



# The Eastport Spire

## “Inspire Us to Great Things”

### May 2019

*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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Happy Easter!

This month we continue to live and celebrate the joyous reality that Christ is risen! For the next 50 days, ending with the arrival of Pentecost (June 9), the liturgical calendar invites us to accompany the disciples as they begin to make sense of the resurrection.

If you recall, the Easter story began in a big mess. The disciples began in a place of chaos and uncertainty. The women arrived to the tomb to find it empty. No Jesus. No body. The nightmare of having seen Jesus executed on a cross seems to get worse as they fear that his body has been stolen. Then, the risen Christ appears to them and to the other disciples and continues to do so for the next 50 days, inviting them to live in this new reality.

As I shared in my sermon last Sunday, we often like to distinguish between a before Jesus and an after Jesus moment. We want to see a clear change, a clear transformation. Like a house being remodeled or an extreme makeover, we love to see the before and after pictures. But life is much more complicated than that. Most of the time, transformation is slow growth, a step forward and a half a step back. Most of the time it is not: joy floods us and fear is completely eliminated. Most of the time we are a mixture of fear and courage, of strong faith and doubt, of humility and self-centeredness, of joy and mourning, of hope and despair. And that’s where the disciples find themselves as they begin to experience the resurrection and start to travel a new and beautiful journey.

As much as we would like to be changed instantaneously, we are a work in progress even after receiving the gift of the resurrection. I want to invite

you to not give up on your resurrection journey. Our resurrection journeys are lifelong journeys, calling us to live a new kind of life. This new kind of life is one that we choose over and over again, each and every day, and stick with it. Jesus knew this. It took many of the disciples their entire lives to live into this new reality; and even when they got it, there were moments when they reverted to their old ways.

I pray that for the next 50 days you will join me in rediscovering what the resurrection means to you and for all of us at Eastport. Just like Jesus did with the early disciples, he has promised to show up as often as we need, offering us his peace, his forgiveness, and his Spirit, to set us back on the resurrection journey. A journey where we are sent out on a mission of love and peace to the world.

As a way of recommitting ourselves to live this kind of new life journey, can you identify one next small step that Jesus would have you take to live this kind of new life? And just for the month of May, commit and practice that one small thing.

May our practices and our new resurrection lives bear fruit!

*~ Yours in Christ, Pastor Michelle*

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## SPRC News

*Following is the email that went to the entire church after the announcement that EUMC has been assigned a new pastor.*



This is Neil Bergsman, your Staff-Parish Relations chair at Eastport United Methodist Church. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is responsible for

personnel concerns within the congregation. I wanted to send this email to everyone to repeat an announcement that I made in church today.

It is my joy to share with you that Bishop LaTrelle Easterling has appointed **Reverend Christopher Broadwell** as the new pastor for our congregation. Pastor Chris will begin his new responsibilities July 1 of this year.

As a United Methodist Church, we are part of an appointment system. Pastor Michelle announced a few weeks ago that she has received a new appointment and will be going to University United Methodist Church in College Park.

EUMC's Staff-Parish Relations Committee met with the District Superintendent to identify our congregation's needs and the needed skills in a pastor. We have also met Pastor Chris to get to know him and to ask questions.

Pastor Chris has a passion for connecting with people, connecting people to people, and connecting people to God. He is originally from Bossier City, Louisiana. He studied seminary at Boston University School of Theology. He has served at United Methodist congregations in Shreveport, LA, New Orleans, LA, Boston, MA, and Cape St. Claire, MD. Pastor Chris is currently the pastor at Cape St. Clair United Methodist Church.

Pastor Chris and his wife Emily have two daughters: Hattie (3) and Essie (1). They live in west Annapolis. Pastor Chris loves music; he plays guitar and piano, and he jogs around Annapolis.

I think you will like him a lot.

Pastor Chris will work with us and the conference so that we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Let's make the Broadwells welcome here at Eastport.

~ Yours in Christ,  
Neil



### SAVE THESE DATES

Goodbye to Wendy, Sunday June 2, after the service  
Goodbye to Pastor Michelle, Sunday June 9, 3:00 p.m.

## Meet Our New Pastor



Chris Broadwell has a passion for connecting with people, connecting people to people, and connecting people to God. While he's originally from Bossier City, Louisiana he ventured north for seminary at Boston University School of Theology (where he met and married Emily) and has since been shaped as a Pastor by United Methodist congregations in Shreveport, LA; New Orleans, LA; Boston, MA; and Cape St. Claire, MD. He has a deep love for music (plays guitar and piano), a newly found hobby of jogging (especially around Downtown Annapolis), but his deepest love is for Emily and their two girls Hattie (3) and Essie (1). Chris loves to create spaces for vibrant worship for all people, help people discover their gifts for service, and lead people in outreach, mission, and hospitality.



## A Happy Easter Egg Hunt

We want to thank all those who took home plastic eggs and filled them for our annual EUMC Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. It was made extra special by so many willing hands. The Wursts are grateful too! Megan and Mike Wurst are our egg hunt specialists and we appreciate so much their coordination of this event.



## Reconciling Ministry

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Just like many United Methodist congregations across the United States, Eastport is grappling with how to move forward after the Traditional Plan was approved at the Special Conference in February. Our initial steps included discussion at the March planning session. At that time it was decided to conduct an in-house survey so we could understand exactly what our congregation was thinking and feeling about the highly charged issue of Christianity and homosexuality.

The results of that survey revealed that more than two-thirds of the congregation strongly disagreed with the Traditional Plan. With this information in hand, the Administrative Council voted to move forward with the Reconciling Ministry process. For more info about this, visit: <https://rmnetwork.org/>.

To date, we have updated the signboard in front of our church to reflect colors from the rainbow flag in support of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters. (Thank you, Jill Peddicord and Eunice Corse, for painting letters for our sign!) In addition, Pastor Michelle has set up a meeting for Saturday, May 4th at 10 a.m. when EUMC will listen to Ellen McDaniel and Jennifer Lamb-Taylor from Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Laurel, MD, which has already proceeded through this process.

None of us can see the future nor predict how the United Methodist Church will look in the years to come. But as we move toward this dim future, our prayer is that Eastport will continue to be a warm and welcoming place for everyone in our community. We will also continue to let everyone know where we are in the process of reconciliation.

~ Barbara Krebs, Outreach Chair

## Missions and Other News

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A Peach Festival meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Committee heads are needed and as always your ideas are welcomed to make this year the best festival yet.



Our church wide yard and bake sale is Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed for set up and pricing during the week and making the bake sale items. Please plan on bringing your treasures beginning Sunday May 12 and any day that week from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Our next Missions meeting will be Tuesday, May 14 at 12:00 p.m. at Sammy's. Come and join us.

~ Jackie Cunningham



## EUMC Scholarships Available

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*The Scholarship Team announces that they are now receiving applications for the Eastport United Methodist Scholarship. Applications are available in the church office, or via email. Deadline for submission is June 15, 2019. Those who have applied previously, and who are still enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning, are eligible to apply again.*

The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship awards to eligible and needy applicants, for the purpose of pursuing a degree or certification program in an accredited institution of higher learning. Awards may be in the form of an outright grant, or as an interest-free loan.

Any active member\* of the church or the child of such a member is eligible to apply for an award. (More details pertaining to this are posted in Fellowship Hall.) Recipients may use the award for any secondary educational needs, including tuition, lodging, travel, materials, or any other purpose *as approved by the Scholarship Committee in its sole discretion.*

The Scholars' Fund is made possible by the gifts of friends, members, and organizations of Eastport United Methodist Church. Persons wishing to make a gift to the permanent fund may do so by approaching any member of the Scholarship Team. **Team Members 2019:** Wendy Edstrom (Chairperson), Lisa Stevens, Valerie Devaris, Harriet Newquist.

*\*An active member is one who participates in the worship, fellowship, and mission outreach of the congregation through the sharing of time, talents/skills, gifts, and service.*



## Soul Searchers Performance Schedule

Performances are coming up soon and some of you may want to catch a performance at one of these locations. This list is partial so please check with Scott or Nicole Hughes for details. Most important is the **performance at EUMC on Sunday, June 23 at 7:30 p.m.\*** This is goodbye to Scott's & Nicole's leadership and we want to give this group a full church audience. A reception will follow.

### **Sunday, June 2**

- 11:00am Liberty Grove UMC, Burtonsville
- 7:30pm Community UMC of Crofton

### **Sunday, June 9**

- 10:00am First Baptist Church of Crofton
- 7:30pm MACC

### **Wednesday, June 12**

- 7:00pm Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church

### **Saturday, June 15**

- 7:30pm St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Crofton

### **Sunday, June 16**

- 11:00am Severna Park UMC

### **Sunday, June 23**

- 10:00am Jenkins Memorial Church, Riveria Beach
- \*7:30pm Eastport United Methodist Church**

On the Road – June 27 to July 1



## Our Busy Kitchen

Our church kitchen is well used and well maintained. Last month we made it even better with industrial deep cleaning, painting, and special non-slip floor polishing. Many thanks to all hands who made this happen.



**SOME OF OUR HOMEWORK KIDS ARE DOING ART WITH "CREATING COMMUNITIES"**



OUR HEAVENLY BELLS WERE ESPECIALLY FASHIONABLE THIS EASTER

## May Birthdays



- May 1 Shirley Ford  
Louis Bergsman
- May 6 Cindy Macey
- May 10 James Stevens
- May 13 Braden Clary
- May 15 Art King  
Caitlin Peddicord Holt
- May 16 Brenda Jones
- May 18 Abigail Wilcox
- May 19 Ruth Gibbons  
Betty Storton
- May 24 Gene Swanner
- May 25 Michael Keller
- May 26 Ashlyn Hughes
- May 30 Mitch Krebs
- May 31 Kathy Volz

## BruMar Gardens

Have you enjoyed the beauty of our sanctuary during the holidays? Big full poinsettias at Christmas and gorgeous lilies at Easter! We get them from BruMar Gardens, right down the road past the Giant at Arundel on the Bay Road. They have not increased our costs in years and plants are consistently beautiful. They also donate the very best corn to our Peach Festival. That's right, 600 ears of sweet, yummy corn and they've been doing it for many years! BruMar Gardens has been a big supporter of EUMC and we really appreciate them. Just a little "behind the scenes" nugget of information for you.



## May Anniversaries



- May 1 Gerald & Lorraine Crouch
- May 4 Tom & Paulette Schwallenberg
- May 5 Robert & Ruth Gibbons
- May 13 Robert & Ann Rawls
- May 14 Ricardo & Carrie Vasquez  
David & Kathy Moreland
- May 16 Thomas & Harriett Newquist
- May 18 Curtis & Vicki Clary
- May 21 Dallas & Brenda Jones
- May 22 Art & Annabelle King  
Steve & Pat Parks
- May 23 Joe & Sue Nasatka
- May 24 Butch & June Stevens
- May 27 Neil Bergsman & Val Devaris

*The Spire* is published monthly by Eastport United Methodist Church, 926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403. 410.263.5490  
[eastportumc@verizon.net](mailto:eastportumc@verizon.net)  
[www.eastportumc.org](http://www.eastportumc.org)  
 Pastor: Michelle Mejia  
 Editor: Eunice Corse

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> United Methodist Women 5:30pm	<b>2</b> Homework 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Reconciling Ministry Meeting 10am
<b>5</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am	<b>6</b> Bells 7pm	<b>7</b> Homework 4pm Peach Festival Meeting 6:30pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Homework 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am	<b>13</b> Bells 7pm	<b>14</b> Missions Meeting 12pm @ Sammy's Homework 4pm	<b>15</b> Food Pantry 12pm	<b>16</b> Homework 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am	<b>20</b> Bells 7pm	<b>21</b> Homework 4pm Trustees 6:30pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Homework 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Discussion 9am Worship 10am Prayer Team	<b>27</b> Bells 7pm	<b>28</b> Homework 4pm SPRC 7pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Homework 4pm Choir 7pm	<b>31</b> 	