

Pathways

News from Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

First Sunday after the
Epiphany

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

Baptism of Our Lord

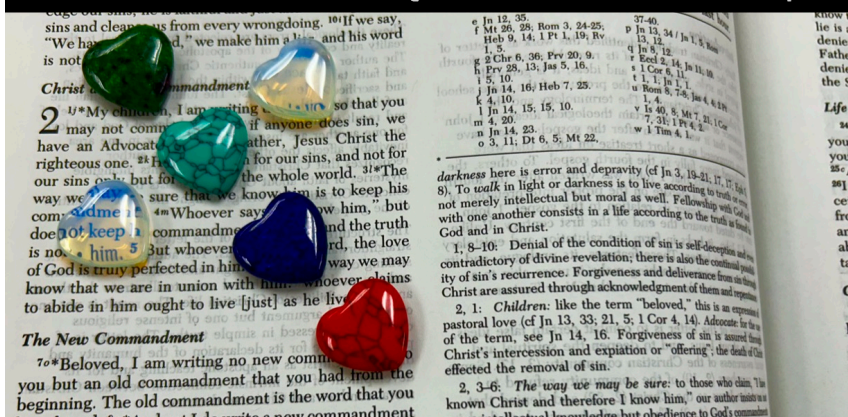
12th of January 2025

In many older churches in Europe, the baptismal font stands at the entry to the sanctuary to serve as a reminder that it is at the font our journey thru life begins. Baptized in water, cleansed by the Spirit, we die to our former selves and rise as followers of Christ. The font is the place of new beginnings and new life. It is a tradition at this church that we “remember our Baptism” each Sunday that we are here. It is a simple ritual: dipping our fingers in the water and making the sign of the cross. We promise to walk in the footsteps of Christ, serving the Kingdom, and spreading love wherever we go. In one of my favorite baptismal rituals these words are proclaimed: *“At Baptism God places a song in your heart. Those who sponsor you will learn this song so well that they can sing it back to you when you forget how it goes. And this is the Song: heaven is open to you; God’s Spirit is in you; you are everything to God. What does this mean? That you are a song in God’s heart, and God will never forget that song.”* This is a beautiful baptismal metaphor, reminding us of how much God loves each of us. It is interesting that there are very few stories of baptism in the Bible. Yes, Jesus’ baptism is the most famous, but next comes the gentile Cornelius and the Ethiopian Eunuch. The baptism of the disciples is never mentioned, and neither is Paul’s described. Today is the Sunday we call, “The Baptism of the Lord,” a Sunday in the Christian year that we remember Jesus’ baptism and renew our own baptismal vows. I like how John Wesley simplified things: we *promise to do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.* So today, when you come to the font and renew your baptism I want you to think first and foremost that God’s love and Spirit have been poured into your life. You are indeed a song in God’s heart! Secondly, I want you to consider the promises you made when you first became a Christian. The words may be different, but ultimately that boil down to Wesley’s simple formula — do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. It is a beautiful thought that our lives began the moment God’s love was poured into us. That is the gift and treasure of our Baptism.

A Sermon Series for Epiphanytide

Clobbering the Clobber Verses

Understanding What the Bible Does and Doesn't Say



The Gathering

Order of Worship

Janet Arnett, Lay Speaker
Melodye Purdy, Video Production
Jubilee Ringers conducted by Beverly Beard
Patricia Taylor, Pianist

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

9:55 ~ Announcements

Sunday, 12th of January, 2025

Ushers: James & Ruth Mitchell **Communion Stewards:** Janet Arnett, Mike & Susan Reed, Chris Ritthaler

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett & Diane Jones

We Gather to Worship

Greeting

Prayer for Illumination

Opening Song:

"Baptized in Water" Page 22248 Faith We Sing

Communal Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer

Songs of the Community

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" Page 2151 Faith We Sing

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee" Page 2158 Faith We Sing



We Listen to God's Spirit

A reading from Acts 8:26-40

Thanks be to God for the gift of the Scriptures

Thanks be to God

"Like a River in My Soul"

Written by: Tim Osiek

The Chancel Choir

A Video Reflection: "The New is Here"

The Message:

"Clobbering the Clobber Verses: Human Sexuality"

Rev Blake Lasater

We Give Thanks for the Gifts of God

Baptism Renewal

Holy Communion

(All our welcome to eat and drink at the table of Christ. The 'Wine' is just grape juice, but the Spirit of God is found in the breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup)

Sending Song

"Spirit Song" Page 347 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)

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. Questions? Call Peggy Way 479.253.1583 Masks are optional.

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. Join us as we gather to share experiences and support each other on this journey. All are welcome. If you know a widow(er), let them know about our group.

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!

Save the Dates!

Important Happenings

in the Life of ESUMC

Get Involved!

Make New Friends

Spread Joy

Bible Study Wednesdays 6 pm in the church library. We use Dr. Amy Jill Levine's [Great Courses Lectures](#) for the first 30 minutes and then use study questions to start a discussion. These lectures take us thru the books of the Old Testament.

Youth Group Wednesdays, 4-5:30 pm. All are welcome!

Mobile Food Pantry church parking lot the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month**. Cars start lining up at 8:45 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, call the church by Noon on Mondays to be added to our very limited delivery schedule.

Eureka! Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall the 2nd Wednesday of each month for conversation, information and lunch. A great group of men & women quilters, open to all skill levels.

Yoga 9-10 am Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.



United
Women
in Faith

On behalf of ESUMC's Unhoused & Shower Ministries, we extend a heartfelt gratitude for the donation of \$850 in support of these church ministries. There has been great need over the last few weeks and the shelves are bare, but this will allow us to resupply and keep making progress. Thank you!

Church Financials

In an effort to be informative and transparent, here are the December financials:

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving:	\$24,941.56	\$244,591.95
Expenses:	\$24,078.04	\$242,517.38
Special Giving Giving Generation:	\$11,597.15	

Theology on Tap

Date TBD

Update or Add Information for Church Records

For your convenience, laminated QR codes are available in the pews as well as posted around the church and narthex for ease in keeping our member records accurate. Please take a moment to follow this link to make sure your information is current. Thank you.

Shower/Laundry & Homeless Ministry Requested Items

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.**

Current needs: Nutrient Dense canned goods: Chili, Ravoli, pasta & sauce, soups, breakfast bars, oatmeal, Study Bibles, Men & women's warm outerwear, men & women sturdy sneakers/hiking boots, Lg & med. size thermal underwear (men & women), hoodies, 1.5 QT crock pots, toasters, bibles. Please make sure clothing donations are clean. Donations can be dropped off at the church. **Thank you to all our faithful donors and supporters of this ministry!**

Youth Night-Out Wednesdays 4-5:30 pm Church Youth Room

The Youth Group is open to all teens aged 13-17. Transportation is available (Call 479.244.8987) This ministry will facilitate important connections with our youth, while providing a safe place to meet each week. Would you be willing to be a mentor? Volunteer? Make snacks? There is a **youth night out box for snack donations** in the Narthex. Your participation is appreciated. For **more information contact: 515.368.1012**

Exploring the Old Testament

We are starting a new bible study that will serve as an introduction to the Old Testament. These are lectures by Dr Amy Jill Levine, a noted biblical scholar. This will take up about thirty minutes, and then we'll spend 30 minutes discussing the topics she raises. We meet **Wednesdays in the church library at 6 PM.** All are welcome to attend.

Shower Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Our Shower/Laundry Ministry is a much needed mission in this community and has experienced exponential growth over the last couple years. Going forward we are implementing Mondays & Wednesdays as shower/laundry days from 9-1PM. We are **looking for volunteers in the office to help facilitate this ministry.** Training is provided. This could be one Monday or Wednesday per week or month to suit your schedule. Contact the office for more information on serving the least, the lost, and the last. You will be so blessed serving in this role. 479.253.8987. EsfumclInfo@gmail.com.

January

2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<div>Clobbering the Clobber Verses</div> <div>Understanding What the Bible Actually Says, an Epiphany Sermon Series</div>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<div>Epiphany Sunday</div> <div>Pastor's Open House</div> <div>Verses about Inerrancy</div>	<div>Twelfth Night</div> <div>AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm</div>	<div>Yoga 9 AM FHall</div> <div>AI-Anon/Women 10 AM Youth Rm</div> <div>Scouts 6 PM Youth RM</div>	<div>Mobile Food Pantry</div> <div>Bridge Class 1-3 pm Youth RM</div> <div>Parkinson's Support 10 AM Library</div> <div>Eureka! Quilters 10:30-1:30 FHall</div> <div>Youth 4-5:30</div> <div>Jubilee Ringers 5:00</div> <div>Bible Study 6 PM</div> <div>Scouts 6 PM Youth Rm</div>	<div>AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm</div>		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<div>Baptism of the Lord</div> <div>Verses about "Homosexuality"</div>	<div>AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm</div>	<div>Yoga 9 AM FHall</div> <div>Caregiver's Support 1 PM Library</div> <div>Scouts 6 PM Youth RM</div>	<div>Widow(er)s Support</div> <div>Group-Burning Bowl Noon Library</div> <div>Bridge Class 1-3 pm Youth RM</div> <div>Youth 4-5:30</div> <div>Bible Study 6 PM</div> <div>Jubilee Ringers 5 PM</div>	<div>AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm</div>		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<div>Verses about Women</div>	<div>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</div> <div>AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm</div>	<div>Yoga 9 AM FHall</div> <div>Leadership Team Meeting 5 PM</div> <div>Scouts 6 PM Youth RM</div>	<div>Mobile Food Pantry</div> <div>Bridge Class 1-3 pm Youth RM</div> <div>Youth 4-5:30</div> <div>Bible Study 6 PM</div> <div>Jubilee Ringers 5 PM</div>	<div>AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm</div>		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<div>Verses about the End-Times</div>	<div>AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm</div>	<div>Yoga 9 AM FHall</div> <div>Scouts 6 PM Youth RM</div>	<div>Widow(er)s Support</div> <div>Group Noon Library</div> <div>Youth 4-5:30 PM</div> <div>Bible Study 6 PM</div> <div>Jubilee Ringers 5 PM</div>	<div>AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm</div>		