



# *The Good News*

## EUREKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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APRIL  
2023

### Roberts Reflections

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10 RSV*

Five miles. That is the distance between the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem where Jesus was born and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where he was crucified. *It is not a great distance travel wise, but in the grand scheme of things, they were worlds apart.*

*When Mary and Joseph traveled by donkey to Bethlehem the world lived in darkness. When Mary began having labor pains, I can imagine Joseph frantically traveling from door to door looking for a place for them to stay. "No room" was the response he received each time.*

*I can only imagine hearing that same response if I attempted to knock on heaven's door and tried to gain admittance on my own merits. "No room for sinners here." The feeling of rejection would be overwhelming. "Would anyone have mercy on me?" would be my prayer.*

Five miles away that prayer would be answered. That family who was rejected in Bethlehem 32 years earlier would witness one of their own be crucified on a cross. Instead of rejecting his accusers and executioners for their actions, he prayed "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." His message to them was, if you make room for the Son of God in your hearts, God has room for you.

Even though we had no room for Jesus' family in Bethlehem, his suffering and death on the cross was to make room for us. The empty tomb on Easter morning not only displays Jesus' triumph over the grave, the emptiness of the tomb reminds us that God has prepared room for each of us. Our sins have been forgiven and the gates of heaven are thrown open wide! Praise be to God!

I'll see you in Church!

Pastor Bob



## A Note from the Pastor

As we were preparing for this newsletter, the news broke of another school shooting at Covenant School in Nashville, TN. My heart broke with the news that six people, including three 9 year old children, lost their lives in this senseless act. Our prayers go out to their families, the school community and Covenant Presbyterian church as they grieve this tragic event.

Although the critics chastise Christians over prayer, I still know that God answers prayer and that there is always power in God's response. As followers of Christ, I invite you, in addition to your prayers for those in this situation, to pray for...

- All of our first responders who face life threatening situations ever day and rush in where others flee.
- Pray for our Educators and their support staff.
- Our school children.
- Our legislators, that they may move beyond the political posturing and begin to make incremental steps to address many of the base issues involved such as...
  - Enforcing gun laws that are already on the books
  - Develop new and more effective methods of helping people living with mental stress and illness.
  - Work to curtain gang violence and the black market supply of illegal weapons.

Let us also pray that our country will begin once again to value life as God values life, and may we work hard to make the world a better place than when we found it.

Almighty God, Hold the covenant school community in your loving arms. Give them your strength and comfort during this season of what seems like insurmountable grief.

Help us, O Lord, to be agents of your peace. Challenge us to speak up for our children, and protect us as we pray. Amen.

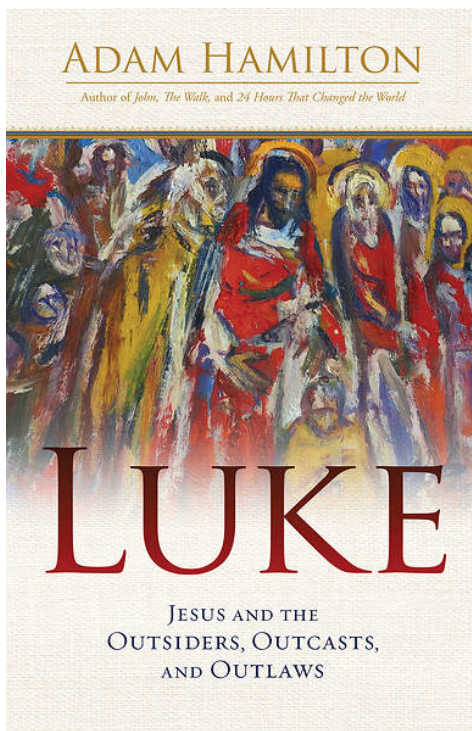
### *Sunday Sermon Series:*

- 4/2/2023 - "The World Turned Upside Down"    4/30/2023 - "Signs and Wonders"  
    Scripture: Luke 22:24-27                      Scriptures: Acts 2:42-47
- 4/9/2023 - "Mission Accomplished"  
    Scripture: Luke 23:32-42
- 4/16/2023 - "Eyes of the Heart"  
    Scripture: John 20:19-31
- 4/23/2023 - "Heartburn!"  
    Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

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

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### Lenten Study



Our Lenten Study on Adam Hamilton's book *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* will go through the week of April 10th.

Eureka dates:

- 4/3
- 4/10

Roanoke Dates:

- 4/6
- 4/13

Please talk to Pastor Bob if you have further questions.

The Study will meet each week at 11 am on Monday mornings in Eureka and will be repeated at 6 pm on Thursday evenings in Roanoke. The study will begin on March 6, 2023. We hope to see you!

## April Mission Spotlight

### Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is an organization with over 5,000 community - based programs throughout the country. Volunteers and staff visit Seniors who are isolated and hungry, providing them with meals, safety checks, and friendly visits. Their mission is to help local community programs improve the wellbeing of Seniors in their communities so that no one goes hungry or remains isolated.

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## 2023 Mission and Ministry Giving

January: Local - Heartline & Heart House

February: Conference - IGRC Camp Scholarship Fund

March: National - Joni & Friends

April: Local - Meals on Wheels

May: Conference - Mission Distribution Center

June: National - Love Packages

July: Local - Salvation Army

August: Conference - Leslie Bates Friendship House

September: National - UMCOR Disaster Relief

October: Local - ADDWC

November: DaySpring Native American UMC

December: Southside Mission

### Missionary Support 2023:

Alicia Wright - India

Connie Weick - China

Priscilla Jaiah - Liberia

Jeff Spence - Taiwan

Davies Musigo - Kenya

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### *Did you know?*

Donations can now be made online! Please visit the following website if you are interested.

<https://eurekailumc.org/donate/>

## Compassion Closet

The Compassion Closet at Carle Eureka Hospital is an outreach program designed to provide appropriate clothing for patients who are sent home from the hospital. If you would like to donate you may drop clothes off in the basket at the EUMC.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, checks can be made payable to EUMC Missions and mark for Compassion Closet. Monetary or item donations are tax deductible. If you want a letter for tax purposes, fill out the sheet in the basket and it will be returned to you signed.

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## Children's Church

Children's Church:

Calling all kids! Join Children's Church following Children's message.

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

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## Joint All Church Meeting on Disaffiliation

On Sunday, May 7, 2023 both the Roanoke and Eureka United Methodist churches will meet at 2 p.m. in the Eureka church sanctuary. Rev. Jim Barnett, our District Superintendent, and Dr. Bob Phillips of the Wesleyan Covenant Association will speak to us about Disaffiliation issues and about staying United Methodist.

This is merely an informational meeting. No voting will happen. Following the presentations there will be small groups divided by congregation to have a discussion of the topics. Your input is important to us. Please plan to be in attendance.

Thank you.

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## *Weather Reminder*

This winter is predicted to be filled with bad weather. If we have to cancel the following will occur:

EUMC - a phone message will be sent out on our Phonevite service. If you are not on our list, please call the church office to be added.

RUMC - information will be posted on the WEEK TV 25/WHOI TV19 web page and broadcast by 7:30 AM

## April Youth Group

Due to schedule conflicts on the second Sunday of the month (i.e. Easter and Mother's day) Youth Group will be moving to the first and third Sunday's of the month. The First Sunday we will meet at the Eureka Church and the Third Sunday we will meet at the Roanoke church. Bring your friends and join us for fun and fellowship!

April 2: Eureka UMC

Time: 5 pm

Dinner: Pizza

Activity: Stuffing eggs for Easter Egg Hunt

April 16: Roanoke UMC

Time: 5 pm

Dinner: Tacos

Activity: Jell-O Olympics

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## EUMC Senior Fellowship



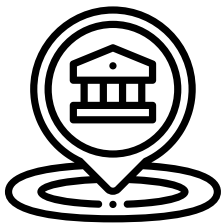
Shawn Degenhart of Gospelfest Ministries - Washington, IL, will be giving a free concert on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 1:00 PM in our sanctuary. The concert is titled "An Afternoon with Fanny Crosby".

Fanny Crosby, born in 1820 and blinded as an infant, was a prolific hymnist composing more than 8000 hymns and gospel songs before her death. She was a lifelong Methodist and many of her hymns will be recognizable. Join us to hear Shawn tell the story of Fanny's life through her hymns, allowing us an opportunity to sing along with him as he plays the hymns.

**We will be taking a free will offering to support Shawn's ministry which proclaims the name of Jesus Christ through music.**

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## RUMC Senior Fellowship



Fellowship will be held at the Peoria Riverfront Museum on Wednesday, April 19th. At 10 am coffee and rolls will be provided followed by the lecture at 10:30. It will be a presentation of music history and piano recital with Bradley University professor Mark DeZwaan. DeZwaan will perform and reflect on the museum's exhibition, "Nathan Gunn: The Art of Opera,". Following the lecture you will tour the exhibit. After leaving the museum, you will go to lunch at Obed & Isaac's.

**Please Note: The Riverfront museum events are free; lunch is on your own. Cars will leave the church parking lot at 9:30. Please reach out to Deb Schrader (309)231-7862 to RSVP by April 12.**

## Joint Worship Services

Our next Fifth Sunday joint worship service will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 30, 2023. We will be meeting at Eureka UMC.

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## Pastor Bob's Chemo Schedule

Pastor Bob's next trip to Iowa City for Chemo treatments will be on April 23, 2023. He will also have a scope on April 5, 2023. He will be out of the office on both of these days. Please keep Pastor and Juliana in your prayers as they travel to Iowa City, IA for treatments.

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## Holy Week Schedule

April 2 - Palm Sunday

9. am Eureka UMC Worship  
10:45 a.m. Roanoke UMC Worship

April 6 - Maundy Thursday

7 pm worship service with Communion at Eureka UMC

April 7 - Good Friday

12 noon Eureka Community Good Friday service at the Presbyterian Church  
7 p.m. Good Friday service at Roanoke UMC

April 9 - Easter Sunday

7: 30 am Eureka Sunrise Service  
8 a.m. Eureka Easter Breakfast  
9 a.m. Eureka UMC Worship Service  
10 a.m. Eureka UMC Easter Egg Hunt  
10:45 a.m. Roanoke UMC Worship Service

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## *Remember!*

Before purchasing any food for the church at Eureka Kirby Foods. Please check out the charge card from the church office.

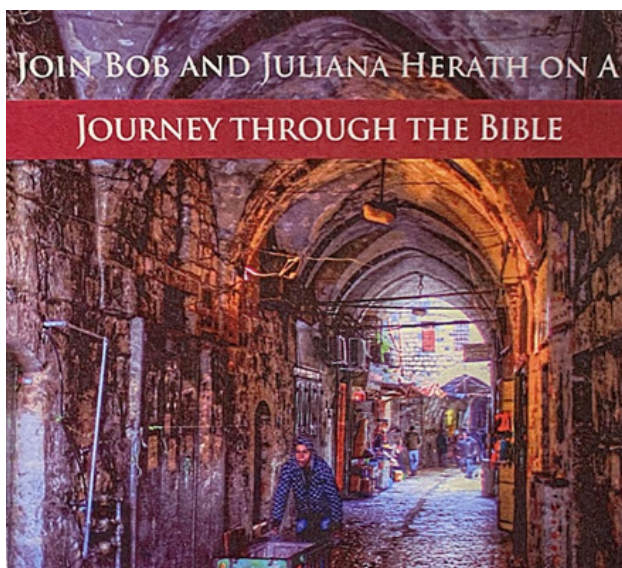
Thank you!

## Diabetes Clinic

The Woodford County Home Extension will be holding their monthly Diabetes Clinic meetings at our church in Conference Room 1, on the third Thursday of each month from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. This begins in February and will run through November. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about how to prevent or live with diabetes.

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## 2024 Holy Land Pilgrimage



Pastor is organizing a trip to the Holy Land in February of 2024. The details are as follows:

- Date: February 20 - March 1, 2024
- The trip is through Educational Opportunities
- You will need a passport.
- Flights will be out of Chicago and at this time we do not have that pricing, however, pricing from NY is \$3,498 per person.
- A few of the places we will visit will be: Bethlehem, Jericho, Herodium, Caesaria, Cana, Nazareth, Samaria, Jacob's Well, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Caesaria Philippi, and many more.

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## *Remember!*

The Trustees can use everyone's assistance to keep our property in tip-top shape.

- Turn off any lights when you leave a room.
- Feel free to use the toys balls, tables, and chairs in the fellowship hall, but make sure to return them to where you found them.
- If you see something that needs to be repaired, contact one of the trustees!

Listed below are the Trustees and their area of responsibility:

- Security/Chair - Jordan Bunting
- Inside Church - Chris Lee/Marty Lehman
- Mechanical - Gary Knepp
- Outside - Paul Attig
- Kitchen/Laundry - Ken Jackson
- Parsonage - Edie Jackson/Lynn Hinnen



*Birthday Celebrations*

4/04 Marcus Lehigh  
4/05 Ron Eeten  
4/06 Jessica Martin  
4/13 Joan McClean  
4/15 Mary Jane Griffith  
4/18 Vada Schertz  
4/19 Noah Lehman  
4/23 Jon Lehigh  
4/24 Diana Brehmer  
4/24 Betty Holliger  
4/25 Nancy Hoelscher  
4/28 Elizabeth Collins  
4/28 Shirley O'Marah  
4/28 Leonard Savage

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*Anniversary Celebrations*

4/01/2001 Chris & Christy Lee  
4/12/1974 Bob & Nancy Bishop  
4/15/2000 Scott & Barb Harrison  
4/20/1974 Al & Diane Hinnen  
4/25/1964 Larry & Louis Bonin  
4/26/1975 Michael & Joyce Borzello  
4/26/1964 Diana & Jack Brehmer

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*Keeping You in Prayer*

Pray for .....

The people of war-torn countries  
Our Pastor and his wife  
Our Congregation  
Those in our community suffering from  
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

"The Lord Bless you and Keep  
You ;  
the Lord make his face shine on  
you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord turn his face toward  
you and give you peace"

Numbers 4: 24 - 26

## Schedule for April 2023

4/2 Palm Sunday, 5 pm Youth Group EUMC  
4/3 11 am Lenten Study EUMC  
4/4 1 pm Prayer Group  
4/5 Pastor out of Office  
4/6 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service  
4/7 Good Friday - 12 noon Eureka Community Good Friday Service at the Presbyterian Church, 7 pm Good Friday Service at RUMC  
4/9 Easter Sunday - 7:30 am Eureka Sunrise Service (Joint Service), 8 am EUMC Easter Breakfast, 9 am EUMC Worship Service, 10 am EUMC Easter Egg Hunt, 10:45 am RUMC Worship Service  
4/10 11 am Lenten Study EUMC, 5 pm Finance meeting C1  
4/11 1 pm Prayer Group, 6 pm Church Council C1  
4/12 Pastor out of Office  
4/14 9 am Book Club FH  
4/16 5 pm Youth Group RUMC  
4/18 1 pm Prayer Group, 4 pm Food Pantry Board C1  
4/20 1:30 Diabetes Clinic C1, 5:30 Trustees C1, 7 pm The Browns Concert WA Evangelical  
4/23 8 am Fellowship, 10 am Hospitality meeting  
4/25 1 pm Prayer Group  
4/28 9 am Book Club FH  
4/30 10 am Joint Service EUMC

\*C1 ~ Conference Room 1  
\*C3 ~ Conference Room 3  
\*FH ~ Fellowship Hall

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### *Other Important Information*

Church Contact Information:  
208 N Callender ST, Eureka IL, 61530  
(309) 467 - 3026  
EUMC61530@gmail.com

Pastor Bob Herath  
revraherath@gmail.com  
(309) 252 - 1136

Greeters:  
4/2 -Dennis & Joy Crouch  
4/9 - Marilyn Kern  
4/16 - Brad & Marilyn Bachman  
4/23 - Al & Diane Hinnen  
4/30 - Gary & Sue Knepp

Pastor Bob's Schedule:  
Eureka - Monday & Wednesday 9 am  
to 12 noon  
Roanoke - Tuesday and Thursday 9:15  
am to 12 noon