



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

February 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

Friends of Eastport United Methodist,

I was locking up the church on Thursday evening and stood in the sanctuary for a few moments, admiring the beautiful space we share and marveling at all that takes place within our four walls. I thought about the fact that just that evening, in a 4 hour time frame, the following happened:

- Homework and Reading Program was tutoring 10-15 kids.
- Diesha and friends whipped up a meal to share with the community in the kitchen.
- A recovery group met in the chapel.
- A church small group met to forge relationships and break bread together in the fellowship hall.
- Parents gathered in the basement for an interest-meeting about after school enrichment programming.

It is an absolute honor to serve amongst you and amazing to witness all that God is doing in our midst, even while we endure the ongoing (relentless?) challenges of the pandemic. *“Finally, beloved, 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.”* (Phil 4:8)

~ Grace and peace, Pastor Chris



From the AA County Food Bank

Eastport United Methodist Church received a call from a Solomon’s Island Road resident whose daughter knew a friend who was a new mom, living alone in a HACA property near the church. The single Mom did not have any family or financial support. As soon as Eastport UMC received the call, they let them know that through the generosity of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB), they would be able to provide everything the newborn child would need.

That same week, Eastport UMC’s Community Navigator, Diesha Contee, received a large supply from AACFB of newborn onesies and sleepers, socks, swaddling blankets, a baby carrier, crib sheets, newborn car seat, and a stroller. Additionally, the Eastport Community Pantry provided diapers, wipes, and nutritious food for the mom including fresh fruits, vegetables, and protein. Fortunately, this brand-new family moved from being unsure of how to provide for their child to being well-fed and cared for all due to the generosity of the AACFB and Eastport UMC.

When they arrived to pick up the supplies for the new mom, the lady froze and with a tear running down her face, said, “Thank you. She had nothing ready. She has been all alone trying to figure this out and only by some accident did my daughter learn that this friend had nothing and no one. Thank you for being there and being ready to help.”



Mary "Betty" Storton
May 19, 1933 – January 1, 2022

Barbara Hiller
October 19, 1931 – January 18, 2022

Extreme Love and Justice

Every year in February we celebrate Black History Month. Every year I learn new things about our shared American history that I didn't know about before, some uplifting, some shameful, some enlightening -- Juneteenth, the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, informally known as the National Lynching Memorial, in Montgomery, AL.



Celebrating Black History Month

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling ("Bishop LaTrelle Easterling is the episcopal servant and leader of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, the oldest and most diverse annual conference in The United Methodist Church. She is the first woman to lead this historic conference." www.unitedmethodistbishops.org) shared some inspiring words in her newsletter today that we'll share to kick off this month of learning and celebration:

"...we are invited to recognize, revel in and rejoice at the breadth and depth of the African American presence, participation in, and contributions to our great nation and beyond. Whether we engage a new literary work such as *The Warmth of Other Suns* or *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson; listen to insightful podcasts like, *Code Switch* or *Historically Black*; watch movies such as *A Raisin In the Sun*, *Selma* or *Just Mercy*, may we immerse ourselves in the rich history and painful past that is the Black journey in America..."

Our Bishop continues – "The important thing is to engage so that we can begin today to more fully understand the whole truth of this country and build a better, more just and inclusive tomorrow."

Throughout the month during worship we'll have unique ways of celebrating Black History Month. Join us as we reflect and celebrate.

~ *Pastor Chris*



Every year I learn about new African American heroes. For example, the story of William and Ellen Craft who escaped slavery, he posing as his wife's slave; she posing as a frail white man (<https://www.history.com/news/slavery-escape-william-ellen-craft>) as they made their way North to freedom. And Maggie Walker, whose house I visited in Richmond, who was the first African American woman (actually the first woman!) to charter a bank in 1903. This year's "discovery" was Pauli Murray, the first Black woman to become an Episcopal priest once women were permitted to do so. In addition to her struggles on the civil rights front, she also struggled with how she felt internally – there really was no terminology in her day, but if she were living now, she might describe herself as a transgender man.

And every year, I re-read Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s haunting Letter from Birmingham Jail (<https://www.csuchico.edu/iege/assets/documents/susi-letter-from-birmingham-jail.pdf>). Every year something new strikes me. This year as I pondered the deep divisions in our country, his paragraph that focused on "extremism" was what resonated most. He wrote:

"But as I continued to think about the matter, I gradually gained a bit of satisfaction from being considered an extremist. Was not Jesus an extremist in love? -- "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you." Was not Amos an extremist for justice? -- "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." Was not Paul an extremist for the gospel of Jesus Christ? -- "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Was not Martin Luther an extremist? -- "Here I stand; I can do no other so help me God." Was not John Bunyan an extremist? -- "I will stay in jail to the end of my days before I make a mockery of my conscience." Was not Abraham Lincoln an

extremist? -- "This nation cannot survive half slave and half free." Was not Thomas Jefferson an extremist? -- "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." So the question is not whether we will be extremist, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate, or will we be extremists for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice, or will we be extremists for the cause of justice?"

Will we be extremists for hate or love? Will we be extremists for injustice or justice? This is the essence, isn't it?

I can never live up to the examples of the people I've mentioned here. Their courage, resilience, hope, endurance, strength, commitment, intelligence, spirituality – I cannot hope to match these. I can, however, work to be an extremist in love, an extremist in justice. That's the kind of extremism I can support wholeheartedly.

~ Barbara Krebs



Garden and Maintenance News

Have you ever noticed the metal grates all around the church? They are huge window wells so that we have light coming in the great windows in the lower level. We started removing rusting screens from the metal grates on the window wells and replacing them with hardware cloth to keep leaves out. The old screens were falling down. Six of the window wells were done and then all the leaves and debris was removed from the window wells and the windows cleaned. The drains were cleaned out and new covers were ordered to put on the 4 drains that didn't have covers. Nine more to go! We discovered a small toad had been trapped in a window well and now resides at our house. He looks just like my statue from Miss Betty!

We also replaced the rusty chicken wire on the outside cross with the plastic variety to make it safer, put the insulated box on the office ac window unit (Rose loves her warmer office), put air in the snow blower (but still having trouble getting it to work).

My husband, Jerry, just had 11 stitches in his hand and will not be able to tinker with it for 2 weeks. Praying for no more snow for a while.

Many thanks to everyone who helped shovel snow off the sidewalks in this cold weather. Many hands make light work. If anyone would like to help with any of our projects or gardens, please contact:

Joanne Christofel at 410-703-0159 or msjohara@yahoo.com

~ Joanne Christofel

United Methodist Women

February UMW Meeting:

The United Methodist Women will hold their next meeting online via Zoom on Wednesday, February 2, at 5:30. We will have a short business meeting followed by a program from the 2021-2022 UMW book entitled *Healing and Joy: On our Journey to God*. All women of the church are invited to participate. I will send out a Zoom meeting invitation to all who have attended meetings over the past year and would be happy to send one to anyone else who is interested – just let me know.



~ Kathy Duckett

Thank You for Grocery Gift Card Donations for Bowman Place:

Thanks to members and friends of EUMC, we were able to provide 44 grocery store gift cards to the residents of Bowman Place who signed up to receive them. The UMW extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated. Please know that your efforts helped brighten and bless the lives of the recipients. THANK YOU!

Sight and Sound Bus Trip

EUMC United Methodist Women is assisting with the bus trip to Sight and Sound this year. Currently, 30 people have signed up for this trip. Interest is high for this amazing show, and seats will be on a first-come, first-served basis. In other words, please send your payment to Carol Emory to secure your seat for

a fun day with friends, a tasty family-style lunch and a spectacular story. Please review the information below and join us for this special day!

EASTPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 23, 2022 (Tuesday)

Sight & Sound Theatre – “DAVID”
& Family-Style Lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant
Strasburg, Pennsylvania

The Sight & Sound Theatre in Strasburg, Pennsylvania, invites you to experience its newest original Biblical stage production of the story of “DAVID.” Sight & Sound Theatre will take audiences inside the story of this legendary Biblical figure who rose from shepherd to king after defeating the giant Goliath. David was many different things, a shepherd, anointed king, master poet and fearless warrior. His ascent to the throne is filled with towering giants, wild animals, Philistine soldiers, and yet after unprecedented victories lead to devastating failures, this passionate warrior will face the biggest battle of all: the one within himself! Come alongside this young shepherd on his journey to become a man after God’s own heart. Witness one of the most legendary Bible stories as it comes to life with original music inspired by the Psalms, spectacular special effects, massive sets, and live animals. So, please join *Eastport United Methodist Church* and enjoy the magic and majesty of this brand-new stage production from Sight & Sound Theatre. David’s powerful yet personal story is a state-of-the-art theatrical experience for the whole family! After the show enjoy a delicious family-style lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant.

We have excellent seats!

\$130.00 Per Person \$96.00 (Child Ages 3-12)

Itinerary:

8:00 AM Depart Annapolis, MD
10:15 AM Arrive Strasburg, Sight & Sound Theatre
11:00 AM Showtime! “DAVID”
1:45 PM Depart Sight & Sound Theatre
2:00 PM Arrive at Hershey Farm Restaurant
2:15 PM Family-Style Lunch
4:00 PM Depart Strasburg, PA
6:00 PM Arrive Annapolis, MD

Included: Transportation, reserved seats for the show, family-style lunch, and all taxes and tips.

Make checks payable to Carol Emory at 506 Duvall Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403 to secure your seat. For further information or to check for availability, contact Carol at her email, which is carolemony7@aol.com.



Local Afghan Refugee Crisis

Please help those who helped our US Military in Afghanistan!

There are 40 Afghan refugee families living in hotels near BWI airport. Many are doctors, accountants, security experts, soldiers, and other professionals, all of whom helped the US military in Afghanistan. While the government has safely gotten them to the United States and we have worked hard to provide some of their most basic needs of food and clothing, their situation is still dire.

Immediate needs:

Financial donations for

- perishable food such as milk, eggs,
- transportation to and from doctor appointments, and other appointments for vital docs, etc.
- household items--
- GO HERE: <https://gofund.me/395bfce2>

Ongoing Needs:

- assistance with job coaches, interpreters, tutors,
- funds for assistance with housing
- groups to sponsor families for long term support and integration

Your generosity is greatly appreciated! To donate and learn more about how you can help: GO HERE: <https://gofund.me/395bfce2>

Speak a Word: A Weekly Prayer– Poem Study for Lent

In the January 20, Baltimore-Washington Conference e-connection, Bishop Latrelle Easterling issued an invitation to “join us in a spiritual journey that calls us to deepen our daily discipleship, expand our capacity to love, anchor our faith and widen our connections with God and one another.” The study is designed for either individual or group study and will feature prayer-poems written by the bishop. This six-week study “examines scripture and our life with God.” The prayer-poems will focus on:

- Truth
- Trust in Provision
- Anticipate Healing
- Have Hope
- Love Abundantly
- Humbly Serve

These topics are available on the BWC website:
<https://www.bwcumc.org/resources/lent-2022/>

~ Barbara Krebs

EUMC is partnering with the National Guard and the Annapolis Education Commission to host a Covid Vaccine Clinic on February 6 from 12 to 4 pm for children and adults. Please be sure to pass this information along to those in your networks.

**Interdenominational Black History Month Service
Banneker Douglass Museum Chapel
February 26th at 2:00 p.m.
Theme: Amos 5:24
“But let justice roll down as waters, and
righteousness as a mighty stream.”**

Open Our Eyes Lord... We Want to Read Lyrics

The projector we use during worship on Sunday morning served us well past its expected lifetime and was decommissioned from service. Sam Coates, Bill Schneider, and Pastor Chris spent a few hours removing it and installed the new projector so that we can see clearly now! Thank you!



Love IS PATIENT does
is kind not
is not does not act rudely
proud seeks not
does not its own envy
rejoice way is not easily angered
in sin rejoices in truth
bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things
NEVER FAILS I Corinthians 13



February Birthdays

- Feb 2 Sally Hight
 Evan Ugolini
 Christina Hataway
- Feb 4 Richard Miller
- Feb 5 Thomas Smith
- Feb 9 Anne Owen
 Sam Coates
- Feb 13 Earl Macey, Jr.
- Feb 14 Jackie Cunningham
 John Allen Wilcox
 Luke Wilcox
- Feb 15 Harriet Macey
- Feb 23 Jacqueline Ploof
- Feb 24 Sue Finkle
- Feb 25 Mark Stevens
- Feb 28 Justin Ford

Recordings of Sunday's services can be viewed on EUMC's website, www.eastportumc.org.
You can also listen by phone to our prerecorded services by calling **1-410-233-3163**.

We ask that all wear masks while indoors unless drinking, eating, or speaking at a microphone. We thank you for your help in creating a safe atmosphere for all!



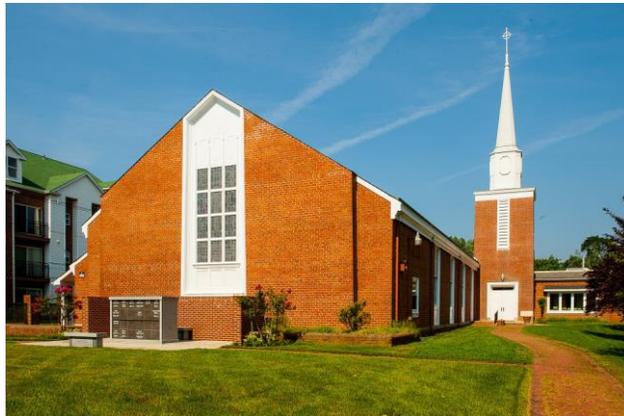

February Anniversaries

- Feb 14 Richard & Betty Miller
- Feb 19 Jim & Jean Wilcox
- Feb 22 Scott & Nicole Hughes

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 4:00pm	2 UMW Meeting 5:30pm ZOOM Ground Hog Day	3 Homework 4:00pm Choir 7pm	4	5
6 Worship 10am COVID CLINIC 12 – 4 PM @ EUMC	7	8 Homework 4:00pm	9	10 Homework 4:00pm Choir 7pm	11	12
13 Worship 10am  Super Bowl	14 	15 Homework 4:00pm Admin Council Zoom meeting 7pm	16	17 Homework 4:00pm Choir 7pm	18	19 FOOD PANTRY 10:00 AM 
20 Worship 10am	21 Bells 7pm	22 Homework 4:00pm	23	24 Homework 4:00pm Choir 7pm	25	26 Black History Month Service Banneker- Douglass Museum 2pm
27 Worship 10am	28 Bells 7pm	<div data-bbox="699 1499 1114 1556" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Ash Wednesday is March 2nd</div> <div data-bbox="743 1583 1263 1640" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Daylight Savings Time starts March 13</div> <div data-bbox="859 1675 1208 1732" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Spring begins March 20</div>				

**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**