



# The Eastport Spire

## “Inspire Us to Great Things”

### April 2018

*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.*

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## From the Pastor

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Dear Church,

Happy Easter!! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

We just had a joyous celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and hope you were able to join us for either sunrise at Thomas Point or our Easter worship at EUMC.

As I shared with you on Sunday, this year was the first time in 62 years that the celebration of Easter and resurrection has been the same day as April Fool’s Day. And while I was never much for April Fool’s Day or pranks in general, while writing the sermon I came across a group called Prank It Forward whose mission is to prank people with life-changing surprises to deserving people. That’s a kind of prank I can get behind! The one story I read was about a single mother of three children who worked tirelessly and was surprised with her very own fully paid off home.

At the risk of being sacrilegious, and without at all meaning to minimize Jesus’ very real suffering on the cross, I made the comparison of the story of Easter to God’s April Fool’s joke, or ultimate prank on evil, suffering, death, despair, pain, brokenness, and unjust world orders. Easter is God’s reordering of the world to the order of God instead of the order of humanity.

Here’s an excerpt from my sermon and afterwards an invitation and challenge:

“But the best pranks, the best jokes, are ones that let us in on the secret. When we know something the person does not and we can’t wait until they discover it too.

God, through Easter, has let us in on the prank. God has invited us to become an Easter people. A people who no longer let the ways of the world rule in us, but instead let the way of life and love transform our lives. A people who in the way we serve, love, and live, help bring about life-changing surprises to others.

Not only are we let in on the prank, but God is also inviting us to help “prank Easter forward.” We are to be people who help heal and transform the suffering, the despair, the dead places in our lives and in this world.

When people expect you to be hateful and vengeful, prank Easter forward and respond with love and forgiveness.

When people expect you to gossip and put someone down, prank Easter forward and say something kind instead.

Defy their expectations. Surprise them. And prank Easter forward.

Because we are to be an Easter people. A people of life, of love, of peace, of laughter, of surprising and beautiful joy, of overwhelming goodness, of justice. We are bringers of peace and wholeness, restorers of hope, and builders of the kingdom of God. The kind of people who see a struggling single mom and try to figure out a way to help her life be less hard, less painful, and more joyous.

We are God’s partners, God’s co-workers, God’s pranksters, fools like Jesus, invited to help God recreate and remake this world in the order and way of God.”

Here’s the invitation and challenge part.

Easter is not just one day. It is actually a whole season – the great 50 days of Easter until the celebration of Pentecost! This year, I invite you to consider how during this season of Easter YOU can help prank Easter forward – how you can help surprise others with the undying, everlasting love of God in life-giving and joy-filled ways! And please, share with us, what you did! I'd love to hear, and we'd love to share it in the May or June Spire!!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! May we prank Easter forward and share this gospel far and wide by our love!

*Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Michelle*



## Being the Eyes of the Church

Look around you. Here are your church friends that you sit with most Sundays. How good to see them! **But wait**... where is the couple that usually sits near you? Where is the family with the children who go up for children's time to learn about Jesus? How long has it been since you've seen them?

Is someone sick, or maybe thinking about attending a different church? One where they hope people will know their names and be happy to see them? Sometimes when I have forgotten to talk to Jesus as much as I should, I say "Jesus I'm sorry I've not talked to you lately" and He says "I've missed you, come back."

Do you think we should maybe look around, find the missing people, make sure they're okay, let them know we miss them. Send them a note, give them a call, encourage them to hurry back. Maybe we could be a little more like Jesus?

"Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart,  
in my heart...  
Lord, I want to love my neighbor in my heart."

*~ Ruth Bowen*

## United Methodist Women Important Meeting

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The United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, April 4 at 5:30 p.m. This will be before the 7:00 p.m. meeting of the Administrative Council. We invite and encourage all women who are interested in UMW to attend, for two basic reasons: 1) If we are going to move forward with plans to host the annual Spring Tea, we must have definite volunteers to help, and definite volunteers to host tables at the tea. If not, we will be cancelling the tea. 2) It is necessary to have a discussion about whether or not UMW will continue here at EUMC. There are several options as to what might be changed, or continued, BUT the thing we need most is members... faithful attending members. We are struggling, and in order for us to move forward, we need more women involved. Our meeting will end at about 6:45 this time, and there will be no program.

*~Wendy Edstrom*

## "When Two or More Are Gathered" Kaleidoscope Bible Study

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Join us as we journey through scripture passages this spring! We will hear the Word of the Lord; share our thoughts and reflections; and listen for God in our conversations and prayers. It's an exciting prayerful interaction with scripture to discover the beauty within that can bring transformation to our lives in serving Christ. We'll meet Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Chapel starting April 11 through May 16. Can't make all Wednesday nights? No problem! This study is designed to attend all or just a few. Hope to see you there! See Sherrie Little or Pastor Michelle for details.



*~Sherrie Little*

## GreenScape at EUMC

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GreenScape is a city and community partnership of beautification, clean-up, and planting in public spaces throughout the City of Annapolis. EUMC will participate from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 21. We have lots of mulch to spread and two new Winterberry bushes to plant, as well as general trimming and cleanup.. Join us to get some exercise, a little Vitamin D, and a lot of knowing you make a difference! Please come and help make our church grounds look great.



~Joanne Christofel

## Church Excursion to Sight & Sound

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Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre in Strasburg, PA is featuring *JESUS*, an action-packed musical stage adventure about his miraculous life and journey. Many members of Eastport United Methodist Church have enjoyed past shows, and *Jesus* provides new opportunity. An effort is underway to determine whether there is sufficient interest in attending the performance on **Wednesday, August 22**. After the show, participants will have a family style lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant in Strasburg.

The cost is \$118 per person (\$80 for children 12 or younger) and would include a reserved seat for the show, the lunch, roundtrip bus transportation, and all taxes and tips. Here is the itinerary:

8:00 AM Depart the church parking lot  
10:15 AM Arrive at Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre  
11:00 AM Showtime! *JESUS*  
1:45 PM Depart Millennium Theatre  
2:00 PM Arrive at Hershey Farm Restaurant  
2:15 PM Family Style Lunch  
4:00 PM Depart Strasburg  
6:00 PM Arrive at the church parking lot

Reserve your seat now for this exciting new show. Spread the word about it to others in your network, including those who are not members of Eastport United Methodist Church. Bring checks to Carol Emory and make them payable to her. Folks need to sign up no later than **Friday, June 8**. At least 30 people must take part for the trip to occur. If you have questions, please contact Carol Emory or Mike Keller.

## Directory Change

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Lee (Sonny) & Shirley Owen – new address; all other info is the same.  
803 Coxswain Way, Unit 201  
Annapolis, MD 21401



## Meeting with Your Pastor

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If you try “dropping by” the office in the hopes of meeting with me, you’ll likely find it’s hit-or-miss. My schedule changes from week to week, with meetings in the community, at church, working from home on sermons and planning, out and about visiting with congregants and others in the community, and Conference trainings and groups, etc. Also, everyone’s schedules are so busy or so different, that it is hard to anticipate the best times for you. You are important to me and I want to be available to you! It’s easier to make sure we connect by appointment, so please call or text me on my cell, call the office, or email me at [eastportumcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:eastportumcpastor@gmail.com) and let me know you’d like to meet and a few times that are generally good for you. We can meet at church or for coffees, lunches, or walks, to walk off the coffees and lunches. See you soon!

~Pastor Michelle 301.310.3204

### Covered Dish Lunch Sunday, April 15, After Church

Staff Parish Relations Committee will host this lunch, featuring BBQ chicken sandwiches as the main dish. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and plan to stay and enjoy a special Sunday meal.

## April Birthdays

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Apr 2 Joe Nasatka  
Butch Stevens  
Apr 3 Ricardo Vasquez  
Apr 6 David M. Owen  
Apr 7 Jason Wilcox  
Florence Conley  
Jim Bradford  
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 Liam Smith  
Traci DuPlayee  
Apr 27 Jim Finkle  
Apr 29 Evie Swink  
Guy Goddard

*Happy  
Birthday!*



*May the peace of God settle your thoughts.  
May the love of God comfort your heart.  
May the wisdom of God enlighten your mind.  
May the Word of God illuminate your path.  
May the grace of God carry your load.  
May the kindness of God brighten your eyes,  
and may the presence of God fill your every  
hour. Amen.*

*~ Jennifer Rothschild*

## April Anniversaries

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Apr 5 Hillard & Linda Harrison  
Apr 7 Jim & Mary Jane Finkle  
Apr 23 Steve & Kathy Duckett

*Happy  
Anniversary*

*Awake, thou wintry earth  
Fling off thy sadness!  
Fair vernal flowers,  
laugh forth  
Your ancient gladness!  
Christ is risen.*

*— Thomas Blackburn*

*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
<b>1</b> <b>EASTER</b> Sunrise 6:15 Worship 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt	<b>2</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>3</b> Homework 4pm <b>Eastport Working Together</b> 6:30pm	<b>4</b> UMW 5:30pm <b>Admin Council</b> 7pm	<b>5</b> Homework 4pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am Soul Searchers 2pm	<b>9</b> Bells Rehearsal 7pm	<b>10</b> Homework 4pm <b>Missions</b> 6:15pm <b>SPRC</b> 7pm	<b>11</b> <b>Kaleidoscope Bible Study</b> 7pm	<b>12</b> Homework 4pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am <b>COVERED DISH LUNCH</b> Soul Searchers 2pm	<b>16</b> Bells Rehearsal 7pm	<b>17</b> Homework 4pm Trustees 6:15	<b>18</b> Food Pantry 12pm <b>Kaleidoscope Bible Study</b> 7pm	<b>19</b> Homework 4pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 
<b>22</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am Soul Searchers	<b>23</b> Bells Rehearsal 7pm	<b>24</b> Homework 4pm	<b>25</b> <b>Kaleidoscope Bible Study</b> 7pm	<b>26</b> Homework 4pm Outreach 6:30 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>27</b> 	
<b>29</b> Worship 10am Prayer Team Soul Searchers 2pm	<b>30</b> Bells Rehearsal 7pm	 <b>Kaleidoscope Bible Studies Wednesdays</b> April 11 – May 16				

**926 Bay Ridge Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21403-3091**

**The Rev. Michelle Mejia, Pastor  
Church 410-263-5490**

**Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Nursery 10:15 a.m.  
Office Hours 9:30-3:30 Monday-Friday  
Office Closed 12-1 p.m. for Lunch**



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