

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

FEBRUARY, 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

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7

Months of the year have different holidays and significant days depending on where you live in the world. Each month can also have variances in high holy days for world religions. In the United States, we can have celebrations all month that focus on a culture, a group, or a cause. February is National Black History Month to help lift up and educate all people about the significant achievements and contributions of Black Americans.

Valentine’s Day on February 14, which has a long history in and of itself, cards and gifts are given to recognize love between people. Due to the “heart” being a symbol of love, the American Heart Association chose February as its month to focus on heart health. As a nation, we understand the significance of heart disease prevention, since heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States.

For Christians, February is often the month when Lent begins. Ash Wednesday is February 18. Guess what, you know the variances I talked about with world religions? Two religions are sharing the beginning of a significant time of fasting on the same day, Christians and Muslims. For our Muslim neighbors February 18 will be the first day of Ramadan. According to the web, Ramadan is approximately a month and will end on March 19. Muslims refrain from eating and drinking just before sunrise and until sunset. They will spend this sacred month fasting, plus spending time in reflection, and prayer. Ramadan and Lent only share space on the calendar about every 30 years or so.

What an opportunity for us to learn the religious practices of others in our midst. So, in light of our calendars being connected by similar sacred practice, this year our Ash Wednesday Service will focus on fasting, reflection, prayer, and ashes. We will not be having a simple meal. Our gathering for Ash Wednesday will begin at 5 pm in the sanctuary on Feb. 18.

May our journey through February and Lent cause us to be mindful of others, how we are connected, and how God can use what we learn about special days to gain understanding of the patchwork quilt of people in our world. As I have shared with patients who hold a different religion or race than myself, “We are more alike than we are different.” We give thanks for one another, whether in words, hug, handshake, or hand over the heart. Let us go forth in the spirit of 1 John 4:11 *“Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.”*

Love to all of you, Pastor Jody

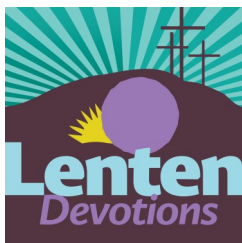
“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. “Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.” - James 5:13-14

Following our anointing service on 1/24/25, there were discussions of the possibility of having other opportunities to gather together. During Lent we will meet to pray. We will begin our prayerful Lenten Season with our Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 18 at 5pm and meet each Wednesday at 5 pm with our last prayer service held on March 25. Making a commitment to pray together each week will help us connect with one another and the Almighty.

Pastor Jody

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 David Hutchison, 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, Ellen Hill, Holly Hill Jones (Larry Fike's stepdaughter), 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.**



Lenten devotionals are now available in the narthex.



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. 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 February, 19. Volunteers and the 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 Ember Mae Stichberry
- 2 Pam Fluharty, Steve Wooters, Jeanette Miller
- 3 Marjorie (Pete) Fox
- 4 Adam Lohr, Harold Lyons
- 5 Barbara Saulsbury
- 6 Wade Miller
- 7 Kevin Kinsey, Christopher Cober,
Matthew Schwaninger
- 8 Gieta Gresh
- 12 Ava Elaine Valliant
- 13 Sarah Loscomb, Jennifer Saulsbury, Margaret
Pete, Aubrie Stichberry
- 14 Andrew Cheezum
- 15 Judy Musch
- 16 Phil Ridenour
- 17 Renee Baldwin
- 18 Pat Schwaninger
- 19 Ted Schwaninger
- 20 Ryan Glass
- 21 Casey Edsall, Jan Hagenberger,
Rebecca Moore
- 22 Brynn Dayton Keller
- 26 Tracy Johnson, Eden Holmes
- 27 Charles Schwaninger, Bernard Randall-Jones
- 28 Kimberly Patrick

- 14 John & Dorothy
Stichberry
- Albert & Margaret Pete
- 18 Bud & Judi Loscomb



Congratulations to Brynn and Derek Keller on the birth of their daughter, Elodie Grace. Elodie was born on January 15 at 1:02 p.m. Everyone is doing wonderful. Proud grandparents are Terry & Cheryl Dayton.



Leadership Team meeting



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

Congregational Business Meeting

Our February CBM will take place on Sunday, February 15 following worship. Please bring a bag lunch. Drinks and desserts will be provided. Hospitality Team 2 will be in charge (Anne Harvey, Loretta Lohr, Judy Musch, Mat Baynard). All reports need to be into the office no later than Thursday, February 5.

Special Dates for February 2026

- ◆ Black History Month, February 1-28, 2026
- ◆ Groundhog Day, February 2, 2026
- ◆ Valentine's Day, February 14, 2026
- ◆ Presidents Day, February 16, 2026
- ◆ Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Stop, Look and Listen

Why should we observe Lent? We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.



Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.

Church Art Online

News about Camp Mardela, from Jennifer Summy, Camp Administrator

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

- ◆ **Roller Skate Night at Camp:** February 7, 7-9:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Valentine's Dinner:** February 13 or 14. Deadline to register is February 1. Order tickets to the meal on-line at www.campmardela.org/valentines or send payment to P.O. Box 460, Denton, MD 21629. Reservations must be made by February 1st, 2026. Walk-ins will not be accepted.
- ◆ **Easter Sunrise Service:** April 5, 7:30 a.m.
- ◆ **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/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 FEBRUARY

	2/1/2026	2/8/2026	2/15/2026	2/22/2026
Message	Wanda Baynard	Pastor Jody Gunn	Rusty Curling	Pastor Jody Gunn
Worship Leader	Mat Baynard	Jane Marshall	Kevin Wile	Lynn Butler
Head Usher/Sound	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller
Deacons on Call	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Les & Marlena Groves	Jane Marshall & Anne Harvey
Special Music	Amanda Manning	Choir		Choir
Flowers				



CAMP MARDELA

Valentine's

Dinner Feb. 13th & 14th
6pm-8pm
\$30/person

Join us in Krabill Hall for a romantic dinner with your sweetheart in the rustic woods of Camp Mardela. Sit back & you will be served a decadent, plated meal to enjoy with your love.

Menu

Meal will be plated and served to your table.

Pork Tenderloin OR Stuffed Chicken Breast - roll with butter - fruit cup - homemade applesauce - salad - potatoes - fresh green beans - dessert

Reserve your seat by February 1st. online or by mail using the information below:



www.campmardela.org/valentines



301 Deep Shore Rd, Denton, MD

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly Bible version, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



DAY 1
Genesis 3:15

DAY 2
Isaiah 7:14

DAY 3
Matthew 1:20-21

DAY 4
Luke 2:11

DAY 5
Luke 2:52

DAY 6
Mark 1:9-11

DAY 7
Matthew 4:10

DAY 8
Matthew 4:18-20

DAY 9
Luke 6:27-31

DAY 10
Matthew 11:28-30

DAY 11
Luke 4:40-41

DAY 12
Luke 8:24-25

DAY 13
Matthew 12:8

DAY 14
Mark 6:41-42

DAY 15
Luke 9:20-22

DAY 16
John 3:16-17

DAY 17
John 6:35

DAY 18
John 8:12

DAY 19
John 10:14-15

DAY 20
Mark 10:13-16

DAY 21
Mark 9:2-3

DAY 22
Matthew 20:17-19

DAY 23
Luke 19:9-10

DAY 24
Matthew 14:25-27

DAY 25
Luke 10:36-37

DAY 26
John 11:25-27, 43

DAY 27
John 12:3

DAY 28
Matthew 21:8-9

DAY 29
Mark 11:15-16

DAY 30
John 17:17-19

DAY 31
Luke 22:3-6

DAY 32
Mark 14:22-24

DAY 33
John 13:3-5

DAY 34
Matthew 26:39

DAY 35
Luke 22:63-65

DAY 36
Mark 15:22-26

DAY 37
Matthew 27:50-54

DAY 38
John 19:40-42

DAY 39
Luke 24:1-8

DAY 40
Matthew 28:19-20



CAMP MARDIOLA
301 Deep Shore Rd, Denton MD 21629



Valentine's

★ **ROLLER SKATE
NIGHT**



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Have fun with the people you love at this
Christian, family-friendly skating event!



**FEB 7, 2026
7-9PM**



\$10/person (food included)

\$5/skates (limited supply - sizes JII-M13)

Children under 14 must be supervised by an adult

Campers registered for Jr. High retreat come for FREE!

GRAB N' GO LUNCH

PROVIDED BY EAT SPROUT

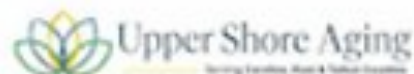
STARTS:
NOVEMBER 12



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.



A place to connect. A place to thrive.



Senior Center, Adult & Family Services

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



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