



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

August 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

Luminis Hospital Chapel



We pray to embody the antidote to the rage, the entitlement, and the lust for destruction that fuel the violence we’ve seen throughout the nation.

Come, Holy Spirit, and heal all that is broken in our lives, in our streets, and in our world.

Guide them as they nurture and shepherd the campers this summer.

God, give these camp staff wisdom as they discern the spiritual, emotional and social needs of the campers they work with. By your grace, may these relationships and their relationships with each other be transformative.

God, bless your children as they accept and live into your call to camping ministry. May your love be magnified through the work of their hands. May they lead and be led in the journey that awaits them.

Bless these campers, God. May their weeks at camp be filled with growth, adventure, faith, and fun. Amen.

August Garden & Maintenance News



We are working on keeping up the yard and flower beds but I sometimes think the crab grass is winning. I had several garden helpers this month and for now we are ahead of the game. Thanks to Barbara Krebs for helping me weed the playground area and a complete stranger who helped me weed the garden in the parking area. Thanks to Mitch Krebs who has been keeping up two gardens while his wife was away taking care of a family member. Bartlett Tree Service has done all but one of the big trees that needed to be trimmed. Six trees had all the deadwood taken out and a cable was installed in one tree that has a split trunk. They have done a great job. Walkways have again been sprayed for weeds too.

A Prayer for Camp

Please join in prayer for Pastor Jenna, who is the assistant director to West River United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center in West River, MD. There



the day and overnight camps are in full swing and a magnificent place of transformation for many.

God, bless the staff as they practice discipleship, as they model Jesus’ life and teachings for others.

Do you remember the two toads we rescued from the church window wells and we took them to our house the past winter? I am happy to say they have survived and we now have baby toads in our yard! They are very cute.

My husband will not be able to help cut grass for the month of August. If anyone has any extra time and can help me cut grass, weed, or pick up trash, I would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Joanne or Jerry Christofel at msjohara@yahoo.com or 410-295-5474. ~ Joanne Christofel

Hey, Martha ... Where Are the Solo Cups?

The story of Martha and Mary has been on my mind recently. You see, when my stepmother died, I was thrust (not unexpectedly but definitely reluctantly) into the role of “woman in charge of the house.” That meant coordinating with the church ladies bringing food, the funeral director bringing flowers, the out-of-town relatives needing lodging, the friends stopping by, phone calls, sympathy cards, thank you notes, and every other detail that walked in the door. It was never ending, and it was, frankly, totally exhausting.



And yet it was a very necessary job. I set up a folding table so the church ladies could create a beverage center, and showed them where the pots and pans were so they could heat things up while we attended the service. Afterwards, as our family room filled to the brim, I told the funeral director to hand the plants to me so they could temporarily live on the second-story play room above the family room – the only place I could think of to put them where they wouldn’t be in the crowd’s way (I’m sure the funeral director thought I was nuts as he handed the plants up to me from the ladder). When Dad requested that I pray before the meal, I summoned my theatre voice and immediately had the room’s attention.

But what stood out for me was how much everyone turned to me with questions about *everything*. There was no time to do anything but fulfill my role as hostess. And so, when calm finally descended, when the crowds had finally gone home, the story of

Martha and Mary came to mind. I had definitely been Martha that day. And while I had no Mary counterpart, I felt so sorry for Martha. With constant demands and no time to catch her breath, I totally understood why Martha got so annoyed at Mary, who was simply sitting on her bum listening to Jesus, not lifting a finger to help her overwhelmed sister.

But you know the funny thing? As I reread this passage (Luke 10:38-42), I also became a little annoyed at Jesus. I know, heresy, right? But his abrupt dismissal of Martha’s concerns seemed uncharacteristically harsh. I just wanted to say, hey, dude, give her break. Can’t you see she’s working *her* bottom off with no assistance from anyone? Would it have hurt you to phrase it more gently?

Because, of course, he has a point. Mary is soaking up the Word, directly from the source, while Martha is concerned with feeding a crowd and keeping enough Solo cups out. I get that the two things are not equal. But in my imagination I coach Jesus and say, “You were right to let Martha know that what Mary is doing has the highest priority. But next time, could you phrase it more kindly? How about, ‘I know you’re tired right now, Martha. And you’re the glue that’s holding this room together. Your job is very important, and every one of us appreciates it. But don’t get mad at Mary. She’s also doing a vital job – learning things that will never be taken from her. I tell you what. Come sit down for a moment with me (he pats a cushion beside him gently). I promise you the room won’t fall apart if you take 15 minutes away from cleaning dishes. And you’ll feel the love that is poured out for you, and for all who come to me.’ Yes, Jesus, if you had said it like that, I think it would have really helped Martha understand in a gentle, loving way.”

But since I won’t get a chance to have this little conversation with Jesus, the best I can do is try to balance my Martha side (the major part) with my Mary side (which is practically nonexistent). Take time to smell the roses. Stop rushing through life. Carpe diem.

It won’t be easy for me. I feel best when I am creating order out of chaos. But I am trying to understand the value of absorbing quiet moments of reflection versus constant activity. Like most life lessons, it will have to be learned again and again. Speaking of again, time to put out more Solo cups.

~ Barbara Krebs



Well Done Emma!

In the months of June and July we were supported by an intern through the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. Emma, who calls Linden-Linthicum UMC her home church, helped us collect supplies and invite guests for our food pantry (aka the Lot of Love); organized the open mic night; helped prepare our lower level for summer camp; and helped to launch Splashport! Thank you, Emma, for blessing us with your passion and presence.

Splash-Port Was a Hit!



We were so very blessed to have the chance to meet so many of our neighbors while playing on the slip-n-slide. Thanks to all the grownups who helped make it possible and to all the kids who made it fun. Here's to more water games in the future.

Summer Camp Success!

Ms. T's Helping Hands summer camp at Eastport UMC has continued to be a remarkable success. Word has clearly spread throughout the community about how exceptional Eastport's camp has been resulting in several more kids joining the camp. It's hard to contain excited kids from telling their parents and neighbors about field trips to a bowling alley and weekly swim time at Truxtun, visits with firemen to our neighboring firehouse and Wild Acres petting zoo bringing farm animals to the kids. Who knew our churchyard would morph into a barnyard for an afternoon of joy-filled life enrichment lessons about animals and farms?



I didn't think we would see children any happier than when the churchyard became a barnyard.....but, in week 5 our camp kids visited the Chesapeake Children's Museum.

The museum is a local hidden gem near Truxtun Park, which creates an environment of discovery – about oneself, peoples, technologies, and the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay. There are rooms for the children to discover careers – a dentist operatory, a princess palace, a chef kitchen, and a science discovery room. The kids met an environmentalist who taught them all about the

Chesapeake Bay's critters and waters, including an introduction to a snake. But the best surprise was to come.

The kids were invited to go on a hike in nearby Truxtun Park. And do you know what most of our campers asked? They asked, "Will the bears eat us????!! That's right, city kids have no relationship with woods and forests! The forests are dark and scary and the Three Bears live there with the Big Bad Wolf. Of course, we assume that all kids know about hiking in the woods but that assumes kids leave their city neighborhoods to explore.

What a truly extraordinary, life-enriching opportunity this camp has been for our neighborhood children. They've learned to swim, dance, paint, do yoga, read books, shoot basketballs, and run relays. They've had story time, pizza parties, made homemade ice cream, held a goat, milked a cow, taken selfies with a donkey, and hiked in the woods all in large part to the exceptional generosity of the Neighborhood Children's Education Fund. Camp continues until August 19th. What new treasures await us? Camp ends August 19.

~ Susan Schneider



Multi-Church Vacation Bible School

Pastor Chris along with the Pastors of St. Anne's and First Presbyterian joined forces to lead vacation Bible school earlier in the month of July. You might be surprised to learn that Pastor Chris was responsible for leading the music and singing portion of the week. The central theme of the program was based on scripture and the hymn "Touch the Earth Lightly." Our hope is to invite more children from Eastport to the program next year!

Below is the banner featured in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian. ~ Pastor Chris



The Eastport Volunteer Fire Department and Anne Arundel Medical Center are partnering in a blood drive Friday, August 5th, from 11 am to 5 pm. Please be a blood donor if you can. Tell your family and friends. The bloodmobile will be right here on Jefferson Street between the fire department and the church.



Backpack Give-Away Festival
Saturday, August 13 at 2 pm. Multiple organizations participating including NAACP, bounce house, EUMC, snow cones, face painting, fire trucks, community police, Alliance for the Chesapeake, and Center of Help. Volunteers please come at 1:00 pm.



Open Mic Night

Our Open Mic Night on July 9 was a beautiful way to spend a hot summer night. We experienced some wonderful musical and comedic talents. More Open Mic Nights to come!



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

*Interested in connecting deeper?
Between the ages of 21 and 40 and
interested in hanging out with other
young-ish adults? Contact Pastor Chris
at chris@eastportumc.org to learn more.*

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



The bus trip to see "David" at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Strasburg, PA, is fast approaching (Aug. 23). To check on availability of seats, cost, times, and other details of the trip, please contact Carol Emory at carolemory7@aol.com.

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Blood Drive Bloodmobile Eastport Fire Station 11 to 5 | 6 |
|  | | | | | | |
| 7 Worship 10am | 8 | 9 Admin Council Meeting 7pm In Person Room A | 10 | 11  | 12 | 13 Backpack Giveaway Festival @EUMC 2pm |
| 14 Worship 10am | 15 | 16  | 17 | 18  | 19 | 20 Food Pantry 10:00 am  |
| 21 Worship 10am | 22 | 23 | 24  | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Worship 10am | 29 | 30 Starting up again... Homework & Reading 4pm | 31 |  | | |
| | School Starts!! | | | | | |

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