

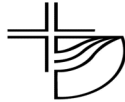
EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

MARCH, 2026 PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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

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



412 S. Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-0475

Email: eastonchurchofthebrethren@gmail.com
Website: www.eastonbrethren.org
Rev. Jody E. Gunn, Pastor

***“I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19***

Each year as we experience the newness of Spring, we observe the brown grass becoming green again, the shoots from the bulbs coming forth from the earth in all their splendor, and longer days to enjoy all of it.

With so much violence and disconnect with our humanness happening around the world, I hope we can find ways to stay focused on how God is at work. Sometimes we hear a bird singing, or see a bud ready to bloom. God’s creation can be awe-inspiring.

God is also at work when humans are attempting to be better. Kindness shown to us and our neighbors goes a long way. It gives us hope for a better world and God’s “kin-dom” here on earth.

One thing we have added to our church calendar during Lent this year is weekly prayer meetings on Wednesdays at 5 pm in the library. Those who have attended spend 30 minutes together listening scripture, singing songs, and lifting up people and situations to pray for. The group present for the last prayer meeting believes that it is good to gather together beyond Sunday morning to pray. Since we have Vespers once a month on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, we will gather for the first Wednesday of each month at 5 pm. We have so much to pray for. Our theme for prayers have been for peace in regions experiencing war and violence; healing for loved ones and friends; safety for our neighbors; comfort for everyone grieving the loss of special people in their lives. When we come together to pray, I believe it calls us to be more observant and aware of God’s presence.

As we experience Holy Week and Easter, find time to pray and ask God to reveal what God is doing anew in your own life, in the people around you, and beyond!

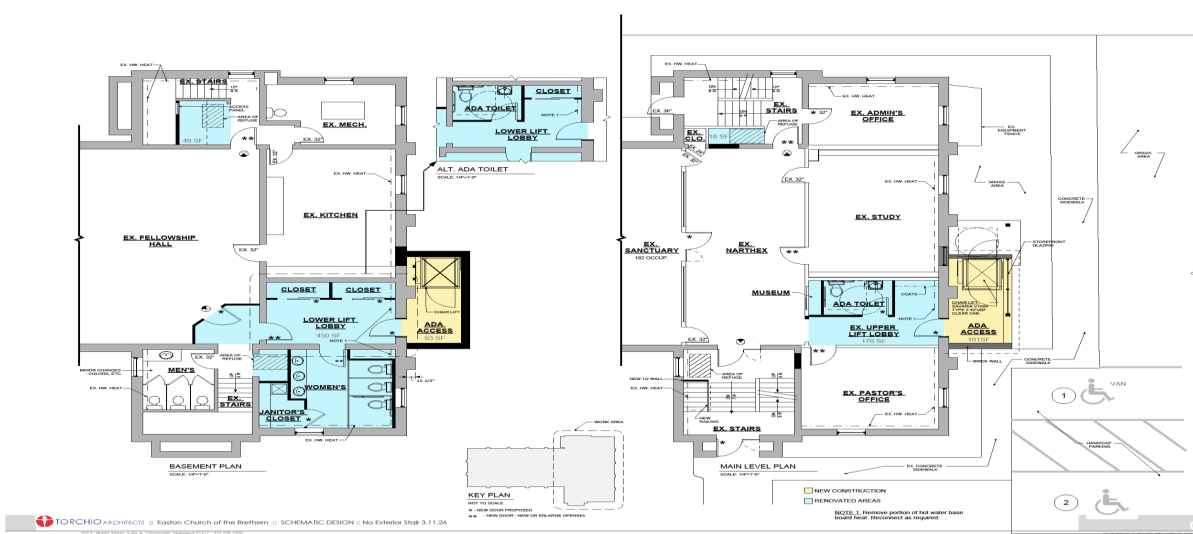


Pastor Jody

Accessibility Project Update

Easton Church of the Brethren is working on building anew and becoming a safer, more welcoming space. This is a project with a long history, we can trace it back over 30 years or more. The church is the third attempt and closer than it has ever been to seeing this vision become a reality. When a group dedicates itself to handicapped accessibility it helps everyone and enables us as a church family to continue to live out our mission of “Sharing the Love and Blessing of God with All.” The church had an early estimate of around 850K in 2024, but in the last two years all costs have increased. Now, we are at approximately 76% of our monetary need to complete this project. Please pray and consider how you might be able to help us move closer to our goal. We will be sending out a letter to each household in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you, Leadership Team and the Building Committee



Sources of funding:

Dutchman's Lane:	\$431,657.53
Parsonage Sale:	\$346,720.12
Allston Estate Gift:	<u>\$ 48,439.15</u>
	\$826,816.80

Total Project Cost:	\$1,200,000.00
	<u>\$ 826,816.80</u>
	\$ 373,183.20

Other Funds:

Operating Reserve	\$ 50,000.00
Kitchen Fund	\$ 20,000.00
Roundtop Fund	<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>
	\$ 85,000.00

	\$373,183.20
	<u>\$ 85,000.00</u>
Fundraising Goal	\$288,183.20

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 Jimmy Lohr, Cathy Heinsohn, Jay Lewis, Amy Saulsbury Hutchison, Terri Tarr, Geoff Fox, Ron Miller, Pete Fox, Joyce Battle, Gavin Miller, Les Groves, Howard Miller, Carol Segar, Debbie Maloney, Alycia Walbridge, Paul Shortall, Lynn Butler, Vicky Johnson, Norma Trax, Jay Lister, Tim Fluharty, Connie Griep, Cecilia Stephenson, Morgan Harvey, Nadia Schlotzhauer, Dean Clutts, Nora Quidas, John Evans, Holly Hill Jones (Larry Fike's stepdaughter), Cheryl Dayton, Chris Lyons, Ruth Gunn, Larry & Barbara McCann, Jeanette & Bob Miller, Bruce Butler, Loretta Lohr, Adele Pogue, Caitlyn Bussey, Theresa Durnbaugh, Billy Harding, Larry Fike, 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.



Worship Leader's Are Needed!!

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 and it's only every 5-6 weeks that you will 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 Andy Hollis, Executive Director, if you are interested in volunteering at the center. Their phone number is 410-822-5015.

VOLUNTEER

Talbot Interfaith Shelter



The 2026 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 April 19. No volunteers are needed this month. Thank you to Anne Harvey for providing the meal.**

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1 Jordan Davis, Leslie Saulsbury
- 4 Joey Edsall
- 5 Karen Davis
- 6 Marlena Groves, Annabel Young
- 7 Kevin Wile
- 8 Michael Valliant
- 9 Marlee Fox, Heather Moore
- 11 Susan Sanger
- 12 Tim Young
- 13 Hutch Walbridge, Jack Wood, Connor Crannell
- 14 Jocelyn Koenig
- 16 Chad Whitzel, James Foreman, Karen Jo Johnson
- 17 Stanley Morris, Diane Walbridge
- 18 Robin Lyons
- 21 D.R. Warrington
- 23 Jennifer "Regan" Fox, Shelly Milburn
- 24 Todd Butler, Logan Allen, Bonnie Langford
- 25 Tom Brockson
- 26 Cheryl Dayton
- 28 Ashley Ball, Chandler Grey Seese
- 30 Gabriel Fluharty



- 8 Leroy & Sharon Miller
- 14 Mat & Wanda Baynard
- 19 Coulby & Elizabeth Miller
- 27 Todd & Kelly Lyons



Leadership Team meeting

The Leadership Team will meet on Monday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m.



Special Dates for April 2026

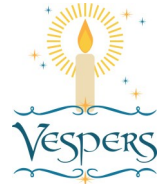
- Holy Week Continues, *March 29-April 5, 2026*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 2, 2026*
- Good Friday, *April 3, 2026*
- Easter Sunday, *April 5, 2026*
- Earth Day, *April 22, 2026*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 22, 2026*

The Changed Cross

We will celebrate Easter with the changed cross. Please bring in your fresh flowers. Pastor Jody will be preaching. Music will be provided by our choir.



Vespers will be held on Wednesday evening, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. at



Our deepest sympathy to the family of James O. Lohr. Jimmy passed away on March 18 at the Hospice House,. Arrangements are still pending. Please continue to keep Loretta, Kevin, Jeff and Susan and their families in your prayers.



Thank you to all the folks who came to visit, brought food, prayers and everything you have done for me.

Loretta Lohr

News about Camp Mardela, from Jennifer Summy, Camp Administrator

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

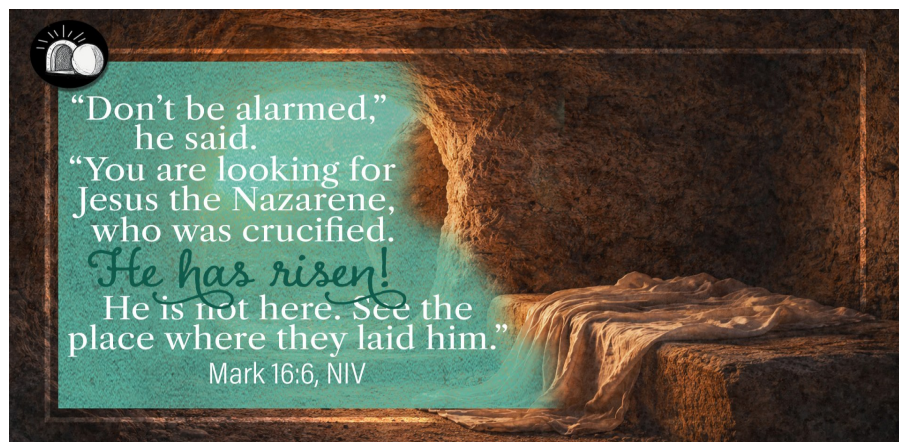
- ◆ **Easter SONrise Service:** April 5, 7:30 a.m. Breakfast to follow.
- ◆ **Camp Auction:** April 18, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Yard Sale:** May 16, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Camp Appreciation Day:** June 7, 5-7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Family Camp:** September 4-6
- ◆ **Camp Supper:** September 19, 4-7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Sights and Sounds of Christmas,** December 11, 6-8:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Shop with RaiseRight/Script Fundraiser:** Support camp by shopping at your favorite stores! Order gift cards through the script program and a percentage will go back to camp without you spending anymore money than you normally would for your shopping needs. Go to www.raiseright.com or use the RaiseRight app and enter the code (contact Camp for the code) to purchase gift cards and give back to Camp Mardela.



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.

SERVING THE MONTH OF APRIL

	4/5/2026	4/12/2026	4/19/2026	4/26/2026
Message	Pastor Jody Gunn		Pastor Jody Gunn	Darlene Dixon
Worship Leader	Kevin Wile	Lynn Butler	Jane Marshall	Wanda Baynard
Head Usher/Sound	Ron Miller	Ron Miller	Ron Miller	Ron Miller
Deacons on Call	Les & Marlana Groves	Jane Marshall & Anne Harvey	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller
Special Music	Choir	Ellen Wile	Amy Bachand	Choir
Flowers		Mat & Wanda Baynard		Kevin & Ellen Wile



Maundy Thursday Service at St. Mark's UM Church

Join us for a reflective Maundy Thursday service as we remember the night Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples. We'll gather for Scripture, prayer and communion as we reflect on Christ's call to serve one another. All are welcome — bring a friend and share this meaningful start to Holy Week.

St. Mark's UM Church in Easton on April 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Service: A Night of Quiet Reverence

Set aside time to pause and reflect during our Good Friday worship. Through Scripture, music and prayer, we'll remember the depth of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. This solemn service offers a powerful space to prepare your heart for the joy of Easter Sunday.

St. Mark's UM Church in Easton will hold a Good Friday service on April 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Easter SONrise Service: Welcome the Dawn of Resurrection

Start Easter morning with a beautiful time of worship as the sun rises. We'll gather outdoors to celebrate the empty tomb, sing together and reflect on the hope Christ brings. Bring a blanket or chair, dress warmly and come expectant — the joy of Easter morning is always sweeter when shared.

Easter SONrise service will be held at Camp Mardela on April 5 at 7:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday Breakfast

After our SONrise service, join us in the fellowship hall for a delicious Easter breakfast. It will be a relaxing time to enjoy good food, warm conversation and fellowship. All ages are welcome — invite neighbors, friends and family to celebrate with us.

Join us for breakfast at Camp for breakfast following the service.



PEACING-IT TOGETHER

For Our World

We need to stop.
Just stop.
Stop for a moment.
Before anybody
Says or does anything
That may hurt anyone else.
We need to be silent.
Just silent.
Silent for a moment.
Before we forever lose
The blessing of songs
That grow in our hearts.
We need to notice.
Just notice.
Notice for a moment.
Before the future slips away
Into ashes and dust of humility.
Stop, be silent, and notice.
In so many ways, we are the same.
Our differences are unique treasures.
We have, we are, a mosaic of gifts
To nurture, to offer, to accept.
We need to be.
Just be.
Be for a moment.
Kind and gentle, innocent and trusting,
Like children and lambs,
Never judging or vengeful
Like the judging and vengeful.
And now, let us pray,
Differently, yet together,
Before there is no earth, no life,
No chance for peace.

© Matthew Joseph Thaddeus Stepanek 1990 -2004
from *Hope Through Heartsongs*, Hyperion, 2002

Mattie Stepanek was 11 years old when he wrote this poem on the day of 9-11.
Sadly he passed away in 2004 after a long battle with Dysautonomic Mitochondrial Myopathy.
You can learn more about his brief, amazing, inspiring life at his website:

<http://www.mattieonline.com/>

Bruce Butler
Peace Advocate for Easton Church of the Brethren

UPCOMING EVENTS



CAMP BENEFIT AUCTION

APRIL 18TH, 8AM-1PM

Live & silent auction.
Bake sale & food stand.

Support by bidding,
donating items or with ads
or sponsorships.

campmardela.org/spring-camp-auctions

YARD SALE

MAY 16TH, 8AM-12PM

Shop for a cause! Find great
deals and support camp.

Shop on the day of, or reserve
your own 10' x 10' yard sale
space for \$15. There will be a
food stand open during the
whole event.

campmardela.org/yard-sale



CAMP APPRECIATION

JUNE 7TH, 5PM-8PM

Enjoy this FREE community
event and celebrate all of
the people who support
camp and make it possible.

A free meal will be served at
5pm, volunteer awards and
music will follow.

[campmardela.org/
appreciation-day](http://campmardela.org/appreciation-day)

301 Deep Shore Rd, Denton, MD 21629
campmardela@gmail.com | 410-479-2861
www.campmardela.org



CAMP AUCTION NEEDS

BIG ASKS: Baked Goods for dessert table – cakes, brownies, pies, cupcakes, cookies, muffins

Accepting all gently used and new items.

1. All electronic items must work.
2. Gift Cards
3. Dinner for 2 or 4 (Does not need to be fancy: you may find a new friend)
4. Yardwork
5. Housecleaning/Window washing
6. Help someone with organization
7. Something from your favorite store or ask a store for a donation.
8. Car washing

PLEASE DO NOT DONATE:

1. TV's
2. Heavy furniture (if you cannot move or lift it – we cannot. Our volunteers are in their 80's)

Questions can be directed to Jane Marshall, Anne Harvey, or Bob/Judy Musch



CAMP MARDELA

KING RETREAT CENTER IMPROVEMENT FUNDRAISER

GOAL - \$10,000

We are raising money this year to make needed improvements to the King Retreat Center - mainly the dorm rooms. Here is what we hope to improve.

Remove mold from eaves & bathrooms

Replace carpet with laminate flooring

Build new, custom wooden bunk beds

Repaint rooms

New heat & AC units in dorms

Replace lighting in dorm rooms



Current dorm room



Sample custom, wooden bunk
Built by John Trax

**Make donations at www.campmardela.org/donations
or mail to P.O. Box 460, Denton, MD 21629**

48th Annual Meat Canning Project
April 6-9, 2026
Christian Aid Ministries
2412 Division Highway, Ephrata, PA - 717-354-2434

This project is a joint effort of the Southern Pennsylvania and Mid-Atlantic Districts. The goal of the canning project is to help feed people experiencing food insecurity, both locally and overseas.

This year's project is still in need of donations –

Donations go toward the purchase of chicken to be canned, cans and/or to supply lunch for volunteers. Your partnership is needed to achieve the goal of processing two batches of chicken per day. Many thanks to churches who have already generously donated to the fund and to those who are sponsoring lunch each day of canning; you've covered all of the lunches for the four days of canning.

This year's project is still in need of volunteers –

- ***Canning shifts***
- *Please call the district office for available times.*
- ***Lunch and snack***
- *Prepare and serve Tuesday, April 7*
- ***Volunteer Coordinator***
- *Thursday, April 9*
- *A listing of responsibilities is available from the district office.*



Many thanks to those who have already signed up for canning shifts and to serve as lunch and volunteer coordinators.

Pick up and distribute canned chicken to feed the hungry.

To use in your food pantry, a food pantry you work with or a need in your community, FREE. Pick up is usually available beginning in June. We ask that you share this information about the 2026 Meat Canning Project with your congregations, witness teams and meat canning coordinators.

Please contact the District Office to schedule volunteers or a canned chicken pick up. Call if you have questions at 443-960-3052.

**45th Annual
Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response**

Auction

www.madcob.com/disaster-response-auction

**Handmade
Quilts &
Comforters**



**Baked
Goods
Food & Gifts**



**Handcrafts,
Artwork &
Antiques**



**Plants, Tools,
Furniture
& more**

May 2, 2026

**Carroll County Agricultural Center - Shipley Arena
Westminster, Maryland**

Sponsored by the Church of the Brethren Mid-Atlantic District

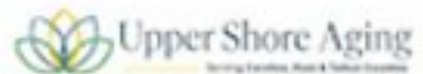
GRAB N' GO LUNCH

PROVIDED BY EAT SPROUT

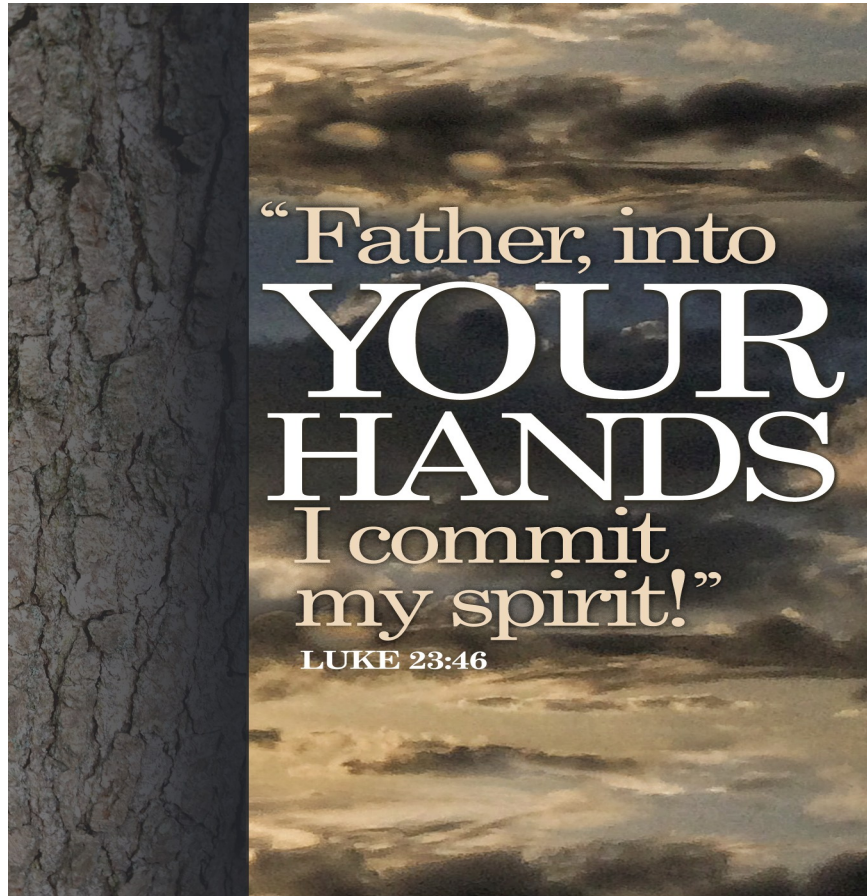
STARTS:
NOVEMBER 12



BROOKLETTS PLACE WILL BE HANDING OUT FREE GRAB N' GO LUNCHES TO SENIORS (60+) EVERY TUESDAY FROM 10AM-11AM OR UNTIL WE RUN OUT! GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BROOKLETTS PLACE: 410-822-2869



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