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

Happy Saint Valentine’s Day everyone, and especially to our widow(er)s. This is a day of love, but for many of us it is a reminder of our grief and loss. If you know a widow(er), reach out to them today with a brief text or email, maybe even a phone call. We finish up our sermon series on “Love Letters from John,” as we try to keep love the main focus of our teachings, missions, actions, and words. This week begins Lent as we observe Ash Wednesday from home. With the pandemic and now ice and snow—this is the only way we can do it. Our Lenten series, “From Darkness to Light: stories of Deliverance and Hope,” will lead us thru the promises of God as we journey towards Easter. We pray for deliverance from this virus; from the bitterness and rancor it is producing as well as the fear and rage of partisan politics, and the mistrust and hate it engenders. We pray for deliverance from despair and negative thinking, and the brokenness of our dreams and relationships. Each Sunday we will take a different story of deliverance from the Bible and apply it to our lives today. We will pray along the way that we will all be together for Easter to celebrate resurrection and life. Remember to like the church Facebook page, and share our stories; this builds our community and helps us digitally spread the good news of Jesus Christ.
We finish the year on very sound financial footing. In fact, this has been one of our best years yet, and that does not include the money we have raised for “Answering the Call”. The pledge campaign has a record number of pledges, and more than half of our budget has been pledged. Your faithfulness and generosity is amazing, and it has enabled us to do many good things in our community and in our church. We are working on easier ways to give digitally and that will soon roll out.

Widows and widowers support group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at noon in fellowship hall (with masks & social distancing.) This is an active and growing group of folks who help each other through difficult times. If you are considering getting help come to one meeting and hear how others have faced similar problems. Contact: Virginia Voiers for more info at 479-981-1097 or vavoiers@aol.com

Our livestream is now found on our church Facebook Page, and we also have a YouTube Channel under First United Methodist Church of Eureka Springs. It is important to remember that our audience reach on Facebook is completely dependent on YOU! The more you like, share, and watch, the more Facebook pushes our page to more people. If you want a way to help out, then by all means “like” and “share”!

United Methodist Women (UMW) offered to the church the Racial Justice Charter (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjusticecharter), which was adopted in 1980. The Charter informs UMW work to eliminate all forms of institutional racism; to study, understand and appreciate the historical and cultural contributions of each race to the church and community; to support and participate in the worldwide struggle for liberation in the church and community, and much more. Women make a difference! Join in the conversation. Contact Lynn Baker: 501.339.3458; lynn.baker.umw@gmail.com
Join us live at 10 AM via the “First United Methodist Church of Eureka Springs” Facebook page or Sunday afternoon you may watch it on YouTube, look for channel, “First United Methodist Church of Eureka Springs” But please “share” the post or link as your witness to help us spread the Good News of God’s Love.

Prelude & Greeting

Morning Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done. On Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

We Sing Praises to God

Listening to the Scriptures

A Prayer for Illumination

God of love, who renews at the table of grace, prepare us to receive the feast of your wisdom through the illumination of your Spirit. Nourish our souls with your Word that we may learn how to love our neighbors as you have loved us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A Reading from: 1 John 4:1-21

Thanks be to God for the Gift of the Scriptures

Thanks be to God

Special Music:

The Message “What’s Love Got to do with It” Rev Blake Lasater

Giving & Receiving

We invite you to participate with us by gathering your own elements of bread and wine, as well as water, the symbol of our baptism.

Remembering Our Baptism & Celebration of Communion

Sending Forth

A Musical Benediction

Go in Peace, and may the good Lord bless and keep you, may the good Lord bless and keep you, till we meet, till we meet again. Amen, Amen, Amen.
Opening Music:

Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto the Ancient of Days;
From ev'ry nation, all of creation, bow before the Ancient of Days.
Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth, shall declare Your glory,
ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne, in worship;
You will be exalted, O God, and Your kingdom shall not pass away, O
Ancient of Days.

Your Kingdom shall reign over all the earth, sing unto the Ancient of Days;
For none can compare to Your matchless worth, sing unto the Ancient of Days.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high, I will praise Him,
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign, Heaven and earth rejoice in
His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

Lord, You are, more precious than silver, Lord, You are, more costly than
gold,
Lord, You are, more beautiful than diamonds, and nothing I desire
compares with You.