

27th of November 2022

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

Pathways

News from the Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

Kingdomtide

A special called session of the Arkansas Annual Conference met on the 19th of November to discuss and approve a slate of churches and congregations asking to disaffiliate and no longer be "United Methodists." During the last General Conference of our world-wide body, a paragraph was inserted into our governing Book of Discipline that allowed for congregations to seek a divorce from our denomination and take all physical property. This is all due to the continuing struggle over the issue of homosexuality and whether or not we will be an inclusive church. 10% of our conference churches are seeking to leave, mostly small churches led by local pastors. A few of our large churches have asked to leave, too. Two-thirds of the congregation must ask to leave. This process was to be led by the laity only, but tragically pastors have taken charge of the process. This has left many of our congregations deeply divided with friendships often broken. Our denomination is deeply broken at the moment, and our conference is hurting. I know many of these churches have sparked civil wars within their congregations. People feel betrayed and abandoned. The special Annual Conference did nothing to heal these divisions. Though most of the churches asking to leave were approved, the three large ones were voted down. They must now start the process all over again. John Wesley taught us that though we may not all believe alike, we can certainly all love alike. The Methodist system was created to encourage that process, binding us all together under a single system (hence why all property is owned by all Methodists). Wesley meant for us to solve our differences in holy conferencing. We were never to split, but to always allow love to guide us to new ways of thinking and living together. Only once in our history did we fail to do so, and that was over the issue of slavery. We eventually healed those differences but today many claim the issue of homosexuality is something they cannot and will not accept. This breaks my heart. I have served with many LGBTQ military members. I have dear friends who happen to be gay. For some to claim six verses of scripture is the foundation of their idea of a true church baffles me to no end. I do not know the future of United Methodism, nor of the church. People are leaving in droves, sick of the fighting, the lies, the slander, and the total disregard for love. Perhaps God will find a new way of doing church. I am thankful for this church's stance and witness. We have led the charge to truly be a place of open doors, open minds, and open hearts. I am hopeful that soon all restrictions against LGBTQ will be lifted and we can finally be the church God has wanted us to always be.



Faith Reborn

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 First Sunday of Advent

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*

*A Communal Prayer
The Lords 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.*

Choral Response "Holy, Holy, Holy"



Praise and Worship
(See music below)

We Listen for God's Word

A Reading from the Scriptures
Revelation, Chapter 21, Verses 1-7
Thanks be to God for the Gift of the Scriptures
THANKS BE TO GOD!

Special Music by Chancel Choir
Of the Father's Love Begotten

A Video Reflection

The Message

"A Personal Revelation"

Janet Arnett, Lay Speaker

A Time to Remember

Remembering our Baptism

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

Opening Music:

Think About His Love

Think about His love, think about His
goodness,
Think about His grace, that's brought us
through.
For as high as the heavens above,
So great is the measure of our Father's love.
Great is the measure of our Father's love.

Think about His love, think about His
goodness,
Think about His grace, that's brought us
through.
For as high as the heavens above,
So great is the measure of our Father's love.
Great is the measure of our Father's love.

Think about His love, think about His
goodness,
Think about His grace, that's brought us
through.
For as high as the heavens above,
So great is the measure of our Father's love.
Great is the measure of our Father's love.

Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silent (626)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear
and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded; for with blessing
in his hand.
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full
homage to demand.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth
he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and
the blood;
He will give to all the faithful, his own self for
heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its
vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms
of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish, as the
darkness clear away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with
sleepless eye.
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless
voice they cry;
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High.



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 is 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: 479.253.8987.

Caregivers Support Group

Caregivers Support Group will meet in person each month on the second Tuesday at 1:00 PM in the church library beginning in January. Questions? Call Peggy Way 479.253.1583. Masks are optional.

Widow(er)s Support Group

Our support group for Widow(er)s meets the first and third Wednesdays 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 be 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

Advent – a time of preparing our hearts for the Christ Child. What better way to “prepare” than to help our unit of United Women in Faith as we share our blessings with community organizations. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of local women, children and youth. Add to the blessings by cash, check (made out to ES UMW) or through online giving: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z5R5/home>

Maintenance Help Wanted

We are looking for a group of folks who are good at ‘fixin’ things. The church needs occasional maintenance work that is too small to hire a contractor but just right for you DIYers. Do you have what it takes? Can you operate a screwdriver without stabbing yourself? Then call the church office 253.8987 and let us know!

Pastor's Vacation

Gracie and I will be taking some time in November to join Marilou in Rome, Italy. She has been teaching there since the beginning of October. Janet Arnett will be preaching and leading worship while I am gone. We have asked Rev David Baker to bless the Communion elements so that we can still take part in the sacrament each Sunday. Of course you can follow me on Facebook as we enjoy some time away exploring Italy.

Shower/Laundry Ministry

Showers are 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 should text "SHOWER" or call 479.981.1680 to schedule a shower. Our ministry team will meet them at church between 12 and 2 PM.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap is taking a bit of a break. November and December are busy months, but we will be back in January. Of course we are always looking for great discussion topics that can lead to mutual understanding and compassion. After all, that is the divide we are trying to bridge — bringing people of differing opinions together over beer and faith. Thank you to all who have joined us this past year. It's been a great experience!

Answering the Call

We are raising funds to match our \$20,000 grant! Be on the lookout on social media to see how you may give to this wonderful effort. Our numbers throughout the county have skyrocketed. At midsummer we were serving 30 people, now we are serving over 90 each week. Local farmers have donated produce. Our next Mobile Pantry is on Wednesday, the 7th of December starting at 10AM. If you know of anyone who could use the food but lack transportation, come pick up for them and deliver.

Holy Hikers

The cold weather is upon us, and the ticks and snakes are gone! It's time to take a hike again. Sometime in December we will pick a Saturday to hike to Hawks Bill Crag, one of the iconic Arkansas hikes. It is a mile and half in and out but fairly easy to walk. We'll eat at the Low Gap Cafe, one of those hidden gems of culinary delight. Stay tuned for more information.

Top Photo

All the photos used are from my collection (it avoids the copyright hassle). Today's photo is from the Tiber River. We are called to be bridge builders, connecting opposites together to create one community. Bridge building in the ancient world was a miraculous effort, and the chief priest always presided over its construction, hence the title of the Pope, Pontifex Maximus, the chief bridge builder — Ponte from latin meaning bridge. In all that we say and do we should first ask, is this building bridges or burning them?

November

2022

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	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	1	2	3	4	5

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	Restorative Yoga 9am FHall		ATC FHall 8-11 Parkinson's Group 10 AM Library Widow(er)s Support Group Noon Library Bell Choir 5:30			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
All Saints Sunday	Restorative Yoga 9am FHall	Caregivers' Support Group 1PM FHall Cub Scouts 6pm	ATC FHall 8-11 Mobile Pantry 10-11am UWF 1pm Bell Choir 5:30 Boy Scouts 6pm			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Hope, the Basis of Faith Janet Arnett 9:30 am UWF Awards	Restorative Yoga 9am FHall	Cub Scouts 6pm	ATC FHall 8-11 Widow(er)s Support Group Noon in Library Bell Choir 5:30 Boy Scouts 6pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A True King of the People Janet Arnett	Restorative Yoga 9am FHall Leadership Team 6pm	Cub Scouts 6pm	ATC FHall 8-11 Bell Choir 5:30 Boy Scouts 6pm			
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
1st Sunday of Advent: A Personal Revelation Janet Arnett	Restorative Yoga 9am FHall	Cub Scouts 6pm	ATC FHall 8-11 Bell Choir 5:30 Boy Scouts 6pm			