

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

MARCH, 2024 PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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



412 S. Harrison Street

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FROM OUR LENTEN JOURNEY TO EASTER JOY

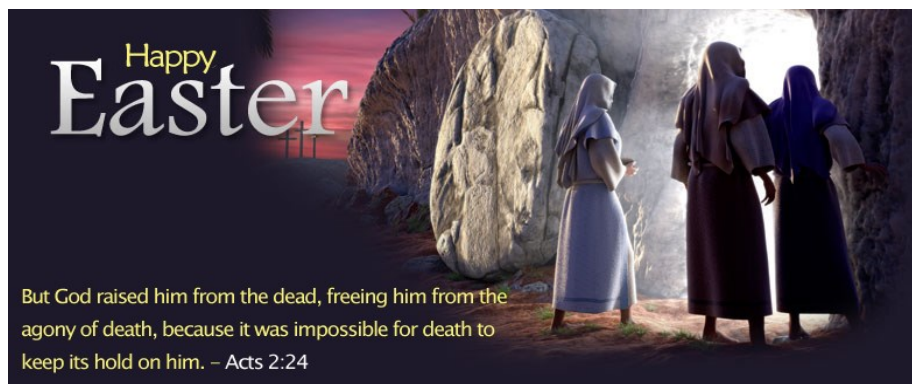
I don't know about you, I start off Lent with good intentions, but sometimes fall short of what I wanted to do...pray more, give up something, as well as giving myself in service to others. I try to do more for others, take better care of myself; however, in the middle of the forty days...things happen. My computer and printer fail me...and I find myself tackling technology. I forget my Lenten promises and turn into a self-centered grump!

Jesus did not say our faith journey would be easy, but he promised to walk with us along the way. All we have to do is trust and obey Him. Although, we may not always do what we intended during Lent and might feel totally prepared. **EASTER ALWAYS ARRIVES ON TIME!**

The disciples did not always understand Jesus and they did not always display the greatest faith. Many deserted him at the cross, yet Jesus appeared to them. Even then, some of them doubted it was really Him, at first. However, they eventually experienced Easter joy. On easter, their faith was renewed. Easter became a new beginning for them.

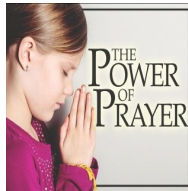
Easter can become a new beginning for us, we well. We can allow Christ's resurrection to transform us as it transformed Jesus' disciples. May Easter joy permeate our hearts and our lives as we walk this journey together with Jesus.

Wanda Baynard
Christian Ed. Chairperson



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, Mid-Atlantic District DEM Search Committee, Jeff Lyons, Terri Tarr, John Sewell, Chris Lyons, JC Russ, Robbie Faulkner, Ruth Gunn, Camryn Phillips, Michael Starkey, Larry & Barbara McCann, Dick Scott, Leroy Miller, Jeanette & Bob Miller, John Merceron, David Hutchison, Mary Lou Segar, Frances Morse, Bruce Butler, Jimmy & Loretta Lohr, Charlie Willis, Adele Pogue, Caitlyn Bussey, Emerson Fike, Theresa Durnbaugh, 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. 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.*



- March 3 Jen Summy
- March 10 Choir
- March 17 Cheryl Dayton
- March 24 Choir
- March 31 Choir & Peachblossom Bells



Vespers Service



Vespers will be held on Wednesday, March 20 at Roundtop Church, beginning at 7:00 p.m.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Martina Towers
- 3 Jalen Jones, Kellee Kinsey
- 4 Leslie Schwaninger
- 5 Brendan Faw
- 8 Cheryl Heckard
- 10 Cindy Townsend, Darlena Roesti-Butler
- 14 Kristi Booze
- 15 Corey Edsall, Matthew Faulkner, Katie Pederson
- 16 Joanna Williams
- 17 Patti Ball
- 18 Kevin Schwaninger, Rebecca Russ
- 20 Sandy Faw
- 21 Robert Milburn, Joy Phelps, Albert Pete
- 22 Steven Mullikin
- 23 Trevor Ball
- 24 Randy Walbridge
- 25 Paula Ulrich
- 27 David Allen, Jude Basel
- 29 Michael Correa, Kathy Ebling
- 30 Randy Bachand
- 31 Jennifer Fox



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Ted & Patty Schwaninger
- 11 David & Jo Ann Fike
- 14 Ken & Sue Ann Russ, David & Cindy Allen
- 25 Allen & Cheryl Heckard

DEACONS MEETING

A Deacons meeting will be held on Sunday, March 17, following worship. Pizza and drinks will be served.

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 2024 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 Tuesday, March 19.** Please sign-up in the narthex to volunteer a shift or make the meal.

SERVING THE MONTH OF MARCH

| | 3/3/2024 | 3/10/2024 | 3/17/2024 | 3/24/2024 | 3/31/2024 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Message | Jennifer Summy | Caitlin Daly | Jody Gunn | Wanda Baynard | Jody Gunn |
| Worship Leader | Jane Marshall | Kevin Wile | Lynn Butler | Mat Baynard | Wanda Baynard |
| Head Usher/ Sound | Judy Musch | Judy Musch | Judy Musch | Judy Musch | Judy Musch |
| Deacons on call | Ron & Elisa Miller | John & Norma Trax | Geoff & Lee Ann Fox | Mat & Wanda Baynard | Les & Marlena Groves |
| Special Music | Jennifer Summy | Choir | Cheryl Dayton | Choir | Choir & Peachblossom Bells |
| Flowers | | | | | Easter Tulip |



Camp Mardela News—from Jen Summy, Camp Administrator

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

- ◆ **Easter SONrise Service** at Camp, 7:00-9:00 a.m. with breakfast included.
- ◆ **Spring Fundraising Auction:** April 6 from 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Please start collecting your items for the auction and take to Camp. Any questions, please see Bob or Judy Musch or Kevin Wile.
- ◆ **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.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—March 24. Wanda Baynard will be preaching. Following worship, we will go down to the fellowship hall and participate in Love Feast & Communion.

Easter Sunday—March 31. Easter SONrise Service will be held at Camp Mardela, beginning at 7:00-9:00 a.m. Following the service, breakfast will be served. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex the second week of March for those attending breakfast. This is for meal planning only.

Easter Sunday—March 31. We will celebrate Easter with the changed cross. Please bring in your fresh flowers. Pastor Jody will be preaching.



REMEMBERING BELITA MITCHELL **Church of the Brethren Newslines, February 16, 2024**

Belita D. Mitchell, the first Black woman to be ordained in the Church of the Brethren and the first Black woman to serve as moderator of the Annual Conference, passed away Feb. 10 at her home in Mechanicsburg, Pa.



Her childhood was spent in rural Illinois, near Carbondale, and in the Detroit area. She came to Christ in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She attended Southern Illinois University where she studied English, French, and business. It was there that she met her husband, Don Mitchell, who survives her. After they were married, they moved to his hometown of Chicago and began to raise a family including a son who died in 2002, and a stepchild from her husband's previous marriage. Eventually the family included several grandchildren.

For a time in Chicago, she did public aid casework and considered pursuing social work. However, in 1972 they moved to southern California, where she found a 30-year career as a sales executive. In California, the family attended Imperial Heights Church of the Brethren in Los Angeles, where the couple slowly began to take on responsibilities on a volunteer basis. She eventually became part of the Church of the Brethren's Black Advisory Committee, and while attending a meeting of the former General Board she spoke on behalf of the committee—and began to receive affirmations of her call to ministry.

She went through the licensing process in Pacific Southwest District, graduated from the Training in Ministry program, took classes at Fuller Theological Seminary among others, and began serving as associate pastor at Imperial Heights in the 1990s. After she was called as pastor of First Church of the Brethren in Harrisburg, Pa., she was ordained to ministry on Oct. 5, 2003.

"Mitchell had portrayed Mattie Dolby, a Black Brethren woman who preached in the early 1900s, in vignettes at the 1995 Annual Conference," noted an interview by Walt Wiltschek, published in *Messenger* in June 2007. "Dolby became a minister but was never ordained, so Mitchell considered her landmark ordination a tribute to Dolby's legacy."

In 2007, she served as the moderator of Annual Conference with being "prayed up" as a theme of her leadership, and the call for diversity a cornerstone of her year as moderator. In 2017, she and her husband, who is currently director of Church Development for Atlantic Northeast District, received the "Revelation 7:9 Award" from the denomination's Intercultural Ministries in recognition of significant leadership in efforts to make the Church of the Brethren an intercultural church. In 2022, she was the preacher for the final worship service at the Annual Conference in Omaha, Neb.

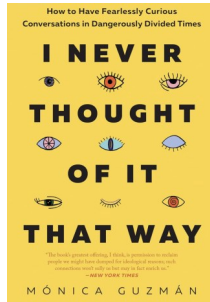
Her influence, however, was felt far beyond her official roles in the denomination, as she helped call people from all levels of the church—from denominational staff to youth, from young women to elders of decades' standing—into a Holy Spirit-led commitment to Jesus Christ and his people. She made a habit of speaking truth to power, and was unafraid to raise challenging concerns for racial and social justice and peacemaking. In one example, as pastor of First Church in the Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg, she began working against gun violence, with involvement in Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence, and became a vocal advocate for gun violence prevention efforts locally and at Annual Conference. She was one of those behind an initiative to start a community garden at First Harrisburg, intended to cultivate "relationships, peace, and love" as well as vegetables. Her reminders of the needs in minority communities in the United States were cited by denominational staff as helpful in balancing the Church of the Brethren's focus on international mission. She wrote for *Messenger* magazine, most recently an article about her Sankofa Journey titled "The Shadow of the Lynching Tree," published in January/February 2018. In 2011, she was the speaker for the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend observances at Manchester University in North Manchester, Ind.—just one of many of her speaking engagements over the decades.

As she said when preaching for the Annual Conference in 2022, "One thing Jesus did well was cross social and cultural boundaries.... In the church, we need to stop looking at all the differences...and look at the needs.... If we trust the power of the Spirit in us, there's no end to what we can do to share the love."

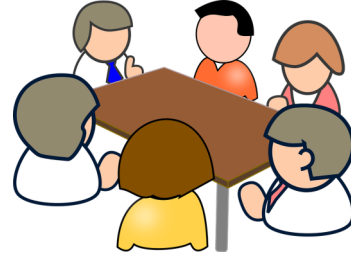
Service arrangements are pending and will be shared when they become available.

Pastor Jody will be Leading a Book Study Starting March 5!

We will be reading Monica Guzman, author of "I Never Thought of it That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times,". We will be reading each part of this book between sessions and then discussing them on Tuesdays evenings over 5 weeks (6 if we need it) from 6:00-7:30 PM in the library or fellowship hall depending on the size of the group. I pray it will be a book that will help those who participate to make connections, learn how to be curious, and engage in conversations with those who may disagree with us. The book can be purchased on Amazon new for \$18.85, used starting at \$13.79, or through kindle at \$12.99. **There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those interested.**



The Leadership Team will meet on Monday, March 4 at 1:00 p.m.



“Share the light”

“You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.”

-Matthew 5: 14, MSG

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing at www.brethren.org/giveoffering

Collection will be on March 17. Envelopes will be in your bulletin on Sunday, March 10, for collection on March 17.



Sunday, March 10

Name: _____ Date: _____



Easter Story

WORD SEARCH

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB





Mid-Shore Community Band

Presents Its

12th Annual St. Patrick's Concert

Featuring Chris Noyes - Vocalist

Sunday March 17 at 2:00 PM

Easton Elks' Ballroom

502 Dutchmans Lane Easton, Maryland

A Free Concert of Irish Music

(Donations Gratefully Accepted)

www.mscb.org



THE TALBOT COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL



MARYLAND
STATE ARTS
COUNCIL



APRIL 6, 2024

301 DEEP SHORE RD
DENTON, MD 21629

8am-9am - Breakfast & Browse

9am-11am - Silent Auction

9am-1pm - Live Auction

CAMP MARDELA BENEFIT AUCTION

FOOD STAND | BAKE SALE
LIVE, SILENT & ONLINE
AUCTION

Support camp - shop for a cause!

Go to the link below for more info:

www.campmardela.org/spring-camp-auction



Find unique items for sale to support Camp Mardela at our fundraising auction. Breakfast and browse will start at 8am with bidding starting at 9am. The auction will continue until 1pm or until all items are sold! There will be a live auction, a silent auction, and a food stand/bake sale provided by camp volunteers. The camp auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we are looking forward to seeing you all here to enjoy a fun-filled day.

You can also donate items to be sold at the auction, such as new or gently used items, good-condition antiques, handmade items, baskets, tickets, gift cards, and more! You can also donate baked goods to be sold at the bake sale on the day of the auction.

If anyone has items to donate and cannot take to camp, please contact Bob & Judy Musch.

Please post this on a bulletin board in your church. Thank you!

Special Item Donation

Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction

**Do you have a special item of high value
that you would be willing to donate to the
Disaster Response Auction on May 4, 2024?**

Such as...



Valuable Crafts



Antiques



Gift Baskets



Artwork



Destinations



Fine Woodworking

**Please call Jeff McKee at 443-547-5958 or
email a photo with description to auctionbooklet@comcast.net**

A photo and description needs to be received by February 9th to be published in the booklet!

Blessed be the
God and Father
of our
Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy
he has given us a

new birth
into a
living hope

through the
resurrection
of Jesus Christ
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV



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