

THE GOOD NEWS

EUREKA UMC MISSION: TO KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE GOD

FEBRUARY 2024

Touchdown!

(Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18)

It is almost here! Although the Superbowl will not be played between any local teams this year, the Superbowl will still be one of the most watched television events of the year! Perhaps you have your menu items chosen for your own Bowl watching party. Some may even go out and buy the team jerseys, or at the minimum, purchase paper plates and napkins in their favorite team colors.

The pundits are already busy predicting which team will win. Will it be the team with the best offense, or perhaps the team with the best defense? Who has the better players, or maybe even, who is best prepared to play in the open air stadium in New Jersey on February 11?

There will be a winner determined. Amidst all of the hype, the winner will not be decided based upon who has the highest payroll, or who has the best statistics. No, the winner will be determined by something much simpler: Who scores the most points! Yes, whoever moves the ball across the goal line, or kicks it through the goal posts the most wins. It is that simple. That is the focus of every player on both teams. How do we help our team score the most points?

In the life of the church, we do lots of Monday morning quarterbacking. We look at statistics. We look at facilities. We look at programs. But the question remains: What is our goal? What do we know what a touchdown in the church looks like?

Perhaps it is in increased attendance at worship? Or maybe it is measured by what we place in the offering plate? I want to give you my thought on what a touchdown in the church is. It is measured in relationships. A touchdown in the church is whenever someone accepts Jesus Christ into his or her heart! It is measured in the lives of people, simple as that.

And once that person has begun their journey with Christ, they become a part of the team. We call it being a part of the family of God. And as a part of God's family, we focus on two things: First, continuing to grow in our own personal relationship with God, and second, inviting others to know Jesus Christ in their own lives!

So my question is this: When was the last time you invited someone to a relationship with Jesus Christ? And my second question is this: When was the last time you spent time with God? I'll see you in Church!

In Christ,
Pastor Bob

GROW IN FAITH

Sunday Sermon Series:

2/04: “Lost Luggage” Mark 6:7-13

2/11: “Gray Skies” Mark 9:2-8

2/18: “The Power of Prayer” Mark 9:14-29

2/25: “The Eyes of a Child” Mark 10:13-16

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” - John Wesley

WINTER WEATHER

Winter weather is so unpredictable, information on church cancellations due to weather conditions are as follows:

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

RUMC—Information will be posted on WEEK TV 25/WHOI TV 19 webpage and broadcasts by 7:30 a.m.



48TH ANNUAL OLE FARMER’S BREAKFAST

February 3rd— 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. EUMC will be serving pancakes, eggs made to order, sausage, hashbrowns, toast and milk, orange juice or coffee. Come join us for some fabulous fellowship and fantastic food. Be sure to tell your neighbors, family and friends!



Thank you Sponsors and Volunteers, without all of you this event would not be possible!
You are amazing!



CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR REPORT



Donnie Stevenson, Bonnie Miller, Sue Knepp, Liz Danner

Our Home Tour on December 9 was very successful. We had five families who opened their homes for the tour, two of them being on the original Christmas Home Tour in 1986— Rev. Danny & Carol Cox and Dr. David & Bonnie Miller. The other families this year were Jim & Nancy Maccari, Nick & Erin Miller, and Donnie Stevenson.

The homeowners chose to donate all proceeds from the home tour to Eureka Area United Fund and the check for \$2,256.89 was presented to Liz Danner, President of the Eureka Area United Fund on Saturday, January 20.

Thank you to everyone who participated in any way in making this event happen. We are hoping to sponsor it again next year if we can find five homeowners who will open their homes. We have a few leads, but

could use help in finding others. If you know of anyone who may want to participate, have them contact the church office.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

FEBRUARY MISSION: IGRC CAMP & SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This month, our Mission is IGRC Camp & Scholarship Fund. Connecting People, Nature, and Christ.

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference camping program is an extension of the local church's disciple-making process. Its mission is to connect people, nature, and Christ for the transformation of the world. By donating to the Scholarship Fund it will ensure that no camper will have to miss the experience due to inability to pay.

2024 Mission and Ministry Giving

- January: Local - Heartline & Heart House
- February: Conference - IGRC Camp Scholarship Fund
- March: National - Joni & Friends
- April: Conference - DaySpring Native American UMC
- May: Local - Youth Group Mission Trip
- June: International - Love Packages
- July: Local - Carle/Eureka Hospital Ministry
- August: Conference - Evenglow UMC
- September: National - UMCOR Disaster Relief
- October: Local - ADDWC
- November: Local— Meals on Wheels
- December: Conference— Baby Fold



Here in central Illinois we've been covered with ice and snow for several weeks. However, spring is only four weeks away when volunteers will descend on the Conference camps like East Bay on Lake Bloomington and Little Grassy to prepare the grounds and facilities to provide life changing camping experiences for nearly 2,000 campers this summer. According to an article in The Current (Dec. 2023), last year "over \$21,000 was shared through our scholarship account to enable campers with a demonstrated financial need to attend camp." EUMC is part of this effort by designating the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Camp Scholarship Fund as our February Mission. We would love to help some of our own youth experience camp this summer. Registration is now open! Visit <http://www.igrc.org/campsessions> or see the 2024 Camping Brochure on the Mission bulletin board. You can help our kids grow their faith and make a life changing commitment to Christ by donating to the IGRC Camp Scholarship Fund. Thank you!

Option to give to Missions and Ministry at Eureka UMC


Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card.

Make a donation online:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z55X/home> or click the donation button on our website

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Church

Calling all kids! Join Children's Church following the children's message. Would you like to be added to a sub list for Children's Church? Contact the church office! We need  your help!

Nursery

We need volunteers to sign up to cover the Nursery each Sunday. A TV has been installed in the Nursery so you won't miss the service! Please let the office know if you are willing to help out. If we all took 1 Sunday a year, we'd have it covered! Many hands make light work.

Youth Group

February 11: Superbowl Party @ the parsonage 1024 Peppertree Lane, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Bring a friend and a snack to share!



February 25: Beach party @EUMC, 5 p.m. Come dressed for a Lu-
au! We will be serving pulled pork and activities should conclude
at 6:30 p.m.

JOINT WORSHIP



YOU'RE INVITED TO WORSHIP

March 31, 2024

At Eureka United Methodist Church

GREETER MINISTRY

February:

2/04– Dan & Bev Doty

2/11– Lou Strong

2/18– Marty & Mary Lehman

2/25– Pete & Sylvia Micca



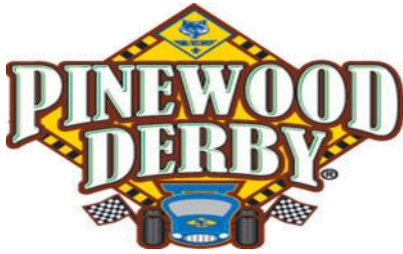
SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

RUMC will be hosting their annual Sweetheart Dinner at 1 p.m. on Sunday, February 18 at Capponi's in Toluca. Cost is \$22.35 per person which includes tax and tip. It is sure to be a tasty meal, please RSVP by Monday, February 12, by signing up in the lobby, or contacting the church office.



EUMC's March Senior Fellowship will be held March 16, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The church will be hosting an art show and book signing hosted by Rev. Dan Doty. Please come and enjoy the ambience and fellowship! Books will be available for purchase.

PINEWOOD DERBY



W.D. Boyce Council, Pack 257 will be holding the 2024 Pinewood Derby February 10 at EUMC. The tracks will be set up on Friday evening in the Fellowship Hall, weigh in will be Friday the 9th from 6:30-8 p.m. and the Derby will be held Saturday the 10th from 8 a.m.-noon. Popcorn will be for sale at a discounted price. Come on out and support the Scouts!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday on February 14 and the beginning of Lent with a service for the imposition of ashes. The first will be held at 12:15 p.m. over the lunch hour at Eureka United Methodist Church and the second will be held at Roanoke United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. Plan to join us as we begin our journey to the cross on Good Friday culminating with the empty tomb on Easter. It all begins with remembering our need to repent on Ash Wednesday!



JOB OPENING



YOUTH DIRECTOR

EUMC has an opening for a Youth Director. Interested parties should complete a Job Application available in the office and submit their resume to eumc61530@gmail.com

EUMC HISTORY CORNER

We begin February 2024 with 1948.

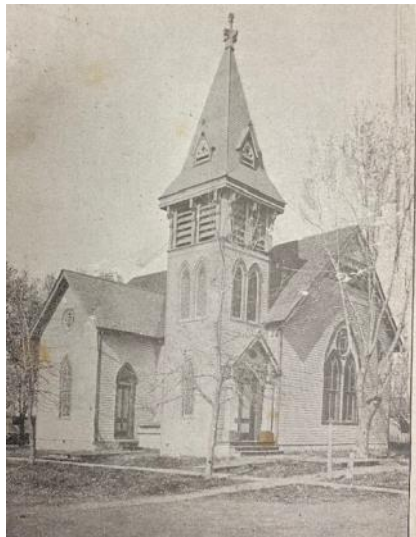
In 1948, a fire occurred in a member's home, destroying all previous records of the Women's Society of Christian Service, now referred to as United Methodist Women. Because this group was so instrumental in the survival and missions of our church, it is appropriate to list the officers of the group during this period. They included: Francis Wilson, Rhodabel Doty, Verle Mark, Dorothy Brooks, Ethel Bronson, Nellie Sumner, Irma Bowen, Esther Driscoll, Leota Davis, Alma Cremeens, and Fern Van Scyoc. The group had 23 members, was short on funds, but willing to work. After purchasing a stove for \$100, the ladies did everything from selling vanilla, having bake sales, cooking chicken suppers and chili and oyster suppers, sponsoring paper drives, holding ice cream socials, organizing bazaars, and selling cookbooks. The women also remodeled the basement and used it as their meeting space.

Also in 1948, B.J. Kaufman deeded 49 acres to the golf course.

In 1949, on a motion by Ethel Bronson during their meeting on February 23, 1949, the Women's Society of Christian Women began investigating into purchase a flag and standard and also a baptismal bowl for the sanctuary. (More than likely the flag, standard and baptismal font at the front of our church today).

On September 7, 1950, a shower was held for Shirley McKittrick, whose wedding to Blaine O'Marah was to be in the near future.

In the early 1950s part of the steeple was removed and a new furnace was installed.



During the early 1950s African-Americans were subject to racial segregation, but Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s was brewing. Key figures like Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcom X, and Rosa Parks highlighted and challenged those who were against African-American rights and freedoms.

Published in 1951, "the finest recipes in our town" could be found in *The Eureka Women's Society of Christian Service Cook Book*. It was noted that the recipes required, unless otherwise specified: that all measurements were to be level: all sugar was to be white granulated; all milk was to be sweet and whole; and all baking powder was to be double action—for best results!

After having been advised 28 years earlier by a representative of the State Department of Public Health to construct a sanitary sewage system, the City of Eureka was issued an order by the State Water Board to stop polluting streams in 1939. A bond issue was authorized, sanitary sewers were installed throughout the city, and in October of 1952, the new sewage plant was ready for operation.

In 1953, the church added city sewer; it cost \$275 and was paid for by the Women's Society of Christian Service, now known as the United Methodist Women. During their January meeting, they gave \$100 towards the necessary digging for the installation of a new restroom. The women also improved the church kitchen.

During 1954 the Senior and Junior Choirs were organized under the leadership of Reverend and Mrs. Flynn. Rev. Leroy Flynn was appointed pastor in 1953 and served until 1970 - 17 years. It should be noted prior to Rev. Flynn, most appointments were 1-3 years. A couple pastors served 5, 6 or 7 years before 1953.

In 1956 the Methodist Men's Club was organized.

The Women's Society of Christian Service in 1957 reported that they had organized numerous ways to substantially contribute to the existence of the church and their efforts were well documented since the fire destroyed all their records in 1948. The women continue to maintain adequate records of their activities as of this time. The earliest record found of the Methodist Men's involvement in our church was the original Charter dated February 8, 1957.

January 2, 1958 it was reported that the women's group had purchased two stoves and a refrigerator for the church kitchen. The old stove and refrigerator were traded in for two new 30" Hardwick gas stoves and a Kelvinator electric refrigerator.

Next month we will begin with 1959.

A GLIMPSE OF THE EUREKA CHURCH AND PASTOR FROM 1904

By: Shelly Lehman

Following is a snapshot of Rev. William D. Evans and the Eureka Methodist Episcopal Church in the early 20th century. The information was taken from a Souvenir Edition of the Woodford County Republican newspaper, dated 1904. Additional information was supplied by Illinois Great Rivers Conference Archivist Kenyon L. Reed. Please enjoy learning about this pastor who had charge of the Roanoke, Eureka, and Secor churches from 1902 to 1905.



Rev. William D. Evans was born 8 miles north of Eureka on the 20th day of April 1866. When a child, he attended the district schools, then graduated from Washburn High School. He attended Illinois Wesleyan, Moody's Bible Institute, and Garrett Biblical Institute.

Rev. Evans married on December 25, 1888. He was received into the Conference in 1897, ordained a deacon in 1899, and ordained an elder in 1901.

Rev. Evans was appointed to the Eureka, Roanoke, and Secor churches in 1902, then was reassigned there "at urgent request of the members of the official board," who apparently were eager to retain him.

The Woodford County Republican newspaper reported, "As a pastor and minister, he has done faithful and consistent work, and the churches under his care have enjoyed a most prosperous time, both in a spiritual and material way."

"The Rev. Evans as a man and citizen has won the respect and esteem of the citizens of the three towns in which he has labored. He is energetic and always ready to help along in any good cause, looking to the advancement and betterment of his fellow men."

The newspaper noted, "During the past year, \$150 has been raised for benevolence, an increase of 50 percent over any previous year. Three hundred and fifty dollars has been spent for improvements, and a parsonage has been bought in Eureka. About \$450 has been raised for current expenses, aside from the pastor's salary." Rev. Evans had preached 235 sermons, including 24 funerals. There were 30 additions, including seven baptisms. The Sunday schools "made rapid advancements and are doing most excellent work, as are the Ladies Aid, Epworth League (youth group), and other departments of the churches," according to the newspaper account.

Rev. Evans left Eureka in 1905 to serve the Gridley, Kappa, and Shiloh churches. He then spent three years at the Madison Avenue church in Peoria. He also was a trustee for the Deaconess Home and Hospital in Peoria (forerunner of Methodist Hospital) for seven years. Throughout his ministry he served more than 20 different churches. He retired from ministry in 1928.

BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

Birthday Celebrations

2/1– Judy Kanaga

2/2– Linda Anderson

2/3– Jennings Schertz

2/3– Lou Strong

2/4– Parker Jackson

2/8- Shirley Litwiller

2/10-- Gary Knepp

2/11– Vickie Ridle

2/14- Heather Lehman

2/19– Tim Sylvester

2/22– Marilyn Kern

2/23– Arlene Staff

2/29– Bill White



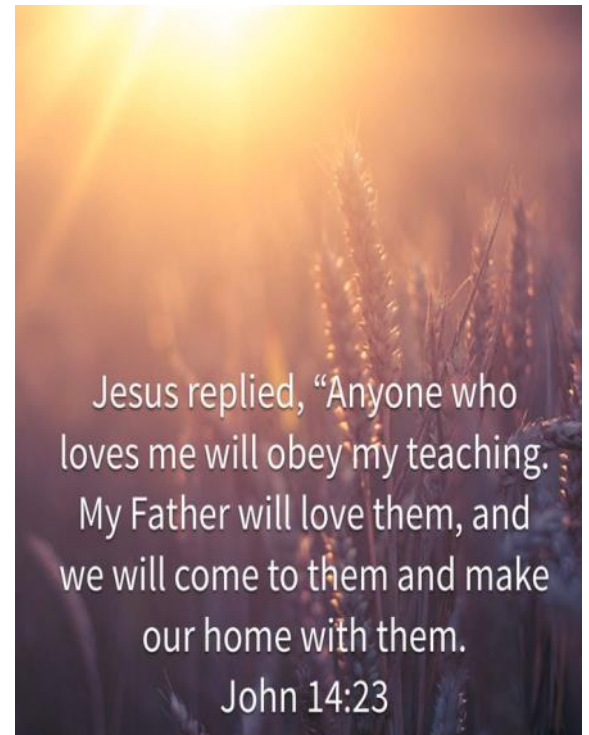
Anniversary Celebrations

No February Anniversaries!

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 illnesses
those who are grieving, hurting or lonely
the least, last and lost and those who do not yet know Je-
sus
those in service to God, country and our community
Pray that you feel God's Love and Grace for you



MISSION & MINISTRY CALENDAR

2024

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Greeters</u> 4-Dan/Bev Doty 11-Lou Strong 18-Marty/Mary Lehman 25-Pete/Sylvia Micca</p>	<p>NTA-FH 4:15 p.m.</p>			<p>1 Girl Scouts— FH 5-8:15 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Ole Farmer's Breakfast 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.</p>
<p>4 9 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>5 NTA-FH 4:15 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30-8 p.m.</p>	<p>6 6 pm— SPRC Meeting</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Girl Scouts— FH 4:30-8:15 p.m.</p>	<p>9 Book Club— FH 9:30-11:30 a.m. 5:30 Pinewood Derby setup—FH</p>	<p>10 Pack #257 Pinewood Derby - FH— 8 a.m. to noon.</p>
<p>11 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. UMM Meeting— C1 5p.m. Youth Group @ parsonage</p>	<p>12 NTA— FH 4:15 p.m.</p>	<p>13 6 pm— Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday Services: EUMC:12:15 p.m. RUMC: 6 p.m. Happy Valentine's Day!</p>	<p>15 Girl Scouts-FH 5-8:15 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9 a.m. Worship RUMC— Valentine's Dinner 1 p.m. at Capponi's</p>	<p>19 President's Day Office Closed NTA— FH 4:15 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30-8 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 G. Scouts 4:30-8:15p.m. FH</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9 a.m. Worship 5p.m. Youth Group @ EUMC</p>	<p>26 NTA-FH 4:15 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Bob's Schedule: Eureka - Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m. to 12 noon Roanoke - Tuesday and Thurs.</p>		