

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

December, 2024 PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

"Sharing the love and
blessing of God with all."

Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Hours: 10:45 a.m.



412 S. Harrison Street

Easton, MD 21601

410-822-0475

eastonchurchofthebrethren@gmail.com

www.eastonbrethren.org

Website: www.eastonbrethren.org

Jody E. Gunn, Pastor

Advent begins on December 1, the weekend after Thanksgiving. Plan on participating in preparing your heart and mind for the arrival of Jesus. We do lots of preparing each year, but what type do you do? Decorate to control your space and the joy it brings? Spend time reading an Advent devotional? Reflect quietly about Advent and what it means? Help others have a good Christmas? Our scriptures and theme for Advent this year, have much to do about how we live, how we shine, how we bear good fruit, and how to let our light be bright. Doing is part of our preparation for the birth of Jesus and the breaking forth of extravagant love into our lives, but it is also about being. How will we "be" this Advent? How can we soak in the beauty of the time we have with others? What about the time we have focusing on the Almighty who has done great things for us? May we do the things that bring us joy and settle into the comfort these days of Advent can usher in. Hold onto the moments this Advent to remind us of the love of the Almighty God in our lives today and beyond.

December 1: "For the Living of These Days"

Scripture: Luke 21:25-36; Jeremiah 33:14-16

Preacher: Wanda Baynard

December 8: "Shine"

Scripture: Luke 1: 68-79

Preacher: Jody Gunn

December 15: "Bear Good Fruit"

Scripture: Luke 3: 7-18

Preacher: Jody Gunn



December 22: Cantata "Light of the World" Lani Smith

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight - Lessons and Carols

6 pm (notice the time change)

Team: Jody Gunn, Ellen Wile, Michelle Boulden Hammond, Wanda Baynard

Our Prayer List

Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families: for health care workers, and for government and civic leaders who are seeking the best way forward, for our District, for all those who have been affected economically, for Camp Mardela and administrator Jennifer Summy, the family of John Merceron, the family of Dick Scott, the family of Pat Wright, the family of Agnes Bridge, the family of Sandy Showell, Fred Roesti, Danny Brown, Ellen Hill, Suzanne Halsey, Ron Patrick, Don Saballus, Holly Hill Jones (Larry Fike's stepdaughter), Bobby Bridge, Kevin Little, a gentlemen name Ricki, Cheryl Dayton, Chris Lyons, John Sewell, Ruth Gunn, Michael Stark-ey, Larry & Barbara McCann, Jeanette & Bob Miller, Mary Lou Segar, Frances Morse, Bruce Butler, Jimmy & Loretta Lohr, Adele Pogue, Caitlyn Bussey, Theresa Durnbaugh, Billy Harding, Larry Fike, Alan Segar, GraceWay CoB, Dee Candel, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace.



Please phone or email the church office to add or remove persons on our prayer list.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of John Merceron. John passed away on November 1. A graveside service was held on November 11 at Oxford Cemetery.



Our deepest sympathy to the family of Dick Scott. Mr. Scott passed away on November 15. A graveside service was held on November 22 at the Old Springhill Cemetery.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Pat Wright. Pat passed away on October 9. A memorial service was held on November 23 at Crossroad Community Church in Georgetown, DE. Pat was the daughter of Lloyd and Evelyn Fox Harding.

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

Interested in Serving as Worship Leader

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 Marlena Groves (Nurture Chair).

Neighborhood Service Center 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.

Neighborhood Service Center

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

VOLUNTEER

Talbot Interfaith Shelter



The 2024 Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) 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 month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. **Our next date will be December 19.**

AA Group

Mid Shore Intergroup is a local AA group that meets at our church every Wednesday evening at 7p. For more information please go to www.midshoreintergroup.org.

Update on congregational decisions made on October 20

Approximately 30 people were present for the Congregational Business Meeting on October 20. The agenda was full with the need to affirm the slate, pass the 2025 budget, to discuss as well as make decisions on the sale of the parsonage and moving forward with next steps for handicap accessibility at our church. The slate was affirmed and the budget was passed with one change to the budget, which was to increase the Outreach Beyond the Local Church specifically district and denominational giving by 10%. Following the affirmation of these two agenda items, the members voted to sell the parsonage with the help of a realtor and to take the first steps necessary toward a handicap accessible building.

Here are the updates since October 20:

- The parsonage has been listed and current tenants have been notified.
- House has been shown numerous times.
- Torchio Architect Jo Anne Gebelein, along with John Trax and others have put together the information our architect needs for the application she is working on for the Town of Easton. The application is for a waiver and an exemption for parking and footprint issues. Applications will be submitted before December 2.

We will update everyone as we go along! We are excited to see where God will continue to take us!

Update on Peach Blossom Meeting House (Little Round Top)

The work being done on Little Round Top has begun! Siding replacement, window repairs, reconstruct and remodel the entrance doors, steps, and handrails are all part of the project of continuing to preserve this historic gem. If the preservation of this unique church building is important to you, please consider making a donation for the work being done on it now and into the future. Thank you!

38th Annual Child Loss Remembrance Ceremony Tuesday, December 3rd @ 7 pm

Trinity Cathedral
314 North St. Easton, MD
Entrance on Goldsborough St.

A time of fellowship will be offered in Miller Hall following the service.

For questions or for more information, please contact Pastor Jody.

Advent Offering

This years Advent Offering will be taken on Sunday, December 15 during the offertory. Envelopes will be included in your bulletins on Sunday, December 8.



"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

~ Luke 1:46-47, NIV

"A voice of hope"

Looking Ahead!

The Elizabethtown College Concert Choir will be coming to the Easton Church of the Brethren on March 1, 2025! They will present an evening concert on Saturday and (added bonus), they will be singing during worship the next morning. The E-town Concert Choir is conducted by Dr. Matthew Fritz. There are about 22 singing members and they will be looking forward to staying overnight in host homes on Saturday, March 1. They pair up to be hosted, so each host family can expect 2 singers. Please be thinking about whether you would like to host 2 E-town singers and there will be sign-ups soon!



SERVING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

	12/1/2024	12/8/2024	12/15/2024	12/22/2024	12/29/2024
Message	Wanda Baynard	Pastor Jody Gunn	Pastor Jody Gunn	Christmas Cantata	Rusty Curling
Worship Leader	Kevin Wile	Lynn Butler	Wanda Baynard	Mat Baynard	Sharon Miller
Head Usher/Sound	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller
Deacons on Call	Les & Marlena Groves	Jane Marshall/ Anne Harvey	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller	John & Norma Trax
Special Music	Ellen Wile	Cheryl Dayton, Jen Summy, Ellen Wile	Rusty Curling & Phylliss Dodd	Choir/ Peachblossom Bells	Carolyn Lane
Flowers	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Karen & Emerson Tarr

News about Camp Mardela, from Jennifer Summy, Camp Administrator



- ♦ **Camp is still seeking a treasurer.** The job can be done in the office or remote. Approximately 8-12 hours a month. Contact Jennifer if you are interested.
- ♦ **Sights and Sounds of Christmas:** December 20-22; 5-8pm. Live music, hay rides, lights, model trains, silent auction, kids crafts and food.
- ♦ **Maker's Haven:** Enjoy a day of uninterrupted crafting time in a community of fellow makers; January 18, 2025 from 9-5pm. More information to come.
- ♦ **Valentine's Dinner:** February 14, 2025 from 6-8 pm. \$30 per person. More information to come.
- ♦ **FaithX & BVS Reunion:** February 15, 2025, 12-4pm. More information to come.
- ♦ **Store Sales:** Did you know that you can buy Camp Mardela swag online on our website!? Show your support for camp by purchasing t-shirts, stickers, bandanas and more online at <https://www.campmardela.org/fundraisers>. Items can be picked up at camp or shipped to your home for a small fee.
- ♦ **Wish List:** Several items need to be replaced at camp. The wish list is located on the web-site; www.campmardela.org/donate
- ♦ **Scrip Fundraiser:** We are still running our Scrip fundraising program! Order gift cards through Scrip and Camp Mardela gets a percentage of the sales. Register and order cards at www.shopwithscrip.com. Contact campmardela@gmail.com for the registration code or any other questions.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for camp and its ministry. It is greatly appreciated and we continue to see the fruit of Camp ministering in the lives of people.

2024 November Offerings

<i>Attendance</i>	39	41	35	40	155
	11/3/2024	11/10/2024	11/17/2024	11/24/2024	Totals
<u>Distributions</u>					
General (06)					
Envelopes	1,998.00	2,920.00	1,810.00	1,724.00	8,452.00
Loose Change/Cash	0.00	9.00	5.00	0.00	14.00
Total	1,998.00	2,929.00	1,815.00	1,724.00	8,466.00
<i>Other Income (06)</i>					
Building Use					
Wednesday Beginners July - Dec					0.00
Tred Avon Players				120.00	120.00
Harrison St. Rent	1,600.00				1,600.00
Washington St. Rent	1,800.00				1,800.00
Totals	3,400.00	0.00	0.00	120.00	3,520.00
<i>Special Offer-ings (07)</i>					
Totals	3,400.00	0.00	0.00	120.00	3,520.00
Totals	8,798.00	2,929.00	1,815.00	1,964.00	15,506.00

Please have all year-end donations in by December 31, 2024...Thank you!

Let us today go down to Bethlehem, and in company with wondering shepherds and adoring Magi, let us see him who was born King of the Jews, for we by faith can claim an interest in him, and can sing, “*Unto us* a child is born, *unto us* a son is given.” Jesus is Jehovah incarnate, our Lord and our God, and yet our brother and friend; let us adore and admire. ...



Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to [humankind] its ancient glory; and let us pray that he may be formed in us, the hope of glory.

—C.H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*

read Acts 10:34-38

The witness of Jesus Christ

He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him (Acts 10:38b).

Drones are being used as weapons in many areas where the United States is not officially at war, such as Yemen, Somalia, and Pakistan. In some cases, such countries have given the U.S. their blessing to use drones, but then have concealed the fact that it is the United States carrying out those strikes. Concealment of covert activities generates confusion, results in the deaths of countless targeted people and bystanders, and undermines international law and cooperation.

The Church of the Brethren has stated that peace can be achieved only by the unity of all humanity [1991 Annual Conference]. Drone warfare inherently disrupts the path toward this unity for which we pray and work. To act remotely shields the American people from the horror and discord of war. Though machines carry out the final action of these missions, U.S. citizens may not excuse or disconnect themselves from the lethal consequences of those decisions.

All killing mocks the God who creates and gives life. Jesus, as the Word incarnate, came to dwell among us (John 1:14) in order to reconcile humanity to God and bring about peace and healing. In contrast, our government's expanding use of armed drones distances the decisions to use lethal force from the communities in which these deadly strikes take place. We find the efforts of the United States to distance the act of killing from the site of violence to be in direct conflict to the witness of Christ Jesus.

—Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, 2013

respond Find news reports of the effects of drone warfare on civilian populations, particularly women and children. What concerns would you raise?

pray I pray and work for unity, for healing, for transparency in all things. Help me, Father, to follow the witness of your Son.



- 1 Gene Hagenberger
- 2 Tony Fluharty
- 4 Rica Denlinger
- 7 Jim Foreman
- 8 Karter May Mullikin
- 12 Ashley Ward
- 14 Jennifer Carrion
- 15 Camryn Stephenson, Ed Wildasin,
Jimmy Fike, Genna Ulrich
- 16 Margie Ridenour
- 17 Sue Ann Brockson, Todd Lyons
- 18 Bradley Hughes
- 19 Christa Crannell, Ruth Ann Smith
- 20 Karen Tarr, Ronnie Miller, John Banghart
- 21 Billy Schnaitman, Jr.
- 22 Kenny Ball, Michael Schwaninger,
Nora Quidas, Luke Carrion
- 23 Eve Langley Correa, Charles Wooters
- 24 Mabel Kinsey, Mark Miller, Justine Foxwell,
Carolyn Lane
- 26 Betty Schwaninger
- 27 John Stichberry III
- 28 Taylor Ann Jacobs
- 29 Wendy Faulkner
- 30 Megan Timms
- 31 Robert McGee



- 2 Gene & Diane Walbridge
- 4 Larry & Kathy Fike
- 8 Josh & Sierra Poore
- 23 Derek & Brynn Keller
Mike & Nina Jacobs
- 28 Mark & Tracy Lednum

Special dates in December

- First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024
- Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2024
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2024
- First day of winter, December 21, 2024
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2024
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2024

Walking with those who grieve

The holiday season can be difficult for people who are grieving a death or deep loss. As Christians, we do well to be aware that not everyone feels wholehearted joy this time of year. How can we support them?

Grief counselor Alan Wolfelt explains that walking alongside — “companioning” — one who grieves “is not about assessing, analyzing, fixing or resolving another’s grief. Instead, it is about being totally present to the mourner, even being a temporary guardian of [his or] her soul.”

Among Wolfelt’s 11 tenets for “companioning the bereaved”:

- It’s about being present to another person’s pain, not taking it away.
- It’s about listening with the heart, not analyzing with the head.
- It’s about walking alongside, not leading.

More tips are available at www.centerforloss.com/2019/12/

May God bless you as you share the love of the Christ Child, his caring parents and his compassionate heavenly Father with people who are hurting.

Easton Church of the Brethren

412 S. Harrison Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

410 622 0478



Church of the Brethren

November 21, 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Easton Church of the Brethren,

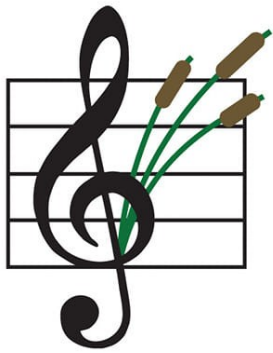
The Round Top Church building located on US Route 50, south of Easton, served as an early meetinghouse for the Brethren in Talbot County. Both the Easton and Fairview congregations trace their origins to Round Top. The building was totally restored in a historically correct manner around the time of the Easton congregation's 100th anniversary celebration in 1981. As part of the celebration, church members, dressed in traditional early Brethren garb, hosted a series of open houses at the site so local visitors and the traveling public could learn about Brethren heritage, practice and worship. Since then, it has been used for occasional worship services, weddings, and evening vesper services.

In 2016, a new roof was installed, but now the existing structure needs serious repairs. The siding, windows, shutters, doors and steps are in dire need of replacement. The Stewards team has received two estimates for the repairs. The first estimate is from Marvel Construction. Their estimate is \$56,000. The second estimate is from Choptank Builders. Their estimate is \$71,000. We have chosen Marvel Construction to complete the project, which began this week. Eric Harvey, a member of the Easton church, has agreed to donate handrails and Jim Harvey, a longtime friend of the Easton church, has agreed to help reconstruct and remodel the entrance doors. The wooden steps will be removed and replaced with old textured brick steps, with handrails. Both estimates do not include painting. We intend to do all repairs in a historically correct manner.

If you share a desire to help preserve this important part of our church history, the Stewards will welcome your gift. To ensure your gift gets credited properly, please mark your gift "Round Top repairs".

Thank you for your prayerful consideration for this need.

The Stewards Team
Geoff Fox and Ron Miller
Easton Church of the Brethren



Mid-Shore Community Band

Presents

Sounds of the Season

A Free Concert of Christmas Music

Sunday, December 8 - 6:30 PM St. Mark's UM Church - Easton

Tuesday, December 10 - 7:00 PM North Caroline High School



TALBOT
ARTS

www.msrb.org



TIDEWATER SINGERS

ELLEN WILE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



WITH SPECIAL GUESTS, *THE ALLEGRO CHILDREN'S CHORUS*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

7 PM AT CHRIST CHURCH, ST. MICHAELS
AND

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

7 PM AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL, EASTON

ADMISSION \$15 AT THE DOOR, \$12 IN ADVANCE, STUDENTS FREE



TALBOTARTS



SCAN FOR TICKETS OR VISIT
TIDEWATERSINGERS.ORG



MSAC



Camp Mardela Sights & Sounds of CHRISTMAS



Dec. 20-22, 2024
5pm-8pm



Live Music - Hay Ride - Lights - Model Trains - Silent Auction - Kids Crafts - Food

Fee - \$5 per car
Pay at gate or at
campmardela.org/christmas

Address:
301 Deep Shore Rd
Denton, MD 21629

**LIVE
MUSIC
GROUPS**

Friday



**KINDRED
SPIRITS**

Saturday



Cheers

Sunday



**Rusty Curling
& Phyllis Dodd**

**EVERY
NIGHT
7PM**



 **DECEMBER** 

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