



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

April 2017

We share our experiences of God's Kingdom with all, through our faith, love, fellowship, and service. It is our vision to have everyone actively involved in worship that enriches, ministries that empower, and evangelism that embraces all.

From the Pastor

I recently cracked open a book in my possession titled *To Bless the Space Between Us*, by John O'Donohue. John O'Donohue is an Irish poet, author, and priest. In it he aims to reintroduce us to the language and tradition of blessing. So he writes about blessing (especially the rich tradition of blessing coming from his Celtic tradition) and then includes his own written blessings for a variety of occasions. I invite you to meditate on the following quotes from his book and then read his blessing for the beginning of a new day:

“It would be infinitely lonely to live in a world without blessing. The word blessing evokes a sense of warmth and protection; it suggests that no life is alone or unreachable. Each life is clothed in raiment of spirit that secretly links it to everything else. Though suffering and chaos befall us, they can never quench that inner light of providence.”

“A blessing evokes a privileged intimacy. It touches that tender membrane where the human heart cries out to its divine ground. In the ecstasy and loneliness of one's life, there are certain times when blessing is nearer to us than any other person or thing. A blessing is not a sentiment or a question; it is a gracious invocation where the human heart pleads with the divine heart.”

Wouldn't it be lovely if we could rediscover our power to bless one another? How might the world change if we offered the beautiful gift of blessing to each other!?! Might there be more healing and renewal and love given and received?

I enjoyed John O'Donohue's morning blessing in particular. I was thinking especially of the sunrise on Easter morning that will take place this month, but

really we could begin each day with this blessing and offering. I hope you enjoy this.

A Morning Offering by John O'Donohue

*I bless the night that nourished my heart
To set the ghosts of longing free
Into the flow and figure of dream
That went to harvest from the dark
Bread for the hunger no one sees.*

*All that is eternal in me
Welcomes the wonder of this day,
The field of brightness it creates
Offering time for each thing
To arise and illuminate.*

*I place on the altar of dawn:
The quiet loyalty of breath,
The tent of thought where I shelter,
Waves of desire I am shore to
And all beauty drawn to the eye.*

*May my mind come alive today
To the invisible geography
That invites me to new frontiers,
To break the dead shell of yesterdays,
To risk being disturbed and changed.*

*May I have the courage today
To live the life that I would love,
To postpone my dream no longer
But do at last what I came here for
And waste my heart on fear no more.*

May we come alive each and every day, breaking the dead shell of yesterdays and risk being disturbed and changed. May we have the courage to do each day what we came here for.

Blessing upon blessing to you all,
~ Pastor Michelle

Great News!

The Annapolis Rotary Foundation has a long history of helping those in need and uniting people of different beliefs and cultures. Last year, Amanda Owen applied for a grant to improve our children's Sunday School space in multi-purpose room A, and today we received a \$1000 check! We are very grateful to the Annapolis Rotary for helping us improve the environment where our children learn and grow in Christ.

~ Jill Peddicord

United Methodist Women Spring Tea



April showers bring May flowers AND the United Methodist Women's annual Spring Tea. On Sunday, May 7th from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, you can partake of flaky homemade scones, dainty sandwiches, and delicious desserts. You will have your choice of teas to drink. The tables are beautifully decorated by each hostess who will also see to your needs.

There are only 100 tickets to be sold, so make sure you buy yours early. Tickets will be \$15.00 for adults. Children under 8 years old will be \$8.00. Tickets will be sold on April 2, 9, 23, and 30 in Fellowship Hall after worship service. As always, the funds raised are used to support our missions.

If you would like to help with this fun affair, please contact our chairperson, Harriet Macey. We need table hostesses, and people to make or purchase food items.

~ Wendy Edstrom

Palm Sunday

April 9

Worship Service 10:00 am

The Cantata

Wednesday

Lenten study 10:30 am

Service 12:00 pm

Lunch

Holy Thursday

April 13

Shared Meal 6:00 pm

Service 7:00 pm

Good Friday Local Events

April 14

Trinity UMC Service 7:00 pm

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday

April 15

Day of Personal Prayer and Reflection

Consider spending an hour or two in our church yard helping with garden cleanup 9 am to 12 pm.

Easter Sunday

April 16

Sunrise Service @ Thomas Point 6:00 am

Service with Communion @ EUMC 10:00 am

Fellowship Time and Egg Hunt 11:45 am



Church Garden Work Days

Spring is in the air. Time to plan some church garden work! We will have 2 work days this spring. Saturday, April 15 and Saturday, April 22 from 9:00 AM to noon. On the 15th we will take out the other overgrown garden in front of the church. On the 22nd we will put down some top soil, clean up garden beds, and put down mulch for Greenscape Annapolis – an event that happens each spring to beautify our city. Please bring shovels and gloves if you can. If you can't help on those days, we can use some volunteers to water the new grass any time you are free. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Christofel at 410-295-5474 or msjohara@yahoo.com. Together we will make the church yard look great!

~ Joanne Christofel

Covered Dish Supper

Holy Thursday

April 13, 6:00 p.m.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee will host this simple Holy Thursday shared meal. Folks are invited to bring a crock pot of soup, salad, bread, or dessert. Bring a friend – everyone is welcome.

~ ~ ~

Lend Us Your Musical 'Voice'

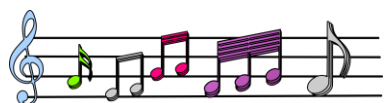
True or False:

Only trained musicians can participate in the music ministry at Eastport UMC. **T/F**

You must have a beautiful solo voice to sing in the Prays Band or Wesleyan Choir. **T/F**

I must commit to hours and hours of rehearsal. **T/F**

I must be able to read music to participate in any of the music groups. **T/F**



If you answered true to ANY of the above, you have the wrong idea about EUMC's music group participants. A fair number of our members do not read music, must miss some rehearsals for personal or professional/work related commitments, are not and never have been 'trained' as musicians and do not have hours and hours of rehearsals each week, though our groups always prepare a new piece ahead of using it in a worship service.

What we are looking for is 'new blood'; in other words, new folks to join our ranks. Enthusiasm, a desire to praise the Lord through music, either by singing, ringing or playing an instrument, and regular attendance is all that's desired. The Wesleyan Choir would most definitely welcome new voices, especially male voices and low female. If you attend regularly, you've seen that our Prays Band, particularly, is quite small. When one of our members is missing, whatever the reason, it is very noticeable and leaves an audible void. We need every kind of addition to this "band": guitar, bass guitar, drummer, brass or woodwind, violin, cello...you name it, we can incorporate it. If the Lord has gifted you with a lovely voice or instrumental talent, do consider sharing it with the congregation. All for the Glory, Honor and Praise of the One who gave His all for us! Thank you!

~ JoAnn Kulesza, Director of Music



A New Way to Study the Bible

I'm discovering a new way to connect with my Bible. It's called Bible Journaling. I know writing in your Bible can be intimidating and I could not imagine doodling or sketching in a Bible. In fact, I often thought it was even sacrilegious. But I've discovered that Bible Journaling is providing me with a new meaningful way to read and study God's Word.

I am not certain when Bible Journaling entered into the mainstream. What I do know is that it is now becoming quite the trend on computer sites such as Pinterest and Etsy. Bible Journaling supplies are sold in many craft stores and journaling Bibles are readily available in book stores. However, no special supplies are needed! All you need is a Bible (that you are willing to write/draw in) and a lead pencil. That's all you need to get started.

Four simple steps can be guidelines: 1. Ask God to reveal more of himself as you dive into a passage. 2. Ask yourself what the passage means to you. 3. Get out your pencil and mark the passage and words that are meaningful to you and write the inspiring words in the margin. 4. Spend time reviewing what you did, and memorize the scripture verse that you used.

I'm still a novice at Bible Journaling and discovering what I like to do with my journaling and what I don't! I wonder if anyone else would like to join me in my journey of exploring Bible Journaling. I'm thinking we could meet in my home or in the fellowship hall, daytime or evening. Please give me a call at 410-267-8483, or email joyceconley2010@gmail.com.

~ Joyce Conley

It's almost time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We would welcome donations of small wrapped candy or stickers to stuff in the plastic eggs. Bring them to the church office.



Let's *get* Social

Christian Adult Social Group

We are planning to start a group that can meet for a combination of prayer, social time, games, and activities (miniature golf, sailing, easy hiking, volunteer work, etc). First meeting on April 14. Members of EUMC are invited to participate and we are also hoping to encourage those outside our church to join us too. Please bring your favorite games. Pizza and drinks will be provided. We would like to plan weekly meetings on Friday evenings from 6 to 8 PM or some activities on Saturday or Sundays. If you are interested in participating or have any good ideas or activities for us, please contact Joanne Christofel at 410-295-5474 or msjohara@yahoo.com.

~ Joanne Christofel

Date Change: Gracious Greetings, our card-making group, will meet this month on Thursday, April 27 at 1:30 p.m. Come and see what we do – you may like to join us. No special skill or experience is necessary.

Peach Festival



It's not too early to be thinking of our 42nd Peach Festival. August 5 will be here before you know it. For those who don't know, this event supports the mission work at EUMC.

Back by popular demand is the **Yard Sale** which supports the Peach Festival (PF) by providing start-up funds. We need a yard sale person or persons to be in charge. Also there are many PF committees that need leaders. Bill Malamphy or Jackie Cunningham will be contacting past chairpersons. If you would like to lead a committee, please see Bill or Jackie. We will have our first PF planning meeting in May. Stay tuned for the date.

~ Jackie Cunningham and Bill Malamphy



A Conversation With ... Lisa Parrish

Continuing our series of inspirational stories focused on our congregation members, we turn next to Lisa Parrish. The Parrish family has been attending EUMC for about 11 years, and in that time Lisa and her husband, Russ, have been active with a wide variety of committees and missions. For Lisa, the primary focus has been on children. Whether it's delivering a message to the kids during children's time, to assisting in the nursery, to organizing and leading Vacation Bible School for several years, she can be found teaching, encouraging, mentoring and guiding the youngest members of our community.

It's not easy. As a mom of three active kids, Lisa has had to juggle church functions in between baseball games and practices, horseback riding, dance activities, parent-teacher conferences and all the other things that engaged moms participate in with their offspring.



But to her, it's important to make sure she does keep these various balls in the air. For example, she loves being able to do children's time and strives to come up with messages that reach both young and old. Her favorite memory was when she tried to illustrate faith (a hard concept even for adults). It was winter, and she brought in a dormant branch from a tree and asked the kids to imagine the branch in spring when it would have leaves on it, and explained that faith was like that. "You believe without actually seeing it for yourself," she opined. Whereupon one of the children, said, "No, it's really photosynthesis that brings out the leaves in spring." As Lisa agreed with the young scientist, she was thrilled that the kids were comfortable enough to express their own thoughts.

Although all of these children's activities are meaningful for Lisa, if she had to pick the one that inspired her the most, she quickly agreed that it had to be her time as co-chair and chair of Vacation Bible School. She told this story. At first, the adults were leading Bible story time. But noticing how quickly the kids got restless, Lisa decided to truly engage them, and enlisted the children themselves to become the actors, complete with costumes, props and a stage/tent. She was amazed at the transformation. The older, neighborhood kids who volunteered to act, took their roles very seriously, reading scripts, learning lines, memorizing blocking and participating at every level of the process. The younger kids, in turn, were mesmerized by the kid actors in a way they had not been by the adults.

But it wasn't just the acting and newly acquired attention span that impressed Lisa. It was how the children actors enjoyed and grew into their roles, literally becoming role models to the little kids. Here was an opportunity for them to give back, and they leapt at it. And it wasn't just the kids who were inspired. "As I watched them," Lisa explained, "I understood that these are ALL EUMC kids. Whether they are children of church members, participants in the homework group or anyone else, when they are here with us, they are our kids. God has given us an amazing opportunity to love them, teach them, and guide them."

As Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." We are fortunate here at EUMC. God offers us several opportunities to "train up" all our children. And whether it's faith or photosynthesis, both focus on new growth – growth that bears fruit in years to come.

~ Barbara Krebs

Writer for A Conversation With ...

Happy Anniversary

- Apr 5 Hillard & Linda Harrison
- Apr 7 Jim & Mary Jane Finkle
- Apr 12 Jerry & Tammy Lesley
- Apr 16 David M. & Lindsey Owen
- Apr 23 Steve & Kathy Duckett

Happy Birthday

- Apr 2 Sue Nasatka
Butch Stevens
- Apr 3 Ricardo Vasquez
- Apr 6 David. M. Owen
- Apr 7 Florence Conley
Jason Wilcox
- Apr 9 Carole McNew
- Apr 12 Jessie Keller
- Apr 14 Tom Schwallenberg
- Apr 19 Scott Hughes
- Apr 20 Sonny Owen
- Apr 23 Nadine Clark
- Apr 26 Traci DuPlayee
Liam Smith
- Apr 27 Jim Finkle
- Apr 29 Evie Swink
Guy Goddard
- Apr 30 Mary Jones

**SOUL SEARCHERS
OF EUMC**

**JUNE 11
7:30 PM**

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Discussion 9am Worship 10am SunSchool 10:15	3 Bells 7pm	4 Homework 4pm	5 Study 10:30am Lenten Service 12pm – followed by lite lunch Kids Art 4pm UMW 5:30pm	6 Homework 4m Choir 7pm	7	8
9  Discussion 9am CANTATA & WORSHIP 10AM SunSchool 10:15	10 Bells 7pm	11	12 Study 10:30am Lenten Service 12pm – followed by lite lunch Kids Art 4pm	13 HOLY THURSDAY COVERED DISH 6PM SERVICE 7PM	14 GOOD FRIDAY	15 CHURCH YARD WORK DAY 9-12 
16 EASTER  THOMAS PT 6AM EUMC 10AM EGG HUNT 12PM	17 Bells 7pm	18 Homework 4pm Trustees 6:15pm Admin Council 7pm	19 Food Pantry 12pm Kids Art 4pm	20 Homework 4pm Choir 7pm	21	22 GREENSCAPE  CHURCH YARD WORK DAY 9-12
23 Discussion 9am Worship 10am SunSchool 10:15 <hr/> 30 Discussion 9am Worship 10am SunSchool 10:15	24 Bells 7pm	25 Homework 4pm SPRC 7pm	26 Kids Art 4pm Lunch Bunch 12:15pm Outreach 6:30pm	27 Gracious Greetings 1:30 Homework 4pm Choir 7pm	28 	29