

the Candle of
Love

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 Season of
Advent

21st of December 2025

(A Christmas Letter From Rev. Doctor Richard Brooks:) For many years at Christmas I have written a letter with a personal note to each family as I know you. This year is a little different as I just don't see as well and my fingers don't type or write like they used to. My granddaughter has been helping me with all of my correspondence so I have asked her to help me with the letters this year, thus the reason for no personal note at the bottom of the letter.....How do you say in a letter all of what Christmas means? Each of us has to decide what is important and by what standards to live. Christmas gives us a great perspective of how much difference one many can make. From Jesus' birth, childhood, death, and resurrection there are many lessons. We decide how much meaning this is given in our lives and what kind of person we want to be. I grew up close to grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins. The family was a mixture of migrant offspring from Scotland, Germany, England, and Ireland. The family standard was set by my Scottish grandparents consisting of large family gatherings at Christmas. Even Sunday dinners drew a crowd of 15 at times. This went on from as early as I can remember to 1936 when 3 of my grandparents passed away. During these years, and through the great depression, we at times had to live with grandparents, and they in turn had to live with us. These were difficult times financially but looking back, there were no better memories than all of us being together. Church is what comes closest to that feeling for me; gathering with family, friends, and neighbors, practicing what Jesus taught. I urge you to make the effort to travel if needed and be together with your family and loved ones if at all possible, as often as finances permit. This embodies what Christmas means to me and will likely be what means the most to you and your loved ones as time moves forward. I would love to be in church with you every Sunday, but just know I am there in spirit. I have my memories of many of you which I draw happiness and comfort from daily. I appreciate very much all of you who write and have visited and who have sent pictures and updates from your lives and the events at the church. I hope there are wonderful Christmas programs and celebrations, and I would love to get an account of the celebrations. Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year! Richard Brooks. (Dr Brooks was a long time servant of our church, serving as an interim pastor, but also as a child of God who kept serving. He is 105 years old.)



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, 21st of December, 2025

Ushers: Mike & Susan Reed **Communion Stewards:** Karen Kinsel, Pam Steinke, Kevin Graham, Jess Wade

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett, Shirley Lykins

We Gather to Worship

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Responsive Singing

"The Candle of Love"

Clif & Becca Ritter

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" page 211 UMC Hymnal, Verse 4

Prayers of the Congregation & Our Lord's Prayer

Janet Arnett, Lay Minister

Songs of the People

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" page 234 UMC Hymnal

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel" page 204 UMC Hymnal

We Listen for God's Word



A reading from the Prophet Micah (5:2-5)

Martie Davis, Liturgist

Thanks be to God for the gift of the scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

"Glory, Hodie!"

By Robert W. Thygerson

The Chancel Choir

*A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (1:18-25)

An Advent Affirmation of Faith

Janet Arnett, Lay Minister

A Video Reflection — "Love"

"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*

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

Bible Study is on Christmas Break, we will return in January to finish up the New Testament and then start a study on the Book of Revelation and how we can rescue it from the kooks and restore it as a book of hope.

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. A huge thank you for the donation & delivery of a full size mattress for a client that was sleeping on the floor!

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. 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 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.

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service, 5:30 PM

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

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 tall (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

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 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; creating yet more hurdles for the people we serve.

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	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 AM Al-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	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		UWF - Sharing Our Blessings 12:30 pm at Lynn Baker's
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A Weary World Rejoices: the Promise of Peace Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Al-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	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A Weary World Rejoices: the Chancel Choir Cantata The Promise of Joy	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room Leadership Team 4:30 PM	Mobile Food Pantry Widow(er)s Support Group Noon Library Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM	Al-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	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	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	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	Al-Anon 10 AM Youth Room	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day		