

The Candle of Peace

Fourth 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

22nd of December 2024



And so we reach the last Sunday in Advent, Christmas once more arrives. We light the candle of peace. Our circle of light is now complete and we await Christmas Eve night for the Christ candle to be lit, reminding us that Christ is here in our midst, born again in each heart that will receive him. A few years ago Grace and I were wandering the streets of Rome. It was a noisy November day as we walked past one of the many churches in the city. Despite all the noise a sound whispered in my ear. We stopped to listen. "I know that song," I told her. We walked into the ancient basilica, and there was a choir practicing. Their voices joining together to sing, "O Come, all Ye Faithful." It is one of my favorite Christmas carols, and despite the busy streets of Rome, its melody had still reached my heart

and drawn me into the building. There we sat listening to them sing. There really is something about music that wraps us in love. I think that is why we love the Christmas season so much — for the music. Ancient hymns proclaiming the Christmas story; tunes that touch the mystic chords of memory, carrying us away to the distant past. The hope that in our weary world, Christ will come again to make all things right. The promise that if we could just open our hearts in love Christ will be born in our spirits that we may bear Christ to the world. Like that hymn drawing me away from the hustle and bustle, so these hymns draw us away from the world's cares and we think of how the world might be if love could be born again in all our hearts. I hope you will take the time to celebrate Christmas with us this week. Come sit in the candlelight and let's sing together the promise of the ages. May our hearts be stirred to hope and rejoice in peace, faith, and love. To me, that is the message of Christmas, God reaching down to touch hearts and souls that we may be sent into the world to bring the light to everyone who walks in darkness. Christmas is that time of the year that wipes away the tears and fills us with light and life. So wherever you are this Christmas, my hope and prayer is that you are surrounded by love and filled with peace. Merry Christmas!

Hope
Faith
Joy
Peace
Love

To Begin Again
the Promises of Advent



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, 22nd of December, 2024

Ushers: James & Ruth Mitchell **Communion Stewards:** Janet Arnett, Mike & Susan Reed, Chris Ritthaler

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett & Diane Jones

We Gather to Worship

Greeting

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Peace

devotional by Pam Steinke

Opening Song:

"He Came Down" Page 2085 Faith We Sing

Communal Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer

Songs of the Community

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Page 216 UMC Hymnal

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter" Page 221 UMC Hymnal



We Listen to God's Spirit

Reading from the Old Testament

Genesis 21:1-7

Thanks be to God

For the Gift of the Scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

"It's Still the Greatest Story Ever Told/Glory in the Highest"

Written by: Gaither/Miller arr: John Holtzman

The Chancel Choir

A Video Reflection: "The Gift of Emmanuel"

Reading from the Gospels

the Gospel of Luke 2:8-14

Thanks be to God

For the Gift of the Scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

The Message:

"To Begin Again: the Promise of Peace"

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

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.

Christmas Eve Candelight/Communion Service December 24, 5:30 PM

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

Mobile Food Pantry church parking lot the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month**. Cars start lining up at 8:30 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 or text Bill Featherstone at 479.981.1991 [by Noon on Mondays](#) to be added to our very [limited](#) delivery schedule.

The women of Eureka Springs UMC are invited to the annual "Sharing Our Blessings" celebration with the United Women in Faith. At this gathering we divide our funds with local groups and programs which benefit women, children and youth. The event will be on **Saturday, December 21 at 2:00 pm**. in the home of Lynn Baker, 17 Starlite Avenue, Holiday Island, AR. Call 501.339.3458 for directions. Bring a snack to share and feminine hygiene products for the NAMI group at ES High School. United Women in Faith believe that love in action can change the world.

In an effort to be informative and transparent, we will provide this information monthly.

Church Financials

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving:	\$26,809.95	\$220,220.54
Expenses:	\$16,897.19	\$218,439.34

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.

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 link to make sure your information is current. **THIS IS THE ONLY OFFICIAL WAY TO UPDATE YOUR RECORDS.** Thank you.



United
Women
in Faith

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: Men & women's warm outerwear, men & women sturdy sneakers/hiking boots, waterproof spray for outdoor gear, sleeping bags, men's work & winter gloves, Lg & med. size thermal underwear, hoodies, (men's & women's), 1.5 QT crock pots, electric fry pans, toasters, bibles, toilet paper. 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!**

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**

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 Request for Church Services

One of our shower/laundry clients would like an occasional ride to services. She is a new believer, living at Traveler's Inn, with no transportation. If you might be able to provide a ride from time to time, please contact Lark to facilitate arrangements.

ALSO, we could use a few more drivers to add to our transportation team, typically taking people to appointments. The requests are in The church Nissan Murano is available for this purpose. Contact the church office to sign up. Thank you.

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. EsfumclInfo@gmail.com.

Good News to Share about one of our clients we serve

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE! One of our clients whom we have been working with for 2+ years, is moving out of Echo Village shelter (huge thank you to Dan & Suzie Bell) and getting her own place. She just got married and will be moving January 1, a huge milestone for them! If you are so inclined, they will need items to set up a home. We were able to secure bedding and bathroom linens, but nothing (yet) for the kitchen. If you have anything extra you might like to donate, we are hoping to have a little homecoming shower for them to celebrate this milestone. Donations can be dropped off at church office.

Advent Devotionals

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

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)	Parkinsons Support. 10 AM Library 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		Pearl Harbor 1941
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2nd Sunday in Advent: Faith Ozarks Chorale Holiday Concert 7PM The Aud	Al-Anon (Mixed) 10 AM Youth Rm	Yoga 9 AM Al-Anon (Women) Caregiver's Support Group 1 PM Library	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)	Mobile Pantry 8-10 Widow(er)s Support Group 12 PM Youth 4-5:30 PM Jubilee Ringers 5 PM 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	UWF Sharing of the Blessings 2 PM 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 No Al-Anon	Christmas Day (No Activities)	Al-Anon (mixed) 10 AM	Office Closed for Christmas Tuesday-Thursday	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Covenant Renewal Service Janet Arnett Officiating	Al-Anon (Mixed) 10 AM Youth Rm	New Years' Eve Al-Anon (Women)	New Years's Day	Office Closed for New Years Tuesday-Thursday		