worship 10am Bells Rehearse after church | 30 | 31 Homework 4:00pm | | |  | |

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Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
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