



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

March 2025

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,

From the very beginning, humanity has been on the move. Migration, driven by a myriad of factors from conflict and persecution to the simple hope for a better future, is a fundamental part of the human experience. As United Methodists, we believe our faith calls us to respond to this reality with compassion, justice, and a deep recognition of the inherent worth and dignity of *all* people, regardless of where they were born.

Our *Social Principles* clearly state: "We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God" (§162.H). This foundational belief shapes our understanding of immigration and guides our actions. We acknowledge that immigrants to the United States often flee dire circumstances, including war, economic hardship, and persecution. We recognize their courage and resilience in seeking a new life.

The United Methodist Church's stance on immigration isn't a recent development because of recent headlines or who is "in office"; it's been developed over decades and is rooted in our longstanding commitment to loving our neighbors and advocating for justice. Our *Book of Resolutions* outlines specific actions we are called to take, reflecting our deep commitment to this issue. These resolutions aren't fleeting reactions to headlines; the resolutions represent the considered and prayerfully discerned position of our denomination.

Our call to welcome the sojourner is deeply rooted in scripture. From Leviticus's instruction to treat the

stranger as one of our own citizens (19:33-34) to Hebrews' reminder that in showing hospitality we may be entertaining angels unaware (13:2), the Bible consistently emphasizes our responsibility to care for those who are on the margins. Jesus himself was a refugee, fleeing a tyrant king to Egypt as an infant (Matthew 2:13-18), reminding us that welcoming the stranger is akin to welcoming Christ himself (Matthew 25:35).

Our denomination's resolutions call upon us to:

- **Advocate for Just Laws:** We are called to support legislation that upholds the human rights of all migrants, offering a pathway to legal status for both current and future undocumented immigrants.
- **Offer Practical Support:** This includes establishing English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and advocating for increased funding for such initiatives.
- **Combat Xenophobia:** We must actively denounce and oppose prejudice, racism, and violence directed against migrants, working to build bridges of understanding and respect.
- **Welcome Newcomers:** Our churches are encouraged to welcome newly arriving immigrants into our congregations and communities.
- **Oppose Inhumane Policies:** We stand against policies that separate families, including the construction of walls that divide communities.
- **Demand Due Process:** We call for an end to arrests, detentions, and deportations of undocumented immigrants, particularly children, based solely on their immigration status, until comprehensive and just immigration reform is enacted.
- **Provide Pastoral Care:** We are called to offer compassionate support to refugees and migrants, addressing their spiritual, material, and legal needs.

- **Collaborate for Justice:** We work alongside civic and legal organizations to support migrant communities impacted by harsh immigration laws.

These are not just words on paper; they are a call to action. As United Methodists, we are called to put our faith into action, working for a world where all people are treated with dignity and respect, and where the promise of a better future is not just a dream, but a possibility for all.

This is why we gathered on Sunday March 2 with Jessa Coulter, Executive Director of the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN) and Matthew Gorman, an immigration attorney and board member of AIJN. The event, which drew a diverse crowd from the congregation and the wider community, served as a powerful reminder of our shared humanity and the importance of advocating for just and humane immigration policies. The presenters explained the intricate legal framework, demystifying various immigration statuses and pathways to citizenship. In our time together we gained a clear understanding of AIJN's process for connecting individuals with legal assistance, and the barriers they face, and how AIJN works to address them.

To read more on our Social Principles in the United Methodist Book of Resolutions, please visit: <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/civil-and-human-rights/immigration-to-the-united-states>

~ Grace and peace, Pastor Chris

March UMW Meeting



The United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 4, at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. We will have a short business meeting followed by devotions. You are welcome to bring a bagged meal and drink; dessert will be provided. All women of the church are invited to participate.

~ Kathy Duckett

Welcome to EUMC

We're glad to welcome Jake Prieto into the congregation this morning! Welcome to the Eastport branch of Christ's family, Jake! (March 2, 2025)



Sunday School Happenings



Preparing for Valentine's Day, we talked about some of the scriptures in the Bible about love, including First Corinthians 13 and the Gospel of John. We listened to the story of Saint Valentine and learned how he risked his life to celebrate love the way he believed God wanted him to. We talked about our EUMC church motto, "You are Loved," and how love is an everyday practice.



A small group of us worked on adding some colorful and sparkly decorations in the Sunday School room. While we made decorations we discussed how it's easy to be kind to people who are kind to us, but it is much harder to be nice to

those who are unpleasant. We decided it is important because we're being a good example of God's love and it's what Jesus taught us to do.

~ Elaine Fors-MacKellar & Molly Estabrook

Successful Men's Event

On February 23, EUMC hosted the beginning of an open candid conversation about men's mental health. **Burdens Men Carry** panel shared both personal experiences and clinical perspectives from Lance David, LCPC, Dr. Ryan Williams, and Philip Kaplan. One key takeaway idea is that men have the right to be mentally healthy in spite of the unrealistic untrue expectations of men. Following a formal presentation, the conversation continued informally over pizza donated by Vizzini's Pizza 'n' Subs in Cape St. Claire. This event marks the beginning of the conversation. Please join us as we consider ways to work together in overcoming stigma and taking down barriers.



~ Phil Kaplan and David Emenheiser

Food Pantry News



A Cold Day at our February Pantry

The focus for our March pantry is **dish soap**...Palmolive, Dawn, store brands, any brands are welcome. Stop by the church office or bring them to church on Sunday. Pantry date is March 15th. And as always, **thank you!**



Legislative Forum at Asbury Arnold UMC

On Sunday, Feb, 23rd, an impressive gathering took place at Asbury United Methodist Church in Arnold, where members of our Eastport UMC community joined with others to engage in a crucial conversation about upcoming Maryland state legislation



impacting the LGBTQ+ community. We were honored to hear directly from several Maryland State Delegates, gaining valuable insights into the legislative landscape and the potential consequences for our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

This event was a powerful reminder of our United Methodist commitment to justice and inclusion. Our denomination has long affirmed that "certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons," regardless of sexual orientation. We recognize the importance of protecting rightful claims in shared resources, pensions, guardian relationships, and other legal matters, ensuring equal protection under the law. Furthermore, we stand firmly against violence and coercion directed at any individual based on their sexual orientation. (UMC Social Principles.)

The recent meeting underscored the urgency of these principles. The proposed legislation discussed has the potential to significantly affect the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals and families in our state. It is our duty, as people of faith, to actively advocate for policies that uphold dignity, equality, and justice for all.

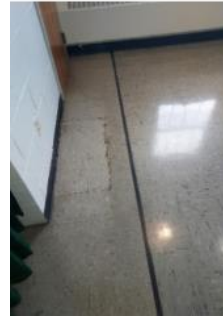
Our participation in this event reflects a deep commitment to living out our faith in tangible ways. It's not enough to simply hold these beliefs; we must actively engage in the work of creating a more just and equitable society.

Garden & Maintenance News

Our winter cleanup day was Sunday, Feb. 16 after church service. Thanks to: Pastor Chris for cleaning the carpet in the sanctuary, Mike for all the window cleaning, Elaine for cleaning off the pencil marks in the pews, Tony and Molly for helping me clean all the crumbs and dirt out of the pew seats (I vacuumed all of that up from the carpet the next day), Theresa for cleaning pew seats (later that week), and Jerry for replacing the broken door knob in the downstairs bathroom. We have filled out the form for mulch and plants for GreenScape and sent it in. GreenScape is April 26.

On January 9 we moved all the furniture off the fellowship hall floor and behind the stage. On February 10, Service Master Janitorial started on the

fellowship hall floor. They had to strip a lot of wax and dirt off and then put down four coats of wax. Three men worked 10 hours on the first day and four on the second day. The floor still looked bad in places. They had to come back to strip and wax the floor again. Again, they worked 10 hours on the third day and four hours on the fourth day. Furniture was moved back. It looks wonderful now. The owner of Service Master is a pastor and his two employees attend his church.



BEFORE



AFTER

While they were working during the four days, Jerry and I worked on other projects. The damaged plaster in the vestibule was scraped and redone. Walls were sanded, sealed, and painted. I cleaned the walls and doors in the Hall, the hallway, chapel, and coffee cabinet; watered and trimmed plants in kitchen, threw dead plants in dumpster, and put sealant around vent cover in vestibule. Hole in ceiling in hallway was scraped, filled, and painted. Hundreds of tree branches were picked up and a couple of bags of leaves. We looked at leak in ceiling by side door. We will get estimates for repairs. I cleaned two of the badly stained orange chairs in the chapel. Jerry did lead test on water pipes as requested by city. We fixed the sanctuary doors that were not closing properly and rehung the banner out front.

Please keep all our workers and volunteers in your prayers to stay safe while they do repairs on our church. If anyone has extra time and can help with church gardens, lawns, and maintenance, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Joanne or Jerry Christofel at msjohara@yahoo.com or 410-703-0159.

~ Joanne Christofel

Work It!

Want to stay active and connected? Eastport United Methodist Church now offers two exercise classes for all fitness levels! Join Leandra from Dancing Feet Fitness for a gentle Cardio Chair Workout on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 9:45 AM, or challenge yourself with the Build a Better You! Bootcamp on Fridays from 8:00 to 8:45 AM. Classes are \$8 each, or get a 5-class pass for \$30. EUMC members enjoy a free class during the last week of every month!



Ruth

Leandra

Elaine

Email Leandra for more info:

dancingfeetfitness@gmail.com

Operation: Tipping Point

Imagine a world where a small act of kindness ripples out, creating a wave of hope. That's exactly what we're doing with **Operation: Tipping Point** at Eastport United Methodist Church, and we'd love for you to join us!



We all know the world can feel overwhelming sometimes. We see the problems – the injustices, the negativity – and it's easy to feel powerless. But we also know that even small gestures can make a big difference. That's where Operation: Tipping Point comes in.

It's simple: we're gathering a small group of people to share a meal together at a restaurant right here in our neighborhood. We'll enjoy some food, some company, and then, we'll do something extraordinary. Each participant will contribute \$20 towards a tip for our server, and (thanks to a special contribution) Eastport United Methodist Church will match that amount, doubling our impact!

Imagine the look on our server's face when they receive a \$200 tip, a tangible expression of kindness and generosity. We'll present it with a simple message: "We are members of Eastport United Methodist Church. Jesus has instructed us to love thy neighbor and show kindness. As such, here is your tip!"

This isn't just about the money; it's about sharing a moment of hope, a reminder that even in a challenging world, kindness prevails. It's about being a messenger of hope, just as Jesus called us to be.

We're looking for four volunteers to join us in this simple, yet powerful act. It's an opportunity to connect with others, share a meal, and be a part of something truly meaningful. Let's work together to create a "tipping point" of kindness in our community. Are you ready to join us and be a part of spreading hope?

February 21st we had our sixth Operation Tipping Point dinner, this time at Blackwall Hitch. As with the others, we identified ourselves as members of EUMC, that we have been commanded by Jesus to love our neighbor and show kindness, and then we handed our waitress a \$200 tip. She immediately started tearing up and told us that she "really needed this."

Will you join us? Contact Phil Kaplan (pgk1979@hotmail.com)

~ Phil Kaplan

Easter Dedications

Lilies from BruMar Gardens will grace our sanctuary for Easter again this year. You are invited to make a dedication by purchasing a lily for \$25 or by making a contribution to our food pantry. There is an order form below in this newsletter, and forms will be available in church on Sundays. Please put them in the offering plates or drop them by the church office no later than April 13th. You may take your lilies home on Easter Sunday.



~ Jill Peddicord



Share Your Talent Open Mic Night!

Get ready to showcase your skills and creativity at Eastport United Methodist Church's upcoming Open Mic Night! Whether you're a seasoned performer or just looking for a fun and supportive environment to try something new, this is your chance to shine.

Sing your song. Play your heart. Dance with joy. Tell that joke. Read your words. Act with passion. Show your art. Tell that story. Share your gift.

Join us on **Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 7 pm** for an evening of entertainment and community. All are welcome to share their gifts, whether it's singing, playing an instrument, dancing, comedy, poetry, acting, visual art, storytelling, or anything in between!

Ready to take the stage? Sign up today at eastportumc.org/open-mic. We can't wait to see what you've got!

EUMC United Way Grant Recipient



Last November, an application was made to the United Way for their 2025 Neighborhood Grant. These grants are opportunities for organizations to be eligible to receive funding to carry out community-centered projects that are resident-driven, connect community members, and create impact in Central Maryland.

Here at EUMC, we are committed to helping our neighbors with essentials and opportunities. Our food pantry, English as a Second Language classes, enrichment classes in Art and Robotics, health and

safety presentations, space for exercise, civic awareness meetings and so much more, enables our neighbors to be empowered to make a better place for us all.

Our Community Coordinator Navigator, Diesha Contee, is tasked with helping folks access these opportunities and making sure they are used to the greatest benefit. The United Way grant managers agreed with how important our work is here in Eastport and have given us a grant of \$8,500 to fund Diesha's salary for 2025! Wow!

There were 12 grants awarded to groups here in Anne Arundel County. For the full list of awardees, please go to [Neighborhood Grants - United Way of Central Maryland](#).

None of this could happen without the outstanding commitment and support from our congregation. We are very grateful to the United Way, to Diesha and to all our volunteers who take our offerings and turn them into meaningful and empowering tools for our community.

~ Jill Peddicord

Join Us for Tacos!

Put this on your calendar: March 23rd, 6:00pm. Invite some friends to join you and come for tacos and fellowship. Your Administrative Council will host this informal event. Hope to see you there. Everyone's welcome!



Save the Date

Eastport United Methodist & Annapolis Jazz and Roots Present: **Video Game Music: The Sonic Edge.** Experience the electrifying sounds of video game music, reimagined! Sunday, May 4th 3:00 to 5:00 PM at EUMC. Free Admission (Reservations Encouraged) Stay tuned for ticketing/reservation information.

Tommy & Elizabeth Eicher
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We will donate \$500 to Eastport United Methodist Church on your behalf for any Real Estate transaction that results in a sale



March Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar 1 Christy South
Mar 3 Jean Wilcox
Katherine Wilcox
Mar 5 Molly Estabrook
Ernie Schultz
Stephen Jones
Mar 9 Carol Ann Stevens
Mar 10 Andy Little
Mar 11 Chris Broadwell
Mar 13 Jill Peddicord
Mar 14 Vern Renshaw
Mar 18 Sue Hadaway
Mar 19 Eric Smaridge
Mar 26 Barbara Nutwell
Mar 27 Catherine Elliott
Mar 29 Thomas Owen
Mar 31 Jennifer Smith
Sue Nasatka



March Anniversaries

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mar 16 Ernie & Virginia Schultz
Mar 18 Rusty & Janet Mack
Mar 31 Rawle Green & Barbara Schwarz

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EUMC Missional Action

Great response!! Your responsiveness gives us solid information.

Eastport United Methodist Church recently took part in the Readiness 360 assessment, a process designed to evaluate a church's preparedness for multiplying its ministry and reaching new people. We sent the surveys to staff members, key leaders, and active participants, with nearly 30% response rate. (That may seem low, but survey response rates are often under 20%.) From your thoughtful feedback, the findings are focused on four critical capacities necessary for thriving ministry in the 21st century. The Readiness360 tool analyzes our results to offer valuable insights into EUMC's strengths and areas for growth. The high response rate gives us confidence in the findings. The Readiness360 process provides a valuable framework for Eastport UMC to strengthen its foundations and prepare for future growth. The church's willingness to engage in this self-assessment demonstrates a commitment to reaching new people in new ways, a hallmark of the Christian movement.

We have pulled together an EUMC Missional Action Project (eMAP) Team who has received a more detailed report outlining recommendations for enhancing the church's readiness for new ministry ventures. We welcome additional members as you feel called to use your gifts, presence, prayers, witness, and service for Christ through EUMC.

The Findings

The Readiness 360 assessment uses a visual system of rabbits to indicate a church's "multiplication energy," with more rabbits signifying greater readiness. We pasted the readiness chart from the report below. And provide a summary here.

While EUMC demonstrates strength in Cultural Openness, our biggest challenge lies in Missional Alignment. The assessment suggests that while there is some spiritual fervor within EUMC, we need to be rekindled. The report indicates a need to strengthen the personal connection between individuals and God, as well as the church's collective connection to God's mission. The recommendation is to focus on renewing spiritual practices, both personally and as a congregation.

EUMC has a history of strong relationships, but the assessment reveals that this strength isn't currently pervasive throughout the church. Cultivating trust and improving relationships with those different from the majority of members are identified as key areas for development.

A significant portion of the congregation understands the direction God is calling EUMC, but others are not yet aligned. The report emphasizes the importance of focusing resources and personnel, and suggests a serious conversation about our priorities. This alignment is crucial for effective and unified action.

Despite some anxieties about the surrounding community, EUMC maintains an outward focus. The report suggests that understanding the community better and learning our neighbors' stories could alleviate some of these anxieties.

From the Report:

In Crisis  Not Ready  Ready In Many Respects  More Than Ready 

Spiritual Intensity

There is some fire in people's hearts at Eastport UMC, but it isn't burning as brightly as it should. Eastport UMC has some work to do in strengthening the personal connection between your people and God and God's mission for you in the world. It would be wise to spend some time reconnecting with God through renewing spiritual practices both personally and as a church body.

Dynamic Relationships

In some respects, your church has seen some amazing relationships and friendships across the years. However, the DNA of these relationships is not currently indicative of the church as a whole. You have some work to do in terms of cultivating trust within the church and relating effectively to folks who are different from the majority of the members.

Missional Alignment

Many folks at your church have a good sense of where God is calling you to go, but others are not aligned with this point of view. There is seldom enough personnel or financial resources to run in many directions at once. Now is a time for serious conversation about Eastport UMC's priorities.

Cultural Openness

Despite some anxieties about the behaviors and cultural habits of certain people in the surrounding population, Eastport UMC, is still oriented towards its community. Some of the anxiety may be reduced through better understanding of the church neighbors and learning their stories.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am	3	4 Homework & Reading 4pm UMW Dinner 5:30pm	5 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	6 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	7 Friday Group 9am	8
9 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School Daylight Savings Begins	10	11 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Lunch 12pm @Sammy's	12	13 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	14 Friday Group 9am	15 Community Food & Diaper Pantry 11am (Setup 10am)
16 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am	17 	18 Homework & Reading 4pm	19	20 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm SPRING BEGINS	21 Friday Group 9am	22
23 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am Sunday School	24	25 Homework & Reading 4pm Divine Diners Adams 5:30pm Admin Council 7pm	26	27 Homework & Reading 4pm Choir 7pm	28 Friday Group 9am	29
30 Conversations in Faith 9:15am Service 10am	31					

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

TUESDAY



ESL CLASSES W/ CENTRO DE AYUDA 10 AM
HOMEWORK & READING PROGRAM 4 PM
DIVINE DINERS 2ND TUES, 12 PM;
DIVINE DINERS 4TH TUES, 5:30 PM.

WEDNESDAY



ESL CLASSES W/ CENTRO DE AYUDA 10 AM
AFTER SCHOOL W/ CHARTING CAREERS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 8:30 PM

THURSDAY



ESL CLASSES W/ CENTRO DE AYUDA 10 AM
HOMEWORK & READING PROGRAM 4 PM
ARTS & ROBOTICS W/ MD HALL 5 PM
EUMC CHOIR REHEARSAL 7 PM

FRIDAY



SMALL GROUP W/ RACHEL 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

Flowers are
\$25.00 each.

Food Pantry & Easter Lily Dedications

Please print exactly as you would like it in the bulletin:

In memory of:

Given By:

In honor of:

Given By:

Number of Flowers: _____ (x \$25.00 each) Flower Amount \$ _____

Food Pantry Donation Amount \$ _____

Today's Date _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Make checks
payable to "EUMC."

cash check



**Eastport United Methodist Church
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Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
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