



Pathways

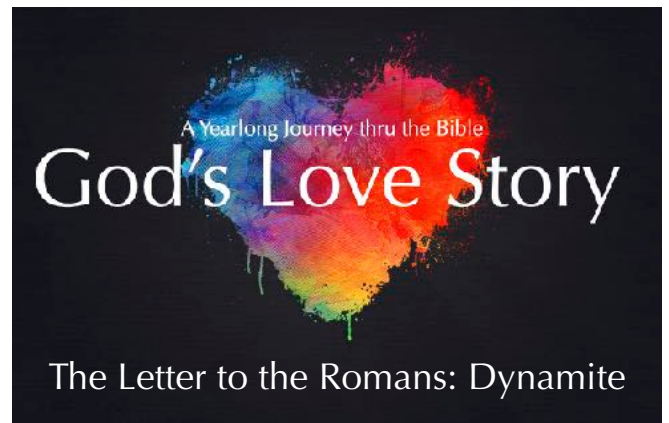
News from Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

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

Eastertide

28th of April 2024

Methodism 101: Polity. The General Conference of the World-wide United Methodist Church is meeting over the next several weeks to renew and change our denomination. The United Methodist Church is governed much like the United States Federal government. There are three branches: the Judicial, the Executive, and the Legislative. Our Council of Bishops is the executive branch, elected by a Jurisdictional Conferences composed of an equal number of lay and clergy delegates elected by our Annual Conference. The General Conference is our legislative branch. It meets once every four years to make changes to our "Discipline" - our governing rules. The Judicial Committee makes rulings over whether or not the decisions of the other two are "constitutional". In 2019 the Council of Bishops called a special General Conference to once and for all solve the issue of human sexuality. Plans were in place for a great compromise that would remove all language concerning human sexuality from our Discipline and allow individual churches and Annual Conferences to decide what was best for their mission fields. Tragically, the 2019 Conference was hijacked by conservative elements that managed to push thru even harsher language and punishments around human sexuality. The church at large immediately revolted and elected a slate of progressive delegates for the 2020 General Conference, which due to the Pandemic, was postponed until this year. With the leaving of most conservative churches (about 25% of our total) we are hopeful that long-needed reforms may finally be enacted. In 1968, at the uniting of the Methodist Church and the United Brethren, human sexuality was placed in our Discipline and was immediately controversial. The man who inserted the language later came to regret his actions, but for a generation now, we have argued and debated and we have hurt so very many people. This year we hope to approve a new "Social Principles" that simply defines marriage as between two people. We hope to turn America into a Regional Conference like the rest of the world so that we can write our own Book of Discipline that eliminates the anti-homosexual language and finally acknowledges all people as children of God. We are sure to be in the news quite a bit these next few weeks, and there are many bad actors who still seek to destroy the denomination. Be careful of these news reports and rumors that will surround the work of these delegates. Pray for them as they come together to remake the church to be more inclusive, affirming, and loving. Pray also for those who persecute us; it must be a shallow faith that seeks to do harm, and their lack of love should be pitied.



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, April 28th, 2024

Ushers: Jim Burke, Mike Schmomaker

Communion Stewards: Janet Arnett, Kim Stryker, Paul Gandy, David & Lynn Baker

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett, Bill Featherstone

We Gather to Worship

Greeting

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Responsive Singing:

"He Lives"

Page 310 UMC Hymnal

Communal Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymns:

"All Who Hunger" Page 2136 Faith We Sing

"Lord, I Want to be a Christian" page 402 UMC Hymnal

We Listen to God's Spirit



A Reading from Romans 1:1-17

Thanks be to God for the Gift of the Scriptures

THANKS BE TO GOD!

"I Will Glory in the Cross"

Arr: Jay Rouse, Written by Dottie Rambo

The Chancel Choir

A Video Reflection

The Message:

"The Letter to the Romans: Dynamite"

Rev Blake Lasater

We Receive God's Grace

Remembering Our Baptism

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

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!

Al-Anon 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?

Save the Dates!

The Ozarks Chorale Spring Concert Sunday, April 28th, 7 pm. at The Auditorium in downtown Eureka Springs, \$10 at the door, students free.

Important

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

Happenings

Eureka Springs Pride Parade on June 6. We are looking for volunteers to create a float and help represent our church in this event. Contact Pastor Blake if interested.

in the Life of ESUMC

Al-Anon Meetings 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.



United
Women
in Faith

BREATHE! We cannot alter time. No matter how hard we try to change things, the days still fly by, the months are over as soon as they start and blink...the year's gone. United Women in Faith invite you to breathe. Most of the time that life-giving action is involuntary. However, when we allow ourselves to be aware, that very act of inhaling is another invitation for God to dwell in us.

We hear the countdown to the national elections. The General Conference of the United Methodist Church has finally begun this week after numerous postponements. Life feels chaotic and out of control. Remember to breathe. Pay attention. God has this.

Opportunities to get Involved & Serve

We are looking for volunteers of form a Worship Planning Team for special services. Contact Blake if interested: blakelasater@gmail.com, 479.426.2547.

We are looking for volunteers to come in once a week to give the showers a good cleaning. Contact Blake if interested: blakelasater@gmail.com or 479.426.2547.

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, medical appointment, or just a chance to be clean. Showers are available Monday thru Thursday from 9 AM till 1:30 PM.

We have a special request for propane camping stove/ovens and electric fry pans. We also accept men's work gloves, boots, canned pinto, kidney, & black beans; multi packs of jello, pudding, apple sauce; tomato sauce/paste, pasta sauce, peanut butter, crackers, Spam, chili, toilet paper, Kleenex, etc. 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**. We are appreciative of our loyal band of volunteers who make this happen.

Bible Debrief with Pastor Blake

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** in the church library. We 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. All our welcome to attend.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap is **Monday, April 29th starting at 5 PM, at Gotahold Brewery**. Our topic will be Civil Wars/Civil Discourse.

Church Bookkeeper

We want to express our sincere gratitude to **Rosemary Fusaro** who has been our volunteer church bookkeeper for nearly 9 years of service. "Thank you" does not even begin to express how important her faithful work over the years has been appreciated. We also want to express our gratitude to volunteer bookkeeper, **Terry Spears**, who has been coming in twice a month during the past year, and will be continuing on. We are pleased to announce that our new Leadership Team Treasurer, **Kevin Graham, CPA**, will be picking up where Rosemary left off. We are pleased to have his expertise to assist us. Please take a moment to thank them when you have a chance.

Update on the AR 8th Annual Chili Cook-Off

Chairman, Steve Falkowski reports that the chili cook-off was well attended with many cooks from the local area as well as Missouri, Kansas & Texas. The event raised over \$7,000. Proceeds going to support The Purple Flower supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Carroll County.

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.

May

2024

| April | | | | | | |
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| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
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| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

| June | | | | | | |
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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|---|---|----------------------|----------------|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Fellowship 9 am Service at 9:55 Ozarks Chorale Concert 7 pm The Aud \$10 | Yoga 9 am FHall Alanon-Mixed 10 am Youth Rm Theology on Tap GotAHold 5-6 pm | Yoga 9 am FHall Alanon-Women 10 am Youth Rm | Parkinsons GP 10 am Library Widow(er)s Support Group Noon in Library Bible Debrief 6 PM Library | Alanon-Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm Teacher Appreciation Day | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| | Yoga 9 am Fall Alanon-Mixed 10 am Youth Rm | Yoga 9 am FHall Alanon-Women 10 am Youth Rm CAREGIVERS GROUP 1-2:30 Church Library | Mobile Pantry Eureka! Quilters FHall 11-2 pm Bible Debrief 6 PM Library | Alanon-Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Ascension Sunday Mother's Day | Yoga 9 am Fall Alanon-Mixed 10 am Youth Rm | Yoga 9 am FHall Alanon-Women 10 am Youth Rm | Widow(er)s Support Group Noon in Library Bible Debrief 6 PM Library | Alanon-Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Pentecost Sunday | Yoga 9 am Fall Alanon-Mixed 10 am Youth Rm Theology on Tap 5-6:30 pm at GotAHold | Yoga 9 am FHall Alanon-Women 10 am Youth Rm World Day of Cultural Diversity | Mobile Pantry Bible Debrief 6 PM Library | Alanon-Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm | | Geek Pride Day |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| Trinity Sunday | MEMORIAL DAY Yoga 9 am Fall Alanon-Mixed 10 am Youth Rm | Yoga 9 am FHall Alanon-Women 10 am Youth Rm | Bible Debrief 6 PM Library | Alanon-Mixed 10 AM Youth Rm | World No Tobacco Day | |