



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

February 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

I want to talk to you about Lent. I know, it seems early. But, I didn’t want it to sneak up on you, because it begins just less than a month from now. You’ve probably heard it from me before, that I like to remind people that you won’t actually find Lent in the Bible—and that’s because Lent is a gift the Church gives us: a season of preparation. Since the fourth century, it has been a time of recentering and refocusing—of turning away from what pulls us from God and turning toward what draws us closer. It is a season when we collectively and intentionally embody particular spiritual practices.

- We enter into conversation with God.
- We refrain from something—or take on something—so that we might draw nearer to God.
- We intentionally express generosity of spirit and of resources.

The season of Lent culminates in the week before Easter, when we walk alongside Jesus in the final moments of his life, preparing ourselves for the resurrection.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, is a particularly peculiar day. It calls us to remember our mortality, our humanity—that we have come from dust and to dust we shall return. Remember how the story begins: God gathers soil from the earth and breathes life into it, and humanity comes into being.

On this day, we also acknowledge our very real human nature and the ways we stray from the path that leads to life. We confess, and in doing so, we mark this day as one of hope—because we know forgiveness is available. We do this strange thing: we mark ourselves with ashes, a physical reminder that

we are a people who live with the hope of Christ, trusting that death does not have the final word.

Ash Wednesday asks for a kind of honesty we don’t always practice. We get real with God about who we are: human beings in need of grace.

“Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”

It’s a bizarre phrase, and yet it names the truth of who we are before God. We are dust. That may be the most fundamental confession of Lent. And perhaps once we can confess that—once we can admit our smallness and fragility—all the other confessions become a little easier to offer.

We acknowledge how far we fall from what God calls us to be. We confess that we cannot live on our own. We admit that our hearts are unsettled.

And still, we come—marked by ashes, held by grace.

Please join us for our Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary on February 18 at 7 pm.

Grace and peace,
~ Pastor Chris

*Do justice, love mercy, and
walk humbly with your God*

Micah 6:8



Hardy Sunday Shovelers

Highlights

Tyrone Brown was born in Annapolis. His grandfather owned a local funeral home. Tyrone was the oldest of five children. His grandmother was very involved in church; she was a deaconess and held church meetings at home. Sundays were all about church and family dinners. As the oldest, Tyrone watched over the younger kids.

After his grandparents died, Tyrone was adopted by other relatives. When he was young, he attended First Baptist Church on W. Washington Street. As he grew, he continued to show an aptitude for teaching and coaching younger children. He was only about twelve himself when he had a Sunday School class before church services. He would discuss the scripture lesson with the younger kids, who then would speak up in church and raise their hands enthusiastically because they already knew all the answers.

Tyrone attended Annapolis H.S., where he played basketball and soccer and ran track. He started working as a DJ for high school parties. After high school, he moved to Florida, where he held a day job for a marine supply company and then worked as a DJ at night. Eventually, Tyrone obtained his FCC license and he landed a job on the air at night with WRBD radio in Fort Lauderdale. He recalls a church revival in FL that had a big impact on him. When he

was spinning records, he also played gospel music, which caught peoples' attention in the church.

Tyrone would come back to Annapolis to visit the extended family. When his father became ill, Tyrone stayed here to care for him. After that, he worked in restaurants on West Street, and earned a culinary school certificate.

As a natural caregiver, later on, Tyrone cared for older folks, like Ms. Irene Leonard, who he would bring to church at EUMC, and another neighbor, Jimmie, who had cancer and had no one else to help him.



Tyrone has been attending EUMC for about eleven years. He says the services and the people here feed his spirit. He formally joined as a member on Easter Sunday, 2024. He is a regular participant in the EUMC Conversations in Faith group.

He is very proud of his daughter, who is the program manager now with Seeds for Success. She graduated from the UMD Eastern Shore and she is now working to give back to the community through the program she participated in when growing up.

Tyrone continues to work with teenage neighborhood kids, through a mentoring program held three evenings a week at the Eastport Community Center. The program builds relationships, helps to reinforce academic skills, and provides the youth with dinner.

Tyrone is well known and respected throughout the Eastport community. He is a good listener, whose motto is "I will help you, not hurt you." He is very conscious of his daily walk with God and the influence religion has had on his life.

United Women in Faith



Given the ongoing combination of snow and ice around the church facility, the United Women in Faith will **not** be meeting in February. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 3, at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a short 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.



Burdens Men Carry

February 15 from 2 - 4:30 pm - This year they'll discuss difficult emotions men encounter, how to support men as they navigate pressures and expectations and reduce the stigma that continues to discourage men from speaking honestly about their inner emotional experiences. There will be a Q&A and round table brainstorm with audience participation.

Find out more at <https://burdensmencarry.com/>

Mardi Gras

When was the last time you celebrated Mardi Gras? Been a while? Never?



Join us Tuesday evening (2/17) @ Forward Brewing for an easygoing party with king cake, great music, masks and beads.

Come for a time of celebrating community with a hearty helping of fun. Bring a date, bring a neighbor, bring a friend. Forward Brewing has a great menu, along with a supply of non-alcoholic beverages.

See y'all at 7pm on the 17th.

Opportunities to Give

Thank you for your efforts to help provide donated items for our Little Free Pantry. For this walk-up emergency food source, priority items are those that do not require other supplies or equipment to prepare. We have had continuing demand, and it tends to empty out rather quickly.

****We especially need pop top cans.****

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 for kids. Packages of ramen, and instant oatmeal are also needed.

Sunday School

The Gospel lesson for Jan 11th from the lectionary was Mark 3: 13-17, the baptism of Jesus. We read the lesson from the Children's Bible, and talked about John and Jesus and their relationship. We discussed the meaning of the word baptism, and the importance of water, cleansing both our bodies and our sins, and for sustaining life in general. The discussion extended at what baptism looks like in our church, and also in other Christian traditions.

The children acted out the lesson by role-playing, and we talked about the promises contained in the liturgy, both those made by the parents and



the congregation, to bring the child up in the church and surround them with examples of love.

Church Council Corner

The 2026 Eastport UMC Church

Admin Council held its inaugural meeting on January 13. We welcomed new members. Topics of discussion included:



- Safety of congregation in and around the building before and after services;
- Volunteerism and opportunities for congregants to serve the EUMC; and
- Responsible procedures to steward the generous giving toward the Pantry.

We invite every member of our congregation and community to participate with us in any and all.

Upcoming meeting: The next **Admin Council Meeting** will be 7pm on February 10. All are welcome to attend.

All comments and questions go to David Emenheiser, Admin Council Chair.



Faith In Action

Reaching Out with the Charting Careers' Innovation Hub:

On the third Saturday of every month, Charting Careers is opening their Innovation Hub to our neighbors prior to the Community Pantry. The Innovation Hub consists of several computers with Internet access. The Charting Career staff will be onsite to assist scholars in completing homework and developing their tech interests

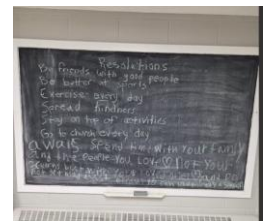
as well as support family members developing digital skills and seeking employment. Please share this opportunity with everyone you meet.

Reaching Out to our Unhoused Neighbors:

The EUMC community commemorated Martin Luther King Jr. holiday as a day of reverence and service. On January 19, we gathered for a brief time of reflection followed by assembling compassion bags. Each bag is filled with hats, gloves, snacks, along with warmth, hygiene, and other items. Congregants will be able to take a bag or two to hand out to our neighbors in need.

AfterSchool Learn & Play

The children in the AfterSchool Learn and Play program were asked at our first class of 2026 to make a New Year's resolution and share it with the group. After explaining to the kids what a resolution involves, here are the pledges that they made. Participating in this exercise were youngsters in grades 2 to 5.



- Be friends with good people
- Be better at sports
- Exercise every day
- Spread kindness
- Stay on top of my activities
- Go to church every day
- Spread time with your family and the people you love

Special Pantry Item

Our focus item for the February 21st food pantry is laundry detergent. You can bring donations to Sunday service or drop by the church office between 9:30 and 2:00 Tuesdays through Fridays.





We had an awesome response to our diaper request in January! Your generosity is so very much appreciated! And thank you Rachel for your unique "salesmanship."

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



February Birthdays



Feb 2	Sally Hight
	Evan Ugolini
Feb 4	Richard Miller
Feb 5	Thomas Smith
Feb 9	Anne Owen
	Sam Coates
Feb 13	Earl Macey, Jr.
Feb 14	John Allen Wilcox
	Luke Wilcox
	Lisa Hozey
Feb 15	Harriet Macey
Feb 23	Jacqueline Ploof
Feb 25	Mark Stevens

Church Merch

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/>

February Anniversaries



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



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ZOOM Service 10am	2 	3 Learn&Play 4pm	4	5 Prayer Time 7:30-8:30am Learn&Play 4pm Choir 7pm	6	7
8 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School	9	10 Learn&Play 4pm Divine Diners Lunch 12pm @Sammy's Admin Council 7pm	11	12 Prayer Time 7:30-8:30am Learn&Play 4pm Men's Group 7pm Choir 7pm	13	14  Valentine's Day
15 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Burdens Men Carry 2pm @ EUMC	16	17 Learn&Play 4pm Mardi Gras @ Forward Brewing 7pm	18 Ash Wednesday 7pm @ EUMC 	19 Prayer Time 7:30-8:30am Learn&Play 4pm Choir 7pm	20	21 Charting Careers Innovation Hub 9 to 11am Community Food & Diaper Pantry 11am (Setup 10am)
22 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School	23	24 Learn&Play 4pm Divine Diners Adam's 5:30pm	25	26 Prayer Time 7:30-8:30am Learn&Play 4pm Choir 7pm	27	28 

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

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CHAIR CARDIO EXERCISE CLASS 9 AM
AFTER SCHOOL W/ CHARTING CAREERS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 8:30 PM
ACADEMY BALLET 4-9 PM

THURSDAY

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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

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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

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Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
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