

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

DECEMBER, 2023 PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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



412 S. Harrison Street

Easton, MD 21601

410-822-0475

eastonchurchofthebrethren@gmail.com

www.eastonbrethren.org

Candles, Candles, Burning Bright”

Have you ever wondered about the origin of the Advent wreath? The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty red candles and four white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on week days and the four white candles were lit on each Sunday.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was made out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death, since evergreens are continuously green. The circle reminds us of God’s unending love, and the eternal life God makes possible.

Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as “Light” into our dark world. The candles are often set in a circular Advent wreath. It usually involves four candles. The first, second and fourth candles are purple, and the third candle is rose colored. Often a fifth candle is placed in the middle of the Advent wreath and is lit on Christmas eve or Christmas day to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Advent is a time of preparation. Let us prepare the way of the Holy One. Let us make ready the paths of peace and make ready our hearts for the coming of the Lord.

Sermons and Scriptures for the month of December

December 3: Pastor Jody Gunn, preaching
Sermon: “No One Knows”
Scripture: Mark 13: 24-37
Special Music: Jackie Royer

December 10: Wanda Baynard, preaching
Sermon: “No Place Like Home”
Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1-11; Mark 1: 1-8
Special Music: Cheryl Dayton

December 17: Jennifer Summy, Preaching
Sermon: “Joy”
Scriptures:
Special Music: Peachblossom Bells

December 24: Candlelight Service, 4pm
(ONLY ONE SERVICE)
Pastor Jody Gunn, preaching
Christmas Story & Carols
Special Music: Choir, Randy Bachand

December 31: Pastor Walt Wiltschek, preaching
Sermon: “The End is Near”
Scriptures; Isaiah 61: 10, 61: 3
Special Music: Joy Miller,
Liz Wildasin, pianist
Gathering Music: Carolyn Lane



Our deepest sympathy to Todd and Darlena Roesti Butler, at the passing of Darlena's father, Dr. LeRoy (Lee) Roesti. Mr. Roesti passed away on Friday, November 17. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 9 at Johns Memorial Episcopal Church in Farmville, VA at 3:00 p.m. We pray Christ love and presence to Darlena and her family.



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, Camp Mardela and administrator Jennifer Summy, the family of Katelyn Howard, Jean Shaffer, Barbara & Larry McCann, Dick Scott, Jack Wheatley, Leroy Miller, Lynn Butler, Robert & Jeanette Miller, John Merceron, Mike Moore, Brenda Wooden, David Hutchison, Mary Lou Segar, Frances Morse, Scott Baynard, Bruce Butler, Jimmy & Loretta Lohr, Ruth Gunn, Charlie Willis, Adele Pogue, Caitlyn Bussey, Theresa, (co-worker of Terri Tarr), Doris Schwaninger, Wyatt Ewing, Kathy Spurry, Billy Harding, Larry Fike, Alan Segar, GraceWay CoB, Roger Plagge, Dee Candel, Lois Schall, Natalee Jones, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, Emerson Fike. 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.**



- 1 Gene Hagenberger
- 2 Tony Fluharty
- 4 Rica Denlinger
- 7 Jim Foreman
- 8 Karter May Mullikin
- 12 Ashley Ward
- 14 Jennifer Carrion
- 15 Camryn Phillips, 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, Mark Miller, Justine Foxwell, Carolyn Lane
- 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
- 23 Derek & Brynn Keller
- 24 Mike & Nina Jacobs
- 28 Mark & Tracy Lednum



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

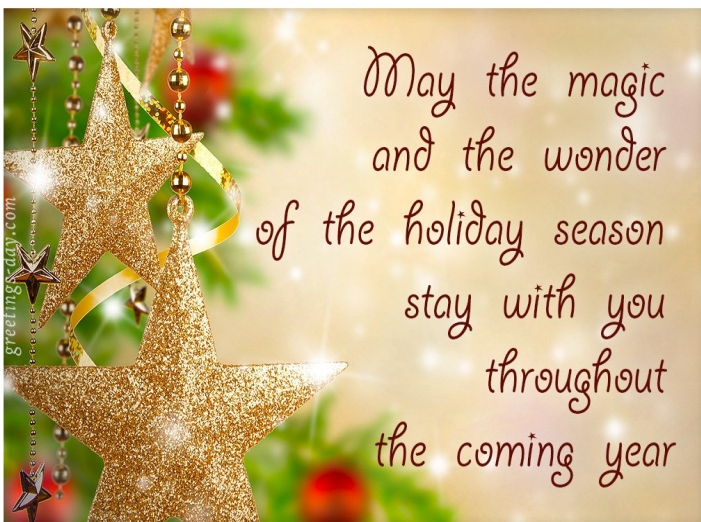
Please contact Marilyn Neal, if you are interested in volunteering at the center. Their phone number is 410-822-5015.

Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The 2023 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.** Please sign-up in the narthex. To volunteer a shift. The meal is taken care of for December.

SERVING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

	12/3/2023	12/10/2023	12/17/2023	12/24/2023	12/31/2023
Message	Jody Gunn	Wanda Baynard	Jennifer Summy	Jody Gunn	Walt Wiltschek
Worship Leader	Lynn Butler	Mat Baynard	Cheryl Dayton	Wanda Baynard	Mat Baynard
Head Usher/ Sound	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller
Deacons on Call	John & Norma Trax	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Les & Marlena Groves	Jane Marshall & Anne Harvey
Special Music	Jackie Royer	Cheryl Dayton	Peachblossom Bells	Choir, Randy Bachand	Joy Miller
Flowers	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Emerson & Karen Tarr



The Leadership Team on November 13 agreed since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, having our annual Christmas Candlelight Service at 4:00 pm would work best for our church family. **There will be no morning service on the 24th.** We hope this will ensure most of family, friends, and community members will be able to attend.



Camp Mardela News—from Jen Summy, Camp Administrator

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

- ◆ Sights & Sounds of Christmas: December 9th & 16th. The event will run very similar to last year, except that we are consolidating our activities to King & Krabill. We are also still asking for churches to contribute to the Christmas Tree silent auction. This year, we have lots of trees and lots of decorations already at camp, so if you would like to simply come and decorate one of our trees as a contribution, that would be wonderful. Or you may bring your own pre-decorated tree. We also found last year that people liked the general Christmas decorations a lot (signs, dolls, lights, etc). If you would prefer to contribute something of this nature, that would also be greatly appreciated. We will have the silent auction both weekends, with different items up for bid each weekend, so we need enough items to fill both weekend.

We will also need 8-14 volunteers per weekend (Dec 9th & 16th 5pm-8pm) to help with the following:

- Admission (1-2) - outside
- Kids Crafts (1-2)
- Silent Auction (1-2)
- Food Stand (2-3)
- Sound (1-2)
- Hay Wagon (2-3) - outside

If you are able to help with one or both weekends in any of these ways, please let me know.

- ◆ **Krabill Hall fundraiser continues.** Send donations to camp or online (www.campmardela.org/ payments). We are almost halfway to our fundraising goal! We've been working on finalizing details for the remaining upgrades to the hall - the biggest portion of that being installing the heat & air conditioning system. We have taken a lot of time and thought to ensure we make the right choice for these systems, but we cannot go forward with installation until we raise the full \$50,000.
- ◆ **Brick Fundraiser:** Order bricks with custom text to put in the brick garden at the Peace Pole. 4x8 for \$75 and 8x8 for \$125. All proceeds from sale will go towards heat and air in Krabill Hall. Our Brick Fundraiser is a great way to contribute to this project. You may also give your year-end donations towards this project to help us reach our goals. We are very excited about the possibilities this will give us for year-round events, camps, rentals, etc and would appreciate your prayerful support in reaching this goal and making this a reality.
- ◆ **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.

Christmas Word Search

N S W J P K K C A N D L E J G
 H A A X M U U P I T J J G J I
 O S N O W F L A K E P W L M N
 L Y L L O H Z S T O C K I N G
 I M I S T L E T O E S R Y R E
 D R E V L I S J I N G L E H R
 A O N N C T N E M A N R O T B
 Y D T W X G P E L O N O T A R
 E E R T A R N B O B H K U E E
 E R B D E T E A R G M O V R A
 R O R S S L N A M E R E H W D
 W A E X L A T A R W R E Y O J
 C N N S W S O R S C O Z E W H
 T L D R L N Y Z B H P N Y N U
 I T H E C H R I S T M A S C G

CHRISTMAS
 HOLLY
 ORNAMENT
 MISTLETOE
 GREEN
 RED
 SILVER
 BELLS
 JINGLE
 HOHOHO
 STAR
 SANTA
 HOLIDAY
 STOCKING
 JOY
 MERRY
 CARD
 PRESENT
 BOW
 SNOWFLAKE
 TREE
 GINGERBREAD
 WREATH
 SNOWMAN
 CANDLE



The Candy Cane Gospel

LETTER "J"

Jesus Christ is the promised Savior

RED STRIPES

Christ's blood was shed for us on the cross

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and His sheep hear and follow His voice

WHITE CANDY

Our sins were washed away by the sacrifice of a sinless Savior



The Candy Cane Prayer

Jesus our Savior,
 born on Christmas Day,
 thank You for Your gifts to us,
 especially the gift of Yourself.
 Thank You, too, for simple gifts
 like this Candy Cane,
 a special sign of
 Your love and care.

It is sweet as well as spicy
 and white as well as red,
 to remind us that life has
 joys as well as sorrows.

May this simple gift
 also remind us
 that You are with us always.
 Amen.

The Legend of the Christmas Candy Cane



CAMP MARDELA

DEC

9 & 16

5pm-8pm

Sights & Sounds of CHRISTMAS

FEE

\$5/car

All activities
included



Live Music - Christmas Lights - Crafts - Tree Auction - Food

301 Deep Shore Road, Denton, MD

www.campmardela.org/christmas-22



Tidewater Singers

Sing Gloria! Alleluia!



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

Friday, December 8

7 pm at Trinity Cathedral, Easton
and

Saturday, December 9

7 pm at St. Paul's Church, Centreville

Admission \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance, students free

Sunday, December 17

4 pm at Christ Church, Cambridge

Part of the Christ Episcopal Church Concert Series. Admission \$15 at the door



TALBOT ARTS



Scan for tickets!





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