

Pathways

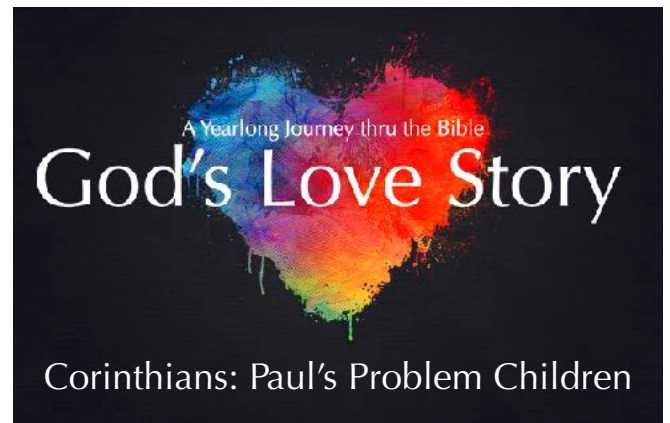
News from Eureka Springs United Methodist Church

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

Eastertide

5th of May 2024

What is the Gospel? We are already hearing cries that General Conference is destroying it, accusations that we are not following it, and claims we United Methodists have no idea what it is. We could easily accuse our opponents of the same. Is the Gospel the political party we vote for? The stance we have on abortion, gun control, or gender? Is the Gospel about what goes on in our bedrooms? Is the Gospel really about a literal reading of the Bible? Is it about who does and doesn't go to heaven? Does the Gospel belong exclusively to America? Paul, in Romans, describes the Gospel as the power of God for salvation, and the Greek word for salvation means healing and wholeness. We Methodists have preached a Gospel of Grace believing that the hell-fire and brimstone preaching in no way reflects the love of God we find in Christ Jesus. It is this grace and love that informs everything we do and believe. The work of General Conference is to undo the harm we have inflicted upon the LGBTQ community for the last fifty something years when we became the United Methodist denomination. It is impossible to justify a teaching that claims anyone is 'incompatible' with the Gospel. The Spirit is moving thru the Conference breaking down these walls of exclusion, and though the outcome may not be everything we desire, we know this is just the beginning of our work to make the church live up to its calling as a place of open minds, open hearts, and open doors. For us Methodists the Gospel is Love itself opening wide its arms upon a cross so that all may be saved. There is not "but" after the scripture, "For God so loved the world..." As Jesus warned us, down thru the years the false prophets have tried to remake the gospel in their image, and when God's word is used to justify hatred, oppression, and prejudice you know it is the false gospel. Yes, the United Methodist Church is going to be different. We are going to lift everyone up and stand with those who are oppressed. The church will be open to all people, and we are going to turn away from any effort that sees the church as an exclusive club. Conference work can be messy, but please don't let the false prophets instill in you a spirit of fear. We have entrusted our work to the Spirit of God, and that Spirit is moving to remake the church. Delegates report a Spirit of grace, of unity, and of mutual love; such a far cry from conferences past when fear, paranoia, and anger poisoned the gatherings. For too long the church has been defined by what it is against; today we begin again by defining what we stand for — Love, grace, and hope. We strive to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and love the way he loved. There will always be the critics who condemn us, but keep trusting in God. We are preaching salvation.



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, May 5th, 2024

Ushers: Ben Eakin, Gary Johnson

Communion Stewards: Janet Arnett, Pam Steinke, Chris Ritthaler

Offering Counters: Janet Arnett, Diane Jones

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:

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Page 384 UMC Hymnal

"The Gift of Love" page 408 UMC Hymnal

We Listen to God's Spirit



A Reading from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Thanks be to God for the Gift of the Scriptures
THANKS BE TO GOD!

"I Then Shall Live"

Arr: Steve Mauldin

The Chancel Choir

A Video Reflection

The Message:

"Corinthians: Paul's Problem Children"

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!



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.

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? Contact Ellen at 479.244.7017 or Vonn at 214.605.0615, 47pileated@gmail.com.

Save the Dates!

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.

Important

Al-Anon Meetings on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 10-11 am in church youth room. All are welcome to attend.

Happenings

Yoga 9-10 am Mondays & Tuesdays. Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

in the Life of ESUMC

Church Yard Sale will be in **October**. Donations (clean and in good working order) are accepted year-round (no clothes) during office hours. We are grateful for the continuing work of Shirley Lykins who works year-round organizing donations.

Condolences

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Marge Sullivan and Sherry Kerr, both recently passed.



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, 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.

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.

Theology on Tap

June Theology on Tap TBD

May

2024

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

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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
Corinthians: Paul's Problem Children	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		
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	