



The Eastport Spire

“Inspire Us to Great Things”

May 2020

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 Church,

You know, so much is changing. News changes on a daily basis. Recommendations for our health adapts almost as regularly. We're learning that our regular socializing practices will be changing for quite some time. And I'll repeat what I said several weeks ago, we haven't been trained for this, but we have been formed.

I am grateful to serve you and to watch you serve this world in need. I encourage you often to look out for one another, but if there is a way I or your church can care for *you*, please let me know. Do you need food? Do you need a phone call? Please do not be afraid to reach out and let me know.

Grace and peace,

~ Pastor Chris

A Note from the Finance Team

It seems appropriate to share some good news with the church with regard to recent developments from the Finance Team! Through the *diligent* work of Mitch Krebs, Neil Bergsman and Dawn Moyer, the church has successfully secured a loan through the recent Paycheck Protection Program that you've heard so much about in the news. Yes, churches are eligible for loans to meet the ongoing salary commitments of their organizations. The church was able to borrow \$26,200, which according to the CARES Act, converts to a grant as long as the organization uses the funds to pay salaries and keep employees working. That's great news on two fronts: first, those who are serving us as employees

of the church can expect to continue to receive a paycheck for the work they'll undoubtedly continue to do for us; and second, the funds will not need to be repaid as long as we use it properly, and we can have great confidence in our financial team to see that through.

So, the church continues to operate as close to normal as possible. We're in worship together each Sunday. We're enjoying some fellowship via Zoom at 11:00 a.m. Sunday mornings, and Pastor Chris is continuing his role of providing pastoral care for the congregation and the community at large. The church now has a method for continuing your financial support, and many have taken to that. Some folks have had to scale back their giving because of the financial hardship they're facing, while others have been able to maintain their support.

Thanks to the fiscal management by our finance team, the church has so far been able to weather a recent decrease in financial support, but if you're a regular giver and you're able to continue or increase your giving, the church asks that you please do so by taking advantage of the online giving tool (available through the church website), or dropping it off at the church office, or sending it through the mail.

The early Church faced so many different adversities, in so many different places, they actually grew under those adverse conditions. It's in our Christian DNA to come together and even flourish when the body is under duress from external influences. Even Eastport United Methodist Church has seen more people participating in Sunday worship online than we would typically see in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. The Holy Spirit is at work! We are blessed to be connected with one another.

Administrative Council

Our Administrative Council is getting creative! They met on Sunday April 26 via Zoom to catch up and check in.



Dear friends, how are you? I'll bet even Noah in his time was tired after 40+ days of social distancing! Have you reached out to someone recently? Phone calls, electronic greetings and remembering someone's important days – these things are so important now. Many of us are grieving losses – of jobs, friends, fellowship, and shared communion. Celebrations of achievements have been put on hold. There is nothing normal about this time.

But, I look around and am so pleased by the hope all around us here in Eastport. I see the Finance Team untangling bureaucracy to help with church finances. I see somehow EUMC's food pantry is serving more than three times the normal numbers of our neighbors. I see new growth in our gardens. I see the devotion and energy of our Pastor. I see our teachers creating new ways of learning with almost no warning. I see the generosity of our local businesses giving and feeding our front line workers. It is so very heartwarming!

We are all longing for the time when we can come together again in our church. That time is still unclear, but instead of worrying, I am looking ahead to a "social newness." We are the church. Not just at 10 a.m. on Sundays, but in all the new ways that are ahead.

This is all scary. Even Jesus saw times that were scary. That's why so many times he said.....*Do not be afraid....Go for I am with you....* We can do this friends. And when we can put this time behind us, oh what a celebration it will be! (After haircuts of course!)

~ Jill Peddicord, Admin Council Chair

Microgrant Awarded to EUMC

The Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church Peace with Justice Initiative invited congregations to apply for a microgrant to support their feeding and clothing ministries. The Peace with Justice initiative witnesses to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world. And, as we support one another through the COVID-19 epidemic, we continue to respond to God's call in Matthew 25:35-26 to feed, clothe, and care for persons in need/crisis. Our church applied and was awarded the full amount of \$500 for our food pantry. Learn more about Peace with Justice here:

<https://www.bwcumc.org/article/covid-19-peace-with-justice-fund/>

EUMC Fellowship Time

We've been having a great time chatting after church on Sunday mornings over Zoom. Pastor Chris has been sending the invitation out to the congregation via email on Saturdays; please contact him if you haven't received the invitation.



Meet Our 2020 Graduates

Global shut down or not, our graduates have had to adapt and work hard to finish this academic year! Congratulations from all of us at Eastport United Methodist Church. We are proud of you!

Dennis Bergsman



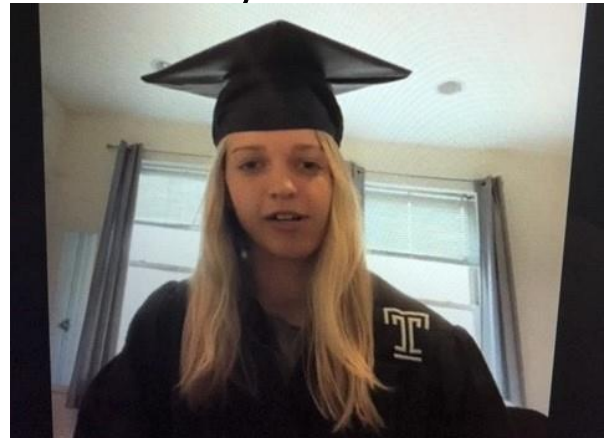
EUMC member Dennis Bergsman will be graduating on May 16 from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), in Massachusetts, with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

"My time at WPI was full of opportunities to apply my skills and knowledge," says Dennis. "It opened up a world of opportunities." Like students all around the world, Dennis completed his studies from home via distance learning. This was particularly tricky in his case because, in addition to regular engineering courses, he needed to collaborate with a project group working to test a transmission for a wave-energy generator. Graduation ceremonies will take place on campus once it is safe to do so. The college will be mailing the graduates their diplomas.

Dennis' college career included a lot of technical engineering, math, and science coursework. In his junior year, he spent six weeks in Thessaloniki, Greece working on a solar energy project. He also was very active in drama: acting, directing, stage managing or doing tech in over a dozen theatrical productions. He wrote, produced and appeared in sketch comedy videos, and emceed weekly Trivia Nights at the Student Center. He worked summers for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Office of Engineering and Construction.

Dennis will be looking for a position in his field in Maryland. He is thankful for all the support he received from the Eastport UMC family. Dennis is the son of Valerie Devaris and Neil Bergsman.

Alyssa Corse



Alyssa Corse will graduate from Temple University in Philadelphia with a degree in Civil Engineering. She will pursue a career in private land development engineering or public infrastructure design. Alyssa is the granddaughter of Eunice Corse.

Colette Krebs



Colette Krebs will graduate Magna Cum Laude in May from East Carolina University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. She plans to continue at ECU in the fall to earn her Master's in Mechanical Engineering. Colette is the daughter of Mitch and Barbara Krebs.

Sara Lahoff



Sara Lahoff will graduate from Indian Creek Upper School where she earned placement on the Upper School Head's List as well as honors recognition in the National Latin Exam. Sara will attend St. Mary's College of Maryland pursuing a course in Biochemistry. She is the granddaughter of Eunice Corse.

Liam Smith



Liam Smith will graduate Magna Cum Laude with honors from the University of Rhode Island with a BS degree in Biology and minors in Spanish and Communications. As of this writing, he plans to work as a medical scribe and perhaps work as a ski patrol (if we have skiing this winter). Liam is the son of Jennifer Smith.

Emma Miller



Emma Miller will graduate with honors from Severn School this year. She has been accepted to Richmond University in the fall. Emma is the granddaughter of Richard Miller.



Life, love, plans, and hope continue as we move through this challenging and historic period. Below are interesting stories and activities sent to us by EUMC members. Enjoy!

Bill Schneider

Hey Church, don't be mad at me for this, but I have actually benefited from the pandemic. As many of you know, I'm pursuing a Masters of Theological Studies at Wesley Seminary. This is my LAST

semester! I had two major papers to write, and a few lesser ones as well. All told I had about 80-90 pages of theological musings to get out of my head and onto paper and submitted by Monday, April 27th.

Well, with all the extracurricular things being canceled over the past several weeks, I have had the much-needed time to complete all that. I can proudly say that as of April 27th, I have successfully completed all my work for my Master's degree! It's been quite a journey that began in the fall of 2016. Since then Susan and I have moved to Eastport, we've joined this church, and we've gotten significantly engaged in the community. I've made GREAT friends while at Wesley. And, as you would expect there's quite a sense of fellowship among seminary students. I consider Pastor Michelle to be the one who most encouraged me to take up my studies at Wesley. Through Michelle, I met her hubby Daniel (also a Wesley grad), and through Daniel I met his assistant pastor and my classmate, and now dear friend, Chelsea. Through Chelsea I then first met our Pastor Chris in the dining hall at Wesley before he was even assigned to EUMC. I'm proud to be a part of that community.

Before you ask it, I'll tell you the answer to the question I get the most: "So, what are you gonna do with your degree?" My answer is, "Only God knows." Because that's the truth! I really don't have a plan, but I've already had the opportunity to lead some Bible studies at EUMC with participants from John Wesley UMC, so I hope to continue that. And I'm ready and willing to answer when the Spirit calls!

Here's a photo of me at the desk. I've spent so much time in this position, my back hurts! That pile of books is not for dramatic effect. That was the reading for this semester! ~ *Bill*



Carol Emory

If you take a walk with Carol, you'll likely see some unusual sights these days. Some of her neighbors are providing comic relief. And on a walk through Quiet Waters Park you may come upon a collection spot for food donations.



Jennifer Smith

Besides teaching school on line, Jennifer has been busy with two garden plots at Community Gardens. She also has grown mini gardens on her front porch



Susan Schneider

Hi Church Family! I am using this time at home to learn two new skills. With lots of help and guidance from Jen Smith, I am now growing a vegetable Victory Garden in a new raised bed that Bill built. It's been a wonderfully challenging learning opportunity (and gives me lots of exercise while the gyms are closed). When I tire of trying my hand at growing our own food, I practice my part of a piano duet that I am learning with Lisette Ford. We are both learning Mozart's "Dances and Marches for Four Hands on Piano." When the self-isolation period ends, we will be able to sit down side by side at a piano together but until then, we practice our separate parts in our own homes, and share videos of our playing via the What'sApp phone app. ~ Susan



The Swarays

Abdulai and Nancy Swaray have spent time in self-isolation learning to sew and make masks fitted with filters for optimal air filtration. What beautiful and colorful handiwork!!! Nancy is studying to be a nurse and truly understands the role of the front line nurses caring for the most vulnerable people.



The Broadwells

On Sunday, April 26, Hattie gave the children's message online – about looking for God in the little things, like waiting for flowers to grow. She planted these seeds with her Grandma and Mom. Hattie ended her message with a prayer.



Barbara Krebs

Barbara Krebs spends most of her time working in her new "home office," formerly Colette's room.



The Wursts

Megan says they have been going on a ton of bike rides and playing outside on the playset Mike built for them.



me your requests by Wednesday @ 5pm to give me a chance to organize things.

Second, on Tuesday nights I will present the history and background of some of our favorite hymns and worship music. 7:30 will be the time for this, starting this coming Tuesday, May 5th. If you have a hymn you'd like to know more about, again please email me or call. jokul@atlanticbb.net or 443-496-2472.

I will post a reminder and either a youtube or zoom connection for you to tune into. You will not be singing in a group with the piano/organ, as there is a time delay. But, I will lead the singing and you are invited to sing at home, with your microphone muted.

I hope you will join me at some of these sessions. I will create a youtube connection for you to view them at a later time if these times/days aren't convenient. Let's keep music a part of our connection! CARPE MUSICAM!!!! ~ JoAnn

EUMC's Food Pantry



Eastport United Methodist Church has hosted a monthly food pantry on the third Wednesday of each month for about 30 local families who are in need. The EUMC food pantry receives food supplies from the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Jackie and Sam have been providing these services for years.

When Covid-19 hit our region, causing the closure of many businesses and schools, many additional families became food insecure. Food insecure is the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. The EUMC food pantry has seen a significant increased need in our community.

We are doing our best to respond by increasing the frequency of the pantry. As soon as the county food

JoAnn Kulesza

Greetings, Church Family!
I want to let you know about two weekly additions enabling us to stay connected to worship and music.



First, I want to initiate a weekly hymn sing on Thursday nights @ 7pm, beginning May 7th. Everyone knows when choir rehearsal happens so this should be easy to remember. I ask you to send

bank notifies us that food is ready to be picked up, we respond with our pick-up trucks. Sam and Bill have picked up as much as 3000 pounds of food for our neighbors. The EUMC food pantry now regularly feeds 100 or more families as often as weekly. The next food pantry distribution will be: **May 2, at 10 a.m.**

Businesses in our Midst



We will donate \$500 to EUMC on your behalf, for any Real Estate transaction resulting in a sale. This offer never expires

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A heartfelt thanks to our friends downstairs in Colonial Nursery School. During the "shutdown" they have been collecting food and supplies for our food pantry. We are so grateful for their partnership and their support of the Eastport community. Please spread the word about their program to parents (and grandparents) of young children.

colonialnurseryschool.org/



Treat yourself! Treat your favorite Mama! Need a little sunshine in your house? Jo will deliver a sweet spring arrangement to the Mama of your choice Saturday, May 9. All deliveries will be contactless (but made with a smile under that mask!), and must be in the Annapolis area. Delivery orders must be placed online by **Monday, May 4:**

<https://shop.hwy2hill.com/>

EUMC Friends & Members
 Please be saving your jars for peach jelly and jam, and also your quart and pint canning jars for pickled beets. We will let you know when we're ready to receive them at the church.
 Thank you!

May Birthdays



May 1 Shirley Ford
Louis Bergsman
May 6 Cindy Macey
May 10 James Stevens
May 12 Tyler Johnson
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 Mike Keller
May 26 Ashlyn Hughes
Frances DuPlayee
May 30 Mitch Krebs
May 31 Kathy Volz

May Anniversaries



May 1 Gerald & Lorraine Crouch
May 4 Tom & Paulette Schwallenberg
May 5 Robert & Ruth Gibbons
May 13 Robert & Ann Rawls
May 14 David & Kathy Moreland
Ricardo & Carrie Vasquez
May 16 Tom & Harriet 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 & Valerie Devaris

Pastor Chris used this prayer in our first online worship service on March 15. It bears repeating.



*May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors
remember those who are most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working
from home respect and support those who
must choose between preserving their health
or paying their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have had to cancel our trips
remember those who have no place to go.*

*May we who are losing our investments,
remember those who have no home.*

*During this time, when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other, let us
each find ways to be the loving embrace of
humanity to our neighbors.*

*Be aware. Be Accepting. Be supportive. Be
kind. Amen. (Author unknown)*

Lynne Rittenberg, a long time and active member of EUMC, has recently moved to Westminster, MD. She thanks you for your prayers during this transition. Her new address is 66 Timber Ridge Drive, Westminster, MD 21157. Her phone number is 410-268-2836.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 FOOD PANTRY 10:00 AM
3 Online Worship	4 Let go and let God.	5 	6 Make paper flowers.	7 Express gratitude as soon as you wake up.	8 	9 Reach out to someone outside your home.
10 Online Worship 	11 Look up at the sky.	12 Smile a lot, for no reason!	13 	14 Drink enough water.	15 Clean one thing or space.	16 
17 Online Worship	18 	19 Be mindfully present to a spiritual practice.	20 FOOD PANTRY 12 noon	21 Forgive yourself for yesterday's mistakes.	22 	23 One day at a time.
24 Online Worship	25 Remember prayer.	26 	Be mindfully present to something you see.	28 Do one thing you'll be glad you did later.	29 Let go of judgments.	30 