

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

SEPTEMBER, 2021

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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



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Carrying out the ministry of a church is not always an easy thing. We have a good general sense of what we're to be about as followers of Jesus, but figuring out exactly what that should look like in any given congregation can be challenging—and then actually putting it all into action even more so.

“It takes a village,” as the now well-known African proverb says. Or as the apostle Paul tells us in his letters, it takes the whole body of Christ. Each member brings a variety of gifts and abilities to the table. Some have great musical talent. Others are organizers and administrators. Some are builders and fixers. Others are skilled with numbers. Some are teachers. Some excel at hospitality. And so on.

Our congregation isn't huge in numbers, but we do have an abundance of gifts and giving within our faith community. We support activities both within the church and far beyond, from Christian education classes (resuming soon!) to Camp Mardela, from maintaining our facilities to assisting Talbot Interfaith Shelter with their needs, from carrying out love feast and parts of our weekly worship to supporting denominational projects.

It does take the whole body of Christ. And starting in mid-September, we'll begin a special five-part sermon series looking at the ways that each of our Ministry Teams contributes to that work. We'll start with Christian Education and progress through Stewards, Deacons, Witness, and Nurture. Titled “We Are the Church,” it hopefully will give you a bit more insight into what these teams do while also lifting up and celebrating their work.

I'd also like to issue a challenge: If you're not currently involved in a ministry of the church in a direct way, consider getting involved and sharing *your* gifts as part of that work. I know committees and meetings aren't for everyone (honestly, they're not my favorite thing, either!), but if being part of a formal Ministry Team or other group isn't your thing, then consider other ways to jump on board.

Could you knit or crochet blankets? Or maybe volunteer regularly at camp or some community organization or send cards? Would you like to provide music or be part of a dramatic presentation? Do you have an idea for some community outreach? Would you love to come in and clean out the church attic or spruce up our garden spaces? Or if there's something we haven't thought of or haven't been doing that you would like to see happen, let us know. Maybe we can get it started.

As Paul says in Romans 12, “God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has shown you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly” (v. 6-8, NLT).

What's your thing? May you share it gladly, freely, and well.

-Pastor Walt 😊

Sermon and Scriptures for September

Sept. 5 (Labor Day Sunday): Worship in the woods: We will *not* have worship or other activities at the church. Following our pattern of recent years, we invite everyone instead to join the community worship happening at Camp Mardela that morning, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Shania Morse, who has been doing mission work in Africa, will be the guest speaker, focusing on prayer.

Sept. 12

"Sowing Justice"

Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

James 2:1-10, 14-17, Amos?

Sept. 19

"We Are the Church: Christian Education"

Prov. 22:6, 2 Timothy 2:15-19,

Ps. 25:4-9, Isa. 50:4-7, Heb. 5:11-14

Sept. 26

"We Are the Church: Stewards"

1 Peter 4:8-11

1 Kings 7:13-14, 40-45

Music for September

Sept. 12 Carolyn Lane

Sept. 19 Amy Bachand

Sept. 26 Ellen Wile



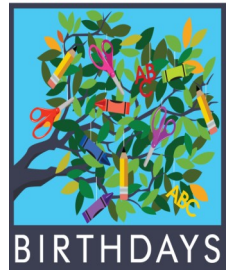
Handbell practice will begin
on Wednesday evening,
September 1, 6:30 p.m. in
the Sanctuary.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Sallie Griswold
- 2 Alex Malaney, Janet Golt, Billy Loscomb, Chris Lyons
- 4 Amie Lednum Sharp
- 6 John Trax, Kai Kelly
- 7 Gary Faulkner
- 8 Ellen Sherwood, Zachary Kinsey
- 9 Chuck Davis, Betty Sanger
- 10 Mat Baynard, Jane Marshall
- 11 Dylan Faulkner
- 13 Brandt Wooters, Londyn Honeman
- 14 Joel Lohr
- 16 Charles Schwaninger
- 17 Jim Lohr
- 18 Bill Schuyler
- 20 Robyn Glass
- 21 Makayla Mullikin, Katelynn Miles
- 22 Jamie Crannell
- 23 Eric Harvey, Sarah Price
- 24 Kip Wood, Darin Jones
- 25 Sarah Scaglione
- 26 Kelsey Basel, Greg Mullikin
- 28 Josie Berkey, Tammy Haddaway
- 29 Cameron Edsall, Ladainian Jones

SEPTEMBER



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

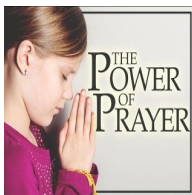
- 2 Randy & Susan Walbridge
- 6 David & Joy Phelps
- 9 Bill & Laurie Schnaitman
- 19 Mark & Tammy Miller
- 20 Les & Marlena Groves
- 24 Geoff & Lee Ann Fox
- 26 Tom & Janet Golt
- 27 Emerson & Karen Tarr, Adam & Julie Schwaninger
- 30 James & Sallie Griswold, Walt & Cheryl Hoevenaars

SEPTEMBER



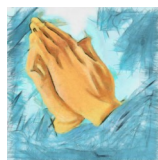
Our Prayer List

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, for the families affected by Hurricane Ida, the family of Jeff Grant, the family of Marie Chance, the family of Brenda Yeatman, the family of Barbara Taylor, Gene Walbridge, Priscillia Truitt, Crystal Windsor, Darren Koenig, Kevin Wile, Steven Webb, Brenda (a friend to Terri Tarr), Jane & Rick Marshall, Jim



Saathoff, Maggie Hegedus, Caitlyn Bussey, Bev Altvater, Ron Miller, Joyce Battle, Kim Hammond, Misti Green, Bunky Miller, Theresa, (co-worker of Terri Tarr), Verna

Calloway, Bonnie Langford, Mary Kelly, Amelia Gunn & Chad Whitzel as they are traveling before heading home, Hermann & Peggy Oberkofler, Doris Schwaninger, 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, Dee Candel, Lois Schall, Natalee Jones, Jeff Wright, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, 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.



GRAND RE-OPENING!: With the end of summer here and most of the congregation vaccinated, we're going to return—finally!—to our “normal” church schedule starting Sunday, Sept. 12. Beginning that day, Christian education classes will resume at 9:30 a.m., while our worship service will move back to its usual 10:45 a.m. time in the sanctuary, continuing with the format we've been using.

See the article about Christian education plans for more details on those classes. ***And for now, please continue to wear a mask while in the church building until pandemic metrics and official guidance direct us otherwise.*** Thanks for your patience during this challenging season of church life!



Christian Formation to Begin

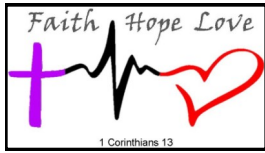
Christian Formation will begin on Sunday, September 12 at 9:30 a.m. Worship will begin at 10:45 a.m.

There will be two classes forming in the Fall.

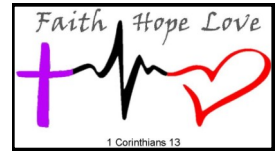
The Guide to Biblical Studies class will be meeting in the parlor. The theme for this quarter will be “*Celebrating God*”. We will begin in September with “God’s People Offer Praise.”

The Pathfinders class will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall. The room to the right coming down the stairs on the Stewart Street entrance. The group will be studying “Reading Revelation Responsibly” by Michael Gorman. Hopefully this book will restore Revelation to relevance for the mission of the church. Gorman joins John of Patmos to inspire you with a risky and lofty vision of following the Lamb in radical and nonviolent witness in the world.





News from the District Office



A letter from the District Conference Moderator

Your Program & Arrangements (P&A) Committee has been working to finalize plans for our District Conference in October. When we last communicated, it was looking very optimistic for us to meet in October without concern. However, in recent weeks we're hearing of a new Delta variant of the Coronavirus that is spreading steadily in the U.S. and other places around the world.

P&A consulted with Dr. Kathryn "Kate" Jacobsen, PhD, MPH, Professor of Epidemiology and a member of the Oakton Congregation. These discussions and recent developments have brought us to the conclusion that the 2021 District Conference be held virtually, out of an abundance of caution and genuine concern for others. As we prepare this letter, the majority of counties in the MAD have a High (Red) level of Community Transmission with the remaining being Substantial (Orange). You can view this at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>.

District Conference will still be held on Saturday, October 9. We will meet via a Zoom link from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon. We are condensing the agenda to include a worship time, several District reports and a few other reports. Jo Ann Landon has been gathering materials for the Conference booklet. These will be distributed electronically late in the month of September. Hard copy booklets will be available at a cost of \$5.

We will conduct a "dry run" Zoom call on Monday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. for anyone that wants to test their technical equipment. This will be a brief 30-minute opportunity for Conference attendees to make sure they have the necessary equipment and connections for accessing the Zoom link. Participation in this "dry run" call is optional and offered simply for anyone that would like to practice their connectivity. Separate Zoom links will be distributed for both the dry run and the Conference. Dialing in by phone will also be an option.

Delegate registration materials will be distributed soon. We are requesting a Delegate registration fee of \$10 for Delegates. The Zoom platform will allow questions to be submitted in the Chat box. We will prepare a hard copy ballot for voting on the budget and slate/ballot, similar to how we handled those last year. The budget and slate will be presented during the Conference and delegates will vote and mail their ballot to the District office.

Thank you to each of you that have been praying for us as we have worked through this pandemic to prepare for District Conference the past two years. Thank you as well to those that have worked on arrangements for an in-person Conference – both in 2020 and 2021.

Since making this decision, I've had to remind myself of what Jesus said in Luke 22:42 "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me: yet not My will, but Yours be done." Let me just say that I want to meet in person. I want to sing and talk and hug and shake hands – all without the inhibitions of masks or social distancing. However, perhaps not right now, so we will do the next best thing. God has provided virtual platforms for such a time as this. He always provides a way. We just need to listen and discern His will. Praise God!

Blessings,

Allen O'Hara
District Moderator

Camp Mardela News from Jen Summy:

- **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! Susan Bowdle will be the director and Shania Morse, guest speaker. Please let camp know ASAP if you are planning to stay over or come for worship and stay for the meal on Sept. 5. The camp is a great way for families to enjoy camp together and fun for all ages. There will be no worship service at the church on September 5.
- **Fall Camp Supper: September 18, 2021, 4-7p.m.** We are bringing back the good ole fashioned fall ham and turkey supper! Meals include ham, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw sweet potatoes, rolls, applesauce, desserts and beverages. We will have limited indoor dining, serving buffet style, as well as to-go meals. Meals can be ordered from 4-7p. A donation of \$10 will be accepted for the dinners. Seating is on a first come first serve basis and will serve meals until we are sold out. Easton CoB along with Denton CoB will help with directing traffic. Easton is also responsible for seven dozen rolls and seven dozen pre-packaged, store bought desserts. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who can help.
- **Camp Auction: October 30, 2021, 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m..** 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.

?? Bible Quiz ??

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

A. once
B. twice
C. three times
D. four times



Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)



Those who
LOVE ME,
I will deliver.
I will protect
those who know
MY NAME.
PSALM 91:14, NRSV

Barbara Taylor: Barbara passed away on July 19 at the Arcadia Assisted Living Home in Denton, MD. A private service will be held at a later date.



Brenda Yeatman: Brenda passed away on August 4. A funeral service was held on Saturday, August 14th, at 11am at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral home in Easton. Burial was held at Spring Hill Cemetery in Easton, MD.

Marie Chance: Marie passed away on August 14 at the Caroline Nursing Home. Her service will be held on September 4 at Fellows Helfenbein Funeral Home at 11:00 a.m.

Our love and prayers and Christ presence to each of these families.



Church Picnic

On Sunday, September 19 we are having a picnic!!!! Please join us on the church lawn for a day of fun and fellowship, following worship. Details on items needed will be announced soon. And there is talk of having an outdoor worship that day. Please stay tune for details on both in upcoming announcements.



Congratulations to Darin and Rebekah Jones on the birth of their daughter Amara Elizabeth. Amara was born on August 9, weighed 7lbs, 7oz and was 21 in. long. Proud grandmother is Natalee Jones and great-grandmother, Joyce Battle.



National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) 2021 September 6-10, 2021



Romans 15:13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy

Spirit." (Christian Standard Bible)

Theme Statement

We live in a world that is ruled by division, anger, and fear. We, as followers of Jesus Christ, are called to a different way of living and being in the world. We are called to be people of robust hope. We cannot maintain hope by ourselves but must rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit. When we focus on our God of hope we can find joy and peace in our daily lives. We may not ignore the pain and sorrow in our world. We are called to face it and work to heal it as we allow God's Holy Spirit to fill us with Christ's presence and power.

Daily Themes

Monday: Welcome, Overflowing with Hope- Romans 15:13

Tuesday: Joy- Luke 2:8-20; Psalm 62:5-13

Wednesday: Peace- John 14:26-27; Psalm 69:1-5, 13-21

Thursday: Faith/Believing- Luke 8:40-56; Psalm 62:5-8

Friday: Hope, Send-off, Challenge- John 21:1-17; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Preachers

Monday: Christy Dowdy

Tuesday: Paula Bowser

Wednesday: Andrew Wright

Thursday: Don Fitzkee

Friday: Eric Landram

NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults 50 and older who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

Registration for NOAC is now open. This year's event will be a virtual conference, held September 6-10. You can register online at www.brethren.org/NOAC. Ken Medema & Ted Swartz, Karen Gonzalez and Lisa Sharon Harper will be the key note speakers this year.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Can you find the following school-related items and terms in the puzzle below? Answers can be horizontal or vertical or diagonal, backwards or forwards. Best wishes as you try to pass the test!

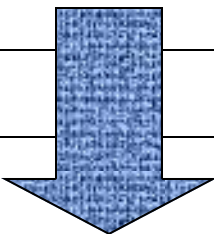
STUDENT	TEACHER	BOOK	CLASS
PEN	PAPER	EXAM	HOMEWORK
ASSIGNMENT	DESK	STUDY	GRADE
DETENTION	GYM	BUS	

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



Sept. 21 is the annual International Day of Prayer for Peace. You're invited that day, especially, to pause and pray for peace in our local community as well as in places of violence and unrest around the world.

Serving the month of September

Church service on 9/5 will be held at Camp Mardela	9/5/2021 No church service here	9/12/2021	9/19/2021	9/26/2021
Message		Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt
Worship Leader		Lynn Butler	Wanda Baynard	Jay Lister
Head Usher/ Sound		Ron Miller	Ron Miller	Ron Miller
Deacons on call	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Les & Marlena Groves	Rick & Jane Marshall	Leroy & Sharon Miller
Special Music		Carolyn Lane	Amy Bachand	Ellen Wile
Flowers		Anne Harvey		

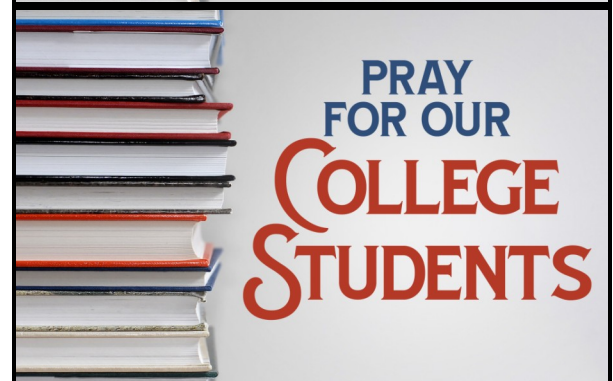
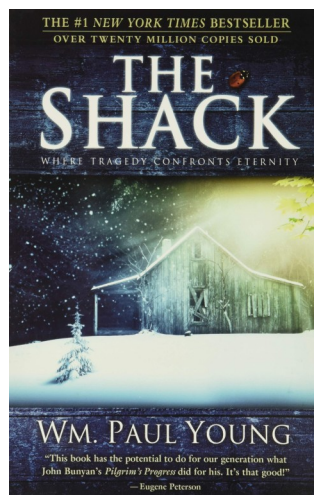
Save the Date!

Please save the date for October 28 at the Avalon Theatre.

The Avalon will be hosting Paul Young, author of "The Shack" - the #1 New York Times Bestseller that was also adapted into the film starring Octavia Spencer.

Paul will be discussing the book and how he wrote it as a metaphor for grief and "the house we build out of our own pain."

This event is free and open to the public, but tickets must be reserved. There will also be a ticketed VIP meet and greet at the Bullitt House afterward. Visit www.talbothospice.org for more info!



Attendance & Offering for August

	Attendance	28	38	31	29	36	162
		8/1/21	8/8/21	8/15/21	8/22/21	8/29/21	Totals
<u>Distributions</u>		28	38	31	29	36	162
<i>General (06)</i>							
Envelopes		1,080.00	2,677.00	1,021.00	1,156.00	2,036.00	7,970.00
Loose Change/Cash		5.00	15.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	24.00
Total Before Prepaid Tithes		1,085.00	2,692.00	1,021.00	1,160.00	2,036.00	7,994.00
Prepaid Tithes		675.00	675.00	675.00	675.00	675.00	3,375.00
Dale		1,760.00	3,367.00	1,696.00	1,835.00	2,711.00	11,369.00
<i>Other Income (06)</i>							
Building Use							
Dutchmans Lane Rent				2,400.00			2,400.00
Harrison St. Rent		1,500.00					1,500.00
Totals		1,500.00	0.00	2,400.00	0.00	0.00	3,900.00
<i>Special Offerings (07)</i>							
Deacon Fund			1,000.00				1,000.00
Hospitality							0.00
In Kind							
Supplies for Altar Table							0.00
Copies of the Fund Report						20.03	20.03
In & Out							
Messenger Subscriptions		27.00					27.00
Disaster Kits		150.00					150.00
Totals		1,677.00	1,000.00	2,400.00	0.00	20.03	5,097.03
Totals		4,262.00	3,692.00	5,821.00	1,160.00	2,056.03	16,991.03

Love Your Neighbors!! In light of recent pandemic metrics, please wear a mask inside the church regardless of vaccination status.

Thank you!!

**Let us all be vigilant. Wash your hands and socially distance.
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 2021 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 October 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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