



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

April 2025

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 we move through the final weeks of Lent and approach Easter, we are invited to reflect deeply on the themes of righteousness, mercy, power, humility, resistance, acceptance, grief, and hope. The scriptures before us offer a range of human experience that mirror our own struggles and triumphs. These themes form a profound invitation to examine our lives, our relationships, and our understanding of God's transformative love.

We continue this coming Sunday with the story of Zacchaeus, that wee tax collector, a figure often associated with oppression and corruption. The crowds grumble at Jesus' self-invitation to dine with him, their indignation seemingly justified. Yet, Jesus extends mercy, a radical act that transforms Zacchaeus. How do we define these concepts of righteousness and mercy in our lives? This story challenges us to examine our own judgments and embrace the transformative power of grace.

We then move to Palm Sunday, where we encounter the tension between shouting praise and contemplative silence. Jesus' quiet presence inspires a multitude to praise God, while the religious leaders seek to silence them. What is the role of praise and silence in our spiritual lives, and how do we navigate the in-between spaces of joy and sorrow, celebration and lament? The journey to the cross is not a linear path, not a straight line of unwavering devotion. It is a complex and often contradictory experience of human emotions and divine encounters.

On Maundy Thursday, we reflect on Jesus' final meal with his disciples, a moment where he redefines power through acts of humility. We consider how Jesus embodies power through humility,

demonstrating that true leadership is found in service and sacrifice. How do we embody power in our own lives, and can we allow Jesus' example to upend our desires for control and domination?

Good Friday confronts us with the stark reality of Jesus' crucifixion and we explore the tension between resistance and acceptance. The cross is a symbol of both profound suffering and ultimate love, a paradox that challenges our understanding of God's power and our own vulnerability.

Finally, we arrive at Easter Sunday, a day of resurrection and hope. Yet, we are reminded that grief is a valid part of our journey, a necessary passage through the valley of the shadow of death. In this journey we learn something new and I want you to go ahead and chew on it now: grief is liminal, not terminal. That is, it is a temporary state that gives way to the promise of new life. The resurrection is not a denial of death or grief, but a promise that death and grief will not have the final word.

The path to Easter is not a smooth one, but a winding road of human experience, a journey that leads us to the foot of the cross and the empty tomb. May we emerge from this season renewed, transformed, and ready to embrace the new life that awaits us.

~ *Grace and peace,*
~ *Pastor Chris*

Each week a new **Lenten Study** is posted on the church website. Currently, Lent weeks 1-4 are available and a new one is posted every Thursday around noon. You can comment, like, and interact with one another there: eastportumc.org/lenten-study

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** (April 13, 10 am) where we walk with Jesus through the last moments of his life to prepare ourselves for the resurrection of Jesus.

Maundy Thursday – We gather around the Table (April 17, 7 pm) to remember Jesus' love mandate.

Good Friday – We gather around the cross (April 18 noon), to recount the depth of God's love.

Easter Sunday – We first celebrate at a **sunrise service** at Thomas Point Park. The service on April 20 will begin around 6 am; dress for warmth and bring a lawn chair.

We'll then gather at 10 am in the **church sanctuary** for a festive celebration of the resurrection.



UMW Celebrating Mardi Gras

Methodist Women News



The United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 1, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a short business meeting 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.

Instead of our regular meeting in May, we plan to carpool to Crownsville to volunteer for the Blue Ribbon Project, which helps local foster children. This will take place on May 6 from 1:00 to 3:00. We welcome anyone interested in this volunteer project to join us. Afterwards, we will enjoy a meal together at the Ramshead Roadhouse.

~ Kathy Duckett

Fire Prevention Fair

We have a wonderful opportunity to support our neighbors and enjoy a fun, educational afternoon right next door! The Eastport Volunteer Fire Company (EVFC) is hosting their annual Fire Prevention Fair on Saturday, April 27th, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM, and they've extended a warm invitation to everyone in our community.

This is a fantastic family-friendly event packed with engaging activities for all ages. It's a chance to learn valuable safety skills while having a great time. There will be interactive



learning opportunities where you can discover crucial fire prevention techniques in an exciting and hands-on way. Kids (and adults!) will love getting up close and personal with fire trucks and equipment. You can also learn life-saving skills with CPR & Narcan training, witness a demonstration of how firefighters rescue individuals from vehicle accidents at the extrication demo, and enjoy a fascinating demonstration by the EVFC's canine unit. Let the little ones test their firefighting skills in a safe and fun environment with a child-friendly firemen's challenge. And don't forget the giveaways and raffle, where you can take home some exciting prizes and souvenirs!

The EVFC is an invaluable part of our community, and this fair is a testament to their dedication to keeping us safe. Let's show our support by joining them for this special event. It's a perfect opportunity to connect with our neighbors, learn important safety information, and create lasting memories with our families.

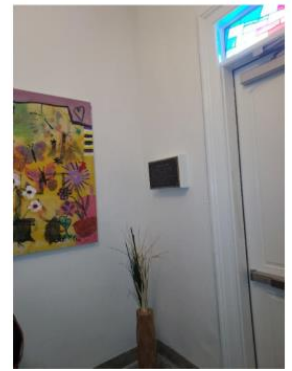
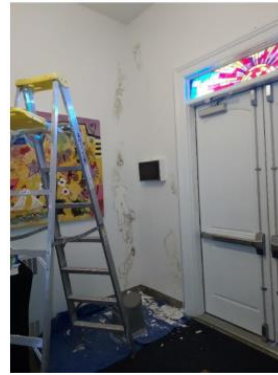
We encourage you to bring your friends, family, and neighbors. It's a wonderful way to spend a Saturday afternoon and show our appreciation for the hard work of the Eastport Volunteer Fire Company.

Food Pantry News

The focus for our April pantry is **toilet tissue**. Stop by the church office or bring your contributions to church on Sunday. Pantry date is April 19th.



Look at what you did in March – we're grateful for your enthusiastic response each month. Thank you!



Don't forget Greenscape is Sunday, April 27 after service. Bring your favorite gardening gloves.

Please keep all our workers and volunteers in your prayers to stay safe while they do repairs on our church. If anyone has any extra time and can help with church gardens, lawns, and maintenance, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Joanne or Jerry Christofel at msjohara@yahoo.com or 410-703-0159.

~ Joanne Christofel

Yard & Church Maintenance

We received several estimates this month for work: Ruff Roofing for roof leaks, carpet replacement for chapel, outside work (concrete sidewalk and window repairs). We spoke with T-Mobile about changes to steeple for the upcoming equipment upgrade in May. We reported to the city the need for the street gutters to be cleaned by the street sweeper. I spoke with the Navy midshipmen who helped us last fall but who are unable to help this spring. They passed on to the commander that we would love to have them again next fall (different mids). Hopefully they will remember. They recommended another group at the academy who may be able to help this spring. I emailed them. I spent several hours cleaning up yard, cutting back sedum joys, lirioppe, roses, pulling up weeds, etc. We took items that are not being picked up at pantry days to Habitat for Humanity: hose reel, grill, storage boxes, etc. We dug up 2 trash trees in rose garden. We tightened up hinges on main doors to sanctuary again. We will pull off hinges and fix properly in April. We replaced burned out bulb in bathroom switch and ordered more bulbs.

Taco Success!

Excellent food and great company were on the menu at our Tacos Together event in March. We should do this more often! Thanks to all who attended, cooked, set up and cleaned up. Special thanks to our Admin Council for hosting.



The Sonic Edge



On Sunday, May 4 from 4 pm - 6 pm, Ravita Jazz and guest saxophonist Herb Scott will perform "Video

Game Music: the Sonic Edge" in a free, family friendly afternoon concert. Listeners of all ages will have the opportunity to enjoy some of the best gaming music ever written.

Gamers can enjoy hearing musical compositions from their favorite games in their entirety - to fully appreciate the unique melodies and rhythms and changes in key and tempo. Non-gamers will get a fascinating introduction to a new genre that embraces multiple genres such as classical music, jazz, funk, pop, rock and Latin styles.

Among the pop tunes are the "Angry Birds Theme" and "Kokiri Forest" from The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time. On the jazzier side are the Kendo composition "Overworld" from Super Mario World and "Rainbow Road" a composition from Super Mario Kart 8. This is just a sample. There's more in store!

The concert is hosted by Eastport United Methodist Church in partnership with Annapolis Jazz & Roots. EUMC is a beautiful venue with a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere and wheelchair access. Free and convenient on-site parking is available in back of the church. The address is 926 Bay Ridge Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403. Drivers may want to use Forest Drive to avoid the first block of West Street, which will be closed until 6 pm on that day.

This free concert is made possible by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. Reservations are strongly advised. For tickets, visit <https://www.instantseats.com> and select Ravita Jazz to ensure your seats (the short link is: <https://instnt.us/AJRF>). Please consider making a small donation to help fund free events like this and the Annapolis Jazz & Roots Festival in November. Note: in the event of a sellout, call 410-263-5490 or 410-972-7325 for ticket availability.

Move it! Move it! Move it!

Join Leandra from Dancing Feet Fitness for a gentle *Cardio Chair Workout* on Wednesdays 9 - 9:45 am, or challenge yourself with the *Build a Better You Bootcamp!* Fridays from 8 - 8:45 am. Classes are \$8 each, or get a 5-class pass for \$30. EUMC members enjoy a free class during the last week of every month! Email Leandra at: dancingfeetfitness@gmail.com

Centro de Ayuda Wraps Up Successful Winter ESL Session!

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Eastport United Methodist Church
Wednesdays at 10 am
Tuesday & Thursday 10 am



Contact Centro de Ayuda
410-295-3434
centerofhelp.org/

Centro de Ayuda (Center of Help) concluded its final English as a Second Language (ESL) class for the winter session. The program, a beacon of support and community, has once again proven its impact on the lives of local residents.

According to organizers, this winter's session was particularly fruitful, welcoming four new students alongside the dedicated returning learners. The progress observed was remarkable, with students demonstrating significant gains in English speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension. But more than just language acquisition, the class fostered a vibrant and supportive community.

"This has been a very good session," reported the instructors, "with students making good progress and gaining more confidence. They definitely have come together as a diverse and mutually supportive community." This diversity was a highlight, with students hailing from seven different countries and representing three native languages: Urdu, Spanish, and Ukrainian. This rich tapestry of cultures created a unique and enriching learning environment.

The instructors, clearly passionate about their work, expressed their deep satisfaction with the session. "Eileen and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with these dedicated English language learners," they shared. They also extended their heartfelt gratitude to the EUMC congregation for their invaluable support.

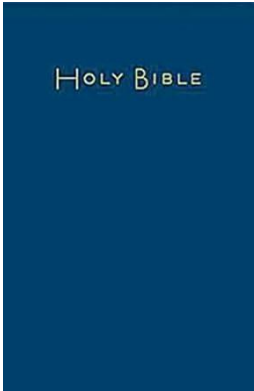
"We are very grateful to the EUMC congregation for your generosity in allowing classes to be held in the building. The space is ideal and has been essential to our being able to provide these classes."

The success of the winter session underscores the importance of community-based ESL programs in empowering individuals and building bridges across cultures. Centro de Ayuda plans to resume classes in the coming months, offering another opportunity for individuals to enhance their English skills and connect with their community. Stay tuned for announcements regarding the start of the next session!

We look forward to using them in worship and in our daily lives as we strive to live out God's love.

Pull up a chair with the Divine Diners!
We meet for lunch at Sammy's on the *second* Tuesday at 12 pm; and dinner at Adam's (across the street) on the *fourth* Tuesday at 5:30 pm.

A Legacy of Faith: New Pew Bibles Arrive!



HOLY BIBLE

We are thrilled to announce that new pew Bibles have arrived at our church, a testament to the generosity and enduring spirit of our community! Thanks to the faithful contributions made to the memorial fund over the years, we have been able to purchase a set of beautiful, hardback *Common English Bible (CEB) Pew Bible Large Print* in a calming navy blue.

These new Bibles will serve as a vital resource for our worship services, providing clear and accessible scripture for all who gather. The large print format will be particularly beneficial for those who find smaller text challenging, ensuring that everyone can fully participate in our shared worship experience. The memorial fund, established to honor the lives of loved ones who have passed, continues to bless our congregation in tangible ways. These new Bibles are a powerful reminder of the lasting impact of their faith and the ongoing legacy they leave behind. We will dedicate these new Bibles during an upcoming worship service.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our community and the ways in which we are able to honor and remember those who have gone before us. These new Bibles are a symbol of our shared faith and a tool to further our spiritual journey together.



There is still time to make a dedication for the Easter Sunday bulletin by purchasing a lily or donating to our food pantry. See form below. Deadline for submission is April 13.

April Anniversaries



- Apr 5 Linda & Hillard Harrison
Apr 7 Mary Jane & Jim Finkle
Apr 16 Lindsey & David M. Owen
Apr 23 Kathy & Steve Duckett

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



April Birthdays





- Apr 2 Butch Stevens
Joe Nasatka
Apr 6 David M. Owen
Apr 7 Jason Wilcox
Apr 12 Sophia Hughes
Jessie Keller
Apr 19 Scott Hughes
Apr 25 Katie Willie
Apr 26 Liam Smith
Traci DuPlayee
Apr 27 Jim Finkle
Apr 29 Evie Swink
Guy Goddard



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
		1 Homework & Reading 4pm UMW Dinner 5:30pm	2	3 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	4 Friday Group 9am	5
6 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am	8	4 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Lunch 12pm @Sammy's	9	10 Homework & Reading 4pm Dye Eggs Egg Hunt! Choir 7pm	11 Friday Group 9am	12
13 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Palm Sunday Service 10am Sunday School	14	15	16	17 Maundy Thurs Service 7pm	18 Friday Group 9am Good Friday Service 12pm	19 Community Food & Diaper Pantry 11am (Setup 10am)
20 Sunrise Service 6am  Sanctuary Service 10am	21	22 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Adams 5:30pm Admin Council 7pm	23	24 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	25 Friday Group 9am 	26
27 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School GREENSCAPE	28	29 Homework & Reading 4pm	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



AFTER SCHOOL W/ CHARTING CAREERS 3PM
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS 7 PM

TUESDAY



ESL CLASSES W/ CENTRO DE AYUDA 10 AM
HOMEWORK & READING PROGRAM 4 PM
DIVINE DINERS 2ND TUES, 12 PM;
DIVINE DINERS 4TH TUES, 5:30 PM.

WEDNESDAY



ESL CLASSES W/ CENTRO DE AYUDA 10 AM
AFTER SCHOOL W/ CHARTING CAREERS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 8:30 PM

THURSDAY



ESL CLASSES W/ CENTRO DE AYUDA 10 AM
HOMEWORK & READING PROGRAM 4 PM
ARTS & ROBOTICS W/ MD HALL 5 PM
EUMC CHOIR REHEARSAL 7 PM

FRIDAY



SMALL GROUP W/ RACHEL 9 AM
EUMC BAND REHEARSAL 10 AM
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 7 PM
MY BROTHER'S KEEPER MENTORING 6 PM

SATURDAY



COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY 3RD SAT, 10 AM

Flowers are
\$25.00 each.

Food Pantry & Easter Lily Dedications

Please print exactly as you would like it in the bulletin:

In memory of:

|

Given By:

In honor of:

Given By:

Number of Flowers: _____ (x \$25.00 each)

Flower Amount \$ _____

Food Pantry Donation Amount \$ _____

Today's Date _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Make checks
payable to "EUMC."

cash check



**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.
www.eastportumc.org**