

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

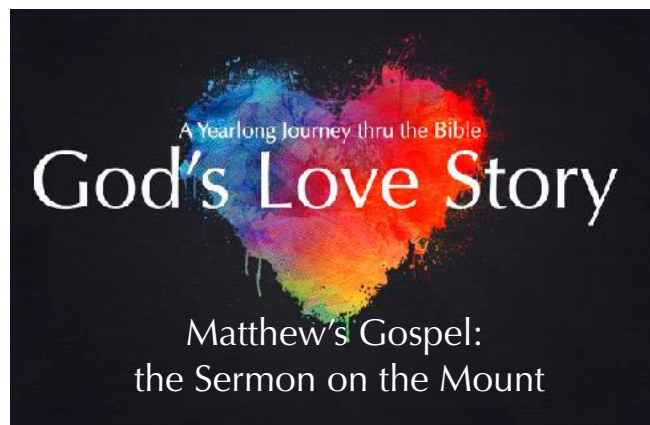
Pathways

News from Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

28th of January 2024

Epiphanytide

As we finish digging out of the ice and snow, let's pray all of this is behind us, though February and March and April (and sometimes even May) we can get snow. Remember your church those Sundays you miss, both thru your prayers and thru your giving. Our work still continues even if many of us cannot make it to church on Sundays. Please turn in your pledge cards if you haven't already done so, extras are at the Narthex desk. It is hard to believe, but Lent is just around the corner. It is early this year, in fact, it is about the earliest it can be. If you remember your church history, the Emperor Constantine at the First Council of Nicaea decided that there should be a standard date for celebrating Easter; he came up with, "The first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox." Clear as mud right? Well, hopefully Pope Francis will make some headway pinning Easter to a specific date like Christmas on December 25th. Though this may take many decades to implement, bureaucracy and all. So, make plans for Ash Wednesday February 14th (maybe I'll add a heart to the cross of ashes on your foreheads). I know Mardi Gras is very popular around year, so keep in mind there would be no such celebrations if there was no Lent — so keep them both. During Lent we will be focusing on the Gospels of Luke and John, "Sacrificial Love", as we continue our exploration of the Bible. Easter comes at the end of March. The year is already flying by so fast. In February we are going to start a challenge: on the first Sunday of each month we are asking you to invite a friend, family member, neighbor, heck, even a stranger, to come to church with you. As Methodists part of our baptismal promise is to "witness" to our faith and church. So many people are disillusioned with church, but we believe this church has something special to offer: we are willing to live out Jesus's radical call to love one another unconditionally. **We will have our communion steward and usher training after church Sunday.** We postponed the training due to the ice and snow, so if you have signed up please be here! And thank you to all who have signed up! We have such a good number of volunteers we won't have to call on you nearly so often. We are looking for people to plan and implement our LGBTQ community building events. We are trying to take the church out into the community to bring people together around dinner or a fun event. Melodye and I have been responsible for the past year's events, and let's be honest, it was mainly Melodye, but she needs your help! These have been very fun events introducing our church to people that otherwise might not know about us. They are also events that bring people together in community, and they are open to all people who wish to attend. I would like to remind you that before church starting at 9 AM we do have the coffee area open with regular/decaf, hot tea, hot cocoa, water, and sodas; and often we have breakfast desserts. Hope to see you in church.



The Gathering

Order of Worship

Janet Arnett, Lay Speaker
Melodye Purdy, Video Production
Jubilee Ringers conducted by Beverly Beard
John Holtzman, Choir/Patricia Taylor, Pianist

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

9:55 ~ Announcements

Sunday, January 28th, 2024

We Gather to Worship

Greeting

Opening Song:

"Oh How He Loves You and Me" page 2108

Communal Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Songs of Praise & Worship

"To God be the Glory" page 98 UMC Hymnal

"My Tribute" page 99 UMC Hymnal

We Listen To God's Love



A Reading from Matthew's Gospel, 7:15-23
Thanks be to God for the Gift of the Scriptures
Thanks be to God!

"As the Deer"

By John F. Wilson

Choral Setting

A Video Reflection

The Message:

"Matthew's Gospel: the Sermon on the Mount"

Rev Blake Lasater

We Receive God's Grace

Remembering Our Baptism

Holy Communion

(All are welcome to eat and drink at the table of Christ. The 'Wine' is just grape juice, but the Spirit of God is found in the breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup)

Sending Song

"Spirit Song" page 347

Benediction

(The words of Blessing that send us forth into the world to be the hands and feet of Christ to a broken world)

Caregiver Support Group

Caregiver 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. Because this month there is a fifth Wednesday, we are planning a **lunch outing** to College of Ozark Culinary School. Pastor Blake will drive the church bus which will leave at 10 am (**Wednesday, January 31**).

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!



United
Women
in Faith

LUNCH & LEARN! SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, February 17, 10:00 am.

All women are invited to gather for soup and more as we "serve up community connections." While we enjoy a meal together, two groups who received Sharing Our Blessings funds in December will be special speakers: students from Eureka Springs High School NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and Grandma's House Children's Advocacy Center. Don't Miss This!

Al-Anon Family Meetings

Al-Anon meets in the Youth Room down the hall from the church offices on **Mondays (mixed), Tuesdays (women), and Thursdays (mixed)**. All meetings **start at 10 am** and go for an hour. All are welcome to attend. Want more information? Contact Ellen at 479.244.7017 or Vonn at 214.605.0615, 47pileated@gmail.com.

Save the Dates! Important Happenings in the Life of ESUMC

LGBTQ+ Fun Events planning session following Sunday's service with Melodye & Blake.

Usher & Communion Stewardship training with Blake following Sunday's service.

Widow/er's Group Lunch Outing to College of Ozark Culinary School on Wednesday, January 31. Church bus leaves at 10:00am

Leadership Team Meeting, Monday, February 19 at 6 pm, church library.

UWF Soup & Sharing Lunch Saturday, February 17, 11 am All are welcome.

Church Spring Cleaning Saturday, March 23 9 am - 12 pm. We need you!

8th Annual Arkansas State Chili Championship Saturday, April 20 Holiday Island

Al-Anon Meetings here on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 10-11 am in church youth room. All are welcome to attend.

Yoga 9 am Mondays & Tuesdays. Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

LGBTQ Community Outreach

We are seeking volunteers to meet with the Pastor and Melodye Purdy **after church this Sunday** to discuss outreach events for the LGBTQ Community. These 'front porch' events allows us to reach out beyond our four walls to people otherwise not connected to church; these events also foster community for people that may not have any community. We seek to offer quarterly events, but need help planning and implementing these ideas.

Shower/Laundry &

Homeless Ministry

Our church showers are open to men and women so they can freshen up, do some laundry, and be ready for that job interview, or just a chance to be clean. Showers are available Monday thru Thursday from 9 AM till 1:30 PM.

We also accept cold weather clothing donations, boots, shoes, charcoal, can openers, chapstick, and non-perishable food that can be prepared over a campfire or on a grill. Donations accepted at the church office.

Bible Debrief with
Pastor Blake

Bible Debrief continues on the this Wednesday in the **church library at 6 pm.** We are covering the gospels, particularly Mark's Gospel.

Mobile Food Pantry

The Mobile Food Pantry serves Carroll County residents in need of food staples on the **second and fourth Wednesdays of every month.** Cars start lining up as early as 8:30 a.m. We provide food staples until the food runs out, often within the first hour. Friends and neighbors can pick up for friends or neighbors who do not have transportation.

Health Safety Measures

Cold & Flu season is upon us, as well as an uptick in COVID cases. Please take measures to keep yourself and others safe, including wearing a mask, sitting at a distance, or staying home if you are coughing or have other symptoms. Thank you.

Upscale Clothing
Giveaway

Thank you to Sue and Sam Ewan and friend Astrid who initiated and executed this clothing drive in conjunction with our Mobile Food Pantry. This was particularly targeted for clothes suitable for job interviews and events like funerals and weddings where certain attire is preferred. They had a great turnout and many economically disadvantaged were blessed. Thank you Sue, Sam and Astrid for putting this all together. It was such a success that they plan to hold a second event later in the year.

Leadership Team 2024

Kim Stryker, Bill Featherstone, Milo Warner, Dan Bell, Janet Arnett, Shirley Lykins, Diane Jones, Kevin Graham, and Paul Gandy...thank you all for agreeing to serve! Our first meeting is **Monday, February 19 at 6 pm.**

Training for Ushers and
Communion Stewards

We will try again **after Sunday's service** to hold a training session for ushers and communion stewards with Pastor Blake. Thank you to the many folks who have signed up! This is a vital ministry in our church, volunteers being the face of our church in welcoming people.

Year-End Giving
Statements

2023 Year End Giving Statements were mailed last week. If you do not receive yours, please contact the church office and we will reprint & resend. Thank you to all who give so faithfully to support our ministries and keep our doors open.

Inclement Weather,
Office Hours & Church
Services

If Eureka Springs schools are closed due to inclement weather, the church office is also closed. Please use caution and judgment coming to church services with frigid weather and sometimes hazardous road conditions. You can participate via live streaming on the church website at www.lovespokenhere.org.

Cover Photo

Photos are from the minister's personal collection (to avoid copyright hassle).

February

2024

January						
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			

March						
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						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Matthew's Gospel: Sermon on the Mount	Yoga 9-10 am Al-Anon/Mixed 10 am Youth Rm	Yoga 9-10 am Al-Anon/Women 10 am Youth Rm UW Faith 12:30 Youth Room Scouts 6 pm		Al-Anon/Mixed 10 am Youth Rm		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Matthew's Gospel: the Odd Bits	Yoga 9-10 am Al-Anon/Mixed 10 am Youth Rm	Yoga 9-10 am Al-Anon/Women 10 am Youth Rm Scouts 6 pm	Parkinson's Group 10 am Library Bible DeBrief 6 pm Library Scouts 6 pm	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 am Youth Rm		
11	12		14	15	16	17
Matthew's Gospel: the Unique Bits	Yoga 9-10 am Al-Anon/Mixed 10 am Youth Rm	Yoga 9-10 am Al-Anon/Women 10 am Youth Rm Scouts 6 pm	Mobile Food Pantry 9 am Eureka! Quilters 11-2 pm FHall Ash Wednesday Service at 6 PM	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 am Youth Rm		United Women in Faith Soup & Learn Fellowship Hall 11-1:00 pm
18	19		21	22	23	24
Luke's Gospel: Sacrificial Love	Yoga 9-10 am Al-Anon/Mixed 10 am Youth Rm Leadership Team 6 pm Library	Yoga 9-10 am Al-Anon/Women 10 am Youth Rm Scouts 6 pm	Bible DeBrief 6 pm Library Scouts 6 pm	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 am Youth Rm		
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
Luke's Gospel: Forgiveness Theology on Tap Got-A-Hold Brewery ES 4-5:30 pm	Yoga 9-10 am Al-Anon/Mixed 10 am Youth Rm Leadership Team 6 pm Library	Yoga 9-10 am Al-Anon/Women 10 am Youth Rm Scouts 6 pm	Mobile Food Pantry 9 am Bible DeBrief 6 pm Library Scouts 6 pm	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 am Youth Rm		