

# Pathways

News from the Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

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

## the Season of *Advent* the Candle of Peace

7th of December 2025

The lighting of the Advent Wreath is not an ancient liturgy, but traces its origins to Germany and the Protestant Reformation. Both Catholics and Protestants adopted the wreath as part of their observances marking the time before Christmas. We are in a season where the light of day grows ever shorter and the darkness of night grows longer. The circle of candles of the Advent Wreath is a reminder that in the midst of darkness the light shines brighter. The candles mark the Sundays in Advent and carry a theme. Traditionally those themes are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, though other themes may be substituted. Each Sunday the circle of light grows a little brighter until on Christmas Eve we light the final candle, the Christ Candle symbolizing Christ's birth. Thus the circle is complete as Advent gives way to the twelve days of Christmas whereupon the Advent Wreath becomes a Christmas one full of light. Advent derives its name from the Latin word, 'adventus', which means a coming, an approach, or an arrival. When we prepare for a guest's arrival, we make preparations. We get our homes in order, we clean up, and we fix a meal. An 'adventus' was usually celebrated for an Emperor's visit, but the church uses it to set aside the weeks before Christmas as a time of preparation for the coming of Christ (both his birth and his second coming). The color is blue or purple. Purple is the color of repentance, one of the themes of Advent. Blue is the color of hope and promise. The third Sunday in Advent is pink, because it represents 'Joy' and is the day we read the scriptures about the Annunciation to Mary. You can make your own Advent Wreath at home, and there are many good devotions online you may follow as you mark these days before Christmas.

For unto us a child is born...

-Isaiah 9:6

**Advent**  
a weary world rejoices



# 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 <[lovespokenhere.org](https://lovespokenhere.org)>, or our YouTube Channel!

9:55 ~ Announcements

**Sunday, 7th of December, 2025**

**Ushers:** Gary Johnson & Jonathan Streety **Communion Stewards:** David & Lynn Baker, Christ Ritthaler, Kim Stryker

**Offering Counters:** Janet Arnett, Martie Davis

### We Gather to Worship

**“Sussex Carol: On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”**

**The Jubilee Ringers**

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Responsive Singing

“The Candle of Peace”

Dan & Suzie Bell

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (second verse, page 211 UMC Hymnal)

Communal Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

*Janet Arnett, Lay Minister*

### **Songs of Celebration\***

“I Want to Walk as a Child of Light” page 206 UMC Hymnal

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” page 220 UMC Hymnal



### We for God's Word

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 9:2-7

Steve Roberson, Liturgist

Thanks be to God for the gift of the Scriptures

**Thanks be to God!**

### **“Emmanuel, El Shaddai”**

By Sondra Tucker

**The Jubilee Ringers**

\*A reading from the Gospel of Luke 2:25-32

\*an Advent Affirmation

Janet Arnett, Lay Minister

### **A Video Reflection — “Peace”**

“A Weary World Rejoices: the Promise of Peace”

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.

## Exploring the New Testament

We are exploring the New Testament thru a series of lectures from the Great Courses called, "Understanding the New Testament" by Dr David Brakke. This will take up about thirty minutes, and then we'll spend 30 minutes discussing the topics he raises. We meet **Wednesdays in the church library at 6 PM**. All are welcome to attend.

## 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, small cast-iron pots/pans, thermal mens underwear (medium & large), warm men's hoodies/jackets, gloves, beanies, wool socks, cans of hearty soups/chili/SPAM, multi-packs oatmeal. One full-size mattress, full size sheets. Items can be left on narthex desk or at church office.

## Save the Dates!

## Important Happenings in the Life of ESUMC

## Get Involved!

## Make New Friends

## Make a Difference

**Mobile Food Pantry** church parking lot the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month**. Cars start lining up at 8:00 AM and we distribute until the food runs out, typically within an hour. 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.

**Blue Christmas, Friday, December 19, 6 PM**

**Christmas Contata, December 14** during worship service

**Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service, 5:30 PM**

**Jubilee Ringers Practice, Wednesdays 5 - 6 PM, Sanctuary**

**Ozarks Chorale Rehearsals** Tuesdays, from 6-8pm 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.

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## Theology on Tap

We had a wonderful and wide ranging conversation last week about deconstructing our faith. It was probably one of the best talks we have shared. Thank you to all who participated, and it was great to see Doug Philips, our former Associate Pastor there as well. Stay tuned for next months event, topic to be announced later.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.lovespokenhere.org) >

## December Mobile Food Pantry

December Dates for Mobile Food Pantry are **Wednesdays, December 10 & 17.** We start handing out food as soon as the NWA Food Bank Truck arrives with delivery, lately between 7:40 - 8:00 AM, and we provide until the food runs out - typically in less than hour.



United  
Women  
in Faith

**JOURNEY ~** Each year at this time we take a journey. It's Advent, a time for preparation as we travel with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. But we are so busy! There is so much to do and little time to prepare for the journey!

Author Hilary McDowell prays with us in our frustration: "God – this year, help me look forward, not to a perfect Christmas, but to a God-given one. If my dream fails, help me to be the one to bring hope, fun, and peace to those around me, in Jesus' name. **United Women in Faith believe that love in action can change the world.**

**Share Our Blessings Gathering, Saturday, December 6, 12:30 PM** at the home of Lynn Baker, 17 Starlite Avenue, Holiday Island. (Look for the yellow "Do Unto Other's" yard sign). Please bring a treat to share; warm socks for our homeless friends, and/or feminine hygiene items for the ES High School NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) group. Directions or ?'s: Call or text Lynn at 501.339.3458



# December

2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
A Weary World Rejoices: the Promise of Prophets	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 AM AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room Ozarks Chorale 6-8 PM FHall	Widow(er)s Support Group Noon Library Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		UWF - Sharing Our Blessings 12:30 pm at Lynn Baker's, 17 Starlite Ave Holiday Island
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A Weary World Rejoices: the Promise of Peace  Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room Caregivers Group 1 PM church library Ozarks Chorale 6-8 PM FHall	Mobile Food Pantry Parkinson's Group 10 AM Library Eureka! Quilters Meeting & Lunch Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A Weary World Rejoices: the Chancel Choir Cantata  The Promise of Joy	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room Leadership Team 4:30 PM Ozarks Chorale 6-8 PM FHall	Mobile Food Pantry Widow(er)s Support Group Noon Library Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Service of the Longest Night: a Blue Christmas Observance 6 PM	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
A Weary World Rejoices: the Promise of Love	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room Ozarks Chorale 6-8 PM FHall	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion 5:30 PM	Christmas Day!		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day  AI-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	A Weary World Rejoices an Advent Sermon Series	