



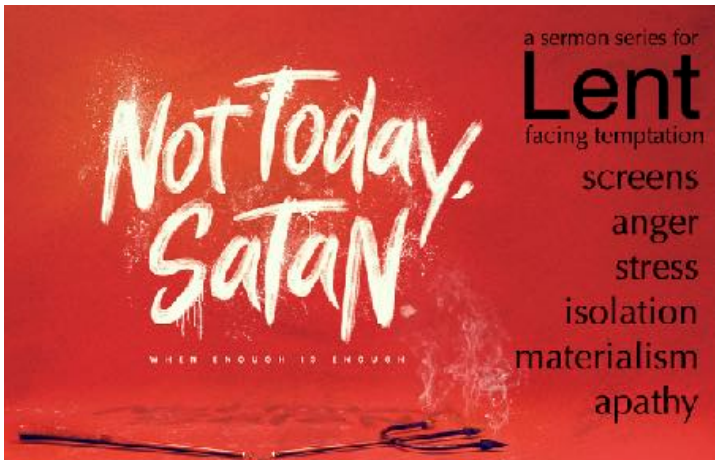
Laetare Sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

30th of March 2025

The **Fourth Sunday in Lent** is traditionally called Laetare Sunday, taken from the words of the sixty-sixth chapter of Isaiah, “Rejoice O Jerusalem”. Laetare is Latin for rejoice, and our ancestors of the faith thought that 40 days was a long time to fast and sacrifice so they therefore designated this Sunday as a little break in our Lenten rituals. Though we may spend time in the wilderness, it is never our home. The wilderness is a place of preparation for something better. For the Israelites it was the Promise Land; for Elijah it was rest and the experience of the holy; for Noah it was a new world; for Jesus the beginning of his ministry. So today we pause our Lenten fasts to rejoice in the Lord and sing our quiet alleluias knowing that our wilderness journeys will not last forever. We are pilgrims on the way to the land of promise, the kingdom of dreams. In the Middle Ages the Pope would bless a rose and send it to all the rulers and kingdoms to remind them of God’s blessings. It has also been known as “Mothering Sunday”, a time to remember the place of your baptism — your home church and rejoice in the beginning of your faith journey. I think after a time of sacrifice, this is a good Sunday to pause and count our blessings. We rejoice in God’s Spirit that is always with us, and the joy of God’s abundance. The color are pink and purple; the symbol is a rose. **Holy Week** is just around the corner. I hope you will consider taking full advantage of the holiness of this week by participating in all the services — Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunrise. Each will have special music by our Choir — a Passion Cantata on Palm Sunday and special music on Good

Friday. The Jubilee Ringers will be playing on Maundy Thursday. Each of these services readies our hearts for the joy of Easter morning. Join with Christians around the world as we make this time a sacred and holy event. “**Deer Song**” from “Considering Matthew Shepard” is the selection this morning for the Chancel Choir. Matthew was brutally slain by homophobic monsters and left to hang on a barb wire fence throughout the night. When his body was discovered by a sheriff’s deputy who told his family that she saw a doe lying beside his body, as if the deer refused to leave Matthew in such a lonely state. She saw it as a sign from God that we are never alone. This is a bit of a somber piece, but I also thought it a beautiful message for the theme of this Sunday in Lent.



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>, or our YouTube Channel!

9:55 ~ Announcements

Sunday, 30th of March, 2025

Ushers: Dennis & Shirley Lykins **Communion Stewards:** Janet Arnett, Dave & Martie Davis, Sandy Dunn

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett, Kevin Graham

We Gather to Worship

Greeting

Laetare Sunday, a Lenten Ritual

Opening Song:

"Alleluia" Page 2014 Faith We Sing

Communal Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer

Songs of the Community

"In the Midst of New Dimensions" Page 2238 Faith We Sing

"Lord, I Want to be a Christian" Page 401 UMC Hymnal



We Listen to God's Spirit

A reading from 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Thanks be to God for the gift of the Scriptures

Thanks be to God

"Deer Song"

by: Craig Hella Johnson

The Chancel Choir

A Video Reflection: "Invitation"

The Message:

"Not Today, Satan: facing our temptations — Isolation"

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 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.

9th Annual AR State Chili Championship Saturday, April 12, 12:30-4 PM at The Barn, Holiday Island

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.

CS Bank Parking Lot Fundraiser: Need Volunteers! Saturday, April 5, 2025 8-4 PM

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless God's holy name!" (Psalm 103:1-2) Even in hard, chaotic times we are to praise God. That's not always an easy thing to do when it feels as if life as we know it is crumbling around us. God has sustained United Women in Faith and our predecessor organizations for 156 years. United Women in Faith has a PURPOSE and its first part is to know God. Come, join us... God is here for us. **All women are welcome! United Women in Faith believe that love in action can change the world.**

Here are the February financials:

	<u>Giving</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
<u>YTD:</u>	\$31,541.91	\$36,774.54

Church Financials

CS Bank Parking Lot Fundraiser/EASY!

CS Bank has assigned us **Saturday, April 5, 8-5 pm** to run their parking lot as a **fundraiser for our church**. This is a one-time annual opportunity we have and all the proceeds go to support our church missions. WE NEED A FEW MORE VOLUNTEERS to make this possible. We will have a volunteer (or two) at each entrance and simply take \$5/vehicle parked, maybe sell some water. Please let us know if you can take a shift. Sign up sheets are in the narthex & church office. Thank you!



United
Women
in Faith

Shower & Laundry Ministry

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.**

The ministry is going back to the way it was initially set up. We are closing out the mini-pantry and the blessings closet and not accepting any more donations. We are fully stocked with toiletries at this time. **Thank you to all who gave so generously in support of our Shower/Laundry Ministry.** You made a big difference!

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 EsfumclInfo@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.

Ozarks Chorale

SAVE THE DATE: Ozark Chorale Performance with many of our own church members! April 27, Sunday, 7 PM at The Aud. Tickets \$15/pp

Church Library Chapter & Verse

Featured in the library this week is the fiction book **All the Light We Cannot See (FIC/Doe)** by **Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anthony Doerr.** The two main characters are a young blind girl who takes refuge after Paris is invaded by Nazi Germany and a bright German boy who is accepted into a military school because of his radio technology skills. Also in the library by Doerr is *The Shell Collector (FIC/Doe)*.

Holy Week Schedule



April

2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Not Today Satan: facing our temptations Isolation	AI-Anon/Mixed 10-11 AM Youth Rm	April Fools' Day Yoga 9-10 AM AI-Anon/Women 10-11 AM Youth Rm Scouts 6 PM	Parkinsons Group 10 AM Library Widow(ers) Noon Library Youth 4:30-6 Library Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Sanctuary BibleStudy 6 pm Scouts 6 PM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10-11 AM Youth Rm ARDOT Public Hearing Fellowship Hall 4:30-6 PM (round-a-bout) Ozarks Chorale 6:30-8:30 PM		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Not Today Satan: facing our temptations Apathy	AI-Anon/Mixed 10-11 AM Youth Rm	Yoga 9-10 AM AI-Anon/Women 10-11 AM Youth Rm Eureka! Quilters 11:30-1:30 FHall Caregivers Group 1 PM Library Scouts 6 PM Ozarks Chorale 6:30-8:30 PM	Mobile Food 8:30 AM Youth 4:30-6 Library Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Sanctuary BibleStudy 6 pm Scouts 6 PM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10-11 AM Youth Rm		9th Annual AR State Chili Championship 12:30-4 PM The Barn, Holiday Island
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday: "Whispers of the Passion" Chancel Choir Cantata	AI-Anon/Mixed 10-11 AM Youth Rm	Yoga 9-10 AM AI-Anon/Women 10-11 AM Youth Rm Scouts 6 PM Ozarks Chorale 6:30-8:30 PM	Widow(ers) Group Noon Library Youth 4:30-6 Library Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Sanctuary BibleStudy 6 pm Scouts 6 PM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10-11 AM Youth Rm Maundy Thursday Service 6 PM	Good Friday Service 6 PM	Prayer Vigil (take some time to pray for our church this day)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunrise 6:30 AM/Breakfast after Easter Celebration 10 AM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10-11 AM Youth Rm	Yoga 9-10 AM AI-Anon/Women 10-11 AM Youth Rm Leadership Team Meeting 5 PM Scouts 6 PM Ozarks Chorale 6:30-8:30 PM	Mobile Food 8:30 AM Youth 4:30-6 Library Jubilee Ringers 5 PM Sanctuary BibleStudy 6 pm Scouts 6 PM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10-11 AM Youth Rm		
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Resurrection Stories, Eastertide Sermon Series Ozarks Chorale 7PM The Aud \$15	AI-Anon/Mixed 10-11 AM Youth Rm	Yoga 9-10 AM AI-Anon/Women 10-11 AM Youth Rm Scouts 6 PM Ozarks Chorale 6:30-8:30 PM	BibleStudy 6 pm Scouts 6 PM	AI-Anon/Mixed 10-11 AM Youth Rm		