



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

March 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,

Last month, we talked about Lent, about dust and honesty and grace

This month, we’re stepping deeper into the journey.

Lent has a way of slowing us down, whether we like it or not. The days stretch a little quieter. The questions get a little more personal. We start noticing what distracts us. We begin to see what we cling to. And somewhere in the middle of it all, God meets us there.

If Lent begins with ashes, it moves us toward love.

As we make our way toward Holy Week, we remember that faith is not just something we think about—it’s something we walk through. We will wave palms and shout “Hosanna!” on Palm Sunday. We will gather at the Table on Maundy Thursday and hear again Jesus’ command to love one another. We will stand at the cross on Good Friday and face the depth of suffering and the depth of God’s love. (Check the schedule of worship opportunities elsewhere in The Spire.)

Holy Week invites us not to rush past any of it.

It would be easier to skip from parade to resurrection. We prefer lilies to lament. But the Church, in her wisdom, invites us to linger, to sit in the tension, to hold both grief and hope, to trust that even when things look finished, God is not done.

And then comes Easter morning.

We will gather at sunrise and declare that life has the final word. We will sing in the sanctuary and proclaim resurrection hope. Not because suffering

wasn’t real. Not because the cross didn’t happen. But because love is stronger. Because grace keeps showing up. Because the tomb does not win.

If Lent teaches us honesty, Easter teaches us courage.

Courage to believe that new life is possible.
Courage to trust that God is still redeeming what feels broken.
Courage to live as resurrection people in a world that desperately needs hope.

So wherever you find yourself this season, steady in faith or hanging on by a thread, you are invited to walk the rest of the way with us.

There is room for your questions.
There is room for your doubt.
There is room for your hope.

From ashes to alleluias, this is our story.

~ *Grace and peace,*
Pastor Chris

You’re invited to gather in the Chapel on Tuesdays at 11am throughout Lent for a Bible study with Pastor Chris that journeys alongside the scriptures we hear each Sunday.





AfterSchool Learn & Play

Holy Week Schedule

- **Palm Sunday – March 29 at 10 am**
We walk with Jesus through the last moments of his life as we prepare our hearts for the resurrection.
- **Maundy Thursday – April 2 at 7 pm**
We gather around the Table and remember Jesus' command to love one another.
- **Good Friday – April 3 at noon**
We gather around the cross at noon to reflect on the depth of God's love for us.
- **Easter Sunrise Service – April 5, just after 6 am**
Join us at Thomas Point State Park to celebrate the power of life over death.
Dress warmly and bring a lawn chair.
- **Easter Celebration Service – April 5 at 10 am**
- A festive worship service in the church sanctuary celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and God's redeeming love for the world.

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 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. You are welcome to bring a bagged meal and drink; dessert will be provided.

~ Kathy Duckett



Kids in the AfterSchool Learn and Play Program made bird feeders from teacups and placed them, along with seed, on foliage in the church yard. The children especially enjoy arts and crafts.

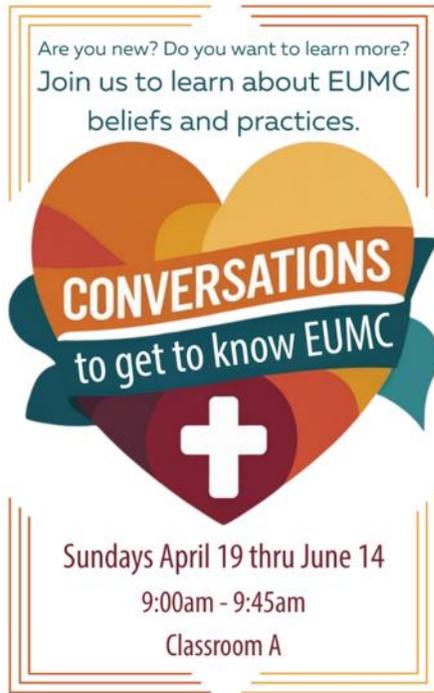
~ Mike Keller



Sunday School

Are you interested in teaching Sunday School once a month? Do you have ideas or suggestions for Children's Ministries? Please reach out to Molly at Estabrook120@icloud.com.

~ Molly Estabrook



March Special Pantry Item

Our focus item for the March 21st food pantry is body wash/soap. You can bring donations to Sunday service or drop by the church office between 9:30 and 2:00 Tuesdays through Fridays.



Church Council Corner

The EUMC Administrative Council continues to look for ways to strengthen our congregation and community. We welcome your ideas and input!



In February, we engaged in a good discussion about our 2026 Goals. The Admin Council is writing proposed goals. After they are drafted, you are invited to participate in approving as well as reaching them.

The Unified Board is taking shape. A few volunteers are drafting Framing Principles to describe the structure and create shared understanding of the new governance model. Everyone will have the opportunity to engage with us before the principles are adopted.

The next Admin Council Meeting is 7pm on March 17. All are welcome to attend.

All comments and questions go to David Emenheiser, Admin Council Chair.

Thanks always to the dedication and hard work of all our Food Pantry volunteers. You are what it means to “make a difference.”

Easter Dedications

Lilies from BruMar Gardens will grace our sanctuary for Easter again this year. You are invited to make a dedication by purchasing a lily for \$25 or by making a contribution to our food pantry. There is an order form below in this newsletter, and forms will be available in church on Sundays. Please put them in the offering plates or drop them by the church office no later than April 1st. You may take your lilies home on Easter Sunday.



~ Jill Peddicord

Operation Tipping Point

For the last year or so, a covert plot has been underway to create a wave of hope.

We all know the world can feel overwhelming sometimes. We see the problems – the injustices, the negativity – and it's easy to feel powerless. But we also know that even small gestures can make a big difference. That's where Operation Tipping Point has been on the move.



It's simple, a small group of people gather to share a meal together at a restaurant right here in our neighborhood. We enjoy some food, each other's company, and then, we do something extraordinary. Each participant contributes \$20 towards a tip for our server, and (thanks to a special contribution) Eastport United Methodist Church will match that amount, doubling our impact!

The looks on our server's faces when they receive a \$200 tip is so rewarding. We present it with a simple message of who we are (what church we're from) and why we're doing this.

This isn't just about the money; it's about sharing a moment of hope, a reminder that even in a challenging world, kindness prevails. It's about being a messenger of hope, just as Jesus called us to be.

We're looking for four volunteers to join us in this simple, yet powerful act. It's an opportunity to connect with others, share a meal, and be a part of something truly meaningful. Let's work together to create a "tipping point" of kindness in our community. Are you ready to join us and be a part of spreading hope?

Pull up a chair. Contact Phil Kaplan ([pgk1979 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:pgk1979@gmail.com))

Methodist History 101, part 1

From Pulpits to Fields: How John Wesley Ignited a Revival Flame in America

 The 18th century witnessed a spiritual awakening unlike any other in England. At the heart of this revival stood John Wesley, a man whose fervent preaching and unwavering faith ignited a movement that would eventually cross the Atlantic and leave an indelible mark on American Christianity – Methodism.

A Family Steeped in Faith:

John Wesley wasn't born into a typical 18th-century household. His father, Samuel Wesley, was a Church of England priest known for his intellect and strong moral character. John's mother, Susanna, was the daughter of a well-respected Puritan minister. This combination of intellectual rigor and deep piety had a profound impact on young John.

Susanna Wesley, a remarkable woman in her own right, was a dedicated educator who ensured her 19 children received a thorough education in the Christian faith. She meticulously documented their daily routines, emphasizing prayer, scripture study, and moral conduct. This strict upbringing instilled in John a strong work ethic, a deep respect for scripture, and a lifelong commitment to Christian principles.

From Scholar to Reluctant Evangelist:

Born in 1703, John Wesley followed a traditional path, excelling in his studies at Oxford University and entering the ministry. Initially, he approached his faith with a scholarly focus, emphasizing theological arguments and proper conduct. However, a pivotal experience in 1738, often referred to as his "Aldersgate experience," transformed him.

He recounted a profound sense of God's grace flooding his heart, sparking a passion for personal conversion and a fervent desire to share it with others. This experience marked a significant shift in his approach to faith, moving from intellectual assent to a deeply personal encounter with God's love.

The Pillars of Wesleyan Theology:

John Wesley's brand of Christianity, heavily influenced by the teachings of John Calvin and the Moravian Christians, became known as Wesleyan

theology. Here are some key tenets that fueled the Methodist revival:

- **Justification by Faith:** Wesley emphasized salvation as a gift received through faith in Jesus Christ, not earned through good works. This message resonated deeply with people yearning for a more personal connection with God.
- **Holiness of Heart and Life:** While justification by faith was the starting point, Wesley stressed the importance of living a holy life, characterized by good works and a commitment to Christian principles.
- **New Birth:** Central to the Methodist experience was the concept of a "new birth," a moment of conversion where one is transformed by God's grace and empowered to live a holy life.
- **Christian Perfection:** Wesley believed that through ongoing Christian practices and reliance on God's grace, believers could achieve a state of "Christian perfection," characterized by love for God and neighbor.

Spreading the Flame: The Rise of Methodism

John Wesley, alongside his brother Charles, a gifted hymn writer, adopted unconventional methods. They held open-air meetings, a stark contrast to the formal church services of the time. These "field preachings" drew large crowds, captivating audiences with passionate sermons and heartfelt hymns.

Methodism also emphasized the importance of small group meetings, known as "societies," where believers could support and encourage one another in their faith journey. This focus on fellowship and accountability further fueled the movement's growth.

John Wesley's unwavering faith and innovative approach to ministry, shaped by his upbringing in a deeply religious household, sparked a revival that transcended the boundaries of England. American Methodism, with its emphasis on personal conversion, social justice, and a focus on both faith and good works, would become a dominant force in shaping American Christianity. The legacy of John Wesley and Francis Asbury lives on in the vibrant Methodist churches across the United States, a testament to the enduring power of the Methodist revival flame.

March Birthdays



| | |
|--------|---|
| Mar 3 | Jean Wilcox Katherine Wilcox |
| Mar 5 | Molly Estabrook Ernie Schultz Stephen Jones |
| Mar 9 | Carol Ann Stevens |
| Mar 10 | Andy Little |
| Mar 11 | Chris Broadwell |
| Mar 13 | Jill Peddicord |
| Mar 14 | Vern Renshaw |
| Mar 18 | Sue Hadaway |
| Mar 19 | Eric Smaridge |
| Mar 26 | Barbara Nutwell |
| Mar 27 | Catherine Elliott |
| Mar 29 | Thomas Owen |
| Mar 31 | Jennifer Smith Sue Nasatka |

March Anniversaries



| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| Mar 16 | Ernie & Virginia Schultz |
| Mar 31 | Rawle Green & Barbara Schwarz |





Daylight Savings Time Returns March 8th

Church Merch

Let your faith shine wherever you go with our church T-shirts! We have several unique options to choose from, all featuring uplifting messages and inspiring imagery. Whether you're looking for a classic design to wear to a festival or something suitable for everyday wear, we have something for everyone.



<http://bonfire.com/store/friends-of-eumc/>

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



Opportunities to Give

Thank you for your efforts to help provide donated items for our Little Free Pantry. For this walk-up emergency food source, priority items are those that do not require other supplies or equipment to prepare. We have had continuing demand, and it tends to empty out rather quickly.

****We especially need pop top cans.****
Items that disappear most quickly include hearty soups, proteins like chicken and tuna (in pouches or pop top cans) peanut butter, chili, baked beans, and SpaghettiOs for kids. Packages of ramen, and instant oatmeal are also needed.



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

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am | 2 | 3 Lenten Study 11am Learn&Play 4pm United Women 5:30pm | 4 | 5 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Learn&Play 4pm Choir 7pm | 6 Praise Band 10am | 7 Set Clocks Ahead Tonight |
| 8 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School | 9 | 10 Lenten Study 11am Divine Diners Lunch 12pm @Sammy's Learn&Play 4pm Finance Mtg 7pm | 11 | 12 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Learn&Play 4pm Men's Group 7pm Choir 7pm | 13 Praise Band 10am | 14 |
| Daylight Savings Time | | | | | | |
| 15 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am | 16 | 17  Lenten Study 11am Learn&Play 4pm Admin Council 7pm | 18 | 19 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Learn&Play 4pm Choir 7pm | 20 Praise Band 10am | 21 Charting Careers Innovation Hub 9 to 11am Community Food & Diaper Pantry 11am (Setup 10am) |
| 22 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School | 23 | 24 Lenten Study 11am Learn&Play 4pm Divine Diners Adam's 5:30pm | 25 | 26 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Learn&Play 4pm Choir 7pm | 27 Praise Band 10am |  |
| 29 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am PALM SUNDAY | 30 | 31 Lenten Study 11am | | | | |

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

Please have your forms and contributions to the church office by April 1st.



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
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
DIVINE DINERS 4TH TUES, 5:30 PM
ACADEMY BALLET 4-9 PM

WEDNESDAY

→

CHAIR CARDIO EXERCISE CLASS 9 AM
AFTER SCHOOL W/ CHARTING CAREERS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 8:30 PM
ACADEMY BALLET 4-9 PM

THURSDAY

→

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

FRIDAY

→

BUILD A BETTER YOU BOOTCAMP 8 AM
SMALL GROUP 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
LA IGLESIA ADVENTISTA DEL SÉPTIMO DÍA 9 AM

**Eastport United Methodist Church
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Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
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