

Pathways

News from the Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

Epiphanytide

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

18th of January 2026

Epiphanytide, or Ordinary Time, the season between the cycles of Christmas and Easter. These next few Sundays will lead us up to Lent. Our sermon series we are embarking upon is titled, [“The Gospel We Don’t Want to Hear”](#), and we’ll be looking at the teachings of Jesus and a few lessons from the Old Testament as well that might leave us a bit uncomfortable. Frankly, teachings that we probably don’t want to hear. Perhaps you have heard these teachings before, but we are going to look at them from new angles. First up is forgiveness, something we all want for ourselves, but we don’t want to offer to others. [Warming Shelter:](#) Whether or not winter is coming (I would not bet against it) we still need to prepare to serve the most vulnerable in our community. As you know we have shower and laundry facilities, and a generator, allowing us to open as an emergency shelter. When temperatures drop to the single digits this can be life-threatening

for people living in their cars or in tents. Partnering with the Berryville United Methodist Church we are offering the church to the homeless during these cold nights. Berryville will host the men, and we will host women and children. We do this for safety reasons, as we are unable to run background checks at such a short notice, and we want to offer mothers and their children the promise of safety.

THANK YOUS: A big shout-out to Dave Graham for smoking several pounds of pulled pork that have been placed in our freezers so that we can feed these guests when they are here overnight. I want to thank Jackie Rose, Janet Arnett, Jess Wade, and Kevin Graham for working so hard to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

This requires a lot of work as we change things out multiple times to match the church calendar. The sanctuary looked beautiful, and all of us know how hard it is putting all the decorations away. Thank you to all of you that have been bringing treats for the Narthex pre-church gatherings. It is fun to be able to sit down with many of you and fellowship before church begins. Remember, come early on Sunday morning and enjoy some coffee, treats, and conversation. Hope to see you on Sunday!



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, 18th of January, 2026

Ushers: Dennis & Shirley Lykins **Communion Stewards:** Sandy Dunn, Jay Parker, Chris Ritthaler, Kim Stryker

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett, Paul Gandy

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

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" page 140 UMC Hymnal

"Wonderful Words of Life" page 600 UMC Hymnal



We Listen for God's Word

A reading from the the Gospel of Luke, 15:11-32

Thanks be to God for the gift of the scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

"Dona Nobis Pacem - Spirit of the Living God"

Robin Burk, Native Flute

A Video Reflection — "Homecoming"

"The Gospel We Don't Want to Hear: Forgiveness is Non-negotiable"

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

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. **OTHER WAYS TO SERVE:** Very rarely one of our homeless is in need of a haircut, typically, in preparation for a job opportunity. Perhaps you have that talent and might like to offer your services gratis. Contact the office if you are interested in sharing your talent. 479.253.8987

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. 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.

Jubilee Ringers Practice, Wednesdays 5 - 6 PM, Sanctuary
Scout Troop 67 Tuesday & Wednesdays 6 PM, youth room

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. Columbarium Contracts are located in the literature rack near the narthex desk. You can also pick up a contract at the church office or visit 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>



United
Women
in Faith

Let There Be Peace on Earth and Let It Begin with Me ~ UMH #431 reminds us of Jesus' words in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers..." Matthew 5:9. Even in uncertainty and when we don't know exactly where the path in front of us might lead, we can move forward with God and work to bring about peace with justice. Hold my hand. We will walk this path together. **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.

Year-End Giving Statements

Year-End Giving Statements will be mailed out towards the end of January. To ensure timely delivery, please let us know if you have an address update. Thank you.

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 Ozarks Chorale 6:30 Fellowship Hall	Parkinsons' Group 10 AM Library Widow(er)s Group Noon Library Jubilee Ringers 5-6:30 Sanctuary 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 Ozarks Chorale 6:30 Fellowship Hall	Mobile Pantry Eureka! Quilters 11-1:30 pm FHall Jubilee Ringers 5-6:30 Sanctuary 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 Ozarks Chorale 6:30 Fellowship Hall	Widow(er)s Group Noon Library Jubilee Ringers 5-6:30 Sanctuary 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 Ozarks Chorale 6:30 Fellowship Hall	Mobile Pantry Jubilee Ringers 5-6:30 Sanctuary Bible Study 6 PM			Blake's Birthday