

THE CROSS ROAD

EUREKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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THE EUREKA UM CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT: TO KNOW, LOVE, AND SERVE GOD

JANUARY 2021

From the Pastors Heart

Here is a little humor to start the year. A lot of my family come from Nashville, Tennessee so maybe I should compose some country western songs. Here are some titles. What do you think? Should I stay a Pastor?

1. Don't chop the firewood mother, father is bringing home a load
2. Boot marks on my back where you walked over me
3. We broke up when my car broke down
4. You are sweet but so is buttermilk
5. My tears for you would fill a thimble
6. Please don't leave me before yesterday
7. A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but you don't have to worry.

All kidding aside. We begin January 2021 with one of my favorite choruses "make me a servant". On January 3rd or 11th you will receive a card for being a servant for Epiphany. This is a period of time between January 3rd to February 14th . This card will give you a gift to give away during the season of Epiphany.

Your Pastor and friend,

Rev. Ted A.

EUMC CONNECTION

EVANGELIZING UNIFYING MATURING COMMISSIONING

Sermon Schedule for January

Jan 3rd—The Party of Life

Scripture John 1: 1-9, 10-18

Synopsis—The life we celebrate at Christmas is not the life of the party. The new life in Christ— the life we celebrate around the Lord's table—is the party of life itself. Worship will include visit of wisemen and communion.

Jan 10th—Remember Your Baptism

Scripture Mark 1: 4-11

Jan 17th—Real People, Not Actors

Scripture Psalm 111

Synopsis—A celebrity endorsement is impressive, but a majority of people say they are more likely to buy a product if it was endorsed by a real person. This has implications for us as Christians.

Jan 24th—The Cure for News Fatigue

Scripture Isaiah 40: 21-31

Synopsis—In a world where the constant drumbeat of bad news can lead to anxiety, Isaiah reminds us to pay attention to the good news that the creator God has it all in hand.

Jan 31st—Inner Navigation and the Lords Way

Scripture Psalm 25: 1-10

Synopsis—The way of the Lord is guided by the Holy Spirit. Here are the three ways we can recognize how God helps us follow the path.

Reaffirmation of Baptism—A special service to remember and reaffirm our Baptismal vows, Jan 10th.

Epiphany - Jan 3 - A Visit from the Wiseman. We will begin a project called "The Greatest Story Ever Told"
Each person will receive a gift card of Christian practice for the time of Epiphany. (Jan 3—Feb 14)



Soup's On!

*This years Soup and Pie Day will be on January 15, 2021.
Drive thru and delivery are available, no dine in this year!*

Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It occurs on Jan. 6 every year, the 13th day of the Christmas season. The word "epiphany," from the Greek word epiphania, means appearance or manifestation.

The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God in Christ had been made known and was recognized by the heavens to the whole world, so that even Gentile wise men from the East came to pay him homage. This is an observance of great majesty, solemnity and awe.

An even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, Epiphany originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ, and Christ's baptism. After the late fourth century, as Advent developed as a season of baptismal preparation in addition to Lent, Epiphany became associated with baptism. This is why we see images of the three Magi on many older baptismal fonts.

In many Hispanic cultures, Epiphany is a day of great rejoicing and celebration, often kicked off by a parade the night before in which people dressed as the three kings or carrying statues of the three kings pass through the towns and villages throwing out candy and small gifts to all around. Families and children alike look forward to Día de Los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) as a time for presents, feasting and celebration. Attending church services that include the celebration of communion is also common in many of these cultures, even for those who may not attend worship regularly.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

EUMC MISSIONS & MINISTRY

“GO AND MAKE (NEW) DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.....” MATTHEW 28: 18-20

Pastor Ted A. has met with Missions and came up with some new ideas to move forward with for 2021 to not only financially support missions but to learn and participate. We will support 4 Missionaries in 2021 out of our budget.

- Alicia Wright-India, 1st quarter (Jan, Feb, March)
- Connie Wieck-China, 2nd quarter (April, May, June)
- Priscilla Jaiah-Liberia, 3rd quarter (July, Aug., Sept.)
- Larry and Jan Kies-Zimbabwe, 4th quarter (Oct., Nov., Dec.)

Each quarter a local, Conference, and National / International mission will be featured. We will have a loose change bucket to place noisy or quiet (bills/checks) financial support. During the month we will learn about the mission and maybe how we can get involved personally.

- Local - Meals on Wheels—January
- Conference - IL State Wesley Foundation—February
- National/International - Heifer International—March
- Local—Heartline/ Heart House Ministries—April
- Conference—East Bay Camp—May
- National/International—Red Bird Mission—June
- Local—Eureka Food Pantry—July
- Conference—Midwest Distribution Center—August
- International—Hughes Russian Ministry—September
- Local—Salvation Army—October
- Conference—Our Conference, Our Kids—November
- National/International—St. Andrews Potato Project



CARLE EUREKA HOSPITAL PRAYER SHAWLS

The Eureka United Methodist Church and the Eureka Greater Area Kiwanis Club have joined together on a project to furnish prayer shawls to be given to hospital patients. These shawls will each be blessed with a special prayer and then donated to the hospital. They are asking help in making the shawls.

The shawls can be crochet, knitted or sewn. They need to be made out of a new washable material, not wool. The yarn is best if 100 % acrylic in medium (4) weight. Shawls can be sewn using single thickness fleece material. All materials must be new for sanitary reasons. Suggested size is 24" X 60".

If you can't make one, we are asking that you make a donation to buy the materials for others to make them. Send donations made out to EUMC and mark missions shawls. There is a basket available for items or money to be dropped off in the foyer.

If you have any questions, please call Nancy Aldridge 309-467-4750 or questions about crocheted or knitted items call Diana Brehmer 467-3228.

Patients will know that they are wrapped in God's Love, who made the shawl, and that it was made with love and care.

EUMC YOUTH CORNER

JESUS SAID "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME UNTO ME AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE". MATTHEW 19:14



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

The Shepherds' Visit

F F H R P H U U B I S A N F W V L N S R
 W M B S L E O S V W X Y A R P Y T X O A
 O W A U Z L A V C Y E S H U A Y L S N P
 B U U N Y G D C Y F R L L W F V K H O P
 G E R G G A G R E B T Q L Q Z E O E F O
 B M A A O E L C R U R P O C P R S E G I
 F Z E P T Z R P D D I A N G E L Q P O N
 U N P S Y A H W E H B A F S D G Y P D T
 S R J Y S O D S N V E O X H R Y N X I E
 B U W L M E X N S X O S H B S S E N Q D
 F W R N J P N V M Q F V E E G N E I F T
 U I X M D Y H G Q D J Q B T S F P Z H I
 Y D E N Q Q X I E S U V R H J M P Q B M
 T B I L D B L N V R D P E L V C O R O E
 V N Q X D H B X L A A A W E J Z W C E I
 I I S R A E L I T E H Z A H T J X O Q P
 B I R T H S H E P H E R D E V Z E X O A
 Q U T M X B V Y R A T R U M P E T S V Z
 N U P M A R Y L S D E H K I G B Z S P L
 N T F W V X A C A L A R K C D H O F W D

BIRTH
 SHEPHERD
 APPOINTED TIME
 FIELD
 SON OF GOD
 TRIBE OF JUDAH

SHEEP
 HEBREW
 MESSENGER
 BETHLEHEM
 ISRAELITE
 YAHWEH

MANGER
 MARY
 PEACE
 TRUMPETS
 ANGEL
 YESHUA

Thanks for all the help at the bell ringing.
 It was a great day.



New Year Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving me

The brand new year ahead.

Help me live the way I should

As each new day I tread.

Give me strength and courage

So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty,

Help me fill it with good things

Each new day filled with joy

And happiness it brings.

Amen

Happy New Year

FAITHFUL IN PRAYER

THERE IS POWER IN PERSISTENT PRAYER - MICAH 7:7

Requests

Erin Taylor, great niece of Linda Anderson
Emma Asendorf, the Schoofs granddaughter

Our Missionaries

Priscilla Legay Jaiah
Brad & Maria Festen
Jonathon & Amanda
Jeff & Shauna Spence and children
Pete & Carol Hughes
Alicia Wright

Missions & Ministry

Threads, Hope & Love, NFP
Eureka Food Pantry Ministry / Volunteers
EUMC Ministries and Missions
Rev. Ted A. Hartley & family
Rev. Mary Kathryn Pearce (Dist. Supt. of the IL River District)
Rev. Frank Beard (IGRC Bishop)

Local

Carle Eureka Hospital- Emergency Department
Heart House and Heartline
Eureka College
Congerville-Eureka-Goodfield Dist.#140
Congerville, Eureka-Goodfield Fire and EMS volunteers

Those in Service to God and Country

Dakota Copeland
Nick Miller
Christian Stenzel
Micah Schumacher

National/International Concerns

Our Nation, State, County and Local Government
All those dealing with natural disasters
COVID—19, Cold, and Flu Sufferers

Happy Anniversary


BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Adrian Lee
- 3 Natasha Schertz
- 6 Jude Lehman
- 8 Cheryl Kenagy
- 9 Gary Schoof
- 9 Carolyn Schoof
- 10 Elijah Jackson
- 13 Mike Wilbanks
- 14 Dick Ridle
- 17 Dennis Musick
- 18 Joan Royer
- 21 Norma Savage
- 22 Jean Miller
- 24 Alan Royer
- 27 Marilyn Lamb

We'd love to celebrate you! If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in the newsletter, please let the office know.

MISSION & MINISTRY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 5th Sunday combined worship at 10:00am scripture and singing In the fellowship hall.	28	29	30 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry Worship music due by noon	31	1	2
3 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	4	5	6 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry Worship music due by noon	7	8	9
10 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	11	12	13 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry Worship music due by noon	14	15 Soup and Pie Day Drive thru and delivery options	16
17 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	18 Office closed	19	20 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry Worship music due by noon Newsletter articles due	21	22	23
24 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship	25	26	27 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry Worship music due by noon	28	29	30
31 8:00am Worship 10:30 am Worship	1	BECAUSE OF COVID-19 CONCERNS, THE MISSION AND MINISTRY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. LOOK FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY UPDATES IN YOUR EMAIL.				

PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR



We don't know about you, but we get very excited when a new year begins. We see it as a time to put off the "old" things and step into the "new" things that God has in store for His people. For our family we see it as a new beginning of sorts to hear His voice and walk into the blessing and life-lessons He has prepared for us in the New Year. Every year we write out different family prayers that line up with our goals as well as prayers that will always be relevant. Prayer, coupled with the commitment to memorizing God's Word together always makes for a fresh start and finish for every new year.

3 FAMILY PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR

FAMILY UNITY : Ephesians 4:3 tells us to, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." So we make it a point to pray for unity as we enter into the New Year.

A Prayer for Family Unity: God we thank you for an increased unity in our family in the New Year and every year beyond. We are grateful for your Holy Spirit that allows us to be unified through your peace. We

pray that you will help us to be mindful of our decisions and actions toward one another; help us to sow unity everywhere we go. May we glorify you today and every day. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

WALKING IN LOVE: As Christians it is important that we strive to walk in love. While walking in love isn't always easy, it is possible. As a family we strive to improve our love walk as often as we can. This prayer is focused around strengthening our love walk in the upcoming year!

Ephesians 5:1-2 say, "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

A Prayer for Walking in Love: God we come before you and ask you right now to help us walk in love today and every day. Please give us the strength to resist hurting others through our words and actions. We thank you now, God, that you loved us first and as a result we are able to love. Give us wisdom to see your people as you see them and love them the way you love them. Show us your ways, Father, so we can be more like you each and every day. We thank you for all of these things in Jesus' Name, Amen!

GOD'S PEACE : We can't tell you how many times God's peace has protected us from countless situations. We are always looking for ways to remain under the mindset of God's peace and are looking forward to another year full of the peace that only He can give!

Philippians 4:7 tell us, "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

A Prayer for God's Peace: God we are so thankful for your divine peace. Thank you for giving us access to your peace and for guarding our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Help us, Dear God, to keep our minds fixed upon you so we may remain in your peace regardless of what is going on around us. Help us to always turn to you no matter how we feel so we can continue to walk in peace and sow in peace. We ask that you would make us greater peacemakers this year as individuals and as a family unit. We love you and are thankful for you, Lord. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

PHONEVITE...AND HOW IT WORKS

What is a Phonevite™?

A Phonevite™ is a broadcast session in which you send a selected audio message to a group of phone numbers. Each Phonevite is a separate event/session.

In each Phonevite™, you will have the option to record a new message or select an existing one, and to enter a list of phone numbers and/or add existing group/s of phone numbers.

Can Phonevite™ leave messages in Voicemails and Answering Machines?

Answering Machine / Voice Mail Detection

Our system has an algorithm that detects most answering machines or voicemail systems, and leaves the full message after the tone.

Eureka UMC has been using a new contact system to get notifications out to our congregation in a quick manner, enabling us to reach everyone, particularly those without internet.

How does this work on the church's end? When we need to get a message to you, we select a group contact, or group phone book if you will, that we have compiled in the application. We choose that group for the call to be placed and record the message. We confirm the message is correct, and the Phonevite application calls the group contacts with the message.

When you receive a call, the caller ID will say Eureka United Methodist Church. When you answer the phone there may be a 10-15 second delay before a voice recorded message comes through.

When the message is complete, if no further action is required of you (such as a confirmation to RSVP, or option for call back if necessary) you may simply hang up.

What if I miss a call, or didn't answer it in time? Because the system is able to respond to voice mails and answering machines, there is no need to call us back if you have these options available to you. You will be able to access the recorded message through your voicemail or answering machine.

What if my voicemail or answering machine doesn't pick up? After calls are completed the application will try once more to contact you. If it is still unable to contact you, it will show up to us here at church that you were not able to be contacted using Phonevite. We will contact you personally by phone or email if the message is still pertinent.

What if I accidentally opted out of the Phonevite application? Please call the office and we will add you back in to the group phonebook.

Any questions? Call the church office and I'll do my best to help you. If you would like Phonevite to use a different number than the one its calling, please call the church office and I will update the contact number.