

# 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.

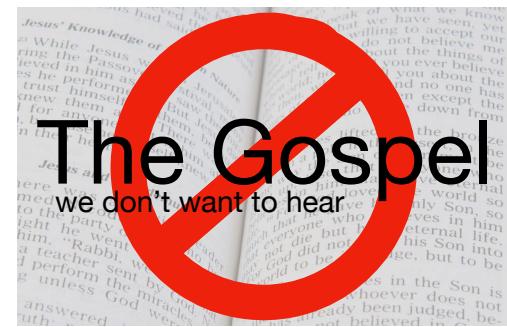
Fifth Sunday of Epiphanytide

# Epiphanytide

8th of February 2026

Yikes, **LENT** is just over a week away! We will be holding an Ash Wednesday Observance on the 18th of February at 6 PM. This is a service of repentance and ashes, and is a very special moment in the life of our faith community. Lent officially begins after the service. As we prepare for the Lenten season, now is the time to start considering your Lenten sacrifices. The possibilities are endless — fasting on certain days, giving up something you think you can live without (forget Dry January, try 40 days of no drinking). Maybe consider “taking-up” some new habit like daily Bible reading, a time of prayer, or volunteering to serve. Remember, it is called “Sundays in Lent” not “of Lent”, as Sundays are never to be designated fast days because they are always moments of celebration (which is why there are 40 days, not 46 days of Lent). I’ll have a set of daily devotions for Lent that will be posted on social media. I will also post a copy on the website that you may download, or just ask me, and I’ll give you a copy. Part of our Lenten worship will include what is called a “Tenebrae Ritual”, the extinguishing of candles to mark the days. We’ll do this as we enter into Communion time, the traditional moment when we confess our sins before coming to the table. Don’t worry, this will be corporate in nature, so no personal confessions please. Easter will be early this year, the first week in April, so plan to set aside Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we will have special worship services for each of those holy days. The choir is

frantically getting their cantata together, as they don’t have a lot of time this year to prepare. Of course their music is always inspiring and uplifting so I doubt they will have any trouble at all. Our sermon series for Lent is called, “**The 7 Last Words of Christ**”, each one being a certain biblical theme we would do well to keep in our hearts in times of trial and tribulation and we feel like we have no hope. Thank you to all who volunteered for the warming shelter. We were able to give shelter to a lady who had lost her apartment just as the snow began to fall. We couldn’t help people in need without you.



# 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](http://lovesspokenhere.org)>, or our YouTube Channel!

9:55 ~ Announcements

**Sunday, 8th of February, 2026**

**Ushers:** Dave & Martie Davis **Communion Stewards:** Sandy Dunn, Patti Marler, 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**

“My Hope is Built” page 368 UMC Hymnal

“Grace Alone” page 2162 Faith We Sing



### We Listen for God’s Word

A reading from the the Gospel of Matthew 5:27-32

Thanks be to God for the gift of the scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

### **“I Love to Tell the Story”**

Arr: Benjamin Kornelis

**The Chancel Choir**

**A Video Reflection — “Written On Your Heart”**

### **“The Gospel We Don’t Want to Hear:**

Toxic Masculinity

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

Pastor-led bible studies are 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. Thank you to all who have dropped off items.

## Church Warming Center

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. 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:** **February 15**, meet following Sunday service, Library  
**March 15**, meet following Sunday service, Library

**Jubilee Ringers Practice**, Wednesdays 4:30-6 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

## Transportation Ministry Drivers Needed

We have a Transportation Ministry through the generosity of a donor who gifted the church with a Nissan Murano for the designated purpose of providing transportation to the least, the lost, and the last so they can get to various medical, dental, eye appointments. 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.

## Church Columbarium

We are excited to announce that the church is going to install 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) >

## 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>January</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|-----------|----------------|------------|
| Giving:   | \$ 26,614      | \$ 26,614  |
| Expenses: | \$ 12,309      | \$ 12,309  |

\*Fiscal year begins July 1



United  
Women  
in Faith

### **REFRESH, RESTORE, RENEW ~A Woman's Day for Soul Care**

Take time for yourself with food, fellowship and faith on **Saturday, February 21st from 11 am – 3 pm** in our church fellowship hall. We will relax, laugh, break bread, and stretch body, mind and soul. The \$10 registration fee covers lunch and creative supplies. (Inclement Weather Option: Saturday, March 7). **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.

# February

2026

| January |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |

| 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   | 7                            |
| The Gospel We Don't Want to Hear: God May Not Like Your Church                                 | Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room<br><br><b>Candlemas: Presentation of Jesus to the Temple</b> | Yoga 9-10 AM<br>Al-Anon Noon<br>Youth Room<br>Ozarks Chorale<br>6:30 Fellowship Hall   | <b>Widow(er)s Support Group Noon</b><br><b>Jubilee Ringers 4:30-6 PM</b><br><b>Bible Study 6 PM</b>    | Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room |   |                              |
| 8  | 9   | 10   | 11   | 12                       | 13  | 14                           |
| The Gospel We Don't Want to Hear: Toxic Masculinity Matthew 5:27-30                            | Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room  | Yoga 9-10 AM<br>Al-Anon Noon<br>Youth Room<br>Caregivers Group 1 PM Library<br>Ozarks Chorale<br>6:30 Fellowship Hall  | <b>Mobile Food Pantry 8 AM</b><br><b>Jubilee Ringers 4:40-6 PM</b><br><b>Bible Study 6 PM</b>          | Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room |   | <b>Saint Valentine's Day</b> |
| 15   | 16  | 17   | 18   | 19                       | 20  | 21                           |
| <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b><br>The Gospel We Don't Want to Hear: Protestants God it Wrong??! | Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room<br><br><b>Presidents' Day</b>                                | Yoga 9-10 AM<br>Al-Anon Noon<br>Youth Room<br>Leadership Team 4:30 Library<br>Ozarks Chorale<br>6:30 Fellowship Hall<br><br><b>Fat Tuesday (Mardis Gras)</b> | <b>Widow(er)s Support Group Noon</b><br><br><b>Ash Wednesday Service at 6 PM</b><br><b>Lent Begins</b> | Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room |  |                              |
| 22   | 23  | 24   | 25   | 26                       | 27  | 28                           |
| <b>First Sunday in Lent</b><br><b>7 Last Words: "Heaven is More Open Than We Think"</b>        | Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room  | Yoga 9-10 AM<br>Al-Anon Noon<br>Ozarks Chorale<br>6:30 Fellowship Hall   | <b>Mobile Food Pantry 8 AM</b><br><b>Jubilee Ringers 4:30-6 PM</b><br><b>Bible Study 6 PM</b>          | Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room |   |                              |