

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

MARCH, 2025 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

Rev. Jody E. Gunn, Pastor

LENT: A TIME OF GIVING?

Historically, Lent was a time of repentance and fasting. The idea was that in order to properly celebrate the Resurrection at Easter, people had to spend the forty days leading up to Easter fasting, praying, and repenting as a way to deepen their connection with God and to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. It is my understanding that the name Shrove Tuesday comes from the emphasis on repentance, and pancake Tuesday emphasized the need to fast. These days gave Christians the opportunity to "give up" those "fat" foods which the church decided against. Making pancakes was a common way to use up eggs, butter, oil, and syrup, and all other delectable stuff they needed to give up for Lent.

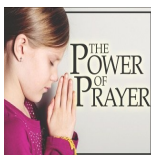
Even in today's world, people still give things up for Lent such as smoking, and alcohol, chocolates, snack foods and other luxuries. However, I would like to suggest another way to observe Lent. I would like to suggest that instead of "giving up" stuff for Lent, we spend time "giving". Let me explain. First of all, we should give God our prayers for ourselves and others for our community, and for our world. Lent has traditionally been a time of returning to God in prayer...seeking His guidance. We should also give God our worship. Worship is the primary way in which we can thank God for all He has done for us. We have talents we can give God. There are opportunities in this world to do God's work, and He has given each of us talents and gifts to do them. Most of all, we need to give God our love, for we cannot do these things if we do not have love. Who knows, maybe this "giving" thing will become a habit we cannot break.

Wanda Baynard, Christian Ed Chair



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, Cecelia Stephenson, the family of Eloise Jane Spurry, Morgan Harvey, Nadia Schlotzhauer, Dean Clutts, Nora Quidas, John Trax, Mary Ellen Hutchison, Ellen Hill, Ron Patrick, Don Saballus, Holly Hill Jones (Larry Fike's step-daughter), Bobby Bridge, Kevin Little, a gentlemen name Ricki, Cheryl Dayton, Chris Lyons, John Sewell, Ruth Gunn, Michael Starkey, 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.***



Mid Shore Community Band Upcoming Concerts for 2025

Sunday, March 16: 13th Annual MSCB St. Patrick's Eve Concert held at the Easton Elks Lodge Ballroom, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 18: St. Patrick's Concert Reprise. Location and time TBD

Saturday, May 10: Benefit concert for the Easton Lions Club held at the Easton Elks Lodge Ballroom, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13: Spring Concert held at St. Paul's UM Church, Cambridge, 7:00 p.m.

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.

Talbot Interfaith Shelter



The 2025 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 March 19. Volunteers are needed. The meal has been covered. Thank You!**

AA Group

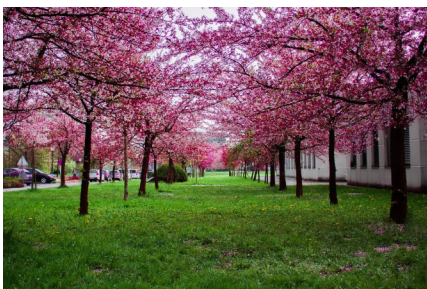
Mid Shore Intergroup is a local AA group that meets at our church every Wednesday evening at 7p. For more information please go to www.midshoreintergroup.org.



- 1 Martina Towers
- 3 Jalen Jones, Kellee Kinsey
- 4 Leslie Schwaninger
- 5 Brendan Faw
- 6 Gemma Katherine Poore
- 8 Cheryl Heckard
- 10 Cindy Townsend, Darlena Roesti-Butler
- 14 Kristi Booze
- 15 Corey Edsall, Matthew Faulkner, Katie Pederson
- 16 Joanna Williams
- 17 Patti Ball
- 18 Kevin Schwaninger, Rebecca Russ
- 20 Sandy Faw
- 21 Robert Milburn, Joy Phelps, Albert Pete
- 22 Steven Mullikin
- 23 Trevor Ball
- 24 Randy Walbridge
- 25 Paula Ulrich
- 27 David Allen, Jude Basel
- 29 Michael Correa, Kathy Ebling
- 30 Randy Bachand
- 31 Jennifer Fox



- 9 Ted & Patty Schwaninger
- 11 David & Jo Ann Fike
- 14 Ken & Sue Ann Russ
- David & Cindy Allen
- 25 Allen & Cheryl Heckard



*First day of Spring
March 20*

Hospitality Teams—2025

Team 1 – Elisa Miller, Chair. Members are: Terri Tarr, Diane Walbridge, Liz Wildasin,

Team 2 – Anne Harvey, Chair. Members are Judy Musch, Loretta Lohr, and Mat Baynard.

Team 3 – Jane Marshall, Chair. Members are: Pete Fox, Lee Ann Fox, Sharon Miller, Marlena Groves and Connie Griep.

Upcoming Events for March

March 8 – Elizabethtown College Choir Concert: The choir members will arrive at the church around 4:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided to the choir members, served at 6:00 p.m. **Hospitality Team 1** will be in charge.

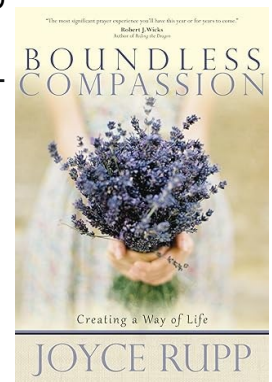
March 9 – Elizabethtown College Choir will perform during worship. There will be a continental breakfast served at 10:15 a.m. Sunday school will end at 10:15 a.m. Everyone is invited to the breakfast in the fellowship hall. **Hospitality Team 2** will be in charge.

March 23 – District Executive Minister Douglas Veal will be visiting during worship. Following worship, we will gather in the fellowship hall for a carry-in meal. **Hospitality Team 3** will be in charge.



Ash Wednesday Soup and Service on March 5. We will gather together with a simple soup and salad dinner at 4 pm (Fellowship Hall) with the Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary) at 5 pm. Please let Pastor Jody know of your intent to attend both the dinner, the service, and if you are able to bring soup, salad, or rolls for the meal. Sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

Lenten Book Study begins Monday, March 10 at 4:30 pm. Please join us for a 6 week study of "Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life" by Joyce Rupp. From the website: Joyce Rupp is well known for her work as a writer, international retreat leader, and conference speaker. She is the author of numerous best-selling books and one I have appreciated immensely has been *Praying Our Good-byes*. Rupp has led retreats throughout North America, as well as in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. She is a member of the Servites (Servants of Mary) community and was a volunteer for Hospice for fifteen years. Joyce says about compassion, "'Living compassionately is rarely convenient and often downright challenging.'" I look forward to exploring together what this might mean for us and our faith community. We will meet from 4:30-5:45 PM on 6 Mondays beginning on March 10. ***Since the book has some daily prayer practices, it will be most helpful if you order the book online through Amazon or her website - <https://joycerupp.com/boundless-compassion-2/>. Let me know if we need to order one for you.



An old hymn declares:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)



Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are "weary, worn, and sad" need to hear Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest."

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God's love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God's goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Leadership Team Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 3 at 2:00 p.m.



One Great Hour of Sharing

"You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world."

~Matthew 5:14, MSG

Be the light

One Great Hour of Sharing reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet but who are in need of our compassion. God provides the resources so that we can give back. It's not the size of the gift that matters; it's that we give of what we have. We're simply giving back to God what is already God's—and that means everyone has a gift to bring!

Gifts given through this special offering empower ministries like the Church of the Brethren's Brethren Volunteer Service, Discipleship Ministries, Office of Global Mission, Brethren Disaster Ministries, the Global Food Initiative, and many others.

Collection for One Great Hour of Sharing will be on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Envelopes will be included in your bulletins on Sunday, March 9.



MARCH 7, 2025



MARCH 9, 2025



MARCH 17, 2025

SERVING THE MONTH OF MARCH

	3/2/2025	3/9/2025	3/16/2025	3/23/2025	3/30/2/5
Message	Wanda Baynard	Pastor Jody Gunn	Jennifer Summy	Pastor Jody Gunn	Jennifer Summy
Worship Leader	Mat Baynard	Kevin Wile	Lynn Butler	Jay Lister	Wanda Baynard
Head Usher/Sound	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch	Judy Musch
Deacons on Call	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Les & Marlena Groves	Jane Marshall & Anne Harvey	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller
Special Music	Choir	Elizabethtown College Choir	Choir/ Handbells	Carolyn Lane	Meghan Knight
Flowers					

News about Camp Mardela, from Jennifer Summy, Camp Administrator

There are several copies of Camp Mardela's newsletter "The Lane" in the narthex.

- ♦ **2025 Service Days at Camp Mardela:** Mar. 22, May 31, Aug. 2, and Nov. 15.
- ♦ **Camp Auction:** April 12, 8:00-1:00p. **Now accepting donations.**
- ♦ **Camp Mardela Yard Sale:** May 17, 8am-12p
- ♦ **Camp Appreciation Day:** June 1, 4-8p.
- ♦ **Camp Mardela Annual Supper:** Sept. 20, 4-7p
- ♦ **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.



Vespers service will be held on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Round Top Church

(If it is too cold, Vespers will be held at the church in the parlor.

Stay tune for any changes.)

PEACING IT TOGETHER

On Earth Peace

Read acts 2: 1-21

They were all together in one place (Acts 2: 1b).

In 1935 the term “Historic Peace Churches” was coined to describe the collective pacifist convictions of the Society of Friends, the Mennonites, and the Church of the Brethren. After World War II, M. R. Zigler brought together in Europe representatives of these churches, along with the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, to consult on their shared concerns. This was expanded to include spokesmen from the European churches in a series of theological discussions often known as the “Puidoux Conferences” after the small Swiss village where the first meeting was held in 1935. These talks had a weighty influence on the stance of the European churches on military issues in the reconstruction period.

At the same time the Historic Peace Churches co-operated in bringing the peace witness to the newly-formed World Council of Churches. Over the years this testimony has aided in raising the consciousness of the ecumenical movement to the urgency of peace concerns. In 1975 the World Assembly of the WCC called specifically on the Peace Churches to share their experiences as part of a drive to confront the growing power of militarism...

In 1974 a movement emerged in the life of the Church of the Brethren known as “On Earth Peace.” It was inspired and promoted by M. R. Zigler, long time peace activist and administrator. Zigler believed that a new initiative was needed “to clarify the issues that a Christian Church must face...regarding violence.” The method chosen was the holding of conferences, often organized along vocational lines, at the Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, Maryland; the conference sought common purposes on peace and practical ways to work for peace.

Donald F. Durnbaugh

Respond: *How can ecumenical cooperation and dialogue help clarify the issues that a Christian church must face regarding violence?*

Pray: *May Christians around the world seek peace, and pursue it*



Grief recovery groups

Join us:

Thursdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

February 6 – May 1, 2025

Bethlehem Wesleyan Church

5330 Bethlehem Rd. Preston, MD 21655

410-673-1379 churchoffice.bwc@gmail.com

GRIEFSHARE.ORG

Installation Service

Mid-Atlantic District
Executive Minister

Rev. Douglas Veal

Saturday, March 15

2:00 PM

Union Bridge
Church of the Brethren
124 S. Main Street,
Union Bridge, MD 21791



Mid-Shore Community Band

Presents Its

13th Annual St. Patrick's Concert

Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 PM - Sunday March 16 at 4:00 PM

North Caroline High School
10990 River Rd
Ridgely, MD 21660

Easton Elks' Ballroom
502 Dutchmans Lane
Easton, MD 21601



TALBOT
ARTS

*A Free Concert of Irish Music
(Donations Gratefully Accepted)*

www.msac.org



Meet and Greet

District Executive Minister

Doug Veal

Sunday, March 23, 2025

2 PM

Easton Church of the Brethren

412 S. Harrison St.
Easton, MD 21601

Members of Area 1 churches are invited for light refreshments, fellowship and an opportunity to meet and talk with Doug.

Doug plans to meet with church members in each area of the district throughout 2025. A schedule will be announced as dates are confirmed.

Area 1 Churches-

Bethany, Community of Joy, Denton, Easton, Fairview,
Greenhill, Ridgely

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

2025 Disaster Response Auction Booklet



Dear Pastors, Disaster Coordinators, Witness Chairs and Donors.

We deeply appreciate and thank you for your past support of the Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction Booklet.

If you have not advertised in the booklet previously we invite you to consider doing so this year.

The 44th Annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction will be held Saturday, May 3, 2025, starting at 9:00 am at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland. Your support will enable us to provide even more assistance to more disaster victims this year.

***In 2024, \$72,000 was given to the Emergency Disaster Fund
of the Church of the Brethren to help victims recover
from many disasters all around our world.***

During 2024 the Emergency Disaster Fund supported these efforts and more:

- 2021 Tornado recovery in Dawson Springs, KY
- 2022 Summer Flooding Response in Letcher County, KY
- Hurricane Helene Response in the Southeastern District
- Humanitarian Response to Multiple Crises in Haiti
- Child Life Disaster Relief Training Models and Resource Dev.
- LSESD Response to Israel-Hezbollah Conflict in Lebanon
- 2023 Maui, Hawaii Wildfire Recovery Program for Children
- Nigeria Crisis Response
- Aid for Haitian Refugees in the Dominican Republic
- Emergency Flood Relief in the Congo
- Solar Power System in Zambia
- Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis
- Gaza and West Bank Aid Relief
- York County, PA, Long-Term Recovery 2021

...and much more!

Your local church is an important part of this effort!

- You can help by placing an ad in the booklet. We are once again offering the ad sizes below in black and white or color. The ad can include a photograph or artwork. Ad sizes and prices are as follows:
 - Full page...\$160 black/\$200 color
 - Half page...\$85 black/\$105 color
 - Third Page...\$60 black/\$75 color
 - Eighth Page...\$25 black/\$35 color
 - Patron Listing...\$10, \$25, \$35, or more
 - Donations of any amount
- Encourage your members to place business, personal or patron ads and print announcements about the auction in your newsletter and bulletin.
- Please print the enclosed bulletin insert and put it in your bulletin by Sunday, January 5, 2025.
- You can also help by posting the flyer included that is requesting special sale items.

Here are more ways you can help make the auction a success.

- Create craft items
- Donate baked goods
- Donate plants, shrubs and trees
- Assemble gift baskets
- Hold a fundraiser to support the auction
- Donate high quality items to publish in the booklet
- Volunteer to help
- Publicize and attend the Auction!

Please return your advertising space reservation form by Friday, February 7, 2025!

Please call booklet designer Debbie Noffsinger at 847-714-4482 or email auctionbooklet@comcast.net if you have questions.

Thank you for your continued support of our Disaster Response Auction!

Join us
during this
season
of Lent.



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