



# The Eastport Spire

## *“Inspire Us to Great Things”*

### September 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.*

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## From the Pastor

### Friends of Eastport United Methodist Church,

The Re-Entry Team has had quite the task over the last 18 months. It has not been easy, yet they have done a magnificent job at making some very difficult decisions and I am so very grateful to them and their faithfulness to the work. We as a group have sought to err on the side of caution and care for our community and it has been a blessing to witness your support of it.

With the rise of COVID-19 cases in our area along with the number of "breakthrough" cases among vaccinated individuals (even among those in our congregation), we wish to go the extra mile in terms of caution going forward.

We are asking that *all* persons wear a mask while indoors at church unless eating, drinking, or using a microphone. This is a simple thing we can do to help all in attendance feel safe, especially those of us who are unvaccinated or have unvaccinated people in our households.



We continue to make worship services available online at [eastportumc.org](http://eastportumc.org) and while they are recorded versions of the service, we are working on ways to livestream the service in the future. We'll also continue having worship on the lawn the first Sunday of the month as weather permits.

*~ Grace and peace, Pastor Chris*

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## Trustee Update

As some of you know, we have struggled with water intrusion in the church basement for quite some time, and while some mitigation has been in place, it has

been insufficient to keep moisture at bay. That, along with lack of adequate ventilation, has led to growth of some unwelcome guests: *aspergillus penicillioides*. We had each room inspected for mold and each of them were positive, some of them at uninhabitable levels: the pastor's office, the workroom, the conference room, the Colonial Nursery School office, and the CNS 3-year old classroom. Immediate action is underway by the Administrative Council and the Trustees, relocating the CNS office and the 3-year old classroom to other parts of the building. We are communicating this to you so that if you venture into the basement, you will see why things aren't where they used to be and why some rooms are unavailable for use.

If you have any questions, contact Bill Schneider.



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## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will hold the first meeting of the 2021-2022 year at 5:30 on Wednesday, September 8. The meeting will take place at the home of Harriet Macey on 130 East Lake Drive in Bay Ridge. Harriet, Jean, and Audrey have generously offered to provide dinner. Please let Jean Strucko know if you plan to attend by Sunday, September 5, for food planning purposes. You can reach Jean by phone at 410-268-7175 or by email at [jeanstrucko@gmail.com](mailto:jeanstrucko@gmail.com). We will have devotions as well as a business meeting to include planning for the year ahead. All women of the church are invited.

We extend our thanks to the following women who are giving their time and talents to be UMW officers this year: Jean Strucko, President; Harriet Macey, Vice President; Harriet Newquist, Treasurer; and Debbie Morgan, Secretary. *~ Kathy Duckett*



**Michael Willis Owen**

September 2, 1951 – August 4, 2021

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Anne Owen, Andy, Tommy and Julie, and all Mike's family and friends. A memorial service was held at Eastport United Methodist Church on August 14. The family has asked for donations to Hospice of the Chesapeake. Mike's obituary is here:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/capitalgazette/name/michael-owen-obituary?pid=199698410>



**Elizabeth "Betty" Tillack**

June 10, 1932 – August 23, 2021

Please keep Betty's sons, Scott and Mike, and all her family, friends and loved ones in your hearts and prayers. We will celebrate Betty's life at Eastport United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 11, at 10:00 AM. The family requests that contributions be made in her name to Eastport United Methodist Church. Here is the link to Betty's obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/capitalgazette/name/elizabeth-tillack-obituary?pid=199944279>

## Homework and Reading Ministry to Resume

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools are expected to re-open for in person instruction, and the Homework and Reading Ministry at Eastport United Methodist Church will be back as well beginning on Thursday, September 9.

There will be both continuity and change in the program. Now in its 13th year, the all-volunteer program will offer after-school assistance to kindergarten and selected elementary school children. Volunteers from the community and the church help students with their homework; provide the opportunity to strengthen their reading, writing, comprehension, math and analytical skills; and engage in other educational activities.

Participants will continue to meet twice a week: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. We will hold the sessions in the church fellowship hall, although we may use the picnic tables on the church lawn on days in which the weather is accommodating.

Starting this year, the program will be offered to children in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3. It has been the experience of volunteers that these are the kids who have benefited the most from the program. We will be retaining those books that serve this particular population.

We will be introducing a new resource called Skybrary, a product of an organization called Reading Is Fundamental. Skybrary is a digital library, featuring hundreds of digital books, each with optional narration; real-world video field trips; standards-aligned lessons; and easy-to-use teacher management tools. It combines several key components that help children develop their literacy skills: high-interest books, read-to-me features, and encouragement for independent reading. The extensive library of books, videos, and lesson plans is designed for all students in grades K-3 across multiple subject areas. The church's WiFi has been extended to the fellowship hall to enable the use of Skybrary.

Members of the church can assist the Homework and Reading Ministry in two ways. First, we welcome volunteers! Volunteers are not expected to attend all sessions. They can come as often as their schedules

allow. The program operates like a "one room schoolhouse." Volunteers are not assigned to any particular child, so participants have maximum flexibility in terms of attendance. All volunteers will receive a Zoom tutorial about Skybrary by the staff of Reading Is Fundamental. Second, folks can supply snacks for the kids. We conclude all of our Homework sessions by providing the children with a snack that they can eat on the premises or take home.

Our top priority is the safety of our children and our volunteers. The following COVID 19 protocols will be in place. All volunteers will be required to be fully vaccinated. All children and volunteers must wear face coverings during the Homework sessions. Physical distancing will be observed. These protocols may be adjusted to reflect the policies adopted by Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

Here are historical details about the program. The program began with two volunteers and two children. It has grown. During the 2018-2019 academic year, our last complete one before the pandemic, there were 67 Homework sessions serving 24 children. There were 20 "regular" participants – children who often attended. The average (mean and median) number of children was 13. On average, six or seven volunteers were on hand to assist the kids. The program has helped about 75 children during its existence, most of them for many years.

The program was inducted in the Volunteer Project Hall of Fame of the Volunteer Center for Anne Arundel County in 2011.



The church received gifts totaling \$65,000 to initiate a Neighborhood Children Education Fund, which is designed to provide an annual stream of money to support educational programs, activities and scholarships to enhance the learning and school endeavors of neighborhood children and especially those participating in the Homework and Reading Ministry.

Please contact Mike Keller at [mjaykeller@outlook.com](mailto:mjaykeller@outlook.com) or 410-263-7409 if you have questions about the program. We hope you can help with our wonderful program.

## Naked Church

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During a recent Prays Band rehearsal we were working with our new sound system. The comment was made that the sound would "blow your clothes off," to which I yelled out, "Naked church!" We all predictably giggled like middle schoolers at the thought.

But while I'm certainly not advocating that we should attend church in our birthday suits, the idea of naked church kept coming back to me. For example, one of the very first stories in the Bible is of Adam and Eve's nakedness, and their attempt to hide it with a fig leaf.

So I began to think about the idea of nakedness in terms of some of the word's synonyms: defenseless, exposed, helpless. That's when it hit me. What if we really did come to church naked, in the figurative sense, allowing our vulnerabilities to show, allowing our full humanity to be exposed?

For me, nakedness feels like singing a solo. I'm very comfortable singing with my friends in the Prays Band. I've sung in various choirs over the years, and have even sung in musicals. But it's rarer for me to do it by myself. And that's when I feel very naked. There are no other voices giving me a fig leaf cover. It's just me, allowing my voice to be heard. And it might sound a little scratchy, or it might sound a little squeaky because I'm scared, it might get a little flat, or it might get real breathy because I feel like I can't get enough oxygen.

There are so many but, but, but, that I often feel like I should never sing alone again. But I've also learned over the years that my community appreciates my voice, with or without a choir. I've been told that my singing has comforted folks, that it's made them emotional (in a good way), that it helped them in some manner. I have been thanked repeatedly because it meant something to somebody.

And so despite every fear I have, despite how desperately I want that \*%###% fig leaf, when asked, I will sing alone – naked, vulnerable, frightened, exposed. Because a fellow human needs me to. What does naked look like for you? Offering a kind word when you feel tongue-tied? Helping someone who makes you feel inadequate? Turning the other cheek? Whatever naked is for you, then I urge you to allow yourself the grace to embrace your



defenselessness, to shed your fig leaf, and find out how being naked helps you grow and connect with others. ~ *Barbara Krebs*

## Candidates Forum at EUMC

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The Annapolis Human Relations Commission has held a quadrennial nonpartisan “candidates forum” in recent years featuring individuals running for Mayor and City Council. The Commission is a City Board that works to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunity.

The Commission will continue its tradition. It will host an in-person forum on Thursday, September 9 at 7 p.m. at Eastport United Methodist Church. All candidates for Mayor and City Council will have an opportunity to make a statement not to exceed five minutes about what specific action or actions they would take if elected to promote good human relations in the City of Annapolis and move us toward “One Annapolis.”

There will be a Q&A session after all candidates have made their presentations. The public is invited. The church’s COVID 19 policies will be in place. ~ *Mike Keller*

## Peach Festival Memories

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Does this bring back memories? Thanks to Reverend Edwin Ankeny for sending this delightful gem.

The primary item on the Administrative Council’s agenda: how can we meet paying our apportionments?

Pondering, thinking, “what if?” How about? Then the pastor said, “Most churches in May/June have Strawberry festivals. They make out pretty well. Why don’t we take the idea but move to August when peaches are in?”

Brainstorming began. We would have fried chicken, fresh corn on the cob, home grown tomatoes, cole slaw, rolls and fresh sliced peaches. (An added feature, some suggested home made ice cream for an additional cost.)

Two large iron frying pans, big pot of water boiling for corn – off it started.

Who can forget Flo Tucker making coleslaw? Who can forget Charles Williams going to Western Maryland to get couple of bushes of peaches? Or knowing a farmer to get the corn? Or the preacher frying the chicken?

Thanks to the Couples Club (Would become Prime Timers) helping in the kitchen, setting tables, waiting on tables and others, the first Peach Festival was a success. Thanks be to God!

## The Bus Trip is On!

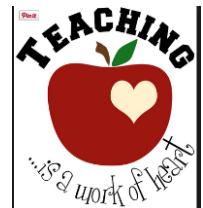
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The excursion to **Sight & Sound Millennial Theater** on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 to see its production of *Esther* remains on schedule! The bus and restaurant arrangements are unchanged. All are strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated by the date of the trip for the safety of all participants. Masks are required on the bus for people who are not fully vaccinated; optional for those who are fully vaccinated. The masking protocol for Sight & Sound is subject to change, so all persons should bring a face covering with them to the show. Contact Carol Emory at [carolememory7@aol.com](mailto:carolememory7@aol.com) with any questions.

## Teachers in Our Midst

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Scott and Nicole Hughes  
Andy Little  
Sally Hight  
Michelle Anderson  
Jason and Shelly Wilcox  
Valerie DeVaris  
Matthew Hiller  
Krista Stone  
Kim Wilcox  
Jen Smith  
Genienne Navarro  
Alicia O’Brien  
Jacqueline Ploof  
Tracy Alexander



*God,  
Pour your Spirit on our teachers this day.  
Especially as they enter their schools and  
classrooms.  
Thank you for giving them dedication, experience,  
and insight.  
Sustain them by your Spirit with creativity,  
patience, peace, and joy.  
In the name of Our Teacher, we pray.  
Amen.*

We've been blessed to have you join in worship over the past several months! It is truly a beautiful and holy time to gather to sing, pray, share, and remember God's great free gift of love for our world. As we have been gathering together again we are reminded of what is at the heart of worship: becoming deeper followers of Jesus.

Love.  
Delight.  
Inclusion.  
Liberation.

Join us for worship, even outside on the first Sunday of the month (weather permitting). Join us for service, with the food pantry or one of many other ways. ~ *Pastor Chris*

## SPRC Announcement

We are so very grateful for the heart and soul that Della Sztuk has poured into the ministry of Eastport United Methodist Church. She has connected our community in so many ways. However, her last day with us will be September 20, as she is leaving us for a new opportunity. We are sad to see her go, but know she will shine her light in some many other places.

Annapolis is a lovely city for many reasons, one being its appreciation and inclusion of public art murals. One doesn't have to walk far to see life in Eastport depicted in stunning murals at the Eastport Shell station, O'Leary's, along Boatyard, and at Trumpy Yacht Yard (Chart House). New murals have been added downtown including the Carr's Beach mural at The Maryland Cultural and Conference Center, a memorial mural at Pinkey's West Street Liquor honoring Carlester Smith: The Walking Man; the newer murals of Thurgood Marshall and Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the Courthouse, and Annapolis Taxi drivers at the Department of Transportation. These are just a few of the important stories depicted in murals, statues and public photographs which share Eastport and Annapolis stories.

In the next month, our Little Free Library will be repainted to tell the story of two basketball rivals who became best friends – Roger “Pip” Moyer from Annapolis High School and Joseph “Zastrow” Simms from the state’s black league. They crossed racial boundaries during segregation in the 1940’s to grow a life-long friendship that took an extraordinary turn in April 1968.

As news of the murder of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. spread across the region, DC and Baltimore erupted in riots and burning. Annapolis' young mayor, Pip Moyer turned to Zastrow for help, but first he had to get "Zas" out of jail, where he had landed after some illegal shenanigans. With the help of then Governor Spiro Agnew, Pip got Zastrow released from prison, and — accompanied by Annapolis' first African American policeman, George Phelps — they walked the streets speaking to the people. While DC and Baltimore burned, Annapolis remained quiet.

The design below, depicting the two men and their story, will be painted by youth artists from the Jovenés Artistas program at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. The front library doors have portraits of the men, the back panel (in tan) shows their silhouettes, and the two sides panels (in rust brown) tell their story. Thank you Moyer Family for allowing us to memorialize our local hometown heroes, Pip and Zastrow. ~ Susan Schneider



## Meet Lisa



1st Lt. Lisa Hozey serves in the US Army Reserve and has been serving and worshipping with us for a while now. She lives just down the street with her two adorable poodles. Lisa has absolutely loved working with the Eastport UMC Community Food Pantry and has a big heart for her neighbors. Lisa has friends who are working in Afghan refugee resettlement camps and they are hoping to enlist the support of our community. One of the biggest needs of these new arrivals is the basics: underwear. We are asking that you bring some new, modest underwear with you to church during September. We'll have a collection bin for you to place them in. This is just a simple way we can love our new neighbors.

## Annual Conference News



### Annual Conference moves online:

To continue to privilege, life and well-being, the 237th Session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference has been moved online. If you had already registered for the in-person option, you do not have to do so again.

However, **everyone must register**

**before Sept. 27. [Learn more and register.](#)** An online Preconference Session, to learn more about the business coming before Annual Conference, will be held the morning of Sept. 25. [Register for the PreConference Briefing Session.](#)

### Bishop's Days on the Regions – Sept. 27-30

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling will meet in regional conversation sessions with clergy and laity. Mark your calendars for the Southern Region (Annapolis District) on Sept. 28 at Westphalia UMC. Clergy will meet from 2 to 4 p.m. and the laity from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

## Way to Go Nancy!



Nancy Swaray has been awarded a scholarship by EUMC. Nancy is an international student in the registered nursing program taking ASN courses. She's concurrently taking another course towards her BSN (thanks to a free course by Chamberlain

University). Way to go Nancy! It is such hard work being a student, a loving parent of two delightful kids, and a spouse. During a pandemic, nonetheless! We are proud of you! (Abdulai, too!)

Thank you to all who contribute to the EUMC Scholarship Fund.



## We Appreciate!

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A hearty thanks to Dr. Rebecca Echols (Morgan State University) for filling in for our Director of Music JoAnn Kulesza while she was on vacation. What a gift it has been to have you and your talents with us! Thank you!



## Backpacks, Vaccines, Food Pantry Recap!

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Our monthly food pantry event continues to adapt and progress to serve the needs of our community. Every month we are humbled with gratitude for the ready help, compassion, and kindness of our volunteers, partners, and supporters. How fortunate we all are to share a community with so many who have interest in making meaningful change towards a healthier, kinder, more sustainable lifestyle for all of us by networking our resources and nurturing connections.

Our August community food pantry was a lively demonstration of those connections and resources at work! In addition to the community sourced and staffed food pantry, we were joined by our friends from Colonial Nursery School, Eastport Elementary School, Charting Careers, Elevate HER, Anne Arundel County Public Library to facilitate our third Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway at 10:30am Saturday, at Eastport United Methodist Church.

With your support, we also gave away close to 1,000 books on that same day! Several thousand more will be handed over to the Anne Arundel Literacy Council and Books for International Goodwill.

Special thanks to all the many volunteers to who came to help! **Major kudos to Della Sztuk** for coordinating the action!



The happy folks pictured above are from [Colonial Nursery School](#) that rents space from us for their incredible cooperative nursery school. CNS donated \$5,000 to our community food pantry! They joined us for the event to begin the distribution of nearly 500 backpacks filled with school supplies to folks in our neighborhood. Incredible crew, incredible generosity!

## An Invitation from St. Luke's Church

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You are invited to join in a time of remembrance and reflection as we mark the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. This date holds many different emotions for each of us, and there is room for all of them as we come together in community.

The labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice that is shared in common by many different cultures. You don't need to know anything in advance to participate, and you also don't need to be part of any particular faith tradition.

We meet at the log amphitheater just below the labyrinth for an introduction, and then we gather there again for conversation following the walk. Masks are **OPTIONAL** but encouraged for those that are unvaccinated. We strive to make our events as accessible and inclusive as possible. The grassy path of the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth is wide and flat enough to navigate with a wheelchair or walker. A hand-held labyrinth is also available as an alternative to walking.

Labyrinth walks take place rain or shine, so please dress for the weather! Labyrinth walks are held at the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth on the front of the grounds of St. Luke's on the second Saturday of each month from noon to 1 p.m.

## Crisis Relief

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Many are looking for ways to help our neighbors across the world who are experiencing extreme hardship. We always recommend giving financially through the United Methodist Committee on Relief and in some cases local annual conferences.

To help in Haiti: <https://umcmission.org/advance-project/999895/>

To help in Louisiana: [la-umc.org/relief](https://la-umc.org/relief)

To help in Afghanistan:  
<https://umcmission.org/may-2020/slow-persistent-work-of-peace-in-afghanistan/>

We also recommend Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area in their efforts to resettle refugees from Afghanistan: <https://lssnca.org>

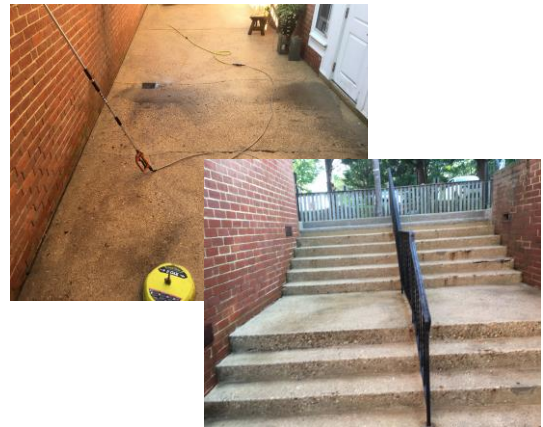
From the August 26, 2021 Baltimore-Washington E-Connection: “**The United Methodist Committee on Relief**, or UMCOR, addresses the global refugee and migration contexts guided by four principles: the right to stay and flourish in one’s country of origin; safe passage for those with no viable alternative but to leave; welcoming and belonging, a process wherein migrants, refugees, and receiving communities work together to meet the needs of new arrivals; and support for the returned to help them reintegrate with dignity into their home countries after deportation.”

“Most importantly, we call upon United Methodists to pray, for the refugees, for those who remain behind, and for the future of Afghanistan.”

## A Very Special Thanks

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To Sam Coates, Sarge Davis, Bill Schneider, and Chris Broadwell for moving a ton of furniture in the basement! Sam also gave the “courtyard” outside of CNS and the multipurpose room a much-needed power washing!



## And More...

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Special thanks to all who showed up for the spread so much mulch! It was quite the accomplishment. It was also great to spend some time sweating and chatting with each other and getting to know our friends at Colonial Nursery School.





## Helping Our Veterans Help Us



Our mission partners at CHOW continue the good work of empowering veterans and feeding our neighbors. They continue to gift us with not only powerful relationships, but with fresh food for our food pantry. If you want to find them, they can usually be spotted at our community food pantry or at the Cheverly American Legion on Friday nights. Find out more at [letschow.org](http://letschow.org)

Have you noticed the lovely lady on our grounds Sunday mornings picking up twigs and branches and trash (and she does a whole lot more)?? That's Joanne Christofel. Be sure and tell her thanks. Anything you can do to help her out would be appreciated.



## We Are Loved

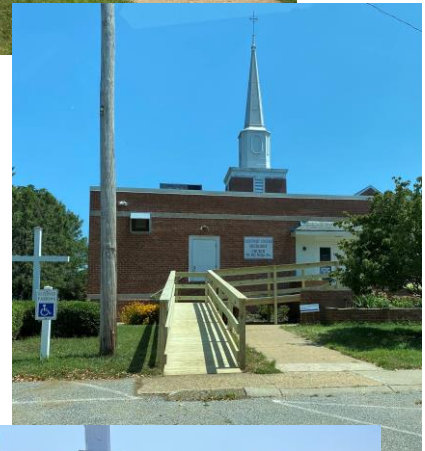
I want to offer a very special thanks to this loving church and Pastor Chris for supporting me during my move. It was a big transition due to COVID-19 that I did not want to make but it is nice to be back around family. I have loved getting to know your pastor and Church for the past two years. "God please keep blessing these people they are a blessing for others. Amen." (Did not want to be named.)



## A Big Improvement

A huge win for Eastport United Methodist Church and the community food pantry is the addition of the ramp to the fellowship hall exit door extending to the parking lot. This was a (\$14,000) gift from the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Now not only is our building more accessible for those with mobility aids, it is also a bit easier to move heavy boxes of food for our community pantry!

Photos of the finished project intentionally left out, swing by the church and check it out!



## September Birthdays



Sept 1 Andy Owen  
Sept 5 Bill Bowen  
Sept 8 Nyima Smith  
Sept 13 Vicki Clary  
Sept 15 Mike Stevens  
Sept 16 JoAnn Kulesza  
David Peddicord  
Sept 18 Bo Chesney  
Gage Savoy  
Sept 21 Taylor Stevens  
Sept 23 Sherrie Little  
Sept 26 Sally Colburn  
Allen Macey  
Sept 27 Barbara Schwarz  
Cierra Ploof

John Wesley Proudly Presents

# SHRED•EVENT

Prevent identity theft and protect the environment by bringing your outdated documents to John Wesley parking lot for safe and confidential shredding.

**Location:**  
John Wesley United Methodist Church  
2114 Bay Ridge Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21403

**Date:**  
Saturday, September 18, 2021

**Time:** 10am-12:00 pm

**Donation:**  
\$5.00 per box (standard banker box)

**Benefit:**  
John Wesley United Methodist Church

## September Anniversaries



Sept 6 Vern Renshaw & MaAn Barcelow  
Sept 17 Mike & Megan Wurst  
Sept 23 Earl & Harriet Macey  
Sept 25 Mark & Sharon Stevens

**Recordings of Sunday's services can be viewed on EUMC's website, [www.eastportumc.org](http://www.eastportumc.org).**

**You can also listen by phone to our prerecorded services by calling 1-410-233-3163.**

Congratulations Captain Hight on your well-deserved promotion!



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
						
<b>5</b>  Worship 10am	<b>6</b>  	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  UMW Dinner Meeting @ the Macey's Home 5:30pm	<b>9</b>  Homework 4:00pm  Meet the Candidates Mayor & City Council 7pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Funeral Service Betty Tillack 10:00am
<b>12</b>  Worship 10am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Homework 4:00pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Homework 4:00pm	<b>17</b>  Pickup & sort food for tomorrow's food pantry	<b>18</b>   <b>10:30 AM</b>
<b>19</b>  Worship 10am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Homework 4:00pm  Admin Council Meeting 7pm ZOOM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Homework 4:00pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>  Worship 10am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Homework 4:00pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Homework 4:00pm		



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