

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

DECEMBER, 2025 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

Advent 2025

Our Advent worship series will follow the traditional themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. The bulletin covers and scriptures will also give guidance to our time together. Each Sunday worship will feature special music and hymns will reflect these themes. Our Christmas Eve service is always a meaningful time to gather to hear the story of Jesus' birth, sing our praises to our loving God, and light candles to remind us of our call to bring the light of Christ's love into the world.

Advent 1 – Nov. 30

Scripture: Matthew 24:36–44

Advent Candle: Hope

“Keep Awake”

Preacher: Jennifer Summy

Choir: *Sing Aloud to God Our Strength*

Advent 2—Dec. 7

Scripture: Matthew 3:1–12

Advent Candle: Peace

“Prepare the Way”

Preacher: Jody Gunn

Choir: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Advent 3 – Dec. 14

Scriptures: Isaiah 35:1–10; Luke 1:46b–55

Advent Candle: Joy

“Take Heart”

Preacher: Wanda Baynard

Duet: *Mary, Sweet Mary*

Advent 4 – Dec. 21

Scripture: Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

Advent Candle: Love

“Restore Us”

Preacher: Jody Gunn

Handbell Duet: *Away in the Manger*

Christmas Eve – Dec. 24 @ 6:30 PM

Telling the Story & Singing of Carols

Lighting of the Christ Candle

“Glory to God”

Choir: *Hark the Angels Sing*

Candle-lighting - Taking the Christ light and love out into the world.



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, Joyce Battle, Jeff Patrick, 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, Ellen Hill, Holly Hill Jones (Larry Fike's step-daughter), Cheryl Dayton, Chris Lyons, Ruth Gunn, Larry & Barbara McCann, Jeanette & Bob Miller, Bruce Butler, Jimmy & 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.**



Tidewater Singers practice every Monday from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Handbells practice every Thursday from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Choir practice every Thursday from 7:00-8:00 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 Yvette Robinson, Interim Executive Director, 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 December 19. Volunteers and a meal are needed this month. 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 Gene Hagenberger
- 2 Tony Fluharty
- 4 Rica Denlinger
- 7 Jim Foreman
- 8 Karter May Mullikin, Cecilia Rose Stephenson
- 12 Ashley Ward
- 14 Jennifer Carrion
- 15 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, Carolyn Lane, Mark Miller, Justine Foxwell
- 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



Leadership Team

meeting



The Leadership Team will meet on Monday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m.



Christmas Caroling will be held on Sunday, December 14, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Look for more details as time gets closer.

Witness Team

Witness is collecting Non Violent Toys for the Neighborhood Center for Christmas. These items will be collected December 7th and 14th and there will be boxes at the front and back stairs.

Thank you, Witness Team, Anne Harvey and Elisa Miller



Congratulations to Gavin and Candi Miller on the birth of their daughter, Cheyenne Pearl. Cheyenne was born on November 21 at 8:34 p.m., She weighed 6lbs, 5.2 oz and was 19.5 in. Cheyenne was welcomed home by her grandparents, Mark & Tammy Miller, Jimmy & Karen Callahan and great-grandparents Ron & Elisa Miller. Congratulations to everyone!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

Sunday, December 28, we will have a brief worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Following worship, we will have a light meal (provided) and there is going to be AN IMPORTANT INFORMATIONAL MEETING led by John Trax on the renovations. We are asking everyone to attend this important meeting!! Please come with your open and honest questions and concerns to the building committee members about the upcoming renovations! Hopefully and prayerfully, we will have a good discussion.

News about Camp Mardela, from Jennifer Summy, Camp Administrator

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

- ♦ **Christmas at Camp** - December 12 & 13 - 6-8pm: Admission by donation
- ♦ **Shop with RaiseRight/Scrip 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 DECEMBER

	12/7/2025	12/14/2025	12/21/2025	12/28/2025
Message	Pastor Jody Gunn	Wanda Baynard	Pastor Jody Gunn	TBA
Worship Leader	Jane Marshall	Mat Baynard	Wanda Baynard	A volunteer is needed
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	Choir & Handbells	Jody Gunn & Ellen Wile	Handbells Duet	Liz Wildasin
Flowers	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Karen & Emerson Tarr

Ways you can SERVE

Sometimes people are looking for ways to plug in and volunteer. I thought I would share some of the possibilities from the Church of the Brethren here and beyond. We regularly receive notices from our Brethren Disaster Ministries for volunteers to help with rebuilding. Our local camp - Camp Mardela also has possibilities for people

who might be interested in volunteering.

Thank you for sharing this with your faith community or others who might be interested in these opportunities.

-Pastor Jody

Camp Mardela: The volunteers meet on Thursdays using their skills (carpentry, plumbing, painting, and beyond). Contact Jennifer Summy at campmardela@gmail.com or call her at 410-479-2861. The website is <https://www.campmardela.org/>

Here is more info from our brethren.org website.

Brethren Disaster Ministries' Rebuilding Program engages volunteers to repair and rebuild storm damaged homes for some of the most vulnerable disaster survivors, thereby easing trauma and promoting recovery. By demonstrating Christ's love and putting their faith in action as they restore damaged homes, volunteers also restore broken lives.

BDM Rebuilding projects are supported by a network of volunteers from across the country who reduce the recovery costs for homeowners by providing free construction labor. At each rebuilding project site, BDM partners with local Long Term Recovery organizations who are working with their community to identify unmet needs after a disaster, including home destruction or damage cases that BDM can help repair.

Trained construction leaders and household leaders provide volunteer orientation and instruction on the work site, as well as meals at the volunteers housing. Unskilled volunteers willing to learn are invited to work alongside those who are skilled and willing to teach. Volunteer housing is provided, often at local churches or community buildings, where weekly volunteers and leaders stay, eat and become more connected with the community.

Find out more about how and where you can volunteer to serve with the [BDM Rebuilding program](#).



PEACING IT TOGETHER

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

His Many Names, Our Great Hope

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah pointed God's people to the promise of a Savior. In Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) we read: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Even before Jesus' birth, his names revealed who he is and what he would bring. Each title carries a promise that still impacts our lives today.

- **Wonderful Counselor.** Jesus brings wisdom and guidance for every situation. In moments of confusion, we can lean on him to direct our steps with love and truth.
- **Mighty God.** He is strong enough to carry our burdens and powerful enough to overcome sin, fear and death itself.
- **Everlasting Father.** Jesus reflects the heart of God the Father, offering care that is constant and unchanging. His love doesn't fade with time or circumstance.
- **Prince of Peace.** In a world filled with turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that goes deeper than circumstances, a peace that guards our hearts and minds.



At Christmas, we celebrate more than a baby's birth. We celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise, a Savior with many names. Each one reminds us of his eternal love and presence. This season, let his names bring you comfort, strength and peace.



Tidewater Singers
Ellen Wile, Artistic Director

Rejoice, Rejoice!



*"Tidewater Singers perform with musicality and passion.
The Eastern Shore is lucky to have this awe-inspiring group!"*

*Friday, December 12 at 7:30 pm at Trinity Cathedral, Easton
and*

*Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 pm at St. Paul's Church, Oxford
Admission \$20 at the door, or in advance, students free*





Blue December Service is December 10 at 5:30pm

Last Advent, Christ Church hosted a series of Blue December services on Wednesday evenings designed for people who might be struggling with the holiday season. The services were led by the Deacons Mike – then Deacon Michael Valliant and Lutheran Deacon Mike Hiner. The services were well-attended by people from different denominations and people expressed heartfelt thanks for having them.

This fall, Deacon Mike Hiner died from cancer. His family, friends, and community mourn his loss and miss him. Our Blue December service this year is in memory of Mike and his

lifelong service to both the Eastern Shore community and faith community.

Our Blue December service will be on Wednesday, December 10 at 5:30pm here at Christ Church. The service will include lighting of candles, prayer, music, and Communion. It is open to the public and especially anyone who is struggling with the holidays, whether from stress, grief, feeling overwhelmed, or any reason.

We invite you to join us on December 10. There will be fellowship and refreshments in the Parish Hall following the service.



CHRISTMAS AT CAMP MARDELA

Dec. 12 & 13 6pm-8pm
301 Deep Shore Rd, Denton, MD



ADMISSION - BY DONATION

*Live music - Cookie Decorating - Christmas
Train Display - Decorations - Food - Camp Fire*

WWW.CAMPMARDELA.ORG/CHRISTMAS-AT-CAMP



DECEMBER

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