

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

JULY/AUGUST, 2021

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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



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Recently I ran across a quote that has been rattling around my brain ever since: “The goal is not to read a book; the goal is to read the story taking place all around us.”

It was attributed to Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme, two names unfamiliar to me, and appeared without context, so like any good journalist I did a little digging. It turns out that it was written with a scientific lens, calling for a new, deeper understanding of the universe. To get a sense of how the universe works, they say, we must look more intentionally at how all the parts function together, and what role each one plays. That requires eyes and an open mind, not merely a text-book.

While their book, *The Universe Story*, contains some spiritual elements, it is not a distinctly Christian text nor does faith even take center stage. But that quote has continued to resonate with me, causing me to reflect on the way many Christians approach their faith journeys.

For too many of us, the goal becomes merely reading the book—or The Book, in this case: the Bible. Scripture is foundational to who we are and what we do, of course, but learning scripture is not the end goal—living it is. In too many places, people and churches are satisfied with taking some portion of scripture, chewing on it for a bit, and then going on with life rather unchanged. We’ve done our job! Or, conversely, we bury our noses in the Bible so far that we fail to notice needs on our doorsteps.

Instead, scripture should simply provide the lens for how we engage the world in the rest of life. Our time of worship is not the culmination of our week, but rather the beginning. When we leave the doors of church, we immediately step into the story of our world being written all around us. It’s God’s story, and it continues.

Our work is to read *that* story with just as much intensity and passion and meaning, and to figure out our place in it. Then we discern how the words of Jesus and others on those ancient pages need to come alive on the pages being penned each day here and now. Every person we meet is a character in that ongoing manuscript, every place a setting.

So the service and evangelism and outreach and care that we do are not merely things we do because the Bible says we’re supposed to, but lines in the next chapter of God’s unfolding narrative. We keep reading, and we ourselves enter the story. As poet Walt Whitman wrote: “The powerful play goes on, and we may contribute a verse.”

In the midst of this steamy season, then, I invite you to do some summer reading: Dive into the pages of our community and all those you encounter and the world that surrounds them. Savor and digest those words of God, and ponder what chapter might next be written.

—Pastor Walt 😊

Sermon and Scriptures through July and August

July 4: Annual Conference Worship,
“A Future Filled with Promise”
Speaker Patrick Starkey

July 11: Guest speaker, Cameron Edsall

July 18: Guest Speaker, Tom Hill

July 25: Guest speaker

Aug. 1: “God-Given Gifts”
Ps. 78:23-29, Eph. 4:1-3, 11-16

Aug. 8: “Follow the Leader”
Eph 4:25-5:2 et al.

Aug. 15: “Divine Dough”
John 6 et al.

Aug. 22: “Shielded and Strong”
Ps. 84, Eph. 6:10-20

Aug. 29: “The Litmus Test”
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23; James 1:17-27,
Ps. 15

Music for July and August

July 4: Live stream, Annual
Conference

July 11: Ellen Wile

July 18: Amy Bachand

July 25: Lawrence Tyler

August 1: Jim Lohr

August 8: Liz Wildasin

August 15: Ellen Wile

August 22: Carolyn Lane

August 29: Ellen Wile



Pastor Walt will be on vacation and leading several Brethren youth camps July 8-31. The Nurture Team has arranged guest speakers during that time. If you have any emergency situations or other pastoral needs during that time, please contact the church office or your deacon.

Witness Leadership Team Project

The Witness Team is asking for donations to aid Church World Service in filling Hygiene Kits, School Kits and emergency Clean-up Buckets. The Hygiene and School Kits cost approximately \$15 each and the emergency Clean-up Buckets cost approximately \$75. **The project will start July 4 through July 25.** Beginning the first of July, there will be a donation basket on the table in the Narthex.

Thank you, Anne Harvey & Diane Shores



July Birthday's

- 1 Amy Bachand, Lee Lyons
- 2 Chris Scaglione
- 3 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
- 27 Marah Basel
- 28 Paityn Phillips
- 31 Geoff Fox, Brenda Yeatman

July Anniversaries

- 4 Rusty & Phyllis Dodd-Curling
- 11 Robin & Linda Lyons
- 28 Gary & Wendy Faulkner
- 30 Tom & Sue Ann Brockson

August Birthday's

- 1 Amy Brown
- 3 Renee Edsall
- 5 Dale Fike, Morgan Harvey, Fran Morris
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, Jed Leroy Correa
- 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

August Anniversaries

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

COVID-19 UPDATE

As most of you know, the pandemic situation in Maryland--and in the US generally--has improved dramatically in recent weeks as the vaccines and other steps have done their work. At the June Leadership Team meeting, we decided that masks would no longer be required in the church, though we still encourage them for those who are unvaccinated, and anyone who is more comfortable wearing one is certainly welcome to do so. We've also taken down most of the signage in the church and gradually moved other things back to "normal."

Through Labor Day weekend, we plan to keep worship at 10 a.m. as we have been doing. When the new church education year begins on Sept. 12, we are hoping to go back to our more regular schedule, with time for Christian education classes for those who wish to hold them. Details will be decided in Leadership Team this summer. We also hope that choir and most of our other programs that have been on "hiatus" can resume normally at that time.

Thanks for your patience through this past year and a half as we've navigated the challenges of this trying time. By God's grace, we are moving forward!

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, for Camp Mardela and administrator Jennifer Summy, our faithful friend Sarah, Priscillia Truitt, Crystal Windsor, Darren Koenig, Terry Dayton, Kevin Wile, Steven Webb, Brenda (a friend to Terri Tarr), Jane Marshall, Jim Saathoff, Lexi (a friend of Amelia Gunn) is schedule to have a baby soon, Maggie Hegedus, Caitlyn Bussey, Lynn Butler, Bev Altwater, Ron Miller, Joyce Battle, Kim Hammond, Misti Green, Bunky Miller, Theresa, (co-worker of Terri Tarr), Verna Calloway, Bonnie Langford, Mary Kelly, Amelia Gunn (BVS), Chad Whitzel (BVS), Hermann & Peggy Oberkofler, Doris Schwaninger, Brenna (a college senior at Bridgewater with cancer), John Evans, Isabelle Halliday, Wyatt Ewing, Jim & Loretta Lohr, Kathy Spurry, Lillian Sefcik, Judy Haddaway, Jean & Don Saballus, Richard Scott, Billy Harding, Chuck Davis, Annabel Young, Larry Fike, Childlene Brooks, Alan Segar, Bruce Butler, Pat Lewis, Lee Roesti, Gene & Betty Lednum, GraceWay CoB, Nancy Scheffler, Roger Plagge, John Nalley, Bobby Hopkins, Kurt Kline, Dee Candel, Lois Schall, Natalee Jones, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, Barbara Taylor, Leo Truban, Emerson Fike, Katelyn Howard. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace. Please phone the church to add or remove persons on our prayer list.



Feel free to enjoy a day at Camp walking the trails. Hiking is done by appointment only (in order to maintain social distancing). Please call for your appointment at 410-479-2861. Facilities and building will not be available.

Camp Mardela News from Jen Summy, Camp Mardela Administrator:

- **Camp Mardela continues with their fundraiser of Scrip:** What is Scrip? Buy gift cards online (all year long) at 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.
- **There are several copies** of Camp Mardela's newsletter. "The Lane" is available in the narthex.
- **Family Camp:** We will have Family Camp on Labor day week-end! We are still looking for directors, so if you are interested, you can call 410-479-2861 or email campmardela@gmail.com. This camp is a great way for families to enjoy camp together and fun for all ages.
- **Fall Camp Supper:** After the successful drive-in meals we have had, we are planning to have another fundraising supper this fall. Our hope is to have some indoor seating available while also having carry out options.
- **Camp Auction: October 30, 2021.** Come enjoy all the Camp Mardela has to offer while snagging some sweet deals at our auction. Enjoy baked goods and food prepared by volunteers, bid in the auction, or shop at the yard sale. There will be plenty to see and do at this event! More details will be posted as we get closer to the auction date.

Details of these events will be announced on Camp Mardela's Facebook page, Instagram (@campmardela), and www.campmardela.org.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

The Summer Olympics are scheduled to take place July 23 to Aug. 8 in Tokyo, Japan, bringing together athletes from around the world. Can you find the names of some past Olympic host cities (summer and winter) in the puzzle below? They can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, forwards or backwards:

ATLANTA
ATHENS
BARCELONA
BEIJING
CALGARY
LONDON
LOS ANGELES
MEXICO CITY
OSLO
PARIS
ROME
SAPPORO
SEOUL
SYDNEY
TOKYO



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| B | S | E | L | E | G | N | A | S | O | L | H |
| I | Y | P | A | R | I | S | A | G | H | O | E |
| R | D | F | O | A | A | P | S | T | L | Y | A |
| S | N | M | E | N | P | R | S | S | T | K | T |
| N | E | R | O | O | N | L | O | N | D | O | N |
| E | Y | G | R | L | E | R | U | J | X | T | A |
| H | J | O | B | E | L | G | I | O | N | R | L |
| T | Y | T | I | C | O | C | I | X | E | M | T |
| A | X | E | T | R | O | M | A | H | A | S | A |
| H | R | Y | R | A | G | L | A | C | E | N | X |
| N | Y | O | R | B | E | I | J | I | N | G | F |

Serving the month of July and August

| | 7/4/2021 | 7/11/2021 | 7/18/2021 | 7/25/2021 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Message | Live Streaming Annual Conference | Cameron Edsall | Tom Hill | Guest Speaker |
| Worship Leader | Pastor Walt | Tammy Haddaway | Jay Lister | Sharon Lister |
| Head Usher/ Sound | Leroy Miller | Leroy Miller | Leroy Miller | Leroy Miller |
| Deacons on call | John & Norma Trax | Geoff & Lee Ann Fox | Mat & Wanda Baynard | Les & Marlena Groves |
| Special Music | Annual Conference | Ellen Wile | Amy Bachand | Laurence Tyler |
| Flowers | | | | |

| | 8/1/2021 | 8/8/2021 | 8/15/2021 | 8/22/2021 | 8/29/2021 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Message | Pastor Walt | Pastor Walt | Pastor Walt | Pastor Walt | Pastor Walt |
| Worship Leader | Mat Baynard | Jane Marshall | Jim Lohr | Sharon Miller | Kevin Wile |
| Head Usher/ Sound | Judy Musch | Judy Musch | Judy Musch | Judy Musch | Judy Musch |
| Deacons on call | Rick & Jane Marshall | Leroy & Sharon Miller | Ron & Elisa Miller | John & Norma Trax | Geoff & Lee Ann Fox |
| Special Music | Jim Lohr | Liz Wildasin | Ellen Wile | Carolyn Lane | Ellen Wile |
| Flowers | | Anne Harvey | Bruce Butler | | |



Attendance & Offering for June

| Attendance | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | 6/6/21 | 6/13/21 | 6/20/21 | 6/27/21 | Totals |
| <u>Distributions</u> | 38 | 45 | 40 | 44 | 167 |
| <i>General (06)</i> | | | | | |
| Envelopes | 2,677.00 | 3,146.00 | 1,566.00 | 1,671.00 | 9,060.00 |
| Loose Change/Cash | 10.00 | 0.00 | 20.00 | 80.00 | 110.00 |
| Total Before Prepaid Tithes | 2,687.00 | 3,146.00 | 1,586.00 | 1,751.00 | 9,170.00 |
| | | | | | |
| Prepaid Tithes | 675.00 | 675.00 | 675.00 | 675.00 | 2,700.00 |
| Dale | 3,362.00 | 3,821.00 | 2,261.00 | 2,426.00 | 11,870.00 |
| | | | | | |
| <i>Other Income (06)</i> | | | | | |
| Building Use | | | | | |
| Mid-Shore Intergroup, Inc | | 150.00 | | | 150.00 |
| Dutchmans Lane Rent | | | | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| Harrison St. Rent | | | | | 0.00 |
| Totals | 0.00 | 150.00 | 0.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,350.00 |
| | | | | | |
| <i>Special Offerings (07)</i> | | | | | |
| Deacon Fund | | 1,000.00 | | | 1,000.00 |
| In Kind | | | | | |
| In & Out | | | | | |
| MADD Auction Ads | 35.00 | | | | 35.00 |
| Messenger Subscriptions | | | | 27.00 | 27.00 |
| Camp Mardela Roof Reimbursement | 50.00 | | | | 50.00 |
| Totals | 85.00 | 1,150.00 | 0.00 | 1,227.00 | 2,462.00 |
| | | | | | |
| Totals | 2,772.00 | 4,446.00 | 1,586.00 | 4,178.00 | 12,982.00 |

Let us all be vigilant. Wash your hands and socially distance. If you are not vaccinated, please continue to wear a mask that covers your mouth AND nose, and pray for God's guidance and healing.



**WE'RE
IN THIS
TOGETHER!**



Volunteer Opportunities

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. 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.
Thank you!!!

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 August 19, 2021. 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.)**

Neighborhood Service Center

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





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