



# The Eastport Spire

## *“Inspire Us to Great Things”*

### **December 2025**

*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

### **Dear Friends of Eastport United Methodist,**

As we enter the season of Advent, we often hear the call to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. But what if preparation doesn’t start with excitement or certainty – but with fear? This year, our Advent series, *“What Do You Fear?”*, invites us to explore the ways our fears, doubts, and questions open the door to hope.

This coming Sunday, we read of John the Baptist as he wrestled with hope from his prison cell. Once a bold voice in the wilderness, John found himself questioning everything he had lived and preached. In Matthew 11, he sent a simple but profound question to Jesus: *“Are you the one who is to come, or should we wait for another?”*

John’s question is not a failure of faith. It is a glimpse into the reality of following God in a world that often seems unresponsive or unjust. Many of us have asked the same question after long seasons of prayer, service, or advocacy: Did any of this matter? Will my efforts make a difference?

Jesus responds not with judgment, but with the invitation to see and perceive God’s work in the world. “Check it out, John” Jesus says “The blind see, the lame walk, the sick are healed, the dead are raised, and good news is proclaimed to the poor.”

God’s kingdom is not always visible in headlines or immediate victories – it is revealed in acts of healing, liberation, and compassion. Advent reminds us that hope is not always measured by grand outcomes, but by the small, persistent ways God brings new life.

As we continue the series, we’ll explore how fear and hope intersect in our lives, in our communities, and

in the world. We’ll see that even when hope flickers, it is still hope – and even small acts of faithfulness matter in God’s unfolding kingdom.

We invite you to join us in worship, to bring your questions, your fears, and your hopes. Advent does not ask us to have perfect faith – it asks us to notice, to listen, and to participate in the new things God is doing.

Come and experience a season where hope springs forth from the edges of doubt, and where the God who brings life to the weary invites us all to rest, renewal, and transformation.

*See y’all Sunday,  
~ Pastor Chris*

**We celebrated the baptisms of two  
special additions to the EUMC  
Family.**

**WELCOME**

**Everett Gale Roney  
Born May 6, 2025  
to Emily & Frank Roney**

**Donovan Cannon  
Born August 6, 2025  
to Lisa Hozey & Dean Cannon**

## Church Council Corner

The Little Free Pantry is a new way we are addressing our neighbors' food insecurity. The top two shelves in the Little Library are now designated for foodstuffs. The bottom shelf remains for books. You are encouraged to stock the shelves when you have extra ready-to-eat or nearly ready-to-eat items. This ministry has been operating just a few weeks and has received a great deal of usage.

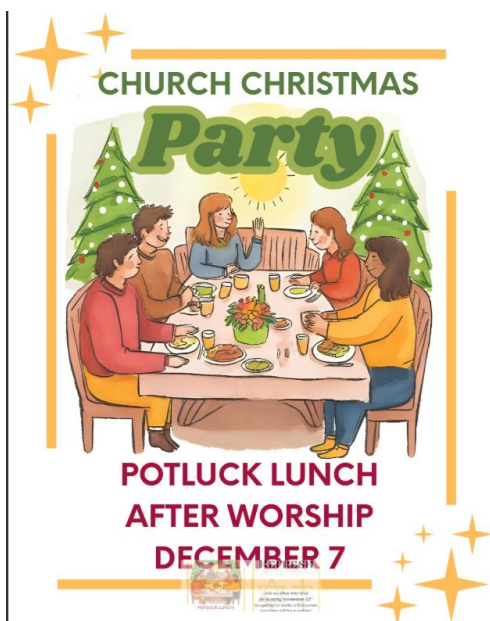


Building Usage increases continually. Several new organizations are partnering with Eastport UMC to serve our community. *My Brother's Keeper* has begun to meet here. *JoyGrows* teaches middle school boys how to cook in our kitchen. *Charting Careers* and *Maryland Hall* continue to deepen their reach to the Eastport neighbors by providing activities and classes in our building.

The 2025 Annual Charge Conference was held at Davidsonville UMC on November 15. The members of Admin Council will serve Eastport UMC for 2026. Please look for a full article in this edition for details.

Upcoming Meetings: The *Admin Council Meeting* will be 7pm on December 16. All are welcome to attend.

~ David Emenheiser



## Highlights

### Harry Benson and Sherry Sherwood Benson



Harry and Sherry live not far from the church in Eastport. They moved into their current home five years ago, and they are currently making renovations. Harry is the Business Development Director for Standard Solar; his career spans more than 25 years of working in the field of renewable energy. He is a Maryland native, who attended schools in Bethesda and graduated from the University of Maryland. Harry began his career canvassing for environmental causes on the West Coast. His early work canvassing quickly revealed the fact that Harry is so personable, persuasive, and authentic that he can basically sell anyone anything.

Sherry, who grew up in New York State, is an artist who works in the medium of the white line color woodcuts. It is a unique process, where a carved woodblock is painted with brush applied watercolors, which in turn are printed onto rice paper. The process involves applying one color at a time in a serial process to create a colorful print. The technique originated in the artists' colony in Provincetown MA where she spent summers growing up. Sherry had a solo exhibition in Provincetown just this past June, and she participated in another show in October. Some of her subjects are nautical, and others reflect her travels around the world and the influence of other cultures. The Bensons have a second home in Brewster MA, on Cape Cod. The home renovations here at their Eastport residence will provide Sherry with a

separate studio for her printmaking and framing, and it will provide room for her to teach some classes.

Harry says one of the things that drew him to EUMC was seeing the community pantry operation going on in the church parking lot. Harry has been there each month he is in town, cheerfully lending a hand and helping to serve neighbors. He also participates in the Sunday morning Conversations in Faith class. The Bensons have attended a number of churches in communities where they lived before. They were very involved in their former church in Arnold, where they helped to launch and lead a mission program in Madagascar. In choosing a church, mission work is very important to them, as is an inclusive and diverse congregation.

Harry and Sherry met through their shared connection with Greenpeace. Their shared passion for environmental causes brought them together originally, and it has infused both their personal and work lives. They have three adult children: Kai, Anja, and Willem. We are so glad to have them as part of our EUMC community.

## Learn & Play Program

Children in the Learn & Play Program visited an exhibit of Latino artist Jesse Raudales in the offices of the Maryland Comptroller. Mr. Raudales has a painting selected by the US Olympic Committee for the upcoming games. His work has been shown in galleries and museums around the country. Mr. Raudales distributed art supplies and t-shirts to the kids.



The children took blindfolded swings at a candy-stuffed pinata as part of late fall activities which

included mini-pumpkin, cookie, and face decorating and a game of musical chairs featuring the sounds of Halloween.



## Refreshing the Chrismons

Lots of energy was put into refreshing the old and making new Chrismons. The tree shines brightly now. Great job everyone!



## United Women in Faith



### CHRISTMAS MISSION

The United Women in Faith will be purchasing and delivering Christmas gifts, including monetary gifts, to members of EUMC who are no longer able to attend worship services with us. We hope that you will help support this effort to provide a little bit of Christmas cheer to these members of our church to remind them that we love and miss them. We invite you to donate cash or checks (made out to UMW of EUMC) by December 7 so that we have time to buy and deliver the gifts before Christmas. Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

You can bring the donations with you to church and give them to me or one of our UMW officers, including Jean Strucko, Harriet Macey, Harriet Newquist, or Debbie Morgan. You can also mail a check (made out to UMW of EUMC) to our Treasurer, Harriet Newquist, at 1215 Marda Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403. Thanks in advance for supporting this mission.

### MEETINGS

The United Women in Faith will meet on Tuesday, December 2, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a short business meeting followed by devotions. We will also be assembling the gift bags for our Christmas mission as well as holding a gift exchange involving a fast-paced, fun game. So, bring a wrapped \$15 gift and join the fun. All women of the church are invited to participate. You are welcome to bring a bagged meal and drink; dessert will be provided.



Seven women joined our regular members for a Grateful Celebration Dinner and Devotions in November. It was a joy-filled gathering that was enjoyed by all.

~ Kathy Duckett

## Sunday School Creations

The Sunday School kids have spent most of October and November creating these nativity sets! Using craft materials and imagination, the kids reviewed the story of Christmas. We are happy to leave them in the sanctuary to add to our Christmas decorations, but please do not touch— they are very delicate. Merry Christmas!



Essie



Theresa



Hattie



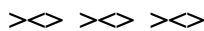
Laura



## EUMC Fall Clean-Up

Thanks to all the helpers who washed window frames and doors, and raked and bagged leaves on our fall clean-up day. You are the best.

~ Joanne Christofel



**Honoring our Saints**

## Charge Conference, A Great Success!

On November 15th, Pastor Chris and several members of the EUMC community traveled to Davidsonville UMC. We joined another dozen local United Methodist churches for annual Charge Conference. Our scripture text was Philippians 4:4-8:



*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

We sang “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” Michael Keller led us all in the call to focus our minds. A representative from each church shared highlights from the last year. Three themes were common among the reports: 1. Activities beyond the church building, 2. Children ministries, and 3. Major building repairs. Jill Peddicord, speaking for EUMC, shared about our strong relationships with community organizations that amplify our mission, leverage resources, reach our neighbors, and make a difference.

Rev Johnsie Cogman, District Superintendent, shared the vision for the Two Rivers District. UNITY is our vision:

**U** = Uniting in Christ: we flow together forming something stronger.

**N** = Nurturing new ministries: dream of what can be. Hope.

**I** = Inspiring innovation: we cannot be afraid to do things differently.

**T** = Transforming together: transformation is not individual but is communal.

**Y** = Yielding to Holy Spirit: the Spirit guides the currents of our river’s flowing.

She encouraged us to dare to dream into “God’s giant expansive plan” by yielding our personal preferences, pride, limited plan, and buildings to

engage as congregations and communities beyond Sunday mornings. We are involved in a “movement of grace.”

The conference ended with a brief business meeting during which EUMC members in attendance ratified our plans and paperwork for 2026.

~ David Emenheiser

## EUMC Recipe Corner

Sharing meals is a way to extend grace and welcome to others, including strangers, into a community. Sharing food is sharing love. 🍷

### Southern Tomato Pudding 🍷

2 cans diced tomatoes  
1 large chopped onion  
½ stick butter  
½ cup brown sugar  
Salt & pepper  
2 cups garlic croutons



Melt the butter in a frying pan. Add the brown sugar. Add the tomatoes and cook for a few minutes. Add the croutons. Put the mixture into a baking dish and bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes, until the pudding is a little brown on top.

~ Barbara Nutwell

## Christmas Cookies

Calling all bakers and Christmas cookie fans! We're having a cookie drive on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Here's the link to pre-order platters, and to find out how to get involved:

<https://www.eastportumc.org/product-page/holiday-cookie-platter>



## Special Pantry Item

Our special food pantry item this month is \*Hats & Gloves for Kids\* – store-bought or hand knit.



(Last month for the pantry we collected egg cartons and funds for eggs, and thanks to you we distributed 180 dozen eggs!)

## Little Free Pantry

### Give what you can. Take what you need.

Our neighbors impacted by the government shutdown and delayed SNAP benefits required urgent food assistance. On November 7th, we converted a portion of our Little Free Library into a Little Free Pantry. Situated adjacent to the playground and fire hall, this 24/7 resource enhances our monthly food pantry, providing instant access to food resources. We invite all to support our neighbors by picking up an extra can or two of food items and placing it in the Little Free Pantry.



## December Birthdays



Dec 1	Joanne Christofel Leela Wurst
Dec 5	Valerie Devaris
Dec 7	Andrew Stevens
Dec 8	Margie Hughes
Dec 9	Sharon Owen Lynne Rittenberg Sherrie Ugolini
Dec 11	Lynn Goddard
Dec 13	Natalie Somers
Dec 15	Joanne Christofel
Dec 19	Jonathan Wilcox
Dec 21	Michelle Anderson Brian Duckett
Dec 25	Carol Morgeson Chris Pulley
Dec 27	Lorraine Crouch

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



## December Anniversaries

Dec 29 Bo & Joyce Chesney



## Christmas Gift Idea?

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/>

## Poinsettias/Food Pantry



Christmas dedications can be made by purchasing a poinsettia (\$25) or by donating to the food pantry in any amount. Look for forms in the narthex or ask at the office.

*The Spire* is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410.263.5490  
[office@eastportumc.org](mailto:office@eastportumc.org)  
[www.eastportumc.org](http://www.eastportumc.org)  
Pastor: Christopher Broadwell  
Editor: Eunice Corse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Learn&Play 4pm <b>United Women In Faith – 5:30pm</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Prayer Time 7:30-8:30am Learn&Play 4pm Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	<b>4</b> Friday Group 9am	<b>6</b> 
<b>7</b> Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am <b>EUMC Pot Luck Lunch</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Divine Diners Lunch 12pm @Sammy's</b> Learn&Play 4pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Prayer Time 7:30-8:30am Learn&Play 4pm Men's Group 7pm Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	<b>12</b> Friday Group 9am	<b>13</b> Parade of Lights Annapolis 6pm
<b>14</b> Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School <b>Naptown Philharmonic Choir 7pm</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Learn&Play 4pm Admin Council 7pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Prayer Time 7:30-8:30am <b>Learn&amp;Play Christmas Party 4pm</b> Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	<b>19</b> Friday Group 9am	<b>20</b> <b>Community Food &amp; Diaper Pantry 11am (Setup 10am)</b>
<b>21</b> Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am <b>Longest Night Service 5pm</b>	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Caroling Oscar's 10am</b> Christmas Eve @ EUMC 5pm	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 			

# 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

**PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK**

**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](http://www.eastportumc.org)**