



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

November 2024

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

All Saints’ Day: Saints Among Us

A Reflection on the Beatitudes and the 2014 film “St. Vincent”

As we prepare to celebrate All Saints’ Day, we honor the countless saints who have gone before us, their lives a testament to the enduring power of faith. But who are these saints? Are they only the canonized figures of the past? May they be also the ordinary people who, through their love, compassion, and sacrifice, make a difference in our lives?

In one of our previous week’s gospel readings (Mt 5), Jesus outlines the characteristics of the truly blessed. These are not the wealthy, the powerful, or the perfect. Instead, Jesus exalts the humble, the sorrowful, the merciful, and the peacemakers. These are the qualities that define a saint.

The 2014 film starring Bill Murray, *St. Vincent*, offers a poignant exploration of the concept of sainthood. Bill Murray delivers a beautiful performance as Vincent McKenna, a flawed and troubled character who, despite his vices, possesses a deep well of compassion and humanity.



Vincent, a grizzled Vietnam War veteran, is a complex figure. He’s a drunk, a gambler, and a womanizer. Yet, beneath his rough exterior, he yearns for connection and meaning. His unlikely

friendship with a young boy, Oliver, provides him with an opportunity for redemption.

Oliver, a bright and observant child, recognizes the goodness within Vincent, despite his flaws. He nominates Vincent as a “saint of today” in a school project. This act of recognition challenges our preconceived notions of sainthood. It suggests that saints are not merely those who are morally perfect, but also those who strive for goodness, even amidst their imperfections.

The film *St. Vincent* invites us to consider the transformative power of grace. Vincent’s journey, marked by both sin and redemption, mirrors the human experience. We all struggle with our own flaws and failings. Yet, through the grace of God, we can be transformed and renewed.

One of the most powerful scenes in the film occurs when Vincent, in a moment of sobriety and reflection, turns on a garden hose and, as the water flows, begins to sing Dylan’s “Shelter from the Storm.” This simple act, filled with profound symbolism, suggests a spiritual awakening. The water, a traditional symbol of purification and renewal, washes away our misconceptions about Vincent’s and opens us up to the possibility of redemption.

As we reflect on the lives of the saints, let us remember that sainthood is not a distant ideal. It is a call to live a life of love, compassion, and service. It is a call to embrace our imperfections and to strive for holiness.

May the memory of the saints – perfect and flawed – inspire us to live lives of faith, hope, and love.

~ Pastor Chris

All Saints Sunday

Those to whom we said farewell during the past year were honored at our service on November 2nd.

*Suzanna Catherine Finkle
Lotte Larson Meyer
Col. Dionisios Peter Devaris
Dean Allen Cannon
Louise McClelland Urban
Janet Lou Elliott
Gerald P. Crouch
Shirley Ford
Jerry "Poppy" Wilhoit
Richard L. Mason
Nancy White
Ted Bauer
Karl David Alexander
Helen Dix
Shirley Ann Owen (Barham)
Terry Eugene Mullins Sr.
Paul Standridge
Nancy Currier Dorian
Patricia Kulesza
Dominic Cossa
Richard Garrin*



Lessons from the First Continental Congress

From the Journal of John Wesley on October 6, 1774:

"I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them

1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and
3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

Gracious God, In this time of division and strife, we humbly ask for Your guidance and grace. We are fearful. Grant us the wisdom to choose leaders who will serve with integrity and compassion. May we vote with pure intentions, free from bribery and selfish motives. Help us to speak with kindness and respect, even towards those with differing opinions. Help us to look more kindly at the person in the mirror, to love ourselves, our neighbor, and you. May we avoid slander and gossip, and instead seek to understand and empathize. Lord, soften our hearts and sharpen our minds. May we resist the temptation to become bitter and resentful. Instead, let us strive to build bridges of understanding and cooperation. May we remember that we are citizens of Your kingdom first. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

EUMC Thanksgiving Basket Mission

At EUMC, we are committed to providing extra assistance to needy families during the holidays. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support the Thanksgiving Basket Mission of EUMC. No

donation is too small; any amount will be greatly appreciated. Donating is easy. You can contribute to EUMC online at: [Give | Eastport UMC](#) (Budget offering/choose Thanksgiving Fund) or by leaving a



clearly marked donation in the offering basket on Sunday mornings. You may also mail a check to the church at 926 Bay Ridge Ave, Annapolis, MD 21403. Specify "Thanksgiving" on your check.

Our goal is to provide gift cards to 40 families of children spread over four local schools (the schools will identify the families in need). Your generosity will make this happen. We are grateful for your help.

~ Kevin & Sally Hight
Thanksgiving Basket Mission

They have cleaned up the driveway, parking lot, columbarium area,



United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, November 5, 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. ~ Kathy Duckett

November Garden & Maintenance

Please put our fall clean-up day on your calendar, Sunday, November 17, after church service.

We dismantled the Skee-ball machine in the basement and delivered it to the West River Methodist Camp. They were delighted with their new game for the children. Repairs continue on the playground equipment and Little Library. We have been building stairs on the roof to make access to equipment easier. We have finished cutting grass for the year and have started mulching and collecting leaves now.

We are excited about the Naval Academy midshipmen helping us outside this fall with raking leaves, edging sidewalks, patching holes in the driveway, pulling weeds in the playground, and other chores on Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30pm.



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

~ Joanne Christofel



Pumpkin Carving Fun



We had such a great day and the best pumpkins!!!



learning center appropriate for all ages. The children have an open invitation to return in the spring when the plants will be in bloom.



Homework & Reading

Homework Children Take Field Trip to St. Luke's Nature Project: St. Luke's Episcopal Church invited the children in our Homework & Reading Program to take a "field trip" to explore its Restoration of Nature and to walk its Eastport Memorial Labyrinth. Nearly all of kids in the program attended and had a thoroughly enjoyable experience touring the grounds with the support of volunteers from St. Luke's and the Homework program. The Restoration, a four-acre comprehensive watershed, has created quality green space for the Eastport community in a park-like setting, which doubles as an outdoor environmental

And the children had a tennis lesson from the husband of Judy Gonsalves, one of the community volunteers. ~ Mike Keller

Congratulations Runners!

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievements of two of our dedicated members, Emily Roney and Will Cunha, who have recently completed significant marathons!

Emily Roney completed the Marine Corps Marathon on October 27, showcasing her determination and spirit. We are also excited to share the wonderful news that Emily and her family are expecting a little boy in May! What a blessing for



our church community!

Will, on the other hand, took on the New York City Marathon on November 3, marking his fifth completion of the six world marathon majors. His commitment to running and his passion for the sport are truly inspiring.

Let us all come together to congratulate Emily and Will on their remarkable accomplishments and unwavering dedication! They serve as a reminder of the strength and resilience that we can all strive for in our own lives.

A Time...to Retire



After 18 seasons at the helm of the Arundel Vocal Arts Society, I will pass the baton onto the chosen successor of AVAS for the '24-'25 concert season. But, before that, my penultimate concert will be November 17th at 3:00 pm at Gloria Dei ELCA. *A Musical Gallimaufry* will feature some of my favorite choral compositions, from spirituals to African Christmas works to an audience participation piano duet of 'Sleigh Ride'. As always, a sumptuous reception will follow. Come and enjoy a relaxing, joyful afternoon of beautiful, joyful choral works. Tickets (\$25 for adults, children: free!) can be purchased from Charlotte Kerns or online at www.arundelvocalarts.org. Hope to see you there!

~ JoAnn Kulesza

Fire Chaplains Memorial Service



It was with great humility and gratitude that we hosted the International Federation of Fire Chaplains Annual Memorial Service. We gathered not only to remember those who have bravely served but also to honor the enduring legacy of care and compassion that they exemplified.

In attendance were many chaplains, firefighters, first responders and their families. We took time to thank them for their unwavering dedication and selflessness. Their commitment to serving our

communities and supporting one another is a testament to the spirit of love and sacrifice that binds us all together.

We were invited to reflect on the lives and contributions of those we honor today, known and unknown so that we are reminded of the profound impact that each act of service can have. Our director of Music JoAnn Kulesza led the Choir and Handbell Choir of EUMC in song that underscored the sense of unity and inspired us to continue this vital work with renewed vigor and compassion.

We are grateful to offer our space to serve our greater community in ways we hadn't imagined.

~ Pastor Chris

Food Pantry Needs

Our November food pantry special collection is laundry detergent. If you can, pick up an extra one when you go shopping this week and bring it to church next Sunday. Or you can try Rachel's easy-way:



<https://tinyurl.com/novemberpantrycollection>.

Pictured below is the bounty of dental hygiene products you donated to last month's pantry. Thank you!!



Church Spirit Wear!
5 different designs,
endless colors & styles.

Shop at our shop:
bonfire.com/store/friends-of-eumc

THERE ARE LONG SLEEVED SHIRTS AND HOODIES
AVAILABLE FOR COLDER WEATHER.



SOMETIMES JOANN HAS TROUBLE REIGNING IN THE HAND BELL CHOIR.

November Birthdays



Nov 4 Christina Valentine
Nov 7 Sally Malamphy
Nov 9 Mei-jen Hong-Hillary
Nov 10 Steve Ploof
Nov 12 Curtis Clary
Nov 14 Bill Riggs
Nov 15 Robert Gibbons III
Lindsey Owen
Nov 15 Holly Green
Nov 17 Kevin Hight
Nov 27 Kathy Duckett
Finn Smith
Nov 28 John "Bo" Morgan

Reminder: November 17th
is a work day after church
service. Joanne & Jerry
Christofel would love to
have any help you're able to give.



November Anniversaries



Nov 14 Guy & Lynn Goddard
Nov 27 Stephen & Sherrie Ugolini
Nov 30 Chris & Smith Broadwell



THERE IS
always, always,
ALWAYS
something
to be thankful for

The Spire is published monthly by Eastport
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 SET CLOCKS BACK
3 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am	4	5 Homework & Reading 4pm VOTE ! UMW 5:30pm	6	7 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	8	9
10 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School	11 	12 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Lunch 12pm @Sammy's	13	14 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	15	16 Community Food & Diaper Pantry 11am (Setup 10am)
17 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Church cleanup AVAS concert 3pm	18	19 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Supper Club Adam's 5:30pm Admin Council 7pm	20	21 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	22	23
24 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School	25	26 Homework & Reading 4pm	27	28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 	29 Native American Heritage Day 	30

UMW Women in Faith next meeting: December 3, 5:30pm

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

**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**