

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

**SHOWER/LAUNDRY MINISTRY** We really need your help on Mondays and Wednesdays. Can you spare a few hours from 9 till 1 to help our clients facilitate showers and laundry as well as to help organize our help closet. Your main duties will be to sign folks in, direct them to the showers or the laundry, provide resource links, and process incoming donations in kind. We are including a quick and easy sign up link, just click and sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A45A4A62BA1FDC61-54580735-shower> Also, we would like to include all volunteers in a meeting to set some ground rules and vision for this program. Your input would be greatly valued. **GENERATOR** The Arkansas United Methodist Foundation recently sent us a check for \$1000 for our generator fund. We are very close to hitting the \$20,000 mark, two-thirds of the way there. With this generator we will be able to operate as an emergency shelter. Thank you to all the generous contributions from our congregation, and a thank you to our Unitarian brothers and sisters who have been chipping in to help as well. When the power goes down or natural disaster strikes, we will be able to serve our community by providing shelter, laundry, showers, and meals. **ENDOWMENTS** Speaking of the Arkansas United Methodist Foundation, have you thought about a legacy gift? We have recently been blessed with two endowment gifts by longtime beloved members of our community of faith - Joe & Melva Luker, and Sherry Kerr. These endowments will provide the church with a lifelong yearly income to enhance and support our many ministries. The Foundation

serves all United Methodist Churches in our state. If you would like to talk to a representative, please call the office and we can get you in touch with the appropriate people. In the past they have granted us money (apart from the yearly endowments) to support our mission to feed the community during the pandemic. **SCHOLARSHIP** The Andy Gray Scholarship for 2025 has been awarded to JD Eckman, a senior at High School and lifelong member of our church. Eckman just achieved Eagle Scout and will be attending college in Alabama. Congratulations JD! To donate to the scholarship fund please send in your checks, noting "scholarship Fund" in the memo line. We hope to grow this fund so that it provides opportunities for kids in the future.



# The Gathering

## Order of Worship

Janet Arnett, Lay Speaker  
Melodye Purdy, Video Production  
Jubilee Ringers conducted by Beverly Beard  
Patricia Taylor, Pianist  
Jess Wade, Chancel Choir

Join us in-person or via our Livestream that is broadcast thru our Facebook Page, our website <[lovespokenhere.org](http://lovespokenhere.org)>, or our YouTube Channel!

9:55 ~ Announcements

**Sunday, 9th of February, 2025**

**Ushers:** James and Ruth Mitchell **Communion Stewards:** Janet Arnett, Paul Gandy, Mike Reed, Susan Reed

**Offering Counters:** Janet Arnett & Karen Kinsel

### We Gather to Worship

Greeting

Prayer for Illumination

Opening Song:

**"This is the Day"** Page 657 UMC Hymnal

Communal Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer

Songs of the Community

**"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"** Page 175 UMC Hymnal

**"Soon & Very Soon"** Page 706 UMC Hymnal



### We Listen to God's Spirit

***A reading from 2 Corinthians 11:16-33***

*Thanks be to God for the gift of the Scriptures*

**Thanks be to God**

**"We will Give Thanks"**

Written by: Mark Patterson

**The Chancel Choir**

A Video Reflection: "Your Light Still Shines"

**The Message:**

**"Wings of a Christian, Hope: the Story of the Apostle Paul"**

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)*

## Caregivers Support Group

Caregivers 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!

## Save the Dates!

## Important Happenings in the Life of ESUMC

## Get Involved!

## Make New Friends

## Make a Difference

## Spread Joy

**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.

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

**Mobile Food Pantry (MFP)** 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. This Wednesday morning (February in tandem with the MFP, we will also be hosting a coat, shoes, & warm clothing give-away. **We could really use a couple volunteers to help keep this running smoothly.**

**Eureka! Quilters** meet in Fellowship Hall the **2nd Wednesday of each month** for conversation, information and lunch. A great group of men & women quilters, open to all skill levels.

**Widow(ers) Group** meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month from Noon - 1 PM in the church library. Occasionally, they plan a luncheon outing. If you grieve, you don't have to grieve alone. This is such a loving, encouraging, and supportive group of people. You will feel welcome and cared for.

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

## Church Financials

In an effort to be informative and transparent, here are the January financials:

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving:	\$13,229	\$213,299
Expenses:	\$15,735	\$15,735

Generator Funds Raised \$18,079

## Endowment Giving Leaves a Lasting Legacy that Supports Church

Creating an endowment and planned giving program is a perfect way to live out our faith and have a long term vision for their church. Endowments make a statement that your church is of God and is here to the end of time. It says that you care about ministry today and into the future. There are many creative ways to give to an endowment such as current planned gifts and those gifts designated in a bequest. Endowment Funds benefit churches by offering members opportunities to provide a future legacy for the church and their families. An endowment fund is a permanent fund, similar to a savings account where only the interest and/or earnings can be spent. A Permanent Endowment Fund serves churches into perpetuity. While the original gifts grow through prudent investments, the church can use the earnings each year to enhance church ministries, outreach and care of facilities. Contact Blake or Kevin Graham to learn more.

## 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.**

**Current needs:** Study Bibles, Toilet Paper, Nutrient Dense canned goods: Chili, Ravoli, canned tuna, chicken, pasta & sauce, soups, breakfast bars, oatmeal, Men & women's sneakers/hiking boots, Lg & med. size thermal underwear (men & women), hoodies, 1.5 QT crock pots, toasters, hot plates. Please make sure clothing donations are clean. Donations can be dropped off at the church. **Thank you to all our faithful donors and supporters of this ministry!**

## WINTER COAT & CLOTHING GIVEAWAY IN TANDEM WITH MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Because of the generosity of our donors, we have excess winter clothing, coats and shoes to **give away Wednesday, February 12 Mobile Food Pantry**, starting at 8:30 AM. Typically, we run out of food (& clothing) within the first hour. To make this a success, **we need at least two volunteers** to manage the clothing station while minimizing chaos. Yes, it will be very cold, but imagine not having adequate winter wear to keep warm. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Let Blake or the office know you can volunteer, or just simply show up at **8:15 am Wednesday, February 12** by the church entrance. Thank you!

## 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 479.253.8987) 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.**

## 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.

## Transportation Ministry Drivers Needed

The church has a **Nissan Murano** (thanks to the generosity of a church member) for the designated purpose of providing transportation to the least, the lost, and the last who do not have means to get to various medical/dental appointments in Carroll County. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact us 479.253.8987 or [Esfumclnfo@gmail.com](mailto:Esfumclnfo@gmail.com) and we will add your name to the list. When we get a request I send out a group email with dates, times, location and client name and if you are available to take that appointment, you respond to the email accordingly and I make the arrangements. You will be so blessed serving in this role, and meeting some of these amazing people.

## Theology on Tap

We return on **Sunday, March 2nd** with our very first book club outing — "To Kill a Mockingbird", so reread it or read it for the very first time. A powerful tale of religious bigotry and the courage to stand on principles. We gather at Gotahold Brewing at 4:30 PM.

## Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drivers Needed

Our Church supports this mission program of Carroll County through delivery of hot, nourishing meals to qualified folks within Carroll County & our community. We have a rotation every 5 weeks, and deliver meals each day of that week, Monday - Friday, weather permitting. The delivery route typically takes 2-2.5 hours. To join our cadre of volunteer delivery drivers, please contact our church's designated coordinator, Kevin Graham at 281.380.3320. If you know of someone needing this service, they can contact the Berryville Senior Activity & Wellness Center at 870.423.3265.

## Update or Add Information for Church Records

For your convenience, laminated QR codes are available in the pews as well as posted around the church and narthex for ease in keeping our member records accurate. Please take a moment to follow this QR link to make sure your information is current. Thank you.

# February

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
a Heart Month Sermon Series <b>the Wings of a Christian</b> by which we fly: faith, hope, grace, & love						Ozarks Chorale Board & Advisory Team Noon Fellowship Hall
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>FAITH: Abraham &amp; Isaac</b>	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm	Yoga 9 AM F-Hall Al-Anon/Women 10 AM Youth Room Scouts 6 PM <b>Ozarks Chorale            Practice 6:30-8:30</b>	<b>Widow(er)s Support            Group noon library            Bridge Class 1-3            Youth RM</b> Youth Group 4-5:30 Jubilee Ringers 5:00 Bible Study 6 PM Scouts 6 PM	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>HOPE: the Apostle Paul</b>	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm	Yoga 9 AM F-Hall Al-Anon/Women 10 AM Youth Room CAREGIVERS 1 PM Library Scouts 6 PM <b>Ozarks Chorale            Practice 6:30-8:30</b>	<b>Mobile Pantry &amp;            WinterWear            GiveAway 8:30 AM            Parkinson's Support            Group 10 AM Library            Eureka Quilters            10:30-1:30 FHall            Youth Group 4-5:30            Jubilee Ringers 5:00            Bible Study 6 PM            Scouts 6 PM</b>	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm	<b>Saint Valentine's            Day</b>	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>GRACE: the Woman Caught in Adultery</b>	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm  <b>Presidents' Day            OFFICE CLOSED</b>	Yoga 9 AM F-Hall Al-Anon/Women 10 AM Youth Room Scouts 6 PM <b>Ozarks Chorale            Practice 6:30-8:30</b>	<b>Widow(er)s Support            Group noon library            Youth Group 4-5:30            Jubilee Ringers 5:00            Bible Study 6 PM            Scouts 6 PM</b>	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm		
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
<b>LOVE: the Good Samaritan</b>  Jubilee Ringers, Ringing	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth/Rm	Yoga 9 AM FHall Scouts 6 PM <b>Ozarks Chorale            Practice 6:30-8:30</b>	<b>Mobile Pantry</b>  Youth Group 4:5:30 Jubilee Ringers 5:00 Bible Study 6 PM	Al-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm		