



The Good News

EUREKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY
2023

Roberts Reflections

"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being."
Psalm 104:33 NRSV

My mother-in-law lives in a dementia wing at an assisted living community in Iowa. Juliana and I try to stop and visit her when we travel to Iowa City for my chemo treatments. For the majority of my mother-in-law's adult life, she served as the pianist for her small free-spirit church in Eldridge, Iowa. She knows most of the hymns by heart and she often is found playing her piano during the day.

I just recently learned that she hears church organ music all day in her mind, and often she sings the words to the hymns she hears. The staff who take care of her listen to her singing in her small apartment. They have said that at night, they know she is ok, because they can hear her singing. To those of us in her family, we find comfort knowing that as her situation continues to develop, she continues to know Jesus' presence and "sings her faith."

Our two churches have developed a joint choir program called the "Joy Choir." Judith Quiram, our director reminds us that JOY stands for Jesus, Others, and You. You do not need to be able to read music or even sing in order to be a part of the JOY Choir. It is a group of individuals who simply want to praise God together as a group. But the gift of music goes deeper than just singing in church on Sunday morning four times a year. I was once told that singing is praying twice. You pray with the words and you pray with the melody. It is easy to imagine singing when we have something to celebrate. "Happy Birthday" is the best example of this. However, many of our hymns were written about God being present with us during the difficult times in life. "It is Well with My Soul" "Were You There" and other hymns seem to come along beside us during difficult seasons and remind us of God's presence during strife. We often think of music being our gift to God, but it is also God's gift to us as we feel His calming Spirit in the familiar melodies and words.

This coming Sunday I invite you to not only sing during the hymns, but also listen. Listen to what God is speaking to you. You may even find yourself humming one of the tunes later in the day, and everyone, including yourself will find everything is okay in you song.

I'll see you in church!

In Christ,
Pastor Bob

Sunday Sermon Series:

5/7/23 - "Standing on the Promises"

Scripture: Acts 7:55-60

5/14/2023 - "One of a Kind"

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

5/21/2023 - "To the End of the Earth"

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11

5/28/2023 - "TBA"

Scripture: TBA

"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

Change in 4th Sunday Breakfast Time

Pastor Bob and Juliana do not get to participate in our Fellowship Time following the 9am service since they must leave immediately for RUMC. The Hospitality Team has hosted a breakfast on the 4th Sunday of each month at 8 am since last fall to allow people time to spend with Pastor and Juliana over breakfast.

After this trial period, the decision has been made to no longer offer a breakfast at 8 am on the 4th Sunday. We will have our regular Fellowship time following the 9am service every Sunday.

Thank you to everyone that participated over the last several months for the breakfast and we look forward to seeing you all after the service for Fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall.

Exciting News Regarding Apportionments

Due to rebounding on our giving in 2023, we will be increasing our percentage of apportionments being paid from 50% to 75% in April 2023. Thank you for your generous giving, we are so proud to start catching up on paying our full apportionments and we look forward to paying our past due apportionments.

May Mission Spotlight

Conference - Mission Distribution Center

The Midwest Distribution Center sends tangible resources to those in need to make an intangible difference in their lives through hope and empowerment. Around the world and around the corner people are lacking simple resources that could improve their circumstances. The Midwest Center appreciates your donations and/or volunteerism.

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

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.

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!

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.

Weather Reminder

This spring 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

May 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!

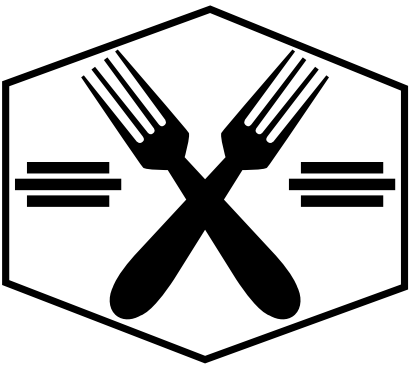
May 6: Eureka UMC

Time: 5 pm - meeting at the church

Activity: Chiefs game - Bring \$\$\$ for food, the youth group will pay for the ticket into the park.

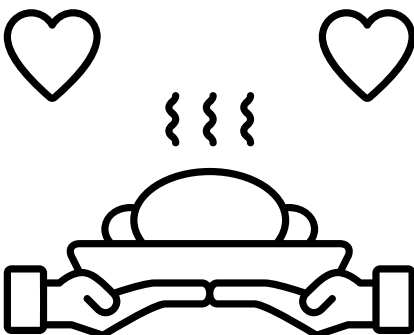
Please note: Youth group is done for the summer after May 6th.

EUMC Senior Fellowship



Join us on May 27th at 11 am for a Dutch-Treat Lunch held at Busy corner in Goodfield. If you would like to carpool, meet at the church at 10:45 am in the North Parking lot, otherwise, we will see you at Busy Corner at 11!

RUMC Senior Fellowship



On May 17th at noon we will have a potluck and barbeque sandwiches will be provided. The movie "A Man called Otto" starring Tom Hanks will follow. Our big screen in the Fellowship Hall is now working for theater-like showing!

Join us for good food, fellowship and a heartwarming movie about love, loss and live.

Pastor Bob's Chemo Schedule

Pastor Bob's next trip to Iowa City for Chemo treatment will be on May 17, 2023. He will be out of the office. Please keep Pastor and Juliana in your prayers as they travel to Iowa City, IA for treatment.

Tax Exempt Purchases

If you are purchasing something on behalf of the church, please ensure you do not pay tax. Copies of the tax-exempt letters are available in the church office for purchases. When you check out-at the store, notify the cashier it is a tax-exempt purchase and provide them the copy of the tax-exempt letter.

Community Rewards

Earn money for the church while you shop at Kroger! Did you know that you can enroll in community rewards and earn money with purchases you make? Simply follow these steps to enroll:

1. Navigate to Kroger.com
2. Login to your Kroger account
3. Click on the drop-down arrow next to your name
4. Click on My account
5. Click on Community rewards
6. In the Find an organization search box, enter "Eureka United Methodist Church"
7. Click on Enroll
8. Then start using your Kroger Plus card!

Remember!

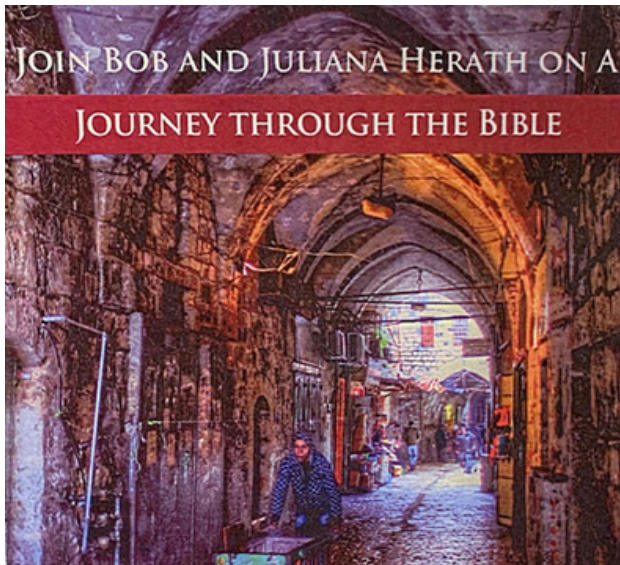
Before purchasing any food for the church at Eureka Kirby Foods. Please check out the charge card from the church office.

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.

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.

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

Special Session of Annual Conference

Rev. Herath and Richard Small will be representing Eureka and Roanoke UMC's at a special session of the Annual Conference on Saturday, May 6, 2023 in the morning.

The purpose of this special session will be to vote on approximately 40 congregations in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference who have requested disaffiliation

Please be in prayer.

Graduate Recognition Sunday

Rev. Herath would like to recognize our eighth grade, high school, college, and post college graduates on Sunday, May 21 at both worship services.

Please call the appropriate church office by May 15th if you have a graduate you would like to have recognized.

Pastor Bob's May Vacation Schedule

Pastor Bob and Juliana will be using up vacation time in May and June. Their vataion time in may includes:

May 8 - 18 as they travel for their son Noah's college graduation Mother's Day weekend. Jyl Zubiata will be preaching on Mother's Day.

Rev. Herath will also be on vacation Memorial Day Sunday. Richard Small will preach that day.

Please call the church office if you need a pastor during these times.

Thank you

I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, meals, and visits while I was in the hospital. I truly believe i the power of prayer and you continue to be faithful witnesses!

I also want to thank Rev. Danny Cox for filling the pulpit on such short notice, and for Rev. Dan Doty for his assistance.

Pastor Bob

God in the Nursery!

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

Mark 9:36-37

God is everywhere that is true but have youth thought about God being in the nursery? When Jesus took a child and put him on His knee, He showed how much children meant to Him. Jesus loves the little children and so do we.

We want to be a blessing to families with young children and we need your help to accomplish this. We are opening up the nursery and are needing volunteers to watch the kids and help them play and learn about God's love. When you help in the nursery you may not know it but you are having such a big impact on their lives and the lives of the parents that are able to worship and hear the Word of God in the sanctuary. Help us be a blessing!

The more volunteers we have the better!

You will be able to hear the service on the speaker in the nursery and we are working on getting a TV in the nursery so that you can see the service live while you are in there. If there aren't any kids in the nursery you can come and help in the children's church room across the hall and if someone comes needing the nursery you can leave the children's church and go back to the nursery.

Please let the office, Kathy, or Sue know if you would like to volunteer. There is also a sign up sheet on the table outside the sanctuary.

Come be a blessing to others!

Birthday Celebrations

5/05 Mia Hoelscher
5/05 Margo Tennis
5/07 Ed Steinbeck
5/14 Brian Hoelscher
5/15 Kathy Jo Bunting
5/17 Rosalee Shanklin
5/22 Kane Schertz
5/23 Nancy Bishop
5/27 Randy Miller
5/27 Judy Robenstein
5/29 Bailey Bachman
5/30 Matthew Hoelscher
5/31 Cohen Sweeney

Anniversary Celebrations

5/10/2013 Joseph & Nicole Martin
5/20/2000 Jason & Laura Collins

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 May 2023

5/1 11 am Mayberry Bible Study C1
5/2 1 pm Prayer Group, 5 pm SPRC
5/3 6 pm Mayberry Bible Study C1
5/6 5 pm Youth Group EUMC - Chiefs Game
5/7 2 pm Joint Church Meeting on Disaffiliation
5/8 11 am Mayberry Bible Study C1
5/9 1 pm Prayer Group, 6pm Church Council C1
5/20 6 pm Mayberry Bible Study C1
5/12 12 to 2 Book Club FH
5/16 1 pm Prayer Group
5/18 1:30 pm Diabetes Clinic
5/23 1 pm Prayer Group
5/25 11 am Senior Fellowship
5/27 7 pm The Lesters Concert Washington Evangelical UMC
5/30 1 pm Prayer Group

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

Please note: Pastor will be off the following days:

5/8 through 5/18

5/28

5/31

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:
5/7 - Jyl Zubiata
5/14 - Gary & Carolyn Schoof
5/21 - Richard Small
5/28 - Barry & Mary Lou Littlejohn

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