



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

August 2023

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

Small Things with Great Love

When I arrive to the church in the early morning, there’s no telling what I’ll find on the office porch. Sometimes it’s a FedEx package, or a stack of books for the after-school reading club or #littlefreelibrary, a warm jacket for #JustOneSweater. Sometimes an empty can of Natural Ice or other items capable of inducing pearl clutching by more refined audiences. For several years I’ve found carefully stacked cardboard boxes ready for use in our community food pantry. Every now and then I arrive to find a new friend who found refuge overnight. These things aren’t abnormal for churches, especially those in urban environments, but it’s not really something that’s worth talking about unless it’s exceptionally unusual.



This morning was different. I was struck by the beauty of the offerings on the porch. The first, a small paper bag filled with canned goods—pumpkin purée, sliced carrots, tinned albacore, sanitizer wipes, very off-brand peanut butter...

seemingly from a guest of another nearby food pantry (St. Luke's Eastport).

Someone found what they needed at that food pantry and knowing that we also host a monthly pantry decided to not to trash the unneeded items, but leave them for us to share with others. The second gift(s): a quarter, a nickel, and a penny. Thirty-one cents in the mail slot. Odd. Maybe it’s the same person who occasionally slips a few singles in there, she once introduced herself and told me “the church had

blessed me and I just wanted to return a blessing,” who knows....

I’m reminded of the loaves and the fishes, and of the woman in Mark’s gospel who, neglected by the religious elite, gave all that she had to God an act of perfect love and sacrifice. Thirty-one cents. A few cans and a box of macaroni. A beautiful gift thru the mail slot. Is it going to touch the shortfall of our already bare bones budget? No, it does a lot more than that. Those gifts will resonate powerfully throughout our church. Those gifts are enough of an affirmation to me that our church is in the right place. I worry that explaining the depth of this moment may diminish its essence. Yet, I can’t help but share the extraordinary nature of these small acts done with great love.

Thank you, mystery givers, for blessing me and our neighbors in more ways than you could ever imagine.

God, You reveal yourself to us in so many subversive and unassuming ways. Give us the eyes to see the miracles and resurrection that happen every day. Amen.

~ Pastor Chris

Divine Diners



Everyone is invited to join Eastport UMC's new group, "Divine Diners," for drop-in dining. The group will meet twice a month for food, fun, and fellowship.

On the **second Tuesday** of each month, the Divine Diners Lunch Bunch will meet at Sammy's in Eastport Shopping Center at noon. On the **fourth Tuesday** of the month, the Divine Diners Supper Club will meet at 5:30 pm at Jack's Fortune in the

Bay Ridge Shopping Center, alternating with Adam's in the Eastport Shopping Center. No reservation is needed, just come join in for a mid-week meal and a visit with friends.

Dates for the month of August are Tuesday, August 8th for lunch, and Tuesday, August 22nd for dinner. Dates for the month of September are Tuesday, September 12th for lunch and Tuesday, September 26th for dinner.

For questions, contact Ruth Gibbons ruthgibbons2020@gmail.com, or Elaine Fors-MacKellar forsdavis@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU for your generosity! We have collected \$1,400 to support our family at Fowler UMC on Bestgate. They recently suffered a tremendous act of vandalism and this is just a small gift to remind them that they are not alone.

Garden and Maintenance News



We are still working on lowering the electric bill at church. Our latest project was to put beautiful wood blinds on the windows in the hallway, clean the air filters and the leaking condensation line on the refrigerator, and put water filled milk jugs in the freezer. Thanks to everyone, especially Steve Duckett, who opens and closes the shutters. Saving money on electricity and helping the environment!

Grass is being cut and weed-wacked and sidewalks edged and sprayed with weed killer. Half the weeds laughed at our last weed killer attempt so we need to do it again with something stronger! Thanks to Barbara Krebs for helping me to weed the kid's

playground again and thanks to Donna Armstrong for weeding 2 gardens.

We fixed 2 sinks, unclogged 2 toilets, cleaned the underside of the push mower, trimmed trees, rehung an outside banner, sprayed and repaired trim damaged by ants, and cleaned out pop-up drains. We walked around in the last big rainstorm and saw how the new drip line on the steeple and diverter over the main doors is working well to divert the rain off the wood trim and bricks of the church.

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 garden and maintenance, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Joanne or Jerry Christofel at msjohara@yahoo.com or 410-295-5474

~ Joanne Christofel

Those Hillsmere Swimmers

We were able to host the end-of-season party and awards ceremony for the Hillsmere Hammerheads swim team on July 25th. We can't tell you how many people were there because we'd be confessing to being over our occupancy limit.



We're glad to host events for our community. Call the office if you need a space for a meeting or party.

Moon Dance Held at EUMC

On July 20th we witnessed the beautiful God-given talents of a quartet led by Theresa Sise. The standing-room-only event inspired us to passionately care for our own gifts, just as these artists have cared for theirs.

During the concert we celebrated the anniversary of the 1969 Apollo space mission that sent three American astronauts to the moon! We heard music associated with that epic voyage such as "Fly Me to the Moon," "Everyday People," Van Morrison's timeless "Moondance" and classics like "It's Only a Paper Moon," which added a touch of nostalgia. Thank you Theresa Sise and Paulina Phillips for sharing your gifts!

The event raised funds for the Annapolis Jazz & Roots Festival to be held on two weekends from November 3-12, 2023. International and regional performing artists perform at free and ticketed events for adults and families. This is our second year as a venue partner and some of the concerts will take place right here in our church. Stay tuned for more details.



Are You Connected?

Did you join in on some of the many opportunities for fellowship here at EUMC? Here is a quick review so far in the first half of the year:



- Homework & Reading help for our neighborhood children (twice a week)
- Monthly Food and Diaper Pantry
- Monthly United Methodist Women/Women in Faith gatherings
- Spirited-filled Lenten Study groups
- Easter!
- Jazz Concert
- The Annapolis Pride Parade
- Coffee and snacks after Sunday services
- Super Simple Super Bowl Soup Lunch
- Ice Cream Socials

- Sunday School/Conversations in Faith
- Maintenance and Garden upkeep/Greenscape
- Choir, Praise Band, Handbell Choir
- Splashport
- Countless events held by our community partner building users

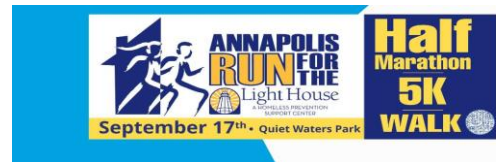
If you have questions about any of these fellowship connections, please reach out to the Pastor or the church office and we'll get you connected!

Butterfly Brigade



Hello friends! I'm Rachel. You might recognize me from being one of the new faces to join the EUMC choir or from walking around Eastport. For the past two years, I've been on a weight loss metamorphosis losing nearly eighty pounds, with still many more to go! This transformation has been bolstered by my profession: dog-walking! On average I walk 8-12 miles a day, incorporating some jogging and running during paw-rambulations with my canine companions.

To challenge myself, I decided to train for an upcoming 5k. Within the first training sessions -- to my astonishment! -- I could comfortably run that distance. With that milestone behind me so early on, I decided to lean fully into a new distance and endurance frontier: training for my first half-marathon!



I'm excited to share that I'm participating in the *Annapolis Run for The Light House Half Marathon* on September 17. All proceeds from this race benefit The Annapolis Light House, a local 501c3 that supports our most vulnerable neighbors, helping them receive job training and safe housing.

The initial fundraising goal I set in April was \$2,500. Thanks to over 60 donors I met that goal July 7th and continue to **surpass** it. So I'm inviting you to join me

in reaching my new goal of \$5,000. I know we can do it!



So... why the name *Butterfly Brigade*? Well, not only does the butterfly's metamorphosis from

ground-dwelling to flight-taking fit in well with my own process of self-transformation, but it also expresses the power and potency of small, steady, and serious changes. I believe in showing up for ourselves in order to attain our highest expression of being, so that we may show up for others; so that we may augment one another. No matter where we're starting from; no matter how long, or for what reasons we've been stagnant.

On the day of the run, I will wear a pair of butterfly wings. For each donor, I will tie a ribbon to the wings, so that you all can run with me to symbolize what we will have achieved together! Will you help me take this step towards transforming myself by donating towards an incredible cause transforming our community? Will you become a member of my Butterfly Brigade?

Links to donate: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/153489851018108/> or <https://www.annapolisrunforthelighthouse.org/butterflybrigade> ~ Rachel

Keeping Us Safe and Informed

In the Fall of 2022, the Trustees and Administrative Council began having discussions and came up with a series of ideas to help keep us all safe in 2023. This is a review of our efforts in the first half of the year.

We updated our Emergency Response Plan with the Annapolis Police and Office of Emergency Management. A copy was distributed to the Trustees and the Admin Council and is available in the church office.

In January, we hosted a presentation called **CRASE** (Citizen Response to Active Shooter Events). It was built on the **Avoid, Deny, Defend** strategy and we learned history of incidents and some concrete

citizen response options. One big takeaway was that it is important to have a plan and act! Don't hesitate.

Also in January, we received word that the Eastport Volunteer Fire Department selected Eastport United Methodist Church, Mt Zion United Methodist Church and Peerless Rens to be the first recipients of AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators). On July 26th, the first group of community members attended training on the devices. EVFD hopes our device will be delivered to us in August.



At the end of March, the Annapolis Fire Department presented **Your Life Matters**. We received information on overdose recognition, Narcan administration and hands-only CPR. Seconds count in a medical emergency and there are ways we can help.

In June, the Annapolis Police Department presented information about frauds, scams, phishing, and personal security on the internet. It's a topic that has affected many of us and was very timely information.

This fall we are working on a presentation from Anne Arundel County Crisis Response System, also known as **Community Warmline**. They respond to county residents in crisis with supportive assistance and links to resources within the community. Some of the topics they address are complex mental health issues and homelessness. Stay tuned for more

Every day it seems like we hear of some new piece of heartbreaking news in our community. Here at EUMC we will continue to learn and use these resources to support our community.



Yoga on the Lawn
Free Yoga on Tuesdays and Fridays
6 am on the front lawn
Donations benefit Community Food Pantry.

We are excited to invite you to Yoga Classes on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6 am. We'll meet on the front lawn of Eastport United Methodist.

Contact Sally for more details (240)753-0087. The class is free and open to the public. Donations collected would benefit the community food pantry.

Let's Chow

Have you ever experienced afghan dumplings?

Yeah, we hadn't either, that is until [Let's Chow](#) pulled up and provided lunch during our community food pantry. We were able to experience an incredible savory dish made by veterans and their spouses. It was a great way to close out a great morning.

We're glad to see Jordan Foley back from his TDY in Pensacola. Jordan is a 2021 graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. He is a father of two, a devoted husband, a former submarine officer and current Navy JAG Officer. He founded the nonprofit, www.LetsChow.org, helping veterans and military spouses start careers in the culinary industry.



LET'S CHOW TRUCK IN THE EUMC PARKING LOT

August Anniversaries



- Aug 5 Richard & Margie Hughes
- Aug 7 John & Debbie Morgan
- Aug 14 Bill Riggs & JoAnn Kulesza
- Aug 21 Thomas & Elizabeth Eicher
- Aug 22 Ed & Sharon Owen

August Birthdays



- Aug 2 Adam Valentine
- Aug 3 Marty Dobbs
- Aug 17 Amanda Somers
- June Stevens
- Colette Krebs
- Aug 18 Isaiah Smith
- Aug 19 Carole Williams
- Aug 20 Ruth Bowen
- Aug 23 Rawle Green
- Aug 28 Lisa Parrish
- Erin Connor
- Aug 29 Albert Stevens
- Tegan Kopp
- Aug 30 Linda Harrison
- Aug 31 Jean Strucko



Grow Annapolis is a 501(c)(3) with a mission to foster and sustain community gardens and urban agriculture programs.



One of the greatest gifts that we experience through the community food pantry is our connection with other groups who want to actively support our efforts. We owe major thanks to our friends down the road at Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library/ Anne Arundel County Public Library for joining us in supporting our families via the community food pantry.

We are also graced with fresh produce from our friends at Grow Annapolis. Grow Annapolis is a collection of community gardens and gardeners throughout the county. Together they have donated 689.2 pounds in 2022 and are on track to donate even more in 2023!

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	2	3	4	5
						
6 Service 10am	7	8 Divine Diners Lunch Bunch 12 noon @ Sammy's	9	10	11	12
						
13 Service 10am	14	15	16	17	18	19
						Food & Diaper Pantry 10:00 am 
20 Service 10am	21	22 Divine Diners Supper Club 5:30pm @Jacks Fortune Admin Council Meeting 7 pm	23	24	25	26
						
27 Service 10am	28	29 Homework & Reading 4 pm Finance Mtg. 7pm	30	31 Homework & Reading 4 pm		
					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> United Methodist Women will resume their dinner meetings on the first Tuesday in September. Stay tuned.... </div>	