



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

January 2021

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

Beloved of Eastport United Methodist Church,

Whether you still feel like you are new to this community of faith or you have been on the journey with Eastport United Methodist Church for some time, I am so grateful to enter this new year with you. Together we have traveled quite the road: providing immediate assistance to food insecure households, partnering with local non-profits to create a better safety net for our community, and have built an online ministry to better connect and worship together. The coming year will require adapting to the changes and challenges presented to the church just as we have in the past. I am reminded of this beautiful hymn that should accompany us during this time:

*The church of Christ, in ev’ry age
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage,
and keep on rising from the dead.*

*Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ’s sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ’s humanity.*

*We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord,
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.*

At the beginning of each new year, I love to spend time meditating on John Wesley's Covenant Prayer. Here it is in contemporary form.

*I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory
and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it also be made in heaven. Amen.*



Epiphany at EUMC

Epiphany Bonfire and Service of Lights is January 6 at 7 pm on the church lawn. This is an old church tradition celebrating Epiphany, the conclusion of the full twelve days of Christmas. We’ll light a few candles and have a small campfire to accompany us during this service. I also encourage you to bring a clipping (or more) from your Christmas tree to add to the campfire.



January UMW Meeting

The United Methodist Women will hold their next meeting online via Zoom on Wednesday, January 13, at 5:30. (This



is a one-time change from the first Wednesday of the month so that members can attend the Epiphany bonfire scheduled for January 6 at EUMC.) We will have a short business meeting followed by a program from the 2020-2021 UMW book entitled *Knitted Together for God's Good Work*. All women of the church are invited to participate. I will send out a Zoom meeting invitation to all who have attended meetings over the past year and would be happy to send one to anyone else who is interested – just let me know!

~ Kathy Duckett

Over 330 souls have watched our 12th Annual New Year's Eve Interfaith Celebration on line. It is an amazing and moving video – a joyful tradition continued. Participants include multiple spiritual communities – Unitarian Universalist, Episcopalian, Methodist, Jewish, Quaker, Buddhist, Mormon, Baha'i – and music from the Arundel Vocal Arts. It would be hard to name names – some have been with us since the beginning and some are new faces. The video is available on the church's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/-SUqPYA96A4>.

Many thanks to all the folks who sent us videos; and to Pastor Chris, Jill Peddicord, and Bill Schneider for making this happen. Special recognition: Bill, your editing skills are awesome!



Gift Cards for Bowman Place

Thanks to members and friends of EUMC, we exceeded our goal! In addition to the 58 grocery store gift cards for the residents of Bowman Place, we were able to provide 20 other people living on Pleasant and Monument Streets (in the same area) with grocery store gift cards as well. The 78 gift cards, worth \$25 each, totaled donations of \$1,950. The UMW extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated. Please know that your efforts helped brighten and bless the lives of 78 people. THANK YOU!

~ Kathy Duckett

Hello, welcome to Flight #2021. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Attitude and Blessings are secured and locked in an upright position. All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should we lose Altitude under pressure, during the flight, reach up and pull down a Prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated you can assist other passengers. There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. The Captain (GOD) has cleared us for takeoff. Destination GREATNESS. Feel free to repost if you're taking this flight with me...#2021

**THANKS TO CINDY COUNCELL FOR PASSING ALONG THIS
INSPIRATION FOR THE NEW YEAR.**



EUMC: "Community Central"

Our community parking lot food pantry continues to grow and thrive. Sadly, it does so because the need continues to grow. Just as you see on the evening news, the hunger issue is no longer limited to the very poor; it now is hitting entire families who lost jobs or are losing unemployment. We are serving about 85-90 families monthly. These families WALK, not drive to our Food Pantry. That means that the families we are serving come from literally next door, across the street, and from around the corner. These families were teetering on the economic edge of survival before the pandemic, and now are being forced to feed 6-7 people in their household instead of 3-4 folks before the pandemic. One woman who came to our December food pantry is feeding 13 people in her household.

We have fed 1718 people since July 2020. To put this in perspective, the food pantry fed 1376 in all 12 months of 2019. Food scarcity is so desperate that our neighbors overcome the shame associated with asking for help. Because the process involves registering and providing ID before receiving help, it's very hard for 65% of our pantry recipients to trust a person not known to them. For our newer neighbors who speak Spanish, we now have them work with our wonderful volunteers whose heart language is Spanish. These volunteers can assure our families that we use the registration information solely to ensure that the supplies are sufficient.

As trust in our outreach has grown, and our help has extended to more folks in Harbor House, Eastport Terrace, Watergate, and Madison St, we hear stories of heat and electricity being shut off, or facing evictions, or the shame that they have no money to buy Christmas gifts. This prompted our volunteers to become resourceful and creative. Through our community partnership with #JustOneSweater, Lisa set up a winter coat give-away at the December food

pantry. Out of our community partnership with the Eastport Volunteer Fire Department, Lee organized a Christmas Brass Band to perform in the parking lot during our event. Our new volunteer Svein Sotmr, the founder and owner of Storm Brothers Ice cream, gave free, farm fresh eggs to each family. And because of the outpouring of book donations to the Little Free Library, our friends from Mt. Zion UMC manned two tables covered in new and gently used kids' books which made great Christmas gifts.

A lot of Love: Real magic happened in the EUMC parking lot at Christmas. A few local young adults requested the use of the church's parking lot so that they could create a Toyland for their neighborhood kids. They set up an Amazon online gift registry of Christmas toys, bikes, and books to buy for families in need. The wealthier county residents rallied to buy hundreds of gifts, and these young adults ran a huge toy giveaway for 100+ kids complete with Winter Wonderland and Santa. It was wonderful. All these youth needed was a parking lot; they brought time, energy, love, respect, and enthusiasm to our neighbors in need. ~ *Susan Schneider*

January 16th Food Pantry Need

Our food pantry continues to adjust to the changing needs of a pandemic. After giving away winter coats and warm sweaters for the past two months, we thought we solved a need. But it brought a new need: We need laundry detergent! One of the kids who selected a favorite sweater from the donation pile back in November showed up wearing this sweater inside out at the December toy event. Our volunteer Lisa asked why he was wearing it with the tags sticking out and he answered, "I got it dirty." This immediately had us think, "How do I find enough detergent so that every sweater given away can be washed?"



Will you help? Our goal is to collect 100 smaller (40 ounces or less) bottles/boxes of laundry detergent. We are collecting detergent in any form (pod, liquid, or powder) near the shed at EUMC, or on the Schneider front porch at 523 Burnside St. Please consider this need when you are at the store. **Thank you!** ~ *Susan Schneider*

January Birthdays

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Jan 4 Dennis Bergsman
Jan 7 Cyndi Councill
Lauren Moyer
Jan 11 Eunice Corse
Devin Clary
Jan 12 Eric Edstrom
Jan 13 Charlotte Kerns
Jan 14 Nathan Somers
Jan 15 Mary Jane Finkle
Jan 16 Gerald Crouch
Jan 18 Mike Wurst
Bob Emory
Wendy Edstrom
Jan 21 Ed Owen
Jan 22 Emily Broadwell
Jan 23 Steve Duckett
Jan 26 Kim Wilcox
Jan 27 Matt Ficca
Jan 28 Virginia Schultz
Jan 30 Bev Ferrar
Jan 31 Jaden Vasquez

We Said Goodbye

Nadine Clark

April 13, 1931 – November 8, 2020

Catherine Daywalt

September 23, 1926 – December 13, 2020

Norman Jones

October 14, 1934 – December 30, 2020

Ann Rawls

October 21, 1943 – January 3, 2021

January Anniversaries

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Jan 1 Mitch & Barbara Krebs
Jan 3 Jerry & Joanne Christofel
Jan 5 Jack & Sherrie Little
Jan 12 Bill & Susan Schneider
Jan 30 Marty & Myrna Dobbs

And now we welcome the New Year,
full of things that have never been.

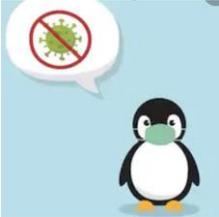
May there be
Peace in our hearts
Peace in this place
Peace in our land
And throughout the world
Peace

Happy New Year
2021

the
Best Christmas
Pageant Ever

EUMC's Virtual Christmas Pageant took place on Sunday, December 20th. If you haven't seen it, check out EUMC's YouTube Channel. So many thanks to everyone who took part, and especially to Lisa Stevens who organized the pageant. It was happily memorable! **Twinkle Twinkle!!**

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
					1	2 
3 Online Worship	4	5 History of Hymns Online 7:30pm	6 Epiphany Bonfire 6:00pm 	7 Virtual Hymn Sing 7:00pm	8	9
10 Online Worship	11	12 History of Hymns Online 7:30pm	13 UMW Zoom Meeting 5:30pm	14 Virtual Hymn Sing 7:00pm	15	16 FOOD PANTRY 10:00 AM 
17 Online Worship	18	19 History of Hymns Online 7:30pm	20	21 Virtual Hymn Sing 7:00pm	22	23
24 Online Worship	25	26 History of Hymns Online 7:30pm	27	28 Virtual Hymn Sing 7:00pm	29	30
31 Online Worship					<i>Hope: Believing things can change.</i>	

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

**The Rev. Christopher Broadwell, 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