



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

December 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

Beloved of Eastport United Methodist,

It is hard to believe that it’s already Advent. What doesn’t help with a skewed sense of timing is that the first Sunday in Advent is in November. Our internal clocks, our sense of the church calendar, centers on the fact that the preparatory season before Christmas is supposed to take place in December. Just days after Thanksgiving we are already in Advent.

We thank the worship team for changing over our worship paraments from green to blue, and transitioning us from “ordinary time” to this season of expectation so we can be properly in tune to know God is among us in Christ. I thank the many who joined in preparing our worship space for the season, from those who make sure the pews are neat and orderly, to those doing repairs and maintenance throughout our church facility.

Many enter into this holiday season with heavy hearts. Some are reminded of loved ones that are no longer around. For others, they may not have many friends or family in town. Maybe all or most have passed away. Perhaps this is the first Christmas for parents who are separating. For all one knows, maybe a family is struggling financially and knows they aren’t going to be able to afford gifts for their kids. Or maybe some people don’t keep in touch with any family members for whatever reason and choose to spend the holidays alone.

At the same time, however, the difficulties of the season underscore the Advent theme of seeing light in the darkness, to know that Christ is near to us even when, or especially when, we feel otherwise. May we remember the fullness of the “reason for the season:” that God in Christ chose to become part of our lives,

and in Christ’s death and Resurrection, has promised to give us newness of life.

This theme will be highlighted each Sunday morning during advent, during the Longest Night Service 12/21/22 at 7pm, Christmas Eve at 5pm, and Christmas Day at 10am. I hope that you will join in worship during those times.

May this be our church’s prayer this season:

*Be near us, Lord Jesus
We ask You to stay
Close by us forever
And love us we pray.*

*Bless all the dear children
In Your tender care
And fit us for heaven
To live with You there. Amen.*

CHRISTMAS
PRAYER



~ Grace and peace, Pastor Chris

Wednesday Evening Bible Study will continue on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm at the church. Join Pastor Jenna and Pastor Chris for discussion on advent themes & scriptures. For more info email office@eastportumc.org

O Come, Let Us Adore Christ the Lord! During Advent, we prepare our hearts and anticipate the season of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. We will gather for worship, as usual, each Sunday morning at 10 am, November 27 through December 24th.

The Longest Night Service will be held December 21st at 7pm in the sanctuary at EUMC. This is a worship service that specifically acknowledges the heartache, pain, and grief of the holidays. The Wednesday Night Bible Study will conclude then.

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, we will gather at 5 pm for a candlelight & communion service (this service is very child-friendly).

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Beautiful poinsettias from Bru-Mar Gardens will be here in our sanctuary for Christmas. You may dedicate one in honor of/or in memory of a loved one, The cost is \$25. Dedications may also be made by donating to our Food Pantry. The forms are available in the Sunday bulletin or you may contact Rose in the church office at 410-263-5490 or office@eastportumc.org.



Please submit your forms no later than December 18th so that your dedication will be in the bulletin. You may take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service.



Women in Faith

UMW Christmas Social

The United Methodist Women/Women in Faith will meet on Wednesday, December 7, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will be our Christmas Social, which will be a pot luck meal - just bring a main dish, a side dish, or dessert to share. We also will have devotions followed by a gift exchange involving a fast-paced, fun game, so bring a wrapped \$10 gift and join the fun. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Grocery Store Gift Cards for Bowman Place Residents

For many years, we have provided Christmas gifts for the residents at Bowman Place in downtown Annapolis. We hope that you will continue to support this effort to provide a little bit of Christmas cheer to the Bowman Place residents by purchasing a \$25 grocery store gift card from Giant or Safeway. We would like to have them by December 11 so that we have time to arrange delivery before Christmas.

You can bring the gift cards with you to church and give them to me or one of our officers, including Jean

Strucko, Harriet Macey, Harriet Newquist, or Debbie Morgan. If you are unable to get to the store to purchase a gift card but would like to support this mission, you can mail a check (made out to United Methodist Women of EUMC) to Harriet Newquist at 1215 Marda Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403. You can also mail gift cards to Harriet Newquist or call me at 410-268-6467 with questions or to arrange pick up of gift cards you have purchased. Thanks in advance for supporting this local mission. The residents have always been very appreciative of EUMC's generosity. ~ *Kathy Duckett*

December Garden & Maintenance Committee News



Many thanks to those who are helping to clean the pews in church: Anne Owen, Rawle Green, Val Devaris, Rose Maple, and our latest volunteer Tony Fowler. It will take several weeks to clean and repair the pews but many of them look great already.

All nine of the filters in the air handler room were replaced, an outdoor banner was rehung, ceiling and wall vents were vacuumed and cleaned, doors were cleaned, outdoor bulletin board was cleaned and repaired, and millions of leaves were mulched and vacuumed numerous times. Thanks to Sam Coates for helping with the leaves.

We are looking to hire some workers to finish up maintenance on the outside of the church. We need a carpenter to replace some wood around windows, a mason to repoint bricks, and a painter to paint the bottom half of the steeple. If you know of a good person, please let us know. Also, 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*

Potato Drop Project



The Annapolis District United Methodist Men and the Society of St. Andrew will sponsor an “End Hunger Potato Drop” on Saturday, December 17 from 7 to 9 a.m. Eastport United Methodist Church will host the event in its parking lot. Volunteers of all ages are sought to help unload the truck delivering the fresh Maine potatoes, break down the 50-lb bags into 10-lb bags, and deliver them to local food banks and religious organizations as well as to 800 families in the City of Annapolis.

A free will offering will be taken to help cover the transportation of the potatoes. Checks payable to BWC UMM (memo S0SA) also can be mailed to Alwyn Taylor, Treasurer, BWC UMM, 30 Hidden Field Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. For more information, contact Richard Campbell at 443-517-3084 (text or call) or at rcampbell@bwcumm.org.

~ Mike Keller

Keeping Us Safe

The Annapolis Office of Emergency Management and the Annapolis Police have offered us a presentation called (CRASE). Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. It is designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD) strategy and provides guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events and civilian response options.



We will be hosting this presentation on Sunday, January 15th from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. It will not be specific to our building and therefore we are welcoming other groups that would like to attend. Please let the church office know of your interest so we can plan accordingly.

~ Jill Peddicord

Ring those Bells!

The Heavenly Bells' after-service rehearsals on Sundays have been very productive. The ensemble will ring on the Sunday before Christmas, December 18th. We are ALWAYS open to adding new ringers. We invite you to come and check us out one Sunday and see what we're all about!



~ JoAnn Kulesza

Twenty Years...PLUS!!!



I was pleasantly surprised by the congregation one Sunday by a celebration of my twenty years (!!!) as Music Director at Eastport UMC. A special song to the tune of Eleanor Rigby (who knew that my name had the same number of syllables!) composed by Barbara Krebs, a 'You Are Loved' card, LARGER than I have ever seen, and a most GENEROUS monetary gift from you all, my church family. Last but not least, a bag of that signature treat, CHEESEBALLS!!!

I have been a church musician since the age of twelve, playing in almost every 'flavor' of denomination. I have morphed from a staunch Catholic to a recovering Catholic to a firm Methodist. For many years, ecumenism has been my path. Making music and singing in praise and honor of God is but one aspect of my music ministry. Thank you for your support, your appreciation and love over the years. You all are a part of my life's quilt!

~ JoAnn

December Birthdays



- Dec 1 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
Kristen Stevens
Chelsea Snodgrass
Dec 13 Natalie Somers
Dec 15 Joanne Christofel
Addie Parrish
Dec 19 Jonathan Wilcox
Dec 20 Russ Parrish
Dec 21 Michelle Anderson
Brian Duckett
Dec 23 Rylan Standiford
Ryleigh South
Dec 24 Gary Hataway
Dec 25 Chris Pulley
Dec 27 Lorraine Crouch

December Anniversaries



- Dec 8 Bob & Carol Emory
Dec 29 Bo & Joyce Chesney



Longest Day Service, December 21st 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Communion (very child-friendly) 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.



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 Homework & Reading 4pm Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	2	3
				4 Worship 10am Bells rehearse at 11am	5	6 Homework & Reading 4pm
11 Worship 10am Bells rehearse at 11am	12	13 Homework & Reading 4pm	14 Eastport Elem. School Cooking Club Bible Study 7pm Chapel	15 Homework & Reading 4pm Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	16	17 UMM Potato Drop 7am EUMC parking lot Food & Diaper Pantry 10:00 am
18 Worship 10am	19 Breakfast for Dinner with Santa 5:30 	20 Homework & Reading Christmas Party 4:00 to 6:00 pm 	21 Longest Night Service 7pm in Sanctuary 	22	23 	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion 5pm
25 Christmas Day Worship 10am 	26	27 	28	29 	30	31

**Eastport United Methodist Church
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Church Office 410-263-5490
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
www.eastportumc.org**