

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.

1st Sunday in Lent

22nd of February 2026

Lent has begun, a season of 40 days. It is a time of prayer and fasting. Traditionally people have opted to “give-up” something — alcohol, eating meat, chocolate, but recently Christians have been “taking-up” something and building new habits. They will volunteer at local soup kitchens, food banks, or other ministries of the church. They may set aside time for scripture reading or prayer. I hope you find someway to observe Lent. I promise you it can change your life. Remember, that Sundays are not considered part of the Lenten season. Sundays are days of feasting and celebration, not fasting. You are free to break your fast on those days, but most don’t, because once you have given up something it is just harder to pick it back up and then start again. The liturgical color is purple, though the 4th Sunday in Lent is known as “Laetare” Sunday, ‘laetare’ simply is Latin for “rejoice”. On that day we will switch colors to pink -- it is simply a brief pause to give thanks for God’s grace. Our sermon series is called, “7 Last Words”. We will take each of the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross and match them to a scripture and lesson. This Sunday we are focusing on Jesus’ rather radical promise he gave to the thief on the cross: “Today, you will be with me in Paradise.” There’s a whole lot to unpack there, and his promise challenges a lot of our assumptions about heaven and hell and salvation. A story from Genesis will help guide us. Though she’s a rather minor character that hardly gets any notice, her life is a remarkable commentary on the grace and love of God. We will be adding two liturgies for Lent, an opening candle ritual composed by Pam Steinke and then a confessional liturgy before communion. This Sunday the Jubilee Ringers will be offering two special sets of music to open this season of Lent, and the choir is hurriedly working on their cantata — there wasn’t much of a break between Christmas and Easter, so keep them in your prayers. Be sure and plan to participate in Holy Week — Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunrise.



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, 22nd of February, 2026

Ushers: Dave and Martie Davis **Communion Stewards:** Sandy Dunn, Patti Marler, Chris Ritthaler, Pam Steinke

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett, Chris Ritthaler

We Gather to Worship

Welcome

Special Music

"Lenten Meditation" by Sondra Tucker

the Jubilee Ringers

A Lenten Candle Ritual

by Pam Steinke

Opening Song

"Jesus Remember Me"

page 488 UMC Hymnal

Prayers of the Congregation & Our Lord's Prayer

Janet Arnett, Lay Minister

Songs of the People

"Bring Forth the Kingdom" page 2190 Faith We Sing

"Living For Jesus" page 2149 Faith We Sing



We Listen for God's Word

A reading from the the Epistle of Genesis 16:1-16

Thanks be to God for the gift of the scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

"We're You There at Gethsemane"

By Jason Krug

The Jubilee Ringers

A Video Reflection — "Nothing Can Separate Us"

"Seven Last Words: Today, you will be with me in Paradise

Heaven Is More Open Than We Think

Rev Blake Lasater

We Give & Receive Love

Remembrance of our Baptism, a Liturgy of Redemption

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 Wednesdays

Pastor-led bible studies are 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), men's hoodies/jackets, gloves, beanies, wool soft granola bars, multi-packs oatmeal. Thank you to all who have dropped off items.

Church Warming Center

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. We need volunteers (minimum of two each night) who are able to stay overnight; you can also schedule a 4-6 hour shift, perhaps serve a meal. Blake will post on FB when the shelter is 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.

United Women in Faith: **February 15**, meet following Sunday service, Library
February 21, Saturday 11 AM - 3 PM Women's Soul Care Retreat Refresh, Restore, Renew; Fellowship Hall
March 15, meet following Sunday service, Library

Lay Servant Ministries Training, Saturday, April 11 9-4:30 PM, REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Jubilee Ringers Practice, Wednesdays 4:30-6 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

Transportation Ministry Drivers Needed

We have a Transportation Ministry through the generosity of a donor who gifted the church with a Nissan Murano for the designated purpose of providing transportation to the least, the lost, and the last so they can get to various medical, dental, eye appointments. 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.

Church Columbarium

We are excited to announce that the church is going to install 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 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.

Lay Servant Ministries One-Day Training

Intro to Lay Servant Ministries Training, Saturday, April 11 9-4:30 PM onsite ESUMC, **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 3!** We are so excited to be able to nurture and develop up to 15 people as Lay Servants to support our church ministries in meaningful service within the church and local community. This training will provide you with tools for servant leadership rooted in spiritual practices. Jay Parker will be our facilitator in partnership with the AR UMConference. There is a \$15 fee for course book materials, scholarships are available. Lunch will be served. Follow this link to register: <http://lay-servant-ministries-feb-2026.raiselysite.com>

Questions: Jay 620.717.3790; jayp.onthego@gmail.com Or Karen at LSM@arumc.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/FUtqb9QuPNvJj1g7A>

Church Financials

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving:	\$ 26,614	\$ 26,614
Expenses:	\$ 12,309	\$ 12,309

*Fiscal year begins July 1



United
Women
in Faith

Standing with Our Neighbors ~ For over 150 years, Methodist women have been at the forefront of social change, advocating for issues that are central to our calling as women of faith. Methodist women have responded to the scriptures that command us to see Jesus in "the least of these". The Eureka Springs United Women in Faith reaffirm our commitment to the UMC Charter for Racial Justice and we affirm that all residents of Carroll County – regardless of immigration status – are beloved children of God, created in God's own image. We stand with our neighbors. **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.

March

2026

February

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

April

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
"Family, It Ain't a Nuclear Thing"	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 FHall Al-Anon Noon Church Youth Room Ozarks Chorale 6:00 PM FHall	Parkinsons Support 10 AM Library Widow(er)s Support Noon Jubilee Ringers 4:30 Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
"Thirsty, Hungry, & Afraid" Spring Forward, Daylight Saving Time begins	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 FHall Al-Anon Noon Eureka! Quilters 11-1:30 FHall Church Youth Room Caregivers Support 1 PM Library Ozarks Chorale 6:00 PM FHall	Mobile Pantry 8 AM Jubilee Ringers 4:30 Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
"Abandoned, Forgotten, Neglected" UWFaith after Service Library	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 FHall Al-Anon Noon Church Youth Room Ozarks Chorale 6:00 PM FHall Saint Patrick's Day	Widow(er)s Support Noon Jubilee Ringers 4:30 Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room		UWF Soul Care Retreat 11-3 PM FHall
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
"Trust and Obey"	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 FHall Al-Anon Noon Church Youth Room Ozarks Chorale 6:00 PM FHall	Mobile Pantry 8 AM Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
PALM SUNDAY Chancel Choir Cantata	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 FHall Al-Anon Noon Church Youth Room Ozarks Chorale 6:00 PM FHall	Widow(er)s Support Noon Jubilee Ringers 4:30 Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room Maundy Thursday 6 PM	Good Friday 6 PM	
5	6	7	8	9		1
Sunrise Outdoor Worship Service 6:30 AM EASTER SUNDAY 10 AM	Al-Anon 10 AM Church Youth Room	Yoga 9-10 FHall Al-Anon Noon Church Youth Room	Mobile Pantry 8 AM Jubilee Ringers 4:30 Bible Study 6 PM			

