

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 Candle of Joy the Season of Advent

14th of December 2025

Thank you to Susan Reed and Chris Ritthaler for helping us with the Third Sunday of Advent fabric. The third Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete Sunday”, from the first words spoken during the liturgy — “REJOICE”. The color is pink to celebrate the Virgin Mary’s joy when the angel told her God had chosen her to be the mother of Christ. Thanks to Chris and Susan we are able to change the banners to a pink rose color as well as the pastor’s stole. It is also wonderful that the Chancel Choir have chosen this day to perform their cantata, “A Weary World Rejoices”. They will lead us in worship as they celebrate this joyous day thru singing, prayers, and scriptures. Listening to them practice, I think the cantata will be amazingly beautiful. The scriptures for “Gaudete Sunday” are taken from Luke’s Gospel, the first chapter, In Luke’s infancy narrative, Mary takes center stage as we are told stories of the annunciation, Elizabeth’s greeting, and Mary’s wonderful magnificat. I encourage you to read those stories as you get ready for worship. We’ll reuse the color pink during the season of Lent as the fourth Sunday of that season is called, “Laetare Sunday” or “Refreshment Sunday”, as it is halfway thru the forty days and a time to take a little break from the Lenten disciplines. Don’t forget that Blue Christmas is on the 19th at 6 PM. We have lots of special music from our choir and a solo by Loretta Crenshaw, along with special guests, the Berryville Woodwind Quintet. Patricia Taylor will be playing Leonoard Cohen’s ‘Hallelujah’ during the candle lighting. Christmas Eve begins at 5:30 PM on the 24th, an evening of candlelight, carols, and communion. For those of you traveling this Christmas season, our prayers go with you. Enjoy the time spent with family!

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>, or our YouTube Channel!

9:55 ~ Announcements

Sunday, 14th of December, 2025

Ushers: Audrey & Steve Falkowski **Communion Stewards:** Lori Luney, Patti Marler, Jay Parker, Jean Reed

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett, Kevin Graham

We Gather to Worship

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Responsive Singing

"The Candle of Joy"

"Joy to the World" page 246 UMC Hymnal

Karen Kinsel & Cheryl Rutledge

Choir Cantata

"A Weary World Rejoices"

By Joseph M. Martin

The Chancel Choir

Jess Wade, conductor — Patricia Taylor, pianist

Andi Schomaker, flute — Glen Foster, trumpet

Narration by: Sue Graham & Jean Reed



We Listen for God's Word

A Video Reflection — "Joy"

"A Weary World Rejoices: the Promise of Joy, a Communion Homily"

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*

A special thank you to Jess Wade and the Chancel Choir for all the work they have put in to making this a very special service of worship and celebration.

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, 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.

Church Warming Center

With the cold weather, 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. 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

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 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.

Blue Christmas, Friday, December 19, 6 PM with special music

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 6-8 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

Christmas Pew Candles

To add to the worship experience for Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, Easter Sunrise, and All Saints, the church would like to purchase pew candles that attach to the end of the pews and stand about seven feet (the candle sits atop inside a glass globe. These pew candles are \$250 a piece and we need 8 of them. Could you chip in and buy one?

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 >

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.

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

SOCKS ~ Sometimes that is all it takes to make someone's life a little bit better. Our unit of United Women in Faith recently gathered for the traditional "Sharing of Blessings". At year's end we empty our treasury and share the funds with local groups providing ministries with women, children and youth. This year funds will help our school children have enough to eat over their winter break. We also collected feminine hygiene items for high school students. And...the socks. Thirty pairs of socks to keep feet warm and dry this winter through our church's ministry with our homeless friends. Sometimes it takes food, hygiene products and a new pair of socks.

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 has been working with them to help get them low cost or free phone service.

A Current Example of Need: One of our clients has multiple appointments for cataract surgery over the next two weeks. Our Transportation Team is providing him rides to appointments. He is not able to contact the eye clinics, insurance company, or the church for information critical to his surgery schedule. Contacting him for logistics during this need of service would be very beneficial.

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!		A Weary World Rejoices an Advent Sermon Series
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		