

Deadline for Article Submission is the 15<sup>th</sup> of Each Month

#### **FROM THE PASTOR** *Rev. Eric Warner, Senior Pastor*

In Matthew 5:48 Jesus says, "You must be perfect." Well, we've already failed Jesus right then and there haven't we? I might as well go ahead and put my Bible down and give up, right? I mean in the first five minutes of waking up this morning I stubbed my toe and may have uttered an unflattering word under my breath. This morning I also realized I had forgotten to do a pastoral care call yesterday and felt immediate guilt and shame. Oh, and I was constantly worrying and anxious about my health as I'm writing this while recovering from COVID. So no, Jesus, I am definitely not perfect. It's of little comfort that supposedly no one else is perfect because I log into Facebook and see a bunch of pictures of people's seemingly perfect lives. How can I possibly have any confidence in myself when I am struggling so much to be the person Jesus wants me to be?

Well, the amazingly good news is that in Christ Jesus we are a new creation. Jesus changes our very nature. Sure, we may still be sinners. We may still doubt and worry. We may sometimes do harm to one another. We may have some bad mornings from time to time. I certainly didn't feel like a new creation this morning. However, soon after such a morning, I read my Bible, recognizing that it is a grace-filled gift to me. I joyfully repented, knowing that Jesus was near to me. I prayed, knowing that my loving God wanted to converse with me. I realized how much God has changed my heart over the years to be more like Jesus even though I still have a long way to go. No, I may not be perfect, but Jesus is perfect. If we are in him that's all that matters because his life covers all our faults. Hebrews 10:14 says, "For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified."

As I emerged from my bad morning, I realized that I am certainly not perfect on my own. However, my savior has perfected me for all time. Jesus has that power because he was perfect – the only one who has ever been perfect. So don't worry so much about your imperfections. We are being made more perfect each day in Jesus and our day of perfection in heaven will come. In the meantime, take joy in Jesus, knowing that he has chosen to love you, die for you, live for you, and perfect you.

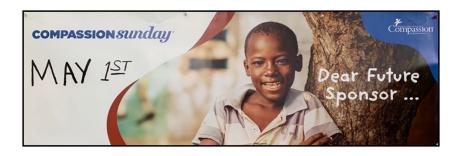
# MISSIONS

"He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy." Proverbs 14:21

#### **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Submitted by Joe Tanner

Jesus said: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples."



Children all over the world need our help to sustain their lives and to help with food, clothing, shelter, and education and to help them experience God's love and lessons. On Compassion Sunday, four new children became sponsored by members of EUMC. If you are interested in sponsoring a child and did not select a child on May <sup>1st</sup>, it's not too late. Contact Joe Tanner for information on how you can help a child in need.

**SPIRIT LAKE MISSION TRIP** – **JULY 17<sup>th</sup> TO 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Our 2022 Spirt Lake mission team is comprised of eight members including three new members who have not gone with us in the past. We are looking forward to a great trip with our ability to help others in need and to experience the satisfaction serving others who need our help. As in the past, we will be asking for sponsors to help us with the travel expenses. A contribution of \$90 will make you an official sponsor with an invitation to the review dinner and presentation next fall.

**MOTHER'S DAY BABY SHOWER** - Thank all of you who provided your gifts of baby supplies for our "Baby Shower" on May 8<sup>th</sup> for the Cecil Pregnancy & Family Resource Center. The Children and Parents in need of our help were greatly appreciative of the generous contributions that you provided.

**MONTHLY BLOOD DRIVE** - The next donation date is June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12:00 pm until 5:00 pm. If you wish to donate, you can sign up at delmarvablood.org or walk-ins are welcome. We had 20 donors in May of the 32 people who had signed up, but the weather was not pleasant. I found out at the May donation that one pint of blood, one person's contribution, can save up to three lives. Donating Blood Saves Lives!

**TEACHER'S BREAKFAST** - The Teacher's Breakfast during "Teacher's Appreciation Week," May 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup>, for teachers at Gilpin Manor, Thompson Estates, and Cecil Manor was very successful. The teachers ate well and were very appreciative of the breakfasts prepared and served to them.

EUMC is a Missions loving church!!

MISSION FINANCES: The Mission Fund balance in the cash account as of May 22, 2022 was \$6,308.31 with an additional \$28,846.83 in a money market account. Thank you everyone for your generous support of EUMC's Missions program that allows us to do important things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# **FELLOWSHIP & STEWARDSHIP**

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" II Corinthians

### STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Submitted by Ellen Gruebel, Committee Chairperson

#### Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

Greetings from the Stewardship / Evangelism Committee! We hope this finds our congregation well! Our combined Committee has some updates.

We scheduled a Financial Peace University class for the entire congregation that was to begin in May. Unfortunately, we did not have the minimum number of people sign up to participate and it was decided to postpone the class until the Fall.

We are working on Joy of Faith weekend for February, 2023... More to come on this!!

May God bless all with good health and peace!



#### CALLING ALL MEN

Don't forget that on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 am the Men's Breakfast takes place at Cracker Barrel. All men of the church are invited to take part in this time of food, fellowship and discussion of a new topic every month. No sign-up is necessary, just show up at 7:30 ready to eat breakfast and have fun! The breakfast is usually over in an hour.



# **FELLOWSHIP & STEWARDSHIP**

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" II Corinthians

#### **JOY! KICKS OFF WITH GREAT SUCCESS!**

JOY! (Just Older Youth), our fellowship group for persons 50 and over, kicked off on May 4<sup>th</sup> when just under 70 people enjoyed a wonderful catered lunch and a great program on "Hidden Gems" in Cecil County presented by local historian Mike Dixon. A planning committee will be working on a schedule of presentations, activities and trips for the group,



so stay tuned for JOY! news! And remember, we don't check IDs – so if JOY! is doing something that interests you and you're not yet 50, come anyway! We'd love to have you join us!



#### JOY! TO ENJOY THE SOUNDS OF BIG BAND MUSIC!

The next gathering of JOY! (Just Older Youth) for persons 50 and older will be on Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm in Weldin Hall. The afternoon will start with desserts and beverages, and then we'll be entertained by the sounds of big band music presented by Swing City Band. And yes, there will be dancing too! If you're interested in attending, please sign the sign-up sheet on the counter across from the Welcome Center. That will help us know how many desserts to make! It's going to be a great program, so invite your friends, and remember, you don't have to be 50 to join in the fun! We don't check IDs!



# **EDUCATION**

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it" Proverbs 22:6

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Submitted by Katie Sparks, Director of Children & Education Ministries

**Sunday School News:** The Sunday school year is almost over, as the last day of classes for children will be June 5<sup>th</sup>. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate all that the children have accomplished through a brief presentation during the service. We will also be celebrating the teachers who have led our classes.

<u>Children's Church:</u> This summer we will be offering a children's church during one of the services for all children entering grades kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade this coming fall. This special children's service will be modeled after the actual service and will include fun Christian songs (with dance moves), a call and response, prayers, a children's sermon, an interactive activity to enforce the sermon, and a snack. If you have a child in this age range be sure to bring them for a fun, Christ filled Sunday morning! Watch the bulletin for more information about the time and location.



**Vacation Bible School:** Send your children and grandchildren on a "Monumental" adventure this summer at VBS! This year VBS will be held at North East United Methodist Church from June 20-24<sup>th</sup>. Children in PreK will meet each morning from 9-11 am and children in grades K-5<sup>th</sup> will meet each evening from 6-8 pm. To sign up please visit northeastumc.org/kids-zone. We hope you will join us for a "Howling Good Time!"

**Family Game Night:** On Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 6-8 pm the education department hosted a family game night! There were many games played by those in attendance and the kids had a great time playing with one another. Be sure to join us at our next event so you do not miss out on all the fun!



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#### Submitted by Pastor Eric

I'm excited that our Youth Group will remain active throughout the summer. Below are our planned events for the month of June with the caveat that a pool party may be thrown into the mix so keep an eye on our Friday Emails for more information.

Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> - Youth Planning Meeting 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Weldin Hall (Both Parents and Young People are Invited)
Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> - Youth Group 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Weldin Hall
Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> - No Youth Group
Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> - No Youth Group

We look forward to continuing to nurture the young people of our church and offer opportunities for growth so that they might come to know their God-given purpose. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Pastor Eric at <u>pastoreric@elktonumc.org.</u>

#### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEWS**

This year's session of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference will be held virtually from Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Clergy and lay delegates from all of the churches in our conference (which is comprised of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and the state of Delaware) will attend to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, pass resolutions, and set goals and budgets for the years ahead. Mike Schmook will represent Elkton UMC as the Lay Delegate, and Pastor Eric will be attending as the Clergy Delegate. All sessions of the conference are open to the public, so if you're interested, you will be able to watch it live on Facebook or YouTube. Links will be provided for you by email when the event is near. Following the conference, the delegates will update our church with a summary of events and other important information.



### **GOING AWAY?**

If you are, you can take us with you! Tune in at 11:00 a.m. for our live stream worship service via our YouTube channel - <u>www.youtube.com/elktonumcorg.</u>

# **MUSIC & WORSHIP**

"May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life..." Psalm 128:5

### **MUSIC MINISTRIES**

Submitted by Suzette Burgess Choir Director & Coordinator of Music Ministries

The choir season is winding down for the summer and our members will be taking a well deserved break. June 19<sup>th</sup> (Father's Day) will be our last Sunday and the Men's Ensemble as well as the Chancel Choir will be



singing that day. Sid Bledsoe and Cheryl McKeown will be singing on the final Sunday in June. The Providence Brass will be back with us on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, so mark your calendars! They will be offering an array of patriotic music in celebration of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Future summer Sundays will feature Paul Humphrey, Darrin Peters, Kelly Thompson, Jerry McNabb, Brian Willmore and Lori Geckle (remember the Christmas YouTube videos?), and small handbell ensembles! Have a wonderful summer!

### THANK YOU TO THE HANDBELL CHOIR

Submitted by Rev. Karen Bunnell

Many thanks to all of the members of the handbell choir for providing great music for worship this spring. After being on hiatus for a couple of years, it has been so wonderful to hear the sound of handbells in worship again. Thanks to all of the members for sharing their gifts and for putting up with me, a rookie director! By the way, we could still use some ringers, so if you're interested, please send an email to <u>kbunnell@comcast.net</u>.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Wednesday Night Communion in the Chapel will be held on June  $8^{th}$  and  $22^{nd}$  at 6:15 p.m.





### ALTAR FLOWERS

We have several dates still available if you would like to provide the flowers for the altar for Sunday morning services. Those dates are:

 $\begin{array}{cc} July \ 3^{rd} & July \ 1^{st} \\ September \ 25^{th} & October \ 23^{rd} & October \ 30^{th} \end{array}$ 

Please put your name on the list located on the bulletin board across from the church office or contact the church office at 410-398-0933 if you would like to celebrate someone special or a special date with flowers for the altar.

# **FINANCE & GIVING**

"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7

#### **FINANCE NEWS**

Submitted by Laurie Ruth, Treasurer

The month of April ended with another positive balance, as you see below. As always, this is due to everyone being very aware of spending and the congregation's generosity. Without everyone, EUMC might not be in such a shining position.

We continue to move funds into the money market to make a little interest on the church's money. As stated in the April newsletter, the church now has two money market accounts, one being for the Ministries Fund and the other for Missions and Building. We have now added to that account some money from the Memorial Fund. All money market funds are available to the church at any time.

Thank you for your continued support to this amazing House of Worship, where all are welcome.

	Thru April 2022	Thru April 2021	Difference
Income	142,247.12	128,120.50	14,126.62
General Expenses	20,983.35	19,770.94	1,212.41
Church Staff Council on Ministries	74,776.10 1,631.89	77,804.55 389.83	-3,028.45 1,242.06
Education	294.93	0.00	294.93
Youth Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Utilities	11,126.98	9,286.25	1,840.73
Insurance	3,804.69	4,482.90	-678.21
Church Maintenance	15,341.34	9,037.18	6,304.16
Parsonage Expenses	2,334.79	3,013.54	-678.75
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gain(Loss)	11,953.05	4,335.31	



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#### CHRISTIAN VOICES FROM THE PAST

Submitted by Ivan Mehosky

#### Fanny J. Crosby 1820 -1915 She Has Done What She Could

Blind Fanny Crosby, world renowned composer of gospel songs, wrote over 8,000 songs during her 83 years on earth, and so many speak of the Rapture because she knew one day she would see her Savior Jesus!

Donald P. Hustad, an authority on hymnology, has called Fanny Crosby "The most prolific and significant writer of gospel songs in American history." Many of her eight thousand songs are now forgotten, but many are still favorites sung today in churches and Sunday school classes all over America and include: "To God Be the Glory," "Blessed Assurance," "Praise Him, Praise Him," "Redeemed," "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross." "Rescue the Perishing," "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," "Saved By Grace," and "My Savior First of All." and many others.

Fanny was not born blind. She was born in Putnam County, New York on March 24, 1820. When she was only six weeks old, she developed eye inflammation, and a doctor's careless treatment left her blind for the rest of her life. Yet believing her blindness bound up in God's will, she could forgive the doctor who made her blind though he could not forgive himself. Waiting years later in her autobiography, she wrote, "If I could meet him now, I would say 'Thank you, thank you-over and over again-for for making me blind." She felt that her blindness was God's gift to her so that she could write songs for his glory. "I could not have written thousands of hymns," she said, "if I had been hindered by the distractions of seeing all the interesting and beautiful objects that would have been presented to my notice."

Growing up, Fanny was greatly influenced by her mother and grandmother (her father died when she was very young) and their next-door neighbor, Mrs. Hawley, when they moved to Connecticut. Mrs. Hawley read to her from the Bible and taught her Bible stories that by the time Fanny was ten years old, she could recite the first four books of the Old Testament, the four Gospels as well as hundreds and hundreds of poems!

In 1835, she entered the famous Institution for the Blind in New York City, and there became an excellent student with a love and zeal for poetry, but a hatred for mathematics. Later, she would publish her poems. And then in 1850, Fanny received the assurance of her salvation while attending the Broadway Tabernacle Methodist Church in New York City after hearing the hymn, "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?"

Fanny Crosby was married in 1858 to Alexander Van Alstyne, a gifted musician and a perfect companion for Fanny. They both were students and teachers at the school.

"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7

Three hymns in particular captured Fanny's dreams that one day she would see her Savior and always be with him forever. The lyrics were composed from 1868 to 1875, and I now arrange them for you to see what Fanny saw.

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" (1868) ..."In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever, till my raptured soul shall find, rest beyond the river.

"Blessed Assurance" (1873)..."Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

"To God Be the Glory" (1875)...Praise the Lord, praise the Lord...(last stanza): "Great things he hast taught us, great things he hast done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus his Son; but purer, and higher, and created will be, our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

#### **TRUSTEE NEWS**

Submitted by Paul Humphrey

The trustees have big news to share with you!

First, the trustees have approved the necessary funds to replace the "dinosaur" and upgrade the air conditioning system in the sanctuary. Over the next couple of weeks, the big A/C unit that has been freezing out one-half of the sanctuary will be replaced with two smaller more efficient units and an additional two units will be installed above the elevator shaft behind the tech booth in the balcony.

The installation of the units in the balcony area will begin on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. These units will draw a lot of the hot air from the tall ceiling of the sanctuary. Once those units are operational, the "dinosaur" hiding behind the wall will be replaced. It may take some time to establish a proper air flow and balanced temperature involving all the units. There are times when we won't need all units on all at the same time in order to keep us comfortable. In the end, everything will be more efficient with a more constant and balanced air flow and a lot quieter.

The other piece of good news to share with you is that a committee has begun working on the creation of a Memorial Scattering Garden, which will be located in the area in front of the Wesley Wing. This scattering garden will provide a quiet location of solitude for the scattering of a loved one's cremated remains in a solemn and ceremonious manner. It will also facilitate revisiting when the relatives and friends of the deceased gather to commemorate, commune and feel nearness to the deceased.

When the design of the garden is complete, it will be shared with the congregation and we'll explain how you may participate in its creation by contributing towards various plants, a bench, the trellis, the walkway or maybe the bordering shrubs. These types of scattering gardens have been created in a large number of churches with the church members embracing them as an integral evolution of our spirits journey to be with our Lord in a final resting place. As is referenced in the book of Genesis, "from ashes to ashes and dust to dust."

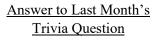
"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7



# **TRUSTEES TRIVIA**

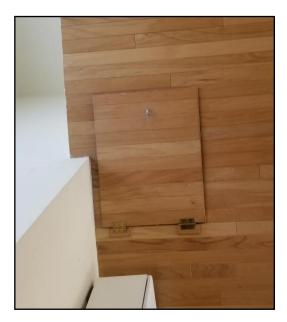
Do you know where this is located in the church? Text your answers to 443-907-3282 - be sure to tell us your name.

(Answer in next month's newsletter)





This button is located at the top left corner of the back door of the building, used to lock and unlock the door



### Work Continues on the Stained Glass Window



"Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. And whatever else you do, get good judgment." Proverbs 4:7



Submitted By Beth Gullion

A completely redesigned and reorganized Prom Boutique opened on March 12<sup>th</sup> and was open for 8 weeks. During that time, we had 106 girls come through the door and 101 girls found a dress they loved.

We want to thank all of the volunteers who dedicated their time to help us get ready for opening, especially Mr. Dick Gochnauer, who repainted the entire space for us, and Mrs. Laurie Ruth – without her we never would have been ready to open on time. We also want to thank all of the ladies who came in early on Saturday mornings to help the girls find a dress, as well as everybody who donated dresses, shoes, etc. We couldn't have done it without you!

We will be adding more fitting rooms and additional dress racks over the summer. We will be holding a donation day on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> as well as another donation day in August and we will be opening again in September for homecoming. We will be looking for volunteers again to help us on Saturday mornings during the fall. Please consider signing up to help...it's a lot of fun and very rewarding when you see the smiles on the girls' faces.



Tune Birthdaus

"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and ask to seek him in his temple." Psalm 27:4 (NIV)

- 6/2 Joan Perry
- 6/2 Mary Ann Schmook
- 6/3 Susan Zimmer
- 6/4 John Gaz
- 6/4 Keith McKenica
- 6/5 Kim Heath
- 6/5 Carol Robinson
- 6/5 David Wherry
- 6/6 Robert Gautsch
- 6/6 Ruth Loomis
- 6/7 Loretta Brockell
- 6/7 Paige Laning
- 6/7 Norman Petterson
- 6/8 Charles Campbell, II
- 6/8 Krista Gilmore
- 6/8 Alice Loveless
- 6/9 Linda Meffley



- 6/11 Leah Mackie
- 6/11 Samantha Perkins
- 6/12 Ryan Zimmer

- 6/16 Francis Kosinski
- 6/16 William Pinder
- 6/16 Tyler Slayman
- 6/17 Gretchen Ginder
- 6/17 Karen Gravatt
- 6/18 Richard Hanel
- 6/18 Lauren Nickle
- 6/19 Erin Lea Rogers
- 6/20 Kristina Keithley
- 6/21 Ryan Kosinski
- 6/27 Paulette Casen
- 6/27 Sandra Funke
- 6/27 Jennifer Noll
- 6/28 Madelyn Eddinger
- 6/29 Sandra Holland
- 6/30 William Alphin
- 6/30 Gregory Kosinski



"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, all become one flesh." Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)

- 6/6 Gerald & Jennifer Slayman, Jr.
- 6/8 Ivan & Charlotte Mehosky
- 6/10 Robert & Donna Perkins
- 6/11 Herbert & Joan Perry
- 6/14 Bret & Kelly Eddinger
- 6/14 Robert & Nancy Mitchell
- 6/17 Kevin & Stacie Forman
- 6/20 Richard & Gail Juergens



- 6/21 Robert & Sheila Olewine, Jr.
- 6/22 John & Debbie Baynes
- 6/22 Murray & Dianne Thompson
- 6/23 Bart & Andrea Funke
- 6/23 Thomas & Donna Horgan
- 6/23 Gerald & Jamie Treese
- 6/24 Francis & Linda Kosinski
- 6/29 Joe & Bethany Buckley
- 6/29 Phillip & Kristen Czarnecki

If we missed your birthday or anniversary please accept our sincerest apologies and let the church office know so we can correct our information.

Sunday       5 Communion       5 Communion       8:30 AM Worship Service       9:45 AM Worship Service       7:00 PM Youth Group       11:00 AM Worship Service       7:00 PM Youth Group       11:00 AM Worship Service       12	Monday       6       6:00 PM Cub Scouts       6:00 PM Cub Scouts       13       13       20       VBS @ North East UMC       6:00 PM Cub Scouts	JUN       Tuesday       7       14       7       14       7       14       7       14       14       14       7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg       14       21       22       VISS @ North East UMC       1:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg       7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg	June 2022       June 202       J	Z Thursday 2 8:00 PM AA Meeting 6:30 PM Dorcas Circle 6:30 PM Dorcas Circle 8:00 PM AA Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting 3:00 PM AA Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting	Friday         3 <th>Saturday4111825</th>	Saturday4111825
<b>26</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service	27	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM Nar-Anon Mtg 7:00 PM LULAC Mtg	29	30		

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SEASHELL GOGGLES SAILBOAT LIFEGUARD VACATION SUN SHORTS UMBRELLA SANDALS SAND SUNBURN SANDCASTLE BIKINI WAVES SWIMMING FUN FRISBEE PELICAN BLANKETS SURFBOARD OCEAN

SUMMER BEACH HOT BOAT SUNGLASSES COOLER

SCUBA



A place to know Jesus, be known by Jesus, and make Him known to others." **Elkton United Methodist Church** 219 East Main Street Elkton, MD 21921

#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **Church Staff**

Senior Pastor	Rev. Eric Warner
Children & Education Ministries Director	Katie Sparks
Organist	Brian Willmore
Choir Director/Coordinator of Music Ministries	
Nursery Care Professional	
Treasurer	
Secretary	
Sexton	<mark>Joseph</mark> Gordon
Media/Tech Consultant	Jeff Bunnell

### **Sunday Worship Service**

8:30 am & 11:00 am

Sunday School 9:45 am

### **Church Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### **Contact Information**

219 East Main Street Elkton, MD 21921

(410) 398-0933

Email: eumc@comcast.net

Website: www.elktonumc.org

# **Elkton UMC Welcome Statement**

The Elkton United Methodist Church is a family of God dedicated to worshiping, learning, and serving our immediate community and beyond as we embrace Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance. As a United Methodist Church, we stand fully behind the statement, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors." Building on our tradition and the welcoming of those who have come before, we celebrate our diversity and invite all persons regardless of age, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality or physical or mental ability into full participation as children of God in the life of this community of faith.