

The Candle of Faith
Second Sunday of Advent

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

8th of December 2024



We light the Candle of Faith this morning. Our Advent journey is halfway over. The season is a busy one with Thanksgiving coming so late this year. Please remember next Sunday is the Chancel Choir's Cantata. John and the choir have been practicing for a few months now for this special Sunday of music. On December 20th at 6 PM we will host our Blue Christmas: Service of the Longest Night. This is a Christmas Eve service for those who might not be feeling the joy of the holidays. Christmas is not always the most wonderful time of the year as we battle grief and pain. For some, it is the loss of a spouse or child, for others it is mourning a parent or sibling or friend. Still

others are just struggling economically or emotionally. The Jubilee Ringers will be playing along with other gifted and talented musicians as we pause to be a bit more reflective in our Christmas observance. On December 24th at 5:30 PM we will open our doors to the community as we celebrate the birth of Christ thru carols, candlelight, and communion. Despite all of this busyness, our missions and ministries continue. The mobile pantry will be giving out Christmas boxes, and our shower ministry still sees a steady stream of people looking to get clean and wash their clothes. Our blessing closet has coats, hats, gloves, and other things that are needed to help the homeless get thru these cold winter nights. We have kicked off our campaign to buy a generator. The storms this past summer brought an awareness that our community lacks a disaster relief shelter — a place where people may come when they have lost power or shelter. With a generator, we can keep the church cool or warm (depending on the season), keep the lights on, and provide those hit by disaster with a place to come to. A generator, complete with installation, will cost us about \$25,000, and it would be nice to have this in place before prices increase. December is the time of year when many of us are looking to give a little extra, and also when you retirees are looking to avoid capital gains taxes. We have ways where you can donate stock and avoid these taxes. Our mission is to serve the most vulnerable, and to be a church that is more than the four walls. Installing a generator is just the next phase of this mission, so as charities and colleges beg you for



Hope
Faith
Joy
Peace
Love

To Begin Again
the Promises of Advent

donations please remember this mission of the church. Thank you so much for all you do to make us who we are!

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, 8th of December, 2024

Ushers: Chris Ritthaler, Mike Schomaker **Communion Stewards:** Janet Arnett, Trent Anderson, Sandy Dunn, Pam Steinke

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett & Bill Featherstone

We Gather to Worship

Greeting
The Jubilee Ringers
Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Opening Song:
Communal Prayer:
The Lord's Prayer
Songs of the Community

"Wake, Awake, for the Night is Flying"

by Ron Mallory

The Candle of Faith

devotional by Pam Steinke

"He Came Down" Page 2085 Faith We Sing

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Page 213 UMC Hymnal

"Blessed be the God of Israel" Page 209 UMC Hymnal



We Listen to God's Spirit

Reading from the Old Testament

Genesis 18:1-15

Thanks be to God

For the Gift of the Scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

"Christmas Fantasia"

Written by: Jason Drug

The Jubilee Ringers

A Video Reflection: "Light has Come"

Reading from the Gospels

the Gospel of Matthew, 1:18-25

Thanks be to God

For the Gift of the Scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

The Message:

"To Begin Again: the Promise of Faith"

Rev Blake Lasater

We Give Thanks for the Gifts of God

Baptism Renewal

Holy Communion

(All our 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 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)

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!



United
Women
in Faith

Thank you for supporting Mugs for Mission. With your donations and purchases, we now have over \$700 to share with local programs for women, children, and youth.

Save the Dates!

Sunday, December 15 - Chancel Choir Cantata during Sunday Worship Service

December 20, Friday 6 pm Blue Christmas, Service of the Longest Night

December 24, Tuesday, Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service 5:30 pm

January 1, Wednesday, Holy Hikers (first Day Hike) Office Closed

Important Happenings

in the Life of ESUMC

Bible Study Wednesdays 6 pm in the church library. We use Dr. Amy Jill Levine's [Great Courses Lectures](#) for the first 30 minutes and then use study questions to start a discussion. These lectures take us thru the books of the Old Testament.

Get Involved!

Youth Group Wednesdays, 4-5:30 pm. All are welcome!

Make New Friends

Mobile Food Pantry church parking lot the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month**. Cars start lining up at 8:45 AM and we distribute until the food runs out, typically within an hour. If you are homebound and do not have a friend or neighbor who can pick up for you, call the church [by Noon on Mondays](#) to be added to our very [limited](#) delivery schedule. If you would like to volunteer for a delivery driver, contact Bill Featherstone at 479.981.1991

Spread Joy

Yoga 9-10 am Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Update or Add Information for Church Records

It is important that we keep accurate records on church members and visitors. Please take a moment to follow this link to make sure your information is current.

< <https://forms.gle/oXx8ZdBH7fTA7WGdA> >

There are also posters around the church building and laminated cards in the pews that have the QR scan box, which will take you directly to the update information. Thank you!

Theology on Tap

There will not be a Theology on Tap for December. This is a busy season for all of us, but it will return in January. We will be adding a book club feature for next year, so dust off your copy of "To Kill A Mockingbird" and begin reading. That will be our topic for discussion in February.

Shower/Laundry & Homeless Ministry Requested Items

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.**

Pantry Current needs: Electric fry pan, toasters, men & women sturdy sneakers/hiking boots, waterproof spray for outdoor gear, blankets, men's work & winter gloves, thermal & regular underwear (men's & women's), men/women's jackets, hoodies, hats (Med, LG, XL). Donations can be dropped off at the church. **We are looking for volunteers to come in once a week to give the showers a deep cleaning.**

Overnight Warming Shelter

Berryville UMC, 400 Eureka Ave, Berryville, 870.423.2505, is opening their doors on very cold nights for those needing a warm place to sleep. Check-in is between 4:30-7:30pm. They also have showers and laundry services available nearby. We can provide transportation with a 24+ hour notice.

Youth Night-Out Wednesdays 4-5:30 pm Church Youth Room

The Youth Group is open to all teens aged 13-17. Transportation is available (Call 479.244.8987) This ministry will facilitate important connections with our youth, while providing a safe place to meet each week. Would you be willing to be a mentor? Volunteer? Make snacks? There is a **youth night out box for snack donations** in the Narthex. Your participation is appreciated. For **more information contact: 515.368.1012** A huge **thank you to Candis Drechsler, Becca Ritter, Audrey Falkowski, and Leslie Cagle** for all their efforts each week to make this meaningful, safe and fun for the participants.

Exploring the Old Testament

We are starting a new bible study that will serve as an introduction to the Old Testament. These are lectures by Dr Amy Jill Levine, a noted biblical scholar. This will take up about thirty minutes, and then we'll spend 30 minutes discussing the topics she raises. We meet **Wednesdays in the church library at 6 PM.** All are welcome to attend.

Advent Devotionals

Follow our pastor on Facebook to receive daily meditations throughout the season of Advent.

Church Library

The book recommendation for this week is located in the religion area of the library. Where God Was Born: A Journey by Land to the Roots of Religion (200.956/Fei) by Bruce Feiler uncovers details about the common roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and affirms the importance of the Bible today.

Shower Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Our Shower/Laundry Ministry is a much needed mission in this community and has experienced exponential growth over the last couple years. Going forward we are implementing Mondays & Wednesdays as shower/laundry days from 9-1PM. We are **looking for volunteers in the office to help facilitate this ministry.** Training is provided. This could be one Monday or Wednesday per week or month to suit your schedule. Contact the office for more information on serving the least, the lost, and the last. You will be so blessed serving in this role. 479.253.8987. EsfumcInfo@gmail.com

Altar & Church Decorations

A big thank you to **Janet Arnett, Jackie Rose, Kevin Graham and Jess Wade** for their artistic talents in decorating the altar and church in keeping with the liturgical seasons. They do such beautiful work. Thank you!

December

2024

November							January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1st Sunday in Advent: Hope	Al-Anon (Mixed) 10 AM Youth Rm	Yoga 9 AM Al-Anon (Women)	Widow(er)s Support Group 12 PM Youth 4-5:30 PM Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Bible Study 6 PM Scouts 6-7 PM	Al-Anon (Mixed) 10 AM Episcopal Church's Silver Tea 1:30-3:30 PM		Pearl Harbor Remembrance 1941
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2nd Sunday in Advent: Faith Ozarks Choral Holiday Concert 7 pm The Aud Students Free/ Adults \$10	Al-Anon (Mixed) 10 AM Youth Rm	Yoga 9 AM Al-Anon (Women)	Mobile Pantry 8-10 Youth 4-5:30 PM Bible Study 6 PM Scouts 6-7 PM	Al-Anon (mixed) 10 AM		Cantata Rehearsal Sanctuary 9-11 AM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3rd Sunday in Advent: Joy Chancel Choir Cantata during Worship	Al-Anon (Mixed) 10 AM Youth Rm	Yoga 9 AM Al-Anon (Women)	Widow(er)s Support Group 12 PM Youth 4-5:30 PM Jubilee Ringers 5PM Bible Study 6 PM Scouts 6-7 PM Charles Wesley's B-Day	Al-Anon (mixed) 10 AM	Blue Christmas/ Service of the Longest Night 6 PM	United Women of Faith Sharing of the Blessings 2PM Lynn Baker's Home 17 Starlite Avenue Holiday Island
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
4th Sunday in Advent: Peace	Al-Anon (Mixed) 10 AM Youth Rm	Christmas Eve Candlelight/ Communion 5:30 PM OFFICE CLOSED	Christmas Day (No Activities) OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Covenant Renewal Service Janet Arnett Officiating	Al-Anon (Mixed) 10 AM Youth Rm	New Years' Eve Office Closed for New Years	New Years' Day			