

# EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*July/August, 2020*

*PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER*

## *Mission Statement*

*“Sharing the love and blessing of God with all.”*



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A song from the musical “South Pacific” says, “You have to be taught to hate and fear. You’ve got to be taught from year to year.” A part of me has been wondering lately if that is true. Certainly, leaders and teachers of various sorts can stoke the flames of hatred and bias within us, but there seems to be a piece inside humanity that naturally wants to set us above the “other”—those who are different in some way. How and why that happens, I don’t know.

From the earliest pages of scripture, we see Cain carrying out violence on his brother Abel, Joseph’s brothers selling him into slavery, Jacob cheating his brother Esau, warmongering generals, deceitful kings, all manner of war between rival nations, and on and on. The Old Testament, in particular, reads like an R-rated soap opera. God keeps calling the people back, but they keep going astray. It’s no wonder that Jesus spent so much time extolling love and compassion and real justice.

I recently watched two episodes of the Steven Spielberg documentary “Why We Hate,” a six-part series first introduced last fall. Tracking hate and its effects through history, it asks again and again that basic question: “Why?” It notes how easy it is to create an “us against them” mentality in which we gradually dehumanize “them” into something less than us. But by dehumanizing others, Spielberg argues, we end up destroying our own humanity in the process. “We all have elements of hatred in us,” he says.

The worst flare-ups of such hate generally occur, he says, when charismatic leaders rise up with “my way or the highway” messages that seek to polarize and to exploit people’s fear—especially the fear of change. Nazi Germany is the classic example of this, but Spielberg also notes other such populist movements: The Rwanda genocide, Pol Pot in Cambodia, and others. Others begin to follow along, and soon whole populations are caught up in evil agendas as they become “blinded by an idea.”

One international criminal lawyer from Philadelphia observed that it’s not a sudden move to hating one’s neighbor enough to kill them. Instead, “We get there step by step,” she said. We’re gradually convinced that an “enemy out there” needs to be dealt with, forcefully. Social media has made those messages of hate and division spread more quickly and more easily, whether the target is immigrants, various ethnic populations, Jews, Muslims, or others.

We’re seeing echoes of this narrative play out in the headlines of recent weeks, as America confronts its own legacy of hatred and “other-ing” related to black Americans and the legacy of slavery. While official slavery might have been eliminated here more than 150 years ago, parts of the unjust framework and attitudes that set up one group over another have continued to have repercussions in our society. And we still have leaders at various levels eager to stoke those divides.

Lest this all seem hopeless, the documentary observes that in each of history’s worst chapters of hate, there have been people who “resist evil” and “push back against the darkness.” So while there might be seeds of hatred in us, there are seeds of goodness, too. We must be conscious which of those possibilities we nurture and draw upon, examining ourselves regularly. Confronting hatred with acts of love, courage, and open conversation can sometimes have surprising results for change, cascading into society-wide responses. Perhaps goodness, too, must be carefully taught and encouraged.

“We’re at a pivotal moment,” an introduction to Spielberg’s work said. “Hate, anger, and violence are tearing us apart.” How will we be part of recognizing the humanity of all God’s children?

—Pastor Walt

## *Members and friends of Easton Church of the Brethren:*

Greetings! We've continued to monitor the health situation in our area, and after recent conversations with the Leadership Team, we've decided it's time to take the next step of re-opening: Starting this coming Sunday, July 5, we will return to having worship in the sanctuary. The worship time, for now, will remain at **10 a.m.** Christian education classes will not be meeting over the summer.

While it's been fun to meet on the lawn and see our neighborhood up close, we know many of you will be glad to be in more familiar surroundings. Please note, though, that it won't be quite "normal" yet, as we'll be taking a number of precautions to meet current guidelines and protocols, including the following:

--The state is currently allowing indoor worship at up to 50 percent capacity, which we should have no trouble observing. But we will be blocking off some pews to encourage distancing, and the balcony will be an option for those who want some more space. We'll also do our best to maintain good ventilation in the building.

--Please wear a mask and allow at least six feet between you and anyone who's not a member of your household.

--Please do not congregate in the narthex or the aisles before or after the service. Come in, find your seats, and get settled. If you want to visit with others, please do it outside. Inside and outside doors will be propped open, and hand sanitizer will be available.

--Offering plates will not be passed through the congregation; they will be in the narthex to receive any offerings you want to give. We will also be removing unnecessary materials from the pews.

--We won't have greeters. Bulletins will be available in a rack in the narthex for pick-up.

--We'll still refrain from congregational singing for some time, and the choir will not be meeting for the foreseeable future.

--Please limit restroom use to one person at a time.

If you have questions, please let us know. Thanks for your patience and understanding during this challenging season!

Pastor Walt



# SERMON & SCRIPTURES

## JULY/AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 5

"Blossoming Hope"

Matt. 11:27-30, Song of Solomon 2:8-13

July 12

Guest speaker

July 19

Guest speaker

July 26

"Sacred Similes"

Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52; Psalm 128

Aug. 2 "Blessed" Ps. 145:8-9, 14-21;  
Gen. 32:22-31; Matt. 14:13-21

Aug. 9 "Stepping Stones" Ps. 85:8-13,  
Rom. 10:11-15, Matt. 14:22-33

Aug. 16 "Eat Your Words" Ps. 67; Jer.  
15:15-21; Matt. 15:10-20

Aug. 23 "A Chip Off the Ol' Block" Ex.  
1:8-21; Isa. 51:1-6; Matt. 16:13-20

Aug. 30 "Bound Together" Ps. 133;  
Rom. 12:1-8 (9-21)

Sept. 6 "The Right Turn" Ps. 119:33-40;  
Rom. 13:8-14; Matt. 18:15-20

***This will be dependent on what happens with Family Camp at Mardela***

## Our Prayer List

**Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families:** for those who have contracted COVID-19, for health care workers, and for government and civic leaders who are seeking the best way forward, for our District Executive, Gene Hagenberger, for all those who have been affected economically, the family of Doug Edsall, Jack Wheatley, Jim & Loretta Lohr, Carolyn Lane, Dave Edsall, Lee Willis, Kathy Spurry, for Camp Mardela and camp manager "Chief" Gieta Gresh, Lillian Sefcik, Ginger Brady, Beth Lockwood, Judy Haddaway, Jean & Don Saballus, Richard Scott, Billy Harding, Chuck Davis, Annabel Young, Larry Fike, Childlene Brooks, Alan Seegar, Bruce Butler, Brent Spurry, Pat Saathoff, Pat Lewis, Ellen Walbridge, Lee Roesti, Norman Harding, Gene & Betty Lednum, Grace-Way CoB, Nancy Scheffler, Roger Plagge, JK Rider, John Nalley, Bobby Hopkins, Kurt Kline, Dee Candel, Mary Ann Kiser, Lois Schall, Natalee Jones, Jeff Wright, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, Barbara Taylor, Audrey Geib, Leo Truban, Emerson Fike, Katelyn Howard, Christine & Kenny Fike. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace. Please phone the church to add or remove persons on our prayer list.



Please also pause this week to respond to the issues of racism, injustice, anger, and violence happening across our country with prayer and appropriate action. In difficult times, may we represent the best of what the church can offer.

### Our Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to Liz and Ed Wildasin and family in the passing of Liz's sister Ginny Watson. Ginny passed away on May 5. A private graveside service was held on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at Tilghman UMC Cemetery in Tilghman, MD.



Our deepest sympathy to Renee, Corey, (Nicole), Casey and Cameron Edsall in the passing of their husband/father, Doug Edsall. Doug passed away on June 17. Services were held on Wednesday, June 24 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cordova and a Celebration of Life at the Edsall home.

We pray Christ presence and love to each of these families.

# July Birthdays

- 1 Amy Bachand, Lee Lyons
- 2 Chris Scaglione
- 3 Pat Saathoff, Lisa Lohr
- 4 Kathy Anderson, Joshua Lohr, Brennen Lyons
- 7 Jamie Cox, Judi Loscomb, Dwayne Mattox, Tracy Correa
- 8 Betty Lednum, Tom Schwaninger, Jody Gunn
- 10 Sherry Hutchison, Mike Mullikin
- 11 Trinity Turnage
- 13 Bob Davis, Brian Rathell, Luke Miller
- 14 David Cox
- 16 Nina Jacobs
- 17 Kevin Lohr
- 20 Terry Dayton
- 21 Melanie Young
- 22 Barbara Taylor, Morgan Phillips, Liz Wildasin  
Ken Martin, Michael Pierce
- 24 Jim Harvey, Robert Musch
- 26 Bud Loscomb
- 28 Paityn Phillips
- 31 Geoff Fox, Brenda Yeatman

# Anniversaries

- 11 Robin & Linda Lyons
- 28 Gary & Wendy Faulkner
- 30 Tom & Sue Ann Brockson

# August Birthdays

- 1 Amy Brown
- 3 Renee Edsall
- 5 Dale Fike, Morgan Harvey, Fran Morris
- 7 Chloe Grubbs, Gretchen Satchell
- 8 Jo Ann Fike
- 10 Gary Fox
- 11 Gary Ball, Adam Lohr
- 12 Emerson Tarr
- 13 Lynn Butler, Adam Schwaninger
- 14 Melissa Johnson
- 19 Dennis Lohr
- 21 Ryan Tarr
- 24 Gwen Wood Larrimore
- 25 Lucas Milburn, Brenda Pierce
- 26 Bonnie Wooters
- 28 Barbara Seese, Ken Gresh
- 29 Bill Zellers, Tara Blake Haddaway
- 30 Bruce Butler
- 31 Brianna Boyle

# Anniversaries

- 3 Kevin & Ellen Wile  
Kevin & Joy Miller
- 4 John & Norma Trax  
J.C. & Debbie Russ
- 15 John & Lyn Banghart
- 19 Lee & Lynn Lyons

**Denominational statement on racism:** Church of the Brethren general secretary David Steele issued a statement recently that said, in part: "Brethren have long recognized the inherent worth of all human beings while also recognizing that our church, and we ourselves, are not free from racism. Our denomination has recognized that we have participated in and benefited from racism, whether we have been aware of it or not. ... As a denomination we must reaffirm that racism is sin, and that there is good we ought to be doing to combat it. Racism is indeed our concern as we strive to truly love both God and neighbor. When we are not concerned and do nothing, we sin. ... Let us commit ourselves to be a part of the healing of the nation. Let us pray, and let us act to undo racism in these times." (For the full statement, go to [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) and look under "News.")



## NEW MEMBER SUNDAY RESCHEDULED!!

For anyone who is not a member of our congregation but would have interest in officially joining, we will be rescheduling this sometime late spring or early summer. Membership is a way to connect at a deeper level with the faith community, sharing in its service and ministry. If you would like to become a member, please contact Pastor Walt asap.



### **Brethren Volunteer Service Announcements. Amelia Gunn and Chad Whitzel**

Chad Whitzel will be serving at the Brethren Offices in Elgin, Illinois as one of their Workcamp Coordinators and will begin in August. He will be serving alongside Amelia's cousin, Alton Hipps, who is the other Workcamp Coordinator! He is excited to work so closely with leaders in the church.

Amelia Gunn has decided to serve at Quaker Cottage in Northern Ireland and will likely be leaving at the end of July. Quaker Cottage is a day center that works with families who have experienced trauma and are in need of assistance. This is a huge step for both of them, but they have been thinking and praying about this for some time now, and feel this is the directions they are supposed to take.

Amelia says, "This is going to be a challenging year for us, but we are hopeful that it will provide an opportunity for us to grow separately and together as we navigate this new time together! We believe that God has a hand in our paths and will lead us through it all. We would appreciate prayers at this time as we prepare to dive into these new adventures."

*(We send our thoughts and prayers to Amelia and Chad as your new journey begins. We pray Christ presence and love to you both. We will miss you, but look forward to hearing from both of you and sharing your BVS experiences. God Speed!!!)*

## CDC Guidelines

We are following state, CDC, and church guidelines on meeting for worship as we make decisions from week to week. Please watch the announcement sheet, other emails, and the church Facebook page for updates. We will probably still meet outside on the lawn for a time when possible but will be evaluating other possibilities as we go forward. Most other meetings and church activities will remain cancelled for now. Thanks for your patience during this challenging time.

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Congratulations to Casey Booth and Sara Urry who were married on June 6, 2020 at their home in Penn Laird VA. We wish them a lifetime of love and happiness!



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### **Leadership Team Meeting**

The next Leadership Team meeting will be July 6 at 1:00 p.m. We will meet on the lawn. Please wear a mask and be mindful of social distancing. Thank you!



# Camp Mardela News

**Camp Mardela update:** Following a recommendation from camp administrator Gieta Gresh, who has been keeping track of all the government and camp guidance related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Camp Mardela board voted in late May to cancel all summer programs at the camp. The decision was made out of concerns for health and safety, as well as limitations that would have made it difficult to achieve the type of community and involvement that we envision for our campers. Events in August and later remain on at this point, but that is subject to change. The Camp Supper is currently planned for Sept. 19 and the auction for Oct. 3. Please watch the camp website and other communications for updates as they become available. And please continue to be in prayer for the camp and its staff and for our larger community in this time.

**Camp Mardela is seeking a camp administrator.** Camp Mardela is a Church of the Brethren-affiliated 125-acre retreat and summer camp facility bordering Martinak State Park on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The camp seeks a gifted and visionary individual with a passion for outdoor ministry to serve as the next camp administrator. This full-time position is open as of Jan. 1, 2021. A full position description is available upon request. Qualifications for this position include strong skills in administration, organization, communication, marketing, program development, hospitality, and leadership, along with basic computer and finance skills. A bachelor's degree and/or appropriate certification is required, along with at least two seasons of camp supervisory experience and knowledge and an understanding of ACA core competencies. Candidates must be at least 25 years of age. The administrator should be a Christian and a member of the Church of the Brethren or have an appreciation and understanding of Brethren beliefs and values. Health benefits and on-site housing and utilities (in a separate home near the camp office) are included, along with annual funds for professional growth. To apply, send a letter of interest and resumé to Camp Mardela board chair Walt Wiltschek c/o Easton Church of the Brethren, 412 S. Harrison St., Easton, MD 21601, or via email to [mardelasearch@gmail.com](mailto:mardelasearch@gmail.com) by Aug. 15.

**Camp Mardela continues with their fundraiser of Scrip:** What is Scrip? Buy gift cards online (all year long) at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com), pay online and a rebate will be earned between 2% and 16% that will immediately go towards Camp Mardela. When your gift card arrives, use them for your everyday shopping...that simple. If you would like a copy of the instructions, contact Lee Ann and she can mail you a copy.



## BEACH LIFE

July brings summer, a season when many people flock to the beach. Can you unscramble the names of the famous beaches below?

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. ACONE YITC   | 8. LICATANT TYIC  |
| 2. BLEPBE CABEH | 9. IKAWIIK        |
| 3. UBALMI       | 10. ASTAN MACOIN  |
| 4. AIIMM ACHEB  | 11. ANNCCU        |
| 5. BACONCAAAP   | 12. TOADNAY HEBAC |
| 6. REIF DANSIL  | 13. TREMLY EHACB  |
| 7. VERAIRI      | 14. FUGL HORSES   |

## ANSWERS:

1. OCEAN CITY (Md.); 2. PEBBLE BEACH (Calif.); 3. MALIBU (Calif.); 4. MIAMI BEACH (Fla.); 5. CO-PACABANA (Brazil); 6. FIRE ISLAND (N.Y.); 7. RIVIERA (France); 8. ATLANTIC CITY (N.J.); 9. WAIKIKI (Hawaii); 10. SANTA MONICA (Calif.); 11. CANCÚN (Mexico); 12. DAYTONA BEACH (Fla.); 13. MYRTLE BEACH (S.C.); 14. GULF SHORES (Ala.)



## Volunteers for July

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Walt	Norma Trax	Guest Speaker	Pastor Walt
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Sharon Miller	Kevin Wile	Lynn Butler	Wanda Baynard
<b>Head Usher/Sound</b>	Geoff Fox	Leroy Miller	Ron Miller	Mat Baynard
<b>Deacons on call</b>	Rick & Jane Marshall	Leroy & Sharon	Ron & Elisa Miller	John & Norma Trax
<b>Special Music</b>				
<b>Flowers</b>				Dale Fike

## Volunteers for August

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Jay Lister	Mat Baynard	Jane Marshall	Sharon Miller	Kevin Wile
<b>Head Usher/ Sound</b>	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch
<b>Deacons on call</b>	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Les & Marlena Groves	Rick & Jane Marshall	Leroy & Sharon Miller
<b>Special Music</b>					
<b>Flowers</b>	Anne Harvey			Sharon Miller & Marlena Groves	

# Attendance & Offering for June

	Attendance	44	35	32	29	140
	6/7/20	6/14/20	6/21/20	6/28/20	Totals	
<u>Distributions</u>						
<i>General (06)</i>						
Envelopes	1,950.55	1,884.00	3,359.00	505.00	7,698.55	
Loose Change/Cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Tithes	1,950.55	1,884.00	3,359.00	505.00	7,698.55	
<i>06 Income</i>						
Dutchmans Lane Rent			1,155.00		1,155.00	
Harrison St. Rent					0.00	
Subtotal of Income	0.00	0.00	1,155.00	0.00	1,155.00	
Totals	1,950.55	1,884.00	4,514.00	505.00	8,853.55	
<i>Special Offerings (07)</i>						
Deacon Fund			800.00		800.00	
Drama/Clowns/Puppets	9.00				9.00	
In Kind						
Bldg/Memorial Fund - Melvin Allston				50.00	50.00	
					0.00	
In & Out						
Camp Mardela Fundraiser						
Bonfire				10.00	10.00	
Totals	9.00	0.00	800.00	60.00	869.00	
Totals	1,959.55	1,884.00	5,314.00	565.00	9,722.55	





# Volunteer Opportunities

## Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The 2020 volunteer list is available for sign-up. Please take the time and look to see where you can spare a few hours of your time every other month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. **Our next date is July 19, 2020. If you are interested in providing a meal, please contact Norma Trax. (We will keep you updated should COVID-19 restrictions change in allowing volunteers to come to the shelter. )**

## Ridgeway House Lunches

The 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month. For months that have five Fridays, lunches will be provided on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday. Contact Loretta Lohr (410-822-3094). Monetary and food donations (drink boxes, individual fruit cups, small bags of chips and cookies) are always welcome.

## NSC Food Pantry

Let's not forget that food prices keep going up! When we pay attention to our local, national and international food needs, we are reminded that people suffer from food insecurity all around. If we do not share of our bounty, others go hungry. Let us give, so others may live. Any non-perishable food items with good "best if used by" dates are accepted. **Consider bringing in your non-perishable items when church re-opens.**

## Interested in Serving as Worship Leader or doing the Children's Time?

We're always looking for new people to share their gifts! It doesn't take a lot of time--just a bit of preparation and a willingness to serve. If you would like to join this team of volunteers or want more information, please contact the church office or Pastor Walt.

The volunteer opportunities listed below are currently closed due to COVID-19. Please keep these opportunities in mind when things re-open.

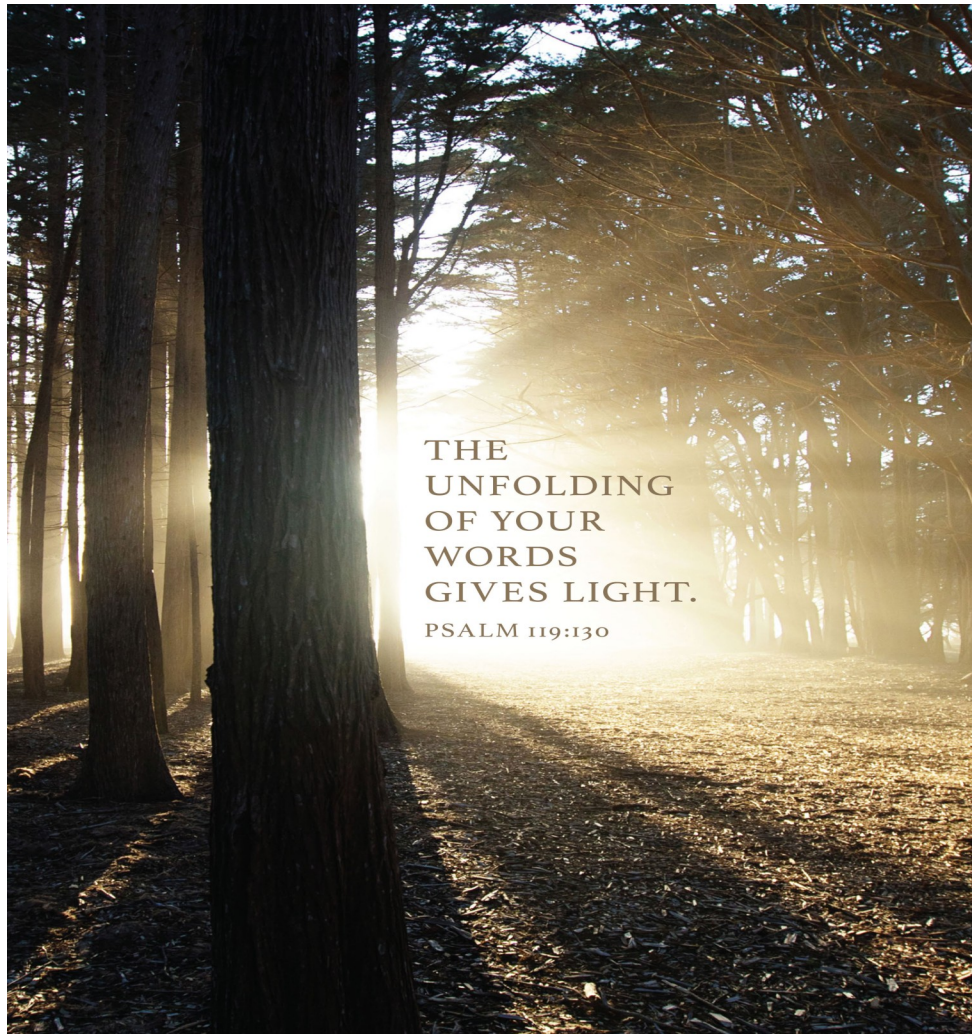
## Neighborhood Service Center

Please contact Marilyn Neal, if you are interested in volunteering at the center. Their phone number is 410-822-5015.

## Dixon House Senior Living Center

The Dixon House located at 108 N. Higgins in Easton is seeking volunteers interested in helping out occasionally with crafts projects for the residents. All supplies are provided. If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Walt or the church office, or you can contact activities director Shelly Laroque directly at 410-822-6661.





THE  
UNFOLDING  
OF YOUR  
WORDS  
GIVES LIGHT.

PSALM 119:130



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