



# The Eastport Spire

## “Inspire Us to Great Things”

### May 2024

*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.*

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#### **Eastport UMC is on the Rise!**

This is a season of incredible growth and renewal at Eastport United Methodist. Since the pandemic, there's been a surge in new members, a renewed sense of purpose, and a vibrant community spirit. It's clear – God is working with us in powerful ways!

This growth is reflected in the generosity of our church family. Giving has increased these last few months, fueling our ministry. Your compassion and dedication empower us to serve!

However, with complete transparency, we want to acknowledge that, despite this progress, our budget still faces a deficit. This is a challenge we've been working to overcome for some time, even in the years preceding the pandemic. We maintain a barebones budget with most expenses (upwards of 75%) going to the necessary costs of personnel and facilities. Many of the improvements you've seen around the facility have been made possible by in-kind donations.

We want to extend our table and increase our impact, as a body of faith committed to following Jesus and improving the lives of others, but this is difficult to do relying on reserves. This is where good stewardship from each of us comes in. It allows us to extend our table and make a real difference. We have amazing ways to connect with our neighbors, fully funding the budget will help us continue that, but we have even bigger dreams!

When you give to Eastport UMC, your contribution directly supports our dedicated staff – from our full-time pastor providing spiritual guidance, to our part-time music director enriching services. It also supports our part-time administrator, community coordinator, and custodians who ensure a smooth operation and a welcoming space.

We believe in creating and maintaining an inclusive ministry so all know God’s enduring love. Whether you're a longtime member or just getting acquainted, we welcome you to join in this effort! Giving is personal, but we hope you'll consider joining our mission. There are many ways to contribute, financially, through volunteer work, or simply lending a helping hand.

To learn more, join our upcoming information sessions: May 19 @ 9am; June 9 at 11am; July 7 @ 11 am.

Discover how you can be part of something truly special.

Together, through financial gifts or acts of service, we can build a brighter future for our church and community.

~ Eastport United Methodist Church