

the season of

# Kingdomtide

# Pathways

News from the Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

20th of July 2025

Today we start our Summer Sermon Series, a study of Mark's Gospel verse by verse. Here are some important things to keep in mind. "Mark" was written in the 1st Century AD at a time when only 3% of the population could read, and even less could actually write. "Mark" would not have been read by individuals but performed orally, thru dramatic reading by an expert. It would take just under two hours to read Mark's Gospel aloud, and this is how the vast majority of the early Christians would have heard the gospel — all at once! It would not have been cut up not chapter and verses and those passages individually read (we must wait a thousand years before someone came up with the idea of adding those divisions). "Mark" was written in the '60s AD, a decade of great turmoil and change. The disciples are dying as are anyone who had known Jesus. Peter and Paul would be executed by the Emperor Nero. Jerusalem and its Temple are destroyed by the Legions, leaving behind only two Jewish groups — the Pharisees and the Jesus followers. Both will have to define their faith in new ways. One will become the followers of Judaism, and the other will become Christians. We do not know who wrote "Mark", and the title itself appears nowhere in the writing, and neither does the author identify himself (or herself). It is the first gospel to be written. It is the shortest as well. "Mark" does not go into a lot of details, so pay close attention to the details the writer does add, for they speak volumes. In the story of the fishes and loaves, the writer emphasizes that the people were in a desert place. Then when Jesus breaks bread and tells them to sit down, they sit on the green grass. The Old Testament prophets had promised that when God's kingdom would appear the deserts would bloom. These are the little details to pay attention to in Mark's Gospel. So, bring your bibles, bring a notebook, and a pencil or pen and let's experience this wonderful tale the way the early church would have first experienced it — as one continuous story!



# The Gathering

## Order of Worship

Janet Arnett, Lay Speaker  
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](https://lovespokenhere.org)>, or our YouTube Channel!

9:55 ~ Announcements

**Sunday, 20th of June, 2025**

**Ushers:** Steve & Audrey Falkowski **Communion Stewards:** Janet Arnett, Sandy Dunn, Chris Ritthaler, Karen Kinsel

**Offering Counters:** Janet Arnett, Diane Jones

### We Gather to Worship

Greeting

Kingdomtide Opening

"Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet"

page 601

Community Prayer

*Janet Arnett, Lay Minister*

Our Lord's Prayer

### **Songs of Celebration**

"When in Our Music God is Glorified" page 68 UMC Hymnal  
"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" page 277 UMC Hymnal

The Prayer of Illumination

a reading from the Gospel of Mark 1:1-13

Thanks be to God for the gift of the Scriptures

**Thanks be to God!**

### **"He Was Despised"**

from Handel's "Messiah"

**Anja Tuominen**

**Opera of the Ozarks**

A Video Reflection — "Not Alone"

**Mark: the beginning of the Good News**

"Beginnings"

*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)*



## 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

## Make a Difference

## Spread Joy

**Bible Study Wednesdays 6 pm** in the church library. We use Dr. David Brakke'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 New Testament.

**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. Thank you for the recent contribution of 24 beautiful hand made quilts that were delivered to local non-profit groups!

**Widow(ers) Group** meet the **first and third Wednesdays of each month from Noon - 1 PM in the church library**. Occasionally, they plan a luncheon outing. 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.

**Yoga 9-10 am Tuesdays** in Fellowship Hall, \$8. All are welcome.

**Theology On Tap, Sunday, July 20th, 5 PM at GotaHold Brewing.** All are welcome. Twisted Taco Food truck on site. YUM! See below for more info.

***Precious Jesus, Continue to increase our faith as we go through the challenges of life. Increase our courage and boldness to fight for the injustices around us. Let your love and grace continue to dwell in us as we bear your light to the world.*** Prayer by Alpha May Tomas, Deaconess, Santa Ana UMC, Santa Ana, CA from response July/August 2025. **United Women in Faith - we believe that love in action can change the world.**



United  
Women  
in Faith

## Theology on Tap

Our next Theology on Tap is on **Sunday, July 20th** at Gotahold Brewery. Save the Date. Discussion starts at 5, but come early and grab some dinner at the Twisted Taco! This evening's topic concerns the book by John Paul Lederach, "The Pocket Guide for Facing Down a Civil War". Let's be honest, the political climate in this nation is getting downright violent. Somehow we have to bring both sides back together in a civil discourse or more and more people will entertain the thought that violence is the answer. So pick up a copy of John Paul's book and let's have a conversation about being united again.



## 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.**

## Youth Group

**The Youth Group will resume in the fall.** Thank you to all the volunteers who kept this group together, inspired, and learning. Your ministry is very much appreciated.

## 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.

## Ride to Sunday Church Services Needed

There is a woman who has called several times looking for a ride & back to Sunday Services. She lives in an apartment at 15 Pivot Rock Road, ES. If you might be able to offer her a ride from time to time, that would be appreciated. We have the church Nissan Murano available for use if you like. Please let Blake know or call the church office to volunteer. 479.253.8987 Thank you.

## Transportation Ministry Drivers Needed

The church has a **Nissan Murano** (thanks to the generosity of a church member) 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 appointments in Carroll County. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact us 479.253.8987 or [Esfumclnfo@gmail.com](mailto:Esfumclnfo@gmail.com) and we will add your name to the list. When we get a request I send out a group email with dates, times, location and client name and if you are available to take that appointment, you respond to the email accordingly and I make the arrangements. This is a great way to serve the least, the last, and the lost. 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 Library Chapter & Verse

The library recommendation for this week is another book by Mitch Albom. [Have a Little Faith: A True Story](#) (296.7/Alb) relates the author's efforts to eulogize a beloved rabbi who is near death, while at the same time befriending a Detroit pastor who gives spiritual guidance to the poor and homeless. Albom describes how observing these two different religious leaders rekindled his own faith. A short, worthwhile read...

## Church Finances

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving:	\$16,335.01	\$142,070.64
Expenses:	\$32,143.15	\$175,864.92

## Annual Church Yard Sale

We will hold our annual church yard sale in conjunction with the War Eagle Craft Fair taking place on **October 16-18, 2025. SAVE THE DATE!** Clean, good working donations are accepted during office hours, including tools, furniture, furnishings, sporting goods, etc. We do not accept clothing items. Those can be donated to Echo Thrift Store.



# July

2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
1700th Anniversary of Nicaea: What is Faith?	Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed	Parkinsons Group 10 AM Widow(er)s Group Noon Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed	Independence Day	Redbirds at Gotahold Brewing
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Office Closed  National Day of Rock n Roll	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed Caregivers Group 1 PM Church Library	Mobile Pantry 8 AM Eureka! Quilters Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM Church Library	Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed	National Blueberry Muffin Day	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
United Women in Faith Sunday Roy Beth Kelly, DS, preaching (There will be cake!)	Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed	Widow(er)s Group noon Church Library Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM Church Library	Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed		National Play Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Gospel of Mark: in the beginning  Theology on Tap 5 PM GotaHold Brewing	Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed Leadership Team Meets 5 PM	Mobile Pantry 8 AM Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM Church Library	Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Gospel of Mark: repentance & forgiveness	Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed	Widow(er)s Outing  Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM Church Library	Al-Anon 10 AM/Mixed		