



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

May 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,

There’s a particular kind of light that shows up in the days after Easter. Not just the bright burst of resurrection morning, but a steadier, lingering glow. It’s the kind of light that doesn’t rush us. It stays. It settles into ordinary moments. And if we’re paying attention, it begins to change how we see everything.

Over the past several weeks, our worship has been walking us right into that light.

We started in the shadows of uncertainty, locked doors, weary hearts, questions that didn’t have easy answers. Again and again, the stories reminded us that resurrection doesn’t arrive in perfect conditions. It breaks in, right where people are: in grief, in doubt, in fear. And each week, we’ve watched as those encounters slowly transformed the people in the story: fear giving way to courage, confusion opening into clarity, isolation turning toward community.

That’s the quiet miracle of Easter: not just that life overcomes death, but that hope keeps showing up, even when we don’t expect it.

And here’s the beautiful thing. This isn’t just something that happened once. It’s happening among us.

You can see it in the life of our church right now. In the ways people are stepping forward to serve. In the laughter shared over meals and the sacred stillness of prayer. In the choir lifting their voices, in children asking big questions, in neighbors showing up for one another in moments of need. These are not small things. This is resurrection life, unfolding in real time.

We are surrounded by opportunities to be part of that story.

Some of those opportunities look like worship: gathering again this Sunday to hear the good news and be shaped by it. Some look like service: offering our time, our gifts, our presence for the sake of others. Some look like simple invitations, reaching out to a friend, a neighbor, someone who might be longing for connection but doesn’t quite know where to find it.

And some opportunities are quieter, more personal: choosing hope when cynicism would be easier, practicing grace in a tense moment, paying attention to where God might be at work in the middle of an ordinary day.

Easter isn’t over. Not by a long shot.

We are still living in it. Still learning what it means. Still being invited to take part in it.

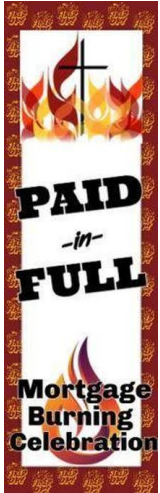
So as we move forward together, may we keep our eyes open for that steady, lingering light. And may we have the courage to step into it over and over, again and again, trusting that the same power that rolled the stone away is still at work, right here, right now, in us.

Christ is risen. And the story is still unfolding.

~ Pastor Chris

A Special Invitation

There are invitations you receive that feel a little bigger than a date on the calendar... this is one of them.



On **Saturday, May 17 at 1:30 PM**, our neighbors at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, a historic African American congregation just down the street, have invited Eastport UMC to join them for a **mortgage burning ceremony**. This is a moment of deep celebration and faithfulness. It is a visible sign of perseverance, sacrifice, and God's provision across generations.

The service will feature a special message from the Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman, District Superintendent of the Two Rivers District, and will be hosted by Pastor Patricia Turnage and the Mt. Zion UMC congregation. Their joy is something they are choosing to share, and we have the opportunity to show up, celebrate, and strengthen the bonds between our communities.

Mortgage burnings carry a powerful legacy in the life of the Church. They are not just financial milestones, they are testimonies. They tell stories of people who gave faithfully, trusted deeply, and built something that would outlast them. To be invited into that, that is a gift.

The service will take place at **612 Second Street, Annapolis, MD 21403**.

If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Pastor Chris. It would be meaningful for Eastport UMC to be present, standing alongside our neighbors in gratitude, celebration.

Come if you can. This is the kind of joy that multiplies when it's shared.

~ Pastor Chris



We Said Goodbye



Barbara Schwarz

September 27, 1940 – April 10, 2026

Barbara was a long-time member of Eastport Church and will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Our deepest sympathies go out to her husband, Rawle Green, and her family and friends.

United Women in Faith



The United Women in Faith will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, May 5, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a 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

HELP WANTED

On Sunday, May 3rd, after service, we're having an EUMC Greenscape event. If you can give a little time, we'd welcome your help spreading mulch and doing some general spring cleanup on our grounds.



Our Graduates

This time of year we love to hear about who's moving on and moving up. Feel free to send more graduate information, along with a picture, for next month's newsletter.



Annie Fowler, child of Molly Estabrook and Tony Fowler, is graduating from UMBC this May. They have earned a BA in History and an Education Certificate qualifying them to teach middle school. Annie was recently granted a Teachers of Promise award by the Maryland State Board of Education. They are hoping to teach Social Studies in an Anne Arundel County middle school in the fall!



Harlee Jones, granddaughter of Brenda and Dallas Jones, will be graduating fifth grade from Hillsmere Elementary. Harlee has been accepted into the S.T.E.M. program at Central Middle School.



Sara Lahoff is graduating with a Master's degree in Chemistry from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She is the niece of Jill Peddicord and granddaughter of Eunice Corse.



Cierra Alexis Ploof graduates from McDonogh School on June 5th. Throughout high school, she participated in basketball and track, while also enjoying opportunities to serve others through community outreach and volunteer work. She plans to attend University of South Carolina in Columbia, where she will major in Political Science with a minor in French. Cierra is the daughter of Jacqueline and Steve Ploof.



Natalie Somers, granddaughter of Brenda and Dallas Jones, will be graduating from the AACPS nursing program at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) this autumn.



Noah Somers, grandson of Brenda and Dallas Jones, will be graduating from eighth grade from the AACPS Virtual Academy. Noah has received several baseball scholarship invitations from private schools in the area and is still undecided.



Adam Valentine, son of Christina Valentine and grandson to Ruth Gibbons, will be graduating from Broadneck High School on June 2, 2026. He will be attending AACC to pursue a career as an electrician just like his grandfather.



Pentecost Worship Picnic – May 24

This year, we're celebrating Pentecost in a way that brings us together in joy, community, and in the fresh air. Join us on Sunday, May 24 for a special outdoor worship service, followed by a church-wide picnic. And we want you there.

We'll gather outside to worship, giving thanks for the Spirit that moves among us, renewing, connecting, and sending us out in love. After worship, we'll continue the celebration with a relaxed cookout picnic. The church will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. We're inviting everyone to help make the meal complete by signing up to bring a side dish or to lend a hand.

Whether you're new, visiting, or have been part of this community for years, there's a place for you at the table. Be sure to sign up on the website below to contribute food or volunteer, and come ready to worship, eat, and enjoy time together.

Volunteer Sign-Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EAEA92FA1F9CE9-63851287-potluck>

Potluck Sign-Up:

<https://app.potluck.us/api/event/ITw-xNq4IJ02/link>

We look forward to celebrating with you.

Stay Tuned



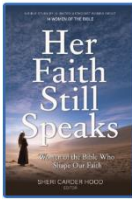
Eastport UMC has a scholarship fund!

A new committee is being formed to support this mission. The purpose of this fund is to identify eligible and needy applicants. Funds will be awarded for persons seeking a degree or certification at an accredited institution of higher learning. Awards may be given in an outright grant or an interest free loan. More information will be coming soon!

~ Tracy Alexander

Summer Book Study

What does it mean for faith to endure—across generations, across hardship, across time?



Her Faith Still Speaks: Women of the Bible Who Shape Our Faith brings together the voices of 14 United Methodist women, including our Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, who explore the lives of biblical women whose stories continue to shape our faith today. Rooted in Scripture and written with pastoral insight and personal reflection, this study invites readers to encounter familiar and often-overlooked women of the Bible in fresh, meaningful ways.

From Hagar, the God-seen woman in the wilderness, to Miriam, who helped lead a people to freedom, to the daughters of Zelophehad, who courageously challenged injustice, each chapter reveals a powerful truth: God is at work not only through the well-known heroes of Scripture, but also through those on the margins, the overlooked, and the underestimated.

Everyone is very welcome and encouraged to join in. Each chapter will be a stand-alone discussion, so please don't think that you must make a long commitment.

This book will be released on May 15th and we will hold our study starting Thursday evenings in June. Please email Jill at peddicorse@msn.com to reserve your book. ~ *Jill Peddicord*



We enjoyed lovely new sounds in a recent worship service. Thank you Amelia. EUMC loves music!

Sunday School

On April 12th the Sunday School class was held in the kitchen. Everyone helped create a dessert to help us remember the Easter message. The marshmallow (Jesus) was sealed in the tomb (crescent rolls) and after they were baked the tombs were empty. Thanks to the kids for helping make this and the lemonade for the church potluck!



April 26th was Good Shepherd Sunday, so the class focused on learning the first part of the 23rd Psalm. The group discussed the role of a shepherd, and how Jesus watches over, provides for, and protects us. The activity was making sheep from marshmallows and pretzel sticks.



Church Council Corner

The **EUMC Unified Board Framing Principles** are written. Pastor Chris is currently reviewing them before we begin holding town halls and other conversations for the congregation and community to understand our new governance structure. They will be adopted at a charge conference in late summer.



The next Admin Council Meeting is **7 pm on May 19**. All are welcome to attend.

The Admin Council is Tim Williams, Jean Strucko, Jill Peddicord, Michael Keller, Ruth Gibbons, Elaine Fors-MacKellar, David Emenheiser, Tonya DeMedici, Neil Bergsman, and Tracy Alexander. All comments and questions go to David Emenheiser, Admin Council Chair.

Conversations to Get to Know EUMC



The Conversations are an informal dialog among curious people new to Eastport UMC and seasoned members. The series ends June 14, 2026.

Attend as many as you can. No registration is required. There will be no exams. We will be basing the conversations from a booklet that will be provided. We meet in Classroom A on the church's lower level at 9:00 AM. We end in time for everyone to migrate to the sanctuary for Sunday worship.

Learn & Play Program

Children in the Learn and Play Program paid a visit to the Eastport Fire Station where they had the opportunity to get aboard one of the trucks and received a presentation from firefighters about their duties. The kids also were informed of firefighting tips that they could apply in their homes and even aboard water vessels. One question: What should you do if you awake at night and smell smoke and feel heat?



The Learn and Play kids are the happy recipients of two tubs of LEGO toys. The kids worked with each other putting the various pieces together. Several of them demonstrated early skills in building and engineering. ~ *Michael Keller*

May Special Pantry Item

For this month's pantry (May 16th) we are collecting disposable razors. Your donations can be brought to Sunday service or dropped at the church office between 9:30 and 2:00 Tuesdays through Fridays.



**Last month's Pantry.
Thank you!**

New Performance from Sight & Sound Theatre

The Sight & Sound Theatre in Strasburg, PA will present an original first-time stage production of the story of *Joshua*. From the banks of the Jordan River to the towering walls of Jericho, *Joshua* is an adventure that tracks the journey of the people of Israel as they navigate their new-found freedom in an unforgiving wilderness. When Joshua is called to succeed Moses as their leader, tensions mount and Joshua's trust in God's plan is put to the test.

Please join Eastport and Trinity Churches in experiencing one of the most redemptive tales in the Bible. Then after the show, enjoy a smorgasbord lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant. Included: round trip bus transportation, prime reserved seats for the performance, lunch and all taxes and tips. The cost: \$185 per person. The date is Tuesday, September 29, 2026. We will depart Annapolis at 8 a.m. and return at about 6 p.m. To guarantee your reservation, send a check to Carol Emory, 2900 Shipmaster Way #204, Annapolis, MD 21401. Please direct questions about the trip to Michael Keller at 410-263-7409 or mjaykeller@outlook.com.

May Birthdays



- May 1 Louis Bergsman
- May 6 Cindy Macey-Mayhew
Everett Roney
- May 10 James Stevens
- May 12 Will Cunha
- May 15 Caitlin Peddicord Holt
- May 16 Brenda Jones
- May 18 Abigail Wilcox
- May 19 Ruth Gibbons
- May 24 Gene Swanner
- May 25 Mike Keller
- May 30 Mitch Krebs
- May 31 Kathy Volz
Jake Prieto

Our Little Free Pantry

Our Little Free Pantry is a walk-up emergency food source that seeks to provide items that do not require other supplies or equipment to prepare (they come in a pouch or pop-top can). The 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. Packages of ramen, mac and cheese, and instant oatmeal are also needed.

A big thank-you to all of you who contribute items, including our anonymous neighbors. You really do make a difference!

May Anniversaries



- May 14 David & Kathy Moreland
- May 16 Tom & Harriet Newquist
- May 21 Dallas & Brenda Jones
- May 24 Butch & June Stevens
- May 27 Neil Bergsman & Val Devaris

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



On April 26th the Freedom Choir performed an uplifting concert benefitting EUMC's outreach programs. This group is a part of the Jazz and Roots Program. Watch for them in the future.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Praise Band 10am	2
3 Conversations in Faith 9:15am *Newcomer* Conversations 9am Room A Service 10am Yard Work after Service	4	5 Learn&Play 4pm United Women In Faith Meeting & Dinner 5:30pm Cinco de Mayo	6	7 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Learn&Play 4pm Choir 7pm	8 Praise Band 10am	9 Annual MRE .05K Bridge Run Crack O' Noon
10 Conversations in Faith 9:15am *Newcomer* Conversations 9am Room A Service 10am Sunday Schoo Mothers Day	11	12 Divine Diners Lunch 12pm @Sammy's Learn&Play 4pm	13	14 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Learn&Play 4pm Men's Group 7pm Choir 7pm	15 Praise Band 10am	16 Charting Careers Innovation Hub 9 to 11am Community Food & Diaper Pantry 11am (Setup 10am)
17 Conversations in Faith 9:15am *Newcomer* Conversations 9am Room A Service 10am Mt. Zion Mortgage Burning 1:30pm	18	19 Learn&Play 4pm Admin Council 7pm	20	21 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Learn&Play 4pm Choir 7pm	22 Praise Band 10am	23
24 PENTECOST Outdoor Service 10am Followed by picnic. All Welcome!	25 Memorial Day	26 Learn&Play 4pm Divine Diners Adam's 5:30pm	27	28 Prayer Time 9 to 10am Learn&Play 4pm Choir 7pm	29 Praise Band 10am	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

AFTERSCHOOL W/ CHARTING CAREERS 3 PM
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 / 4TH TUES 5:30 PM
CREATING COMMUNITIES: ARTS & ROBOTICS CLASS 5 PM

WEDNESDAY

CHAIR CARDIO EXERCISE CLASS 9 AM
AFTERSCHOOL W/ CHARTING CAREERS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 8:30 PM

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

BUILD A BETER BOOTCAMP 8 AM
EUMC BAND REHEARSAL 10 AM
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 7 PM

SATURDAY

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY 3RD SAT, 10 AM
LA INGLESIA ADVENTISTA DEL SEPTIMO DIA 9 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**