

# Pathways

News from the Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

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

## Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

23rd of February 2025

We come to the end of our sermon series, “The Wings of a Christian”. Hopefully it has given you somethings to think about, especially concerning what it means to be a Christian. We are a people of hope and faith as well as grace and love. If we are to follow in Jesus’s footsteps we really should have those characteristics. Today we are talking about love and forgiveness. No one said these things would be easy, but what the world needs now is a whole lot of love and forgiveness. Next week is Transfiguration Sunday, the story of Jesus being transfigured before Peter and John atop the mountain as Elijah and Moses stands on either side of him. We’ll look at what this story can still teach us today. Then, wow, the week after begins the Season of Lent. Forty

days of prayer and sacrifice. Sacrifice or fasting doesn’t simply mean ‘giving up’ something. It can also mean ‘taking up’ a new habit, practice, or discipline. Fast from unkind words, from anger, from bitterness. Fast by filling your time by volunteering or simply attending to worship or bible study. Our Lenten Sermon series is called “Not Today, Satan”. We will follow Jesus out into the wilderness to face our own temptations, and see how they are preventing us from living a truly Christian life. We begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday Observance. A special service of ashes and prayer that will be held on the 5th of March at 6 PM. There will be

special music, a time of Communion, and prayer. The service marks the official beginning of Lent. Let’s pray that this terribly cold weather and snow are finally behind us. Spring is just around the corner and I cannot wait for warmer temperatures and milder weather. Remember, if you would like to sign up to be an usher or communion steward go to our website and click on the sign-up link. There is also a spot for volunteering for our shower/laundry ministry. I hope to call a meeting of those volunteers to help map our what the rules and such need to be. We are here to help people out of the hole they find themselves in; we are not a permanent place for showers and laundry. Enjoy this last week of February!



# The Gathering

## Order of Worship

Janet Arnett, Lay Speaker  
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, 23rd of February, 2025**

**Ushers:** Johnathon Streety & Gary Johnson **Communion Stewards:** Janet Arnett, Dave & Martie Davis, Chris Ritthaler

**Offering Counters:** Janet Arnett & Kim Stryker

### 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 Loves Me"** Page 191 UMC Hymnal

**"O How He Loves You and Me"** Page 2108 Faith We Sing



### We Listen to God's Spirit

*A reading from John 8:3-11*

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

**Thanks be to God**

**"All Creatures of Our God and King"**

Written by: Jason W Krug

**The Jubilee Ringers**

A Video Reflection: "This is Love"

**The Message:**

**"Wings of a Christian, Love & Forgiveness"**

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!

**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.

## Important Happenings

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

## in the Life of ESUMC

**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.

## Get Involved!

**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.

## Make New Friends

## Make a Difference

**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.

## Spread Joy

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

## Church 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.

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## 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, 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, electric fry pans. 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 479.253.8987) 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 or 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.

## GENERATOR FUND

We have hit our goal!!! Thank you to everyone who has given! And thanks to Dan Bell, Paul Gandy, and Mike Reed for pouring the concrete pad. We hope to have generator installed by the end of the month.

## 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.

## United Women in Faith

What gift can we bring, what present, what token? What words can convey it, the joy of this day? The opening lines of hymn #87 in our United Methodist Hymnal speak to the feelings we have as we offer our gifts in response to God's grace and boundless generosity. The United Women in Faith of Eureka Springs UMC emptied our treasury in December. Funds helped the following local programs which benefit women, children and youth in these ways: to purchase items for 54 children's Christmas stockings distributed through Cup of Love, to provide food, clothing and bedding necessities for our homeless friends, and to fund activities for the new youth group at our church. In addition, a basket load of feminine hygiene products was collected to be distributed by the NAMI group of ES High School. United Women in Faith believe that love in action can change the world. All women are invited to join us!

**Come to the “Let the Good Times Roll” Soup and Salad Luncheon on Sunday, March 2 at 11:30 am in the ES UMC fellowship hall.**

# March

2025

February

April

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
Wings of a Christian: Love & Forgiveness	AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM	Yoga 9 AM F-Hall AI-Anon/Women 10 AM Scouts 6 PM Ozarks Chorale 6:30-8:30	Mobile Pantry Youth 4:30-6 Jubilee Ringers 5:30 Bible Study 6 PM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Room		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Transfiguration Sunday	AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM	<b>Fat Tuesday</b> Yoga 9 AM F-Hall AI-Anon/Women 10 AM Youth Room CAREGIVERS 1 PM Scouts 6 PM Ozarks Chorale 6:30	<b>Ash Wednesday 6 PM (Lent Begins)</b> Widow(er)s Support Group Noon Youth 4:30-6 PM Jubilee Ringers 5:30- Bible Study 6 PM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Room		Texas A&M Spring Break Mission Group here to the 15th
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Facing Our Temptations: Screens Daylight Savings Time begins	AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM	Yoga 9 AM F-Hall AI-Anon/Women 10 AM Scouts 6 PM Ozarks Chorale 6:30-8:30	Mobile Pantry Parkinson's Support 10 AM Library Youth 4:30-6 Jubilee Ringers 5:30 Bible Study 6 PM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Room	Pi Day 3.141592653589	Ides of March
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Facing our Temptations: Anger	<b>St Patrick's Day</b> AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM	Yoga 9 AM F-Hall AI-Anon/Women 10 AM Scouts 6 PM Ozarks Chorale 6:30-8:30	Widow(er)s Support Group Youth 4:30 -6 PM Jubilee Ringers 5:30 Bible Study 6 PM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Room <b>1st Day of Spring</b> Alzheimer's Experience 9-2 Fellowship Hall		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Facing our Temptations: Stress	AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Leadership Team meets 5 PM	Yoga 9 AM F-Hall AI-Anon/Women 10 AM Scouts 6 PM Ozarks Chorale 6:30-8:30	Mobile Pantry Youth 4:30-6 Jubilee Ringers 5:30 Bible Study 6 PM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM Youth Room		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Facing our Temptations: Isolation	AI-Anon/Mixed 10 AM	a Lenten Sermon Series <b>Not Today Satan</b> facing our temptations				