

Christ is Risen

31st of March 2024, Easter Morning

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

It has been a busy Holy Week. I would like to thank you for participating in all the services and activities of the week, and I hope they have helped you observe a holy Lent. This morning our Lenten fasts come to their end. Lent is now over and the joyous 50 days of Easter now begin. This is the moment when the followers experienced the risen Lord and they transformed from being fearful and doubting to being bold and courageous. Of the many arguments that the Resurrection actually took place, for me, it is the profound transformation they experienced throughout these fifty days. Most would give their lives in service to the Lord; that is hardly something that people would do if they did not firmly believe in what they experienced. Mark's Gospel has sparse details of the Resurrection, the women discover the empty tomb and run away in fear. Matthew adds a little bit of flair — a great earthquake, lightning bolts, hulking angel, and the guards shaking and becoming like the dead. The disciples are told to disciple the nations and baptize them into this new life. Luke adds the story of Emmaus and how the others thought him to be a ghost until he asked for something to eat. John adds the story of Thomas needing to feel the wounds and Peter fishing naked (yea, there's that), as well as Jesus asking Peter three times if he loved him - "If you do, then feed my sheep." All of this happened during the forty days after Easter, when on the 40th day, Jesus ascended into heaven. For the Easter Season we will be lighting the ancient Paschal Candle, the symbol of Light and Life, the symbol of Resurrection. On the candle are the letters Alpha and Omega, reminding us that Christ is the beginning and the end, the first and the last. There are five wax nails placed in the shape of the cross to remind us of the crucifixion. We light this at the beginning of worship, the candle held high as we sing and proclaim, "Christ is Risen," "He is Risen Indeed!" The Paschal Candle stays lit until Ascension Sunday when it is dipped into the waters of the baptismal font blessing the waters and reminding us of our journey of faith as we follow Jesus. The Paschal Candle reminds us of the pillar of fire and the cloud that led the Hebrews throughout their desert wanderings. The candle is lit also at funerals and for All Saints Day reminding us that Death has been swallowed up by the life Christ brings. I hope you can join us for Easter Sunrise at 7 AM. We gather in the outdoor worship area around a fire for a simple ritual of light and life, followed by breakfast in the Narthex. Then at 10 AM we hold our Easter Worship service. The Jubilee Ringers will be playing as well as our wonderful choir. The sermon will be looking at the Resurrection appearances but focusing on John's retelling: the wonderful encounter Mary Magdalene has at the tomb, mistaking him for the gardener. And then, I will be going home to collapse. Holy Week and Easter are the busiest times in my calendar. It is exhausting, actually, but deeply meaningful. Oh, by the way, "Easter" is an Anglo-Saxon word that reflects the name "Astarte", the goddess of Spring, which they once worshipped. "Paschal" derives from the word for "Passover", and was how early Christians referred to our holiday of "Easter".



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, March 31st, 2024

Ushers: Bill & Connie Featherstone

Communion Stewards: Janet Arnett, Paul Gandy, Mike & Susan Reed

We Gather to Worship

Greeting

The Jubilee Ringers:

"He is Risen, He is Risen!"

arr: by Cathy Moglebust

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Responsive Singing:

"He Lives"

Page 310 UMC Hymnal

Communal Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymns:

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today!" Page 302 UMC Hymnal

"Because He Lives" page 364 UMC Hymnal



We Listen to God's Spirit

A Reading from John's Gospel, 20:11-18

Thanks be to God for the Gift of the Scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

"He is the Risen Lamb"

Arr: John Holtzman

The Chancel Choir

"Easter Proclamation"

Arr: Lloyd Larson

The Jubilee Ringers

A Video Reflection

The Message:

"Palm Sunday, A Homily"

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

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.

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 Debrief with Pastor Blake

Bible Debrief Wednesdays in the **church library at 6 pm**. We are in the Gospel of Luke as we journey thru the Bible in this thing called "God's Love Story". These debriefs happen on **Wednesday evenings at 6 PM** and they go a bit more in-depth of the books of the Bible we talked about on Sunday. Feel free to bring drinks, snacks, or dinner. We are covering the gospels, particularly Mark's Gospel.

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.



United
Women
in Faith

EASTER JOY! *The tomb is empty!* Jesus now calls us to "go into the world." United Women in Faith will do that on **Saturday, April 13th, 8-5 pm** at the CS Bank parking lot fundraiser. Monies raised at this event benefit local ministries with women, children and youth. We need *you* to volunteer for a parking shift. Please support us in this vital outreach to our neighbors - sign up to help out! A signup sheet is available in the hospitality area of the church or call 501.339.3458.

Ushers & Communion Stewards

The new schedule was emailed out last week. There are extra copies of the schedule on the desk in the Narthex, feel free to take one. The schedule is also posted in the Narthex kitchen. Thank you for your service!

Save the Dates!
Important
Happenings
at ESUMC

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 9-10 am Mondays & Tuesdays. Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Ozarks Chorale Rehearsals Tuesdays 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall

The Ozarks Chorale will hold its **Spring 2024 Concert Sunday, April 28th, 7 pm.** at The Auditorium in downtown Eureka Springs.

Theology on Tap, April 29th, 5:30-6:30 at GotAHold Brewery in Eureka Springs, a community outreach to build relationships and make new friends. Food truck on site.

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 a 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 clean cold weather clothing donations, jackets, mens work gloves, boots, tents, sleeping bags, wet wipes, multi packs of jello, pudding, apple sauce; tomato sauce/paste, pasta sauce, peanut butter, crackers, Spam, can openers, ponchos. Donations accepted at the church office. **We are also looking for volunteers to come in once a week to give the showers a good cleaning.**

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**. Starting this month (the 4th Wednesday) we will begin helping with the Green Forest Mobile Pantry, but we need volunteers! Currently the NWA Food Bank busses volunteers from Springdale to help, so this effort is a way we can serve. We are also going to volunteer at the Food Bank packing the boxes they ship to us. We would love for you to be a part of these efforts as well. Contact Blake or the church office to sign up.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap is **Monday, April 29th starting at 5 PM, at Gotahold Brewery**. We have not settled on a topic — YET — so here is your chance to chime in. What would make for a great conversation that night, something that bridges the sacred and the secular. Let me know!

General Conference 2024

The General Conference will meet between April 23rd and May 3rd in Charlottesville North Carolina. This four year gathering of the world-wide church that sets law and policies for the denomination has been postponed multiple times due to COVID. It was originally set in 2020 to try to resolve the disaster of the 2019 special GC that harshly persecuted the LGBTQ Community. It also set in motion the ability for churches to disaffiliate. By all measures it was an unmitigated disaster. We still face many of the same issues, and this time outside powers seek to disrupt and divide the UMC. We hold in prayer all the delegates from around the world that will represent us and hopefully find a path forward that allows us to live out our calling. This will be a carefully watched conference and you will be seeing it on the news. Take everything you hear with a grain of salt.

New Church Committees Make a Difference Meet New Friends

We are seeking volunteers to vision, plan and develop **quarterly outreach events for the LGBTQ Community**. These 'front porch' events allow 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. This will be fun!

Outreach Committee to serve as a missions team to better organize our outreach ministries as we seek to serve the least, the last, and the lost. This committee will help develop new missions, evaluate our current missions, and help us stay vital and organized as we serve our community. Contact Blake if interested.

