

# Pathways

News from the Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

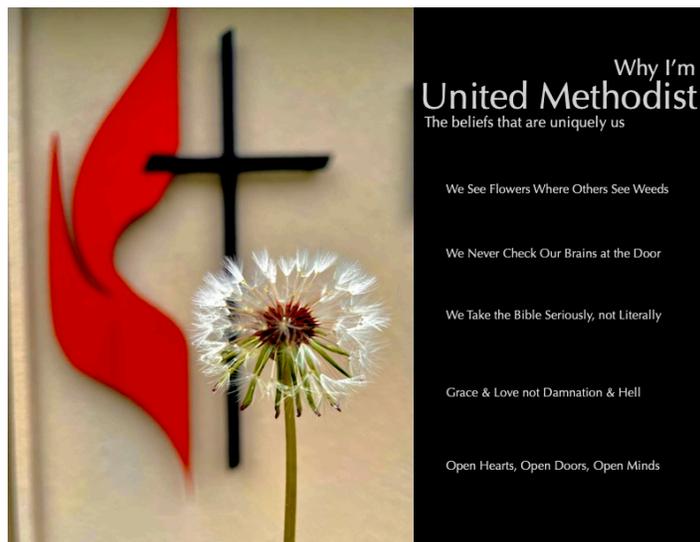
*A Joyful Community of Faith,  
loving God by serving all people  
including the least, the last, and  
the lost.*

## Kingdomtide

25th of September 2022

September 22nd was the Autumnal Equinox and the beginning of “Fall” or “Autumn”. Cultures both ancient and new have celebrated this day with special rituals. Christianity of course ‘baptized’ the celebrations and changed the name from the Equinox to “Michaelmas,” the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, the greatest of all the angels who defeated Lucifer during the war in heaven (a story taken from non-canonical writings). Tradition says one should feast on a fatted goose, because long ago an Irish King’s son choked on one and died, but St Patrick brought him back to life on this day. The king, rejoicing, ordered that from henceforth all folks should eat a goose on Michaelmas. The Ancients marked these events — the solstices and the equinoxes — with special events because this was the only way they could mark time. Stonehenge is such a marker of time. It told people when to plant, when the darkness of winter would give way to the growing light, the height of Summer’s daylight, and the Autumn and its message the harvest was ready. We are rather divorced from this marking of time. Sports calendars and political campaign seasons are what we follow. Yet long ago people paid very close attention to the length of days. It was a deep mystery that the light would lengthen and shorten across the year. These quarterly celebrations were a reminder that there is a rhythm to life, and that no matter how deep the darkness the light would always return, and vice-versa as well, in the moments of greatest light they would be reminded that the darkness would return.

This marking of time gave them great hope and assurance in what tomorrow would bring. We could learn a lot from these ancient observances. Our lives too will follow a rhythm. There will be trials and temptations, challenges and failures, but there will also be moments of triumph and celebration, of joy and happiness. It is easy to focus solely on despair. It is a powerful emotion that can cloud our perspective. Studies show people focus on the negative because they are afraid of disappointment; afraid that happiness will be fleeting. But step back, Jesus says, and “consider the Lillies of the field and the birds of the air.” They neither worry or toil, basking only in God’s love. How much more are we to God? Should we worry about tomorrow, or simply have faith that God holds us in God’s arms. Happy Equinox! Yes the days are getting shorter, but the light will return, as it always has, and always will.



# The Gathering

## Order of Worship

Janet Arnett, Lay Speaker  
Bren Marshall, Music Minister  
Melodye Purdy, Video Production  
Jubilee Ringers conducted by Beverly Beard

*Join us in-person or via our Livestream that is broadcast thru our Facebook Page, our website, or our YouTube Channel!*

### We Gather to Worship

#### Prelude and Greeting

*As we gather may your Spirit work within us  
As we gather may we glorify Your name  
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship  
We'll be blessed because we came.*

#### Opening prayer

*Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdoms come. Thy will be done. On Earth, as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

#### Praise and Worship

(See music below)



"Aint't That Good News" by Susan T. Sylvester  
Performed by Jubilee Ringers

### We Listen for God's Word

#### A Reading from the Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Thanks be to God for the Gift of the Scriptures

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

"Faith Trilogy" by Sueda Luttrell  
Jubilee Ringers

#### A Video Reflection

#### The Message

**"Why I'm United Methodist"**  
*We Take the Bible Seriously, Not Literally*

**Rev. Blake Andrew Lasater**

### We Give and We Receive

#### Remembering our Baptism and the Promises of God

*(We invite you to participate with us by touching your hands in water  
and making the sign of the cross)*

#### Sharing in Holy Communion

*(if watching virtually, please have ready your bread and wine/juice in order to share with us)*

### We are Sent forth to be God's People

#### The Benediction

#### A Musical Benediction

*Go in Peace, and may the good Lord bless and keep you,  
may the good Lord bless and keep you,  
till we meet, till we meet again. Amen, Amen, Amen.*

# Our Music for today

CCLI Music License #11059025

*"Those who sing, pray twice!" — Saint Augustine*

## **God is Here** (page 660, verses 1, 3 & 4)

God is here!

As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,

may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.

Here our children find a welcome in the  
Shepherd's flock and fold.

Here as bread and wine are taken  
Christ sustains us as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore what it means  
in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

## **I Love to Tell the Story** (page 156)

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

**Refrain:** I love to tell the story, 'twill be my  
theme in glory, to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful  
it seems than all the golden fancies  
of all our golden dreams.

I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;  
and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet.

I love to tell the story, for some have never  
heard the message of salvation  
from God's own holy Word.

Refrain

I love to tell the story, for those who know it  
best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it  
like the rest. And when in scenes of glory

I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long.

Refrain

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## Giving

Giving is one of the most important spiritual disciplines we follow. It teaches us that all that we have is a gift of God. It teaches us that when we give we can change the world. When's the last time you looked at your budget and expenses? Are we giving more than we take? Jesus invited us to a more fuller life by asking us to give so that no one is in need.

## Parents Who Grieve

Our community has experienced many tragedies where parents have lost children. We want to do all we can to support them in their grief, and so we are looking to start a support group for those parents. We are gathering an initial group. If you would like to be involved, please contact the church office: 253.8987.

## Crystal Bridges Tour

Crystal Bridges' newest exhibit concerns the documents of our Founders — the US Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and others. We have a special guide that will take us on a private tour on October 12th. This event is free and we will be taking the bus, or you can meet us there. Call the office to reserve your spot, 253.8987

## Caregivers Support Group

Caregivers Support Group will meet, the second Tuesday of every month, in person, on Tuesday at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Call Peggy Way 479.253.1583. No Masks required.

## Widow(er)s Support Group

Our support group for Widow(er)s meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month at noon in the church library. All are either widows or widowers sharing their journey and experiences, supporting one another, and discussing the different issues that widow(er)s face. If you know of a widow(er) let them know about our group. No one should be left to grieve alone or misunderstood.

## Parkinson's 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!



United  
Women  
in Faith

We chose to *Inspire, Influence and Impact*; work to *Connect, Nurture and Support*; believe in *Faith, Sisterhood, and Action*. Join us. Make a difference in lives of women, children and youth. <https://www.facebook.com/ESUWF>



“Why I’m a United Methodist: We Take the Bible Seriously, Not Literally.” How do we read and interpret the Bible? How do we deal with the difficult passages that seemingly contradict reason and common sense? How can God be love and yet there be such violence in the Bible? Just because the Bible says it, should I believe it? We will dive into these important questions and contrast the literal reading of scripture with a serious reading of scripture.

Showers are still available for use. This program is for any type of homeless situation where the client could benefit from having a shower. This helps people clean up so they can interview for jobs, and clean up while they are employed so they can keep the job.

Help spread the word about this new ministry. People will be able to text “SHOWER” to 479.981.1680 to make arrangements to use our facilities. Our ministry team will meet them at church between 12 and 2 PM.

## Shower/Laundry Ministry

Our next Theology of Tap will be tomorrow night, Monday, September 26th, beginning Our topic of discussion is called, “Let’s Talk Politics, but Not Talk Politics”. We won’t be delving into the political divide, but we will talk about how we are unable to talk about politics without getting angry and demonizing those who disagree with us. Democracy and freedom require the free exchange of ideas, but our current culture prevents that. Maybe we can sit down, enjoy a beer, and find that despite our differences, we can still come together and be friends.

## Theology on Tap

Once again we have hosted the monthly Mobile Food Pantry. People begin lining up at 8 AM so that they can get food for themselves or for a neighbor or friend. The Northwest Arkansas Pantry supplies us with food boxes — a meat, some fresh produce, and some dry good. This is healthy and nutritious food. We are serving over 200 families thru this partnership. Often we are giving words of encouragement along with the food. If you would like to help us, by either packing, handing out, or delivering food please get your name on the list so that we may call upon you.

## Answering the Call

We have gotten a few volunteers for the literacy mission to our schools. We still need a few more folks who are willing to read with the kids and help them practice the skills needed to become proficient readers. The aim is to place volunteers in the school during the week to help the kids. If you can spare some time during the day you could change a life forever. Call the office, 253.8987, to add your name to the list.

## Literacy Program

All the photos used are from my collection (it avoids the copyright hassle). Today’s photo is from the South of Iceland, the Skogafoss (waterfall). It almost daily produces a rainbow, a reminder of God’s promise to the world that Heaven’s plan is for redemption, not wrath; never again will God destroy the world in anger, but will use the redemptive power of love to bring the lost back into the fold.

## Top Photo

# September

2022

August

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	31			

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				Faith & Food Insecurity Advocacy Summit 6 PM Fellowship Hall		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Red Sea Rules: Praise the Lord Exodus 15:1-3, 20-21  Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:15 AM			Parkinson's Support 10 AM Library ATC 8-11am F. H.  Widow(er)s Support group Noon Library  Bell Choir 5:30 PM			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
"We See Flowers Where Others See Weeds" Chancel choir rehearsal 8:15 AM		Caregivers Support Group 1 PM Fellowship Hall Ozark Chorale at 7pm F.H.	ATC 8-11am F. H. Mobile Pantry  UWF 1 PM Library  Bell Choir 5:30 pm			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
"We Never Check our Brains at the Door" Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:15 AM	Leadership Team Meets 6 PM Library	Ozark Chorale at 7pm F.H.	ATC 8-11am F. H.  Widow(er)s Support Group Noon Library  Bell Choir 5:30 pm			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
"We Take the Bible Seriously, Not Literally" Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:15 AM	Theology on Tap "Let's Talk Politics, but not talk politics." 5 till 6:30 PM Gotahold Brewery	Ozark Chorale at 7pm F.H.	ATC 8-11 AM Fellowship Hall  Bell Choir 5:30 PM Sanctuary			