

THE GOOD NEWS

EUREKA UMC MISSION: TO KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE GOD

DECEMBER 2022

From the Heart

Opportunity

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

I do not remember the man's name. Twenty-five years ago, when I was the associate pastor serving the East Peoria First United Methodist Church, I led worship services at the South Side Mission. The man who played the piano for services at the mission grew up during the Great Depression. If I remember correctly, his family lived in an abandoned railroad box car down by the train yard.

When he was a child, he wanted more than anything to learn how to play the piano. As resources were scarce, his parents had very few funds to purchase a piano, let alone pay for lessons. But one day, his father ran across a discarded piano. There was just one problem. The reason the piano had been discarded was because only the black keys worked. Who would ever want to play a piano only using the black keys?

The man's father saw an opportunity to make his son happy, so he found a way to get the broken down piano home to his son. When the boy saw the piano, his heart jumped with joy! He began plunking the keys to the precious piano. He would learn to tap out by ear, melodies he knew. Eventually, he taught himself how to play that piano using only the black keys. He didn't care if the piano was new. He didn't mind that most of the keys didn't work. He only saw the joy that piano would bring him.

As we journey towards Christmas, let us keep in mind the Joy that God looks for in the world. It is too easy to get wrapped up in the brokenness of the world. We only have to turn on the news to see it. But rather look for the good in the people you encounter each day.

When God looked down on creation and saw our brokenness, he looked for the good in our world! He encouraged that good by sending a baby who was to be called "Emmanuel" God's presence with us! And then he showered the world with his love.

Because that man's father brought a broken down piano home to his son, many people at the South Side Mission who were experiencing life at it's lowest point, were filled with joy.

How is God calling you to be a blessing this year?

I'll See You In Church!
Pastor Bob

GROW IN FAITH

Sunday Sermon Series:

December 4: Mary and Gabriel Luke 1:26-38

December 11: Joseph and the Angel of the Lord Matthew 1:18-25

December 18: The Shepherds and the Angels Luke 2:9-20

December 25: Hope of the World Isaiah 43:1-5 and Luke 2:1-20

"Happy Sunday! If you are happy today, share this joy with the Lord, if you are sad, find strength in God, and remember that He is always in your heart." – Unknown

THE CHOSEN

The Chosen is a series about the life of Jesus, bringing the Old and New Testament to life in a fresh way.

Each week, the same DVD will be shown at both times so if you miss one, you can catch the next!

Starting January 9th

Monday, 11:00 AM and Thursday, 6:00 PM (new day)

Please consider joining us for the DVD series which will run for 8 weeks. You do not have to attend each session but once you see one, you won't want to miss!



Week 9 "Thunder" (60:01)
Week 10 "I Saw You" (52:37)
Week 11 "Matthew 4:24" (38:25)
Week 12 "Perfect Opportunity" (58:41)
Week 13 "Spirit" (47:44)
Week 14 "Unlawful" (44:34)
Week 15 "Reckoning" (42:58)
Week 16 "Beyond Mountain" (59:07)

CHRISTMAS TIME FESTIVITIES...ALL IN ONE PLACE!

Christmas Eve Services

Roanoke UMC: 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 24.
Offering will be given to: Crittenton Center

Eureka UMC: 9 p.m. on Saturday, December 24
Offering will be given to Heartline

Both services will feature Christmas Carols, Candle light, and Communion. Bring your family and friends!

Christmas Day

We will celebrate our regular worship schedule on Christmas Morning! Children are welcome to come in their pajamas and bring their favorite present for a “show and tell” during the children’s time. Come and celebrate Jesus’ birthday at church!

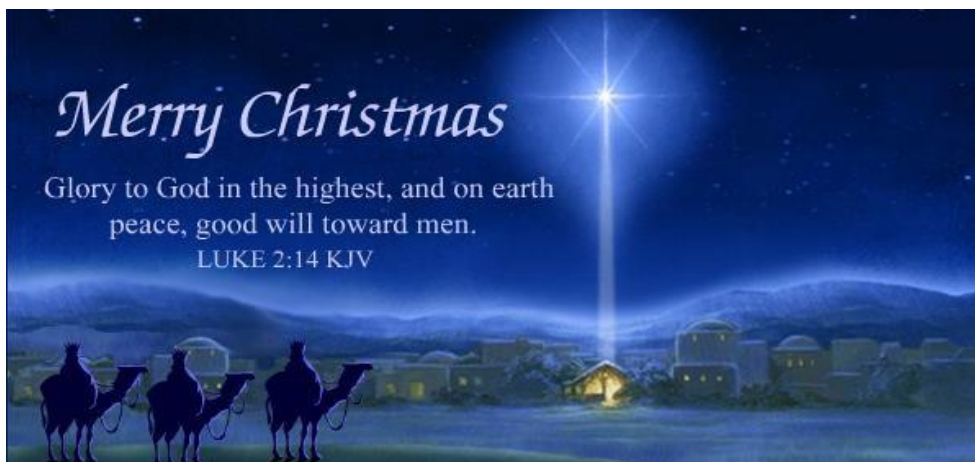
December Youth Group

December 11 The youth group will tour the Winter Wonderland of the East Peoria Festival of lights. Bring money for McDonalds. We will meet at the Eureka church at 5 p.m.

December 25: No Youth Group. Merry Christmas!

Offices will be closed

The church offices will be closed the week of December 26. Please call Pastor Bob on his cell phone (309)252-1136 if you are in need of pastoral care.



MISSION AND MINISTRY

Mission Spotlight for 2022

January - Heartline and Heart House = \$150.00	Missionary Support
February - Midwest Mission Distribution Center = \$ 300.00	
March - Joni and Friends = \$ 650.00	Alicia Wright - India
April - Meals on Wheels = \$720.00	
May - Our Conference, Our Kids = \$500.00	Connie Wieck - China
June - Love Packages = \$400.00	
July - The Salvation Army = \$ 500.00	Priscilla Jaiah - Liberia
August - Evenglow Lodge = \$500.00	
September - UMCOR US Disaster Response = \$500.00	
October - ADDWC = \$500.00	Jeff Spence - Taiwan
November - Amity Bible Foundation = \$500.00	
December - St. Andrews Potato Project =	

December Mission Spotlight:

ST. ANDREWS POTATO PROJECT

The Society of St. Andrew is concerned with two primary community needs: (1) HUNGER. 48 million people in the United States are hungry: 35 million of them skimping on food or missing meals because they are juggling expenses every month to get by, choosing between heat or medicine and food. Another 13 million people in the United States are genuinely hungry every day, not knowing where their next meal is coming from. (2) CREATION CARE. More than 133 billion pounds of good food goes to waste in the United States every year, thrown in landfills or left to rot in fields. This food waste represents hundreds of billions of dollars of lost resource inputs and becomes the second largest source of harmful greenhouse gases as it decomposes.

2023 Mission and Ministry Giving

January: Local - Heartline & Heart House	
February: Conference - IGRC Camp Scholarship Fund	Missionary Support
March: National - Joni & Friends	
April: Local - Meals on Wheels	Alicia Wright - India
May: Conference - Mission Distribution Center	Connie Wieck - China
June: National - Love Packages	
July: Local - Salvation Army	Priscilla Jaiah - Liberia
August: Conference - Leslie Bates Friendship House	Jeff Spence - Taiwan
September: National - UMCOR Disaster Relief	
October: Local - ADDWC	Davies Musigo - Kenya
November - DaySpring Native American UMC	
December - Southside Mission	

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Christmas Day

Childrens Church

Calling all kids! Join Children's Church following Children's message. Would you like to help out with Children's Church? Kathy is looking for anyone who would like to fill in when she is not available. Lesson plans would already be arranged!

Youth Group

Do you have a young person that would like to learn more about Christ and have fun while doing it? The EUMC Youth Group is the place to do it! The second and fourth Sunday at 6:00pm in the remodeled church basement is where its happening! See Nancy Hoelscher for more information.

We will celebrate our regular worship schedule on Christmas Morning!

Children are welcome to come in their pajamas and bring their favorite present for a "show and tell" during the children's time.

Come and celebrate Jesus' birthday at church!



December Youth Calendar

The Eureka and Roanoke Youth group meets the **2nd and 4th Sunday of each month**. Check out our December schedule below:

December 11: The youth group will tour the Winter Wonderland of the East Peoria Festival of lights. Bring money for McDonalds. We will meet at the Eureka church at 5 p.m.

December 25: No Youth Group. Merry Christmas!

"Tree of Hearts" is a program for Woodford County residents who can sign their children up to receive Christmas presents. We would like to invite you to join us in spreading the holiday cheer by purchasing Christmas presents for "Tree of Hearts." This program has been going on since 1994 when 47 families signed up. Last year, we had 102 families sign up and served 277 children.

There are many ways that people can help with this program. One way is to shop for and donate new, unwrapped Christmas presents for kids 0-High School aged. **We need all donations to the Heart House by December 16th.** Another way to help is to volunteer! We will be sorting all the gifts the evening of December 16th, wrapping the gifts December 19-21st, and distributing the gifts Friday, Dec. 23rd. If you are interested in volunteering during any of these days, please call Janet at 467-6101 ext. 2 to sign up.



EUMC & RUMC NEWS

JOY CHOIR COMING!!!

YES, the JOY Choir is coming to the Eureka and Roanoke United Methodist Churches!! The Administrative Boards of each church approved the "new" choir at their August meetings. So, what exactly is the JOY Choir?

WHAT?...JOY stands for Jesus, Others, Yourself, an acronym making it easy to remember how we are to live our lives each day.

WHO?...ANYONE who LOVES to sing praises to God, including those who do not have the time to devote to regular weekly practices. The age limit will be from a freshman in high school to 115 years old...and those limits can be "fudged" a little if necessary.

WHEN?...Our first time to sing together will be January 29th, and we will be singing any Fifth Sunday during the year. For 2023 those dates are: January 29, April 30, July 30, October 29, and December 31.

WHERE?...Our first singing "gig" will be in the Roanoke UMC. Then it will be rotated between the two churches. Both church boards agreed to having one joint service on fifth Sundays. Time for each service will be agreed upon between the churches.

HOW?...There will be two practices prior to the Fifth Sunday singing. They will be on Saturdays at 10 AM in the church sanctuary where the choir will sing. For the first choir, the practice dates would be January 21 and 28 in the Roanoke Church. We will be rehearsing the songs for the January 29th and the April 30th anthems. If you can only make one practice...we can make it work.

WHY?...Why not?? This will give our two churches a chance to mingle and sing praises to Our Lord and Savior.

I am Judith Quiram, and I will have the pleasure of directing this new choir. I would like to have an approximate count of those interested in singing so I can have enough music. Also, if you would like to have music enlarged, please share that as well. Sue Knepp (309-657-9769) will be the contact person from Eureka. I will be the contact person from Roanoke (309-923-7716.) I am hoping there will be an amazing number of singers from both churches. PLEASE come join us!!

SING-cerely...*Judith*



BLESSINGS AND PRAYER

Birthday Celebrations

- 4 - Evelyn Collins
- 8 - Sandi Sylvester
- 10 - Leah Bown
- 22 - Alice Zimmerman
- 28 - Julie Steinbeck
- 28 - Jenny Crow
- 30 - Pete Micca
- 30 - Christopher Bunting



Anniversary Celebrations

- 6 - Don and Shirley Litwiller
- 18 - Brad and Stephanie Haney
- 19 - Richard and Leah Bown



Keeping you in Prayer

Pray for.....

the people of war torn countries

our Pastor and his wife

our Congregation

those in our community suffering with COVID and other illnesses

those who are grieving, hurting or lonely

the least, last and lost and those who do not yet know Jesus

those in service to God, country and our community

Pray that you feel God's Love and Grace for you



DECEMBER MISSION & MINISTRY CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Greeters 4 - M.Bachman 11 - R.Eeten 18 - A. Hinnen 25 - Knepp's</p>	<p>Pastor Bob's Schedule: Monday and Wednesday Eureka office hours 9 a.m. to 12 noon</p>			1	2	3 Building Use - 4H All Day event
4 9am Worship Noon RUMC Advent Soup lunch	5	6 1pm Prayer Group	7 8am Eureka Ministerial 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	8	9 9am Book Club	10 9-11am Cub Scout Christmas Party
11 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 5pm Youth to Fest. of Lights, bring \$\$	12	13 1pm Prayer Group 6pm Church Council	14 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	15	16 Heartline Tree of Hearts donations due	17
18 9am Worship 10am Fellowship	19	20 1pm Prayer Group	21 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 6:30 RUMC 9 EUMC
25 Merry Christmas! 9am Worship No Youth Group	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed Building use - Micca	31