

Pathways

News from the Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

Baptism

of the Lord Sunday

At Baptism God places a song in your heart. And this is the song: Heaven is open to you; God's Spirit is in you; you mean everything to God. You are music to God's heart, and God will never forget your song. And we, who love you, promise to learn the song so well that we can sing it back to you when you forget how it goes.

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

11th of January 2026

We celebrate today the Baptism of our Lord. Interestingly, there are differences in the four gospels as to this story. Who actually baptized Jesus? Matthew and Mark tell us it was John. Luke is a bit hesitant to talk about it, only implying John did. The Gospel of John doesn't mention the actual baptism. In Matthew God's voice is heard by all, in Mark and Luke only Jesus hears it. In John's Gospel, John the Baptist talks about seeing Jesus baptized but never narrates the story of his baptism. Mark wants to make baptism the start of Jesus' ministry. Luke uses it to highlight his prayer and humanity. Matthew's baptism reveals Jesus as king and messiah, and John, though never mentioning it, emphasizes Jesus' divine nature as part of John the Baptist's testimony. Nowhere in the gospels are we told the disciples were ever baptized by Jesus. In fact, Jesus never baptizes anyone. Paul, our earliest Christian writer, talks a lot about baptism — dying and rising with Christ, a new nature, being transformed. He even tells us he kept no record of who he baptized, because those Corinthians ranked themselves in importance by who baptized them (apparently being baptized by Apollos was the gold standard, Paul just says it doesn't really matter). Baptism eventually became a sacrament and an initiation into the church. Easter morning was the most popular day for baptisms. In the early days of the church, it was done in the nude, and when you came up out of the water



you were given new white clothes, symbolizing the new life and identity in Christ. Thank goodness we can let go of some traditions, but that is another hint that women played significant leadership roles as no male would have been allowed to baptize a naked female initiate. As United Methodists we believe Baptism is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. It's not the amount of water that saves, but the grace of God. May we all remember our Baptism this day and recommit ourselves to the work of Christ.

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>, or our YouTube Channel!

9:55 ~ Announcements

Sunday, 11th of January, 2026

Ushers: Dennis & Shirley Lykins **Communion Stewards:** Candis Drechsler, Susan Reed, Kevin Graham, Jess Wade

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett, Martie Davis

We Gather to Worship

Welcome

A Call to Worship for the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

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

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" page 500 UMC Hymnal

"Baptized in Water" page 2248 Faith We Sing



We Listen for God's Word

A reading from the the Gospels, the Baptism of Our Lord

Thanks be to God for the gift of the scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

"Down In the River to Pray"

An African-American Spiritual

Chris Ritthaler, Soloist

A Video Reflection — "I Surrender All"

"The Baptism of Our Lord"

Rev Blake Lasater

We Give & Receive Love

Remembrance of our Baptism

(A special Liturgy for the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday)

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.

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/FUtb9QuPNvJj1g7A>

Church Financials

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving:	\$ 40,452	\$ 125,737
Expenses:	\$ 14,528	\$ 96,913
*Fiscal year begins July 1		



United
Women
in Faith

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.

January

2026

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Childermas: the Holy Innocents, a 'Debbie Downer'			New Year's Eve	New Year's Day		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Epiphany Sunday... "Gifts We Give"	Twelfth Night, last day of Christmas Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Feast of the Epiphany Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon Noon Youth Room	Parkinsons' Group 10 AM Library Widow(er)s Group Noon Library Bible Study Resumes 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
The Baptism of Our Lord Sunday United Women in Faith Meet after Service in Library	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon Noon Youth Room Caregivers Group 1 PM Library	Mobile Pantry Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
The Gospel We Don't Want to Hear: Sex, Shame, and Sin	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room MLK Jr Day (office closed)	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon Noon Youth Room Leadership Team 4:30 Library	Widow(er)s Group Noon Library Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
The Gospel We don't Want to Hear: God Expects What of Us?	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon Noon Youth Room	Mobile Pantry Bible Study 6 PM			Blake's Birthday