

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

JUNE, 2026 PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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

WORSHIP—10:00 am



412 S. Harrison Street

Easton, MD 21601

410-822-0475

Email: eastonchurchofthebrethren@gmail.com

Website: www.eastonbrethren.org

Rev. Jody E. Gunn, Pastor

Traveling outside the United States has been rare for me—historically just Canada and Mexico. I first visited Europe in 2017, traveling to Scotland to complete my MDiv at Bethany Theological Seminary. So, when my pastor friends Mary and Naomi suggested we travel for our milestone birthdays, I eagerly agreed, even knowing we'd likely go to a country where I didn't speak the language. I reminded myself I'd be with friends who knew what they were doing. Still, as we planned our trip to Portugal, fear of the unknown crept in.

*Anxiety about traveling—and how racing thoughts can hijack trip planning—can be so frustrating. Over the last eight months, I worked on staying prayerful and mindful. Some of you may know what it's like to continuously retrain your brain. It's like a crochet pattern: “Do this, then *repeat from row 3-4 for the rest of the project.” Each anxious thought meant repeating the steps: acknowledge it, be prayerful and mindful, and reassure myself I would survive this trip.*

What I discovered was that the closer the calendar got to May 4, when we were to begin our trip, the more excited I became. Not to say that my anxiety was gone, but when Mary and I met at the airport, we spoke the words to each other, “We are going to Portugal.” And when we arrived in Portugal, “We are in Portugal.”

In Portugal, I learned to temper fear and anxiety with curiosity. I was open to wherever we ended up. We walked among the people of Porto, Coimbra, and Lisbon—more than 10,000 steps a day. The hospitality was warm and inviting. Most people spoke English, but I think they appreciated our effort to greet and thank them in Portuguese. We tried as much local food as possible. Navigating among people speaking different languages, reading signs in Portuguese, with the ability to recall my high school French, and Duolingo Spanish/Portuguese all helped as we explored northern and central Portugal, as well as Lisboa.



I can't even name all of the churches and cathedrals we walked into. Each one is unique, but often with differing influence in style over the centuries. I didn't anticipate the wave of feelings that hit in the Cathedral of Porto where people can begin one of the many Camino walks. I thought about the number of prayers shared silently and out loud for centuries. The people of faith who had walked in the cathedral for worship then went out into the world to attempt to live out their beliefs on a daily basis. (Picture: the altar area of the Porto Cathedral) We also went to the Capela das Almas, which means the Chapel of Souls. It is also known as the Chapel of Santa Catarina. The thousands of blue tiles that tell Portugal's story were beautiful, and it was awe-inspiring. (Picture: with Chelsea Goss Skillen, granddaughter of Ellen and Alvin Walbridge and niece of Gene and Diane Walbridge, was taken in front of Capela das Almas - we spent half of our first full day in Porto with her).

Our time in Portugal was not just about taking a vacation or celebrating our birthdays. It was also about embracing the sacredness of a place unknown to me. Since I have been home, I have found myself telling people our time in Portugal was also a spiritual experience. In the majority of these sacred spaces, I thought of people who might need a prayer. It was a time of letting down walls, praying in new places, and being curious about what God would show us next. I chipped away at my fears and know God was present throughout our time there. New experiences can have anticipatory worries and concerns, but once we commit to going to a place we have never been, making a scary decision, or learning something new, it is like a butterfly working its way out of the cocoon to a new and different life. May we continue to see God at work in the world around us.

-Pastor Jody



**Annual Conference 2026
Sunday, June 28 – Thursday, July 2
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Grand Wayne Convention Center**

Delegate: Ellen Wile. Also attending are Pastor Jody Gunn, and Dale Fike.

Witness to the Host City – ALIVE Community Outreach – Tuesday of Annual Conference

Alive Community Outreach is a faith-based organization with a mission to cultivate a community of nonviolence through relationships and education. They support families impacted by homicide and partner with schools to train high school students as peacemakers, building a culture of peace through violence prevention, restorative intervention, and survivor support. Rooted in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolence, they maintain that violence is ultimately a symptom of deeper issues that must be addressed in order to bring about lasting change. For more information go to: <https://alivefw.org>

Checks to be made out to "ALIVE Community Outreach"
(CoB Witness to the Host City in the memo line) or
Give Online: www.brethren.org/give-ACTuesdayOffering
(please note CoB Witness to the Host City)

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 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 step-daughter), 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.***



Update on Pledges & Tithes

When sending in your pledges towards the accessibility project (either by mail or on Sunday morning), and sending in your tithes at the same time, it will be most helpful to send in two separate checks. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you!

A special thank you to everyone who attended Jimmy's memorial service, for the prayers, visits, cards, phone calls, the meal that was served and those who helped prepare the meal. Thank you all!! Loretta Lohr and family.



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 June 19. Volunteers and the meal are needed.**

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 Ann Reed
- 2 Nancy Quidas, Holly Mattox
- 6 Dulcy Walbridge, Cami Lyons
- 7 Gene Walbridge, Monica Oberkofler
- 10 Benjamin Gunn, Sean Jacobs, Indie Kyah Basel
- 12 Beth Mattox, Katie Grubbs
- 13 Anna Harvey, Leroy Miller, Beckett Ward
- 15 Mark Sanger, Timmy Lohr
- 16 Craig Foxx
- 17 Sara Booth
- 19 Debbie Russ, Elise Pittrizzi
- 20 Derek Keller, Robert Clark, Jr., Mark Lednum
- 22 Sally Lohr
- 24 Sue Russ, Savannah Miles, Debbie Urry
- 25 Jeff Lohr
- 26 Noah Lohr
- 28 Larry Fike
- 29 Julie Reynolds, Naomi Willey
- 30 Sierra Poore



- 2 Josh & Morgan Kilmon
- 5 Dennis & Sally Lohr
- 6 Casey & Sara Booth
- 9 John & Linda Evans
- 12 Jamie & Christa Crannell, Jalen & Kayla Jones
- 13 Phil & Joy Marshall
- 14 Todd & Darlena Roesti-Butler
- 15 Eric & Jody Gunn
- 23 Randy & Amy Bachand
- 24 Dylan & Krista Seese
- 25 Ed & Liz Wildasin



Leadership Team meeting



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

Monthly Prayer Meeting will be held on Wednesday June 3 at 5:00 p.m. in the library.

Summer worship hours will begin on Sunday, June 7 through August 30. Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. There will be no summer Sunday school.

Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 14. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks and desserts will be provided. The meeting will begin following lunch. Hospitality team #3 will be in charge.

Happy 100th Birthday

Naomi Willey will be celebrating her "100th" birthday on Monday, June 29. All are welcome to attend her celebration, 2:00 p.m. at Corsica Hills Nursing Home, 206 Armstrong Street, Centreville, MD. There will be ice cream, cake and lots of singing.



Vespers will be held at Roundtop Church on Wednesday evening, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.

News about Camp Mardela, from Jennifer Summy, Camp Administrator

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

Camp Appreciation Day: June 7, 4-8 p.m. Come celebrate Camp Mardela on Camp Appreciation Day! This is a FREE event! All are welcome. We will have a variety of events as part of this celebration.

Communal Meal, Games & Activities, Group Singing
Volunteer Awards
Camp Fire
Live music



• **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 JUNE

	6/7/2026	6/14/2026	6/21/2026	6/28/2026
Message	Pastor Jody Gunn	Speakers	Pastor Jody Gunn	
Worship Leader	Lynn Butler	Wanda Baynard	Jay Lister	Mat Baynard
Head Usher/Sound	Lee Ann Fox	Lee Ann Fox	Lee Ann Fox	Lee Ann Fox
Deacons on Call	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller	John & Norma Trax	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox
Special Music	Ellen Wile	Amy Bachand	Jennifer Summy	Carolyn Lane
Flowers				

PEACING-IT TOGETHER

PRAYER

Jesus, you experienced a lot of painful hurts. Your own townspeople wouldn't accept you. In fact, they ran you out of town and tried to kill you. Many who started to follow you walked away when your message didn't suit them. In your crisis, one of your closest disciples betrayed you, another denied even knowing you, and the rest fled. But you knew you were loved by God, and you remained firm in that love. You found the courage and compassion to forgive and to work with your future leaders despite their failings. And you do all this for me as well. Thank God you don't hold a grudge every time I let you down. Help me remember this. Maybe I will let go of any lingering grudges and turn this negative energy into positive energy in your service.

52 Meditations on the Family Pledge of Nonviolence
"A Call to Peace"
By: Jim McGinnis

From Gratitude to Faithful Praise

Gratitude is the beginning of faith; faith leads us to the ultimate gratitude.

Gratitude is often the first quiet step of faith. Before answers come, before circumstances change, gratitude teaches the heart to notice God's presence and provision. Scripture reminds us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV). Giving thanks, even in uncertain moments, opens our eyes to God's faithfulness already at work.



As gratitude grows, it naturally leads us into deeper trust. When we remember what God has done, faith finds solid ground. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). Gratitude strengthens that hope by anchoring it in God's past mercies. Each thankful prayer becomes a reminder that the same God who carried us before will carry us again.

Faith, in turn, leads us to ultimate gratitude, not just for blessings received, but for God himself. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV). This gratitude reaches beyond circumstances and rests in Christ, the greatest gift of all. When gratitude begins our journey and faith guides our steps, our hearts learn lasting praise, thankful not only for what God gives, but for who he is.

Special Dates for June 2026

- ♦ Flag Day, *June 14, 2026*
- ♦ Juneteenth, *June 19, 2026*
- ♦ Father's Day, *June 21, 2026*
- ♦ First Day of Summer, *June 21, 2026*



**JUNE 21,
2026**



Tidewater Singers

Ellen Wile, Artistic Director

Born of Our Singing



Celebrating our 25th Season!

Friday, May 29

7:30 pm at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Easton

Saturday, May 30

4 pm Matinee at St. Paul's Church, Oxford

Admission \$20 at the door, or in advance. Students free.



Scan for tickets





Talbot Hospice



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Honoring Our Children

Saturday June 6th | 10:00am

Our Celebration of Life Ceremony at the Child Loss Healing Garden is a meaningful gathering created to honor and remember children who are deeply loved and never forgotten.

Meet at The Healing Garden

Please Park on Clubhouse Drive, not on Oxford Road



For more information contact Rev. Jody Gunn at 410-829-8576 or jgunn@talbothospice.org





**Come celebrate Camp Mardela on Camp Appreciation Day!
Sunday, June 7...4:00-8:00 p.m.**

This is a FREE event! All are welcome. We will have a variety of events as part of this celebration.

Communal Meal, Games & Activities, Group Singing, Volunteer Awards, Camp Fire, Live music.

4:00 p.m.—Camp Activities

5:00 p.m.—Communal Dinner

6:00 p.m.—Volunteer Recognition

6:30 p.m.—Music

7:00 p.m.—Closing campfire and s'mores



Roman's 14:10-13

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." 12 So then, each one of us will be held accountable. 13 Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother or sister.

Conference Emblem by CJ Bowman

2026 Mid-Atlantic
DISTRICT CONFERENCE

October 9 & 10

CAMP MARDELA

301 Deep Shore Rd., Denton, MD 21629-3408

FRIDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE

Campfire Songs • Inspirational Stories • S'mores!

More information to follow as available



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**

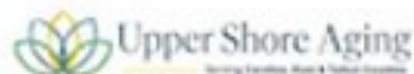
GRAB N' GO LUNCH

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.

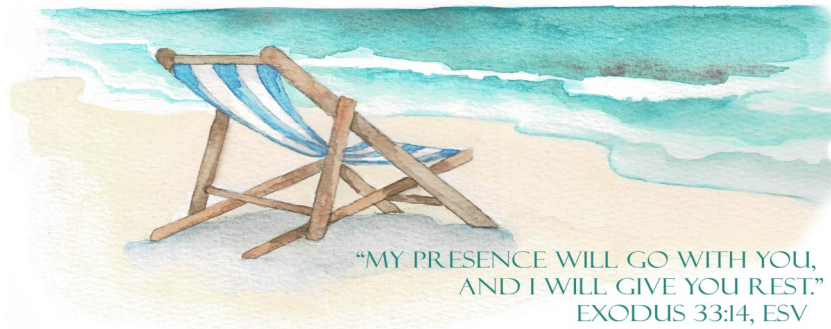


FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BROOKLETTS PLACE: 410-822-2869



REST

and be refreshed



**Easton Church of the Brethren
Peachblossom Press Newsletter
412 S. Harrison Street,
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-0475
Rev. Jody E. Gunn, Pastor
eastonchurchofthebrethren@gmail.com
www.eastonbrethren.org**