

Pathways

News from the Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Epiphanytide

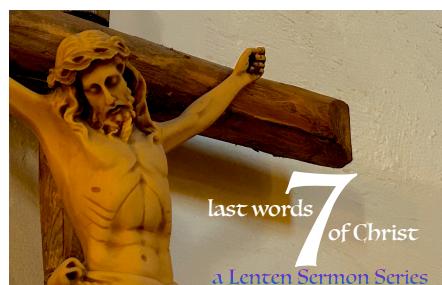
Epiphanytide

1st of February 2026

A Joyful Community of Faith, loving God by serving all people including the least, the last, and the lost.

We are very thankful the winter storm did not knock out our power. We did have one lady take advantage of our shelter, and we are working to find her more permanent housing. Recently someone dug up the major utility lines just south of the church, thus knocking out our Internet thru Cox Cable. They have yet to repair it, and it doesn't look like they will be doing so before Sunday. We will record the service on Sunday and post later that day via YouTube. We will miss our virtual folks, but hang in there, surely Cox will fix the break before Spring. Our Administrative Assistant, Mary Lark, is taking a few days off this week, so it's the pastor manning the office. Let's pray the snow will have melted by Sunday. We are now in February, and it feels like we just finished Christmas and took down the lights only to be entering the Season of Lent on the 18th. We will have an Ash Wednesday Service starting at 6 PM that day. Our focus for Lent will be on the Seven Last Words of Christ and the scripture traditions that stand behind each one. The color switches to purple, for penitence and Christ's kingship. We will add a special liturgy called "Tenebrae", where we extinguish the candles as a way of marking our progress to Holy Week, and then on Good Friday we put out the last flame. There are 40 days of Lent, but Sundays are not a part of the Lenten Season. Sundays are always for celebrating the Good News, and in many traditions these "Sundays in Lent" are a time when we can pause or fasting to remember God's love. Many will give up something — chocolate, alcohol, cussing — while others are practicing something new — taking up something — a new habit, a new practice. Perhaps try adding a time of prayer during your day, or Scripture reading, or join a bible study. Or simply volunteer and serve the least, the last, and the lost. You may find, that after 40 days, it has become a habit that you cannot imagine not doing. Thank you all for being a part of this church and supporting it with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. We would not be the church without you. Let's keep up the good work being the hands and feet of Christ building God's Kingdom with every act of love and kindness that we do.

 The Gospel
we don't want to hear



The Gathering

Order of Worship

Janet Arnett, Lay Minister
Jubilee Ringers conducted by Beverly Beard
Patricia Taylor, Pianist
Jess Wade, Chancel Choir

Join us in-person or via our Livestream that is broadcast thru our Facebook Page, our website <lovesspokenhere.org>, or our YouTube Channel!

9:55 ~ Announcements

Sunday, 1st of February, 2026

Ushers: Dave & Martie Davis **Communion Stewards:** Sandy Dunn, Shirley Lykins, Marilou Shreve, Pam Steinke

Offering Counters: Kevin Graham, Shirley Lykins

We Gather to Worship

Welcome

Opening Song

“Surely the Presence of the Lord”

page 328

Prayers of the Congregation & Our Lord’s Prayer

Janet Arnett, Lay Minister

Songs of the People

“O Spirit of the Living God” page 539 UMC Hymnal

“Come, We That Love the Lord” page 732 UMC Hymnal



We Listen for God’s Word

A reading from the the Gospel of Matthew 23:23-36

Thanks be to God for the gift of the scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

“Praise Ye the Lord”

Jeanne Julreth Heinrich

The Chancel Choir

A Video Reflection — “We Are Church”

“The Gospel We Don’t Want to Hear:

God May Not Like Your Church

Rev Blake Lasater

We Give & Receive Love

Remembrance of our Baptism

Holy Communion

(We believe in the Open Table, all are welcome at God’s table. We take Communion by ‘Intinction’, simply break off a piece of the bread and dip it in the cup, or you may wish to use our gluten free station on the altar.)

Sending Song

“Spirit Song” Page 288 UMC Hymnal

Benediction

(The words of Blessing that send us forth into the world to be the hands and feet of Christ to a broken world)

**please stand if you are able*

Caregivers Support Group

Caregivers Support Group meets each month on the **second Tuesday at 1:00 pm** in the church library. Join other Caregivers to gain information, share ideas, problem solve, and support each other. Facilitated by Brandi Schneider, LMSW.

Widow(er)s Support Group

Our support group for Widow(er)s meets at the church library at **Noon** on the **first and third Wednesdays** of each month. If you grieve, you don't have to grieve alone. This is such a loving, encouraging, and supportive group of people. You will feel welcome and cared for. There are occasional luncheon outings, particularly on the 5th Wednesdays of months.

Parkinson's Disease Support Group

A support group for people with Parkinson's and their Caregivers meets the **first Wednesday** of each month in the church library at **10 am**. This is open to anyone in the community.

Bible Study Returns

This Wednesday we resume our bible studies on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM. We are doing a deep dive into the book of Revelation, learning what it is and isn't, and hopefully rescuing it from the kooks who have turned it into their own personal book of prophecy.

Shower & Laundry Ministry

Our church showers are open to men and women so they can freshen up, do a load of laundry, and be ready for a job interview, medical appointment, or just a chance to be clean. Showers are available **Monday and Wednesdays, 9 AM till 1:00 PM**. Volunteers are needed, flexible scheduling.

Needed Winter Items: Small propane tanks for outdoor cooking camp stoves, thermal mens underwear (medium & large), warm men's hoodies/jackets, gloves, beanies, wool socks, cans of hearty soups/chili/SPAM, multi-packs oatmeal. **OTHER WAYS TO SERVE:** Very rarely one of our homeless is in need of a haircut, typically, in preparation for a job opportunity. They report that the average haircut in ES is \$35, which is cost prohibitive. Perhaps you have that skill set and might like to offer your services gratis. This request does not come up very often, but when it does, it would be a huge blessing to those in need. Contact the office if you are interested in sharing your talent.

Church Warming Center

We will be operating our warming shelter for women and children when the temperature is 9 degrees or below. Clients can check in from 4:30 PM-8:00 PM, when the doors will be locked. To make this possible, we need volunteers (minimum of two each night) who are able to stay overnight; you can also schedule a 4-6 hour shift. Blake will post on FB when we are open. Please consider signing up for this very important life saving ministry. Questions: Blake 479.426.2547

Save the Dates! Important Happenings in the Life of ESUMC

Get Involved!
Make New Friends
Make a Difference
Serve Others

Mobile Food Pantry church parking lot the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month**. Cars start lining up at 7:30 AM and we distribute until the food runs out, typically within 45 minutes. If you are homebound and do not have a friend or neighbor who can pick up for you, contact Bill Featherstone (479.981.1991) by Noon on Mondays to be added to our very limited delivery schedule.

United Women in Faith: **January 11**, meet following Sunday service, Library
Jubilee Ringers Practice, Wednesdays 5 - 6 PM, Sanctuary
Ozarks Chorale Rehearsals Tuesdays, from 6-8 PM in Fellowship Hall

Eureka! Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall the **2nd Wednesday of each month** for conversation, information and lunch. Open to all skill levels

Yoga 9-10 am Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall, \$8. All are welcome

Transportation Ministry

Drivers Needed

The church was gifted a Nissan Murano for the designated purpose of providing transportation to the least, the lost, and the last who do not have means to get to various medical, dental, eye appointments in Carroll County. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact us 479.253.8987 or EsumcInfo@gmail.com

When we get a request an email goes out to the volunteer driver team with dates, times, location and client name. If you are available to take that appointment, you respond to the email accordingly and I make the arrangements. You will be so blessed serving in this role, and meeting some of these amazing people. We could really use a few more volunteers for this ministry. Thank you.

PS: Several new members have come to us through this ministry.

Church Columbarium

We are excited to announce that the church is going to have a Columbarium in the Prayer Garden. Each niche will accommodate two urns at \$1,200. There are 48 niches. Columbaria Contracts are located in the literature rack near the narthex desk. You can also pick up a contract at the church office or call for more details. There is also a link on our website where you can download a contract form.

< www.lovespokenhere.org >

Prayer Tree Ministry

Prayer Tree Link: We are implementing a confidential Prayer Tree Ministry to our tool box of ways we can support others. If you are interested, please follow this link below to sign up. Part of the sign up process is a short assessment which will identify your spiritual gifts as referred to in 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11, Romans 12:6.

<https://forms.gle/FUtqb9QuPNvJj1g7A>

Church Financials

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving:	\$ 40,452	\$ 125,737
Expenses:	\$ 14,528	\$ 96,913

*Fiscal year begins July 1



Strong Women ~ Throughout the scriptures strong women saved the day. The Hebrew midwives chose life, and Moses showed up. Ruth chose to remain faithful to Naomi, and David showed up as her great-grandson. Mary said an immediate "yes" to God and Jesus showed up for us. (Hallelujah!) Over 156 years ago, strong women showed up and began an organization to minister with women, children and youth - paving the way for today's strong women. We won't be silent, we won't be still...because **United Women in Faith** believe that love in action can change the world.

Old Cell Phones

If you happen to have an old cell phone (doesn't need to be working) that you no longer need, it would be quite beneficial to our homeless clients. Susan Reed through Cup of Love has been working to help get them low cost or free phone service.

Upper Room Devotionals

Upper Room Devotionals for January-February were delivered Tuesday. You can pick one up at the office or in the Narthex.

February

2026

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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					3	
		4	5	6	7	8
		9	10			
		11	12	13	14	15
		16	17	18	19	20
		21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30
		31				

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1		2	3	4	5	6
The Gospel We Don't Want to Hear: God May Not Like Your Church	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room Candlemas: Presentation of Jesus to the Temple	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon Noon Youth Room Ozarks Chorale 6:30 Fellowship Hall	Widow(er)s Support Group Noon Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		
8		9	10	11	12	13
The Gospel We Don't Want to Hear: Toxic Masculinity Matthew 5:27-30	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon Noon Youth Room Caregivers Group 1 PM Library Ozarks Chorale 6:30 Fellowship Hall	Mobile Food Pantry 8 AM Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		Saint Valentine's Day
15		16	17	18	19	20
Transfiguration Sunday The Gospel We Don't Want to Hear: Protestants God it Wrong??!	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room Presidents' Day	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon Noon Youth Room Leadership Team 4:30 Library Ozarks Chorale 6:30 Fellowship Hall Fat Tuesday (Mardis Gras)	Widow(er)s Support Group Noon Ash Wednesday Service at 6 PM Lent Begins	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		
22		23	24	25	26	27
First Sunday in Lent 7 Last Words: "Heaven is More Open Than We Think"	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon Noon Ozarks Chorale 6:30 Fellowship Hall	Mobile Food Pantry 8 AM Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		