

THE GOOD NEWS

EUREKA UMC MISSION: TO KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE GOD JANUARY 2024

“He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new! Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Revelation 21:5 NIV

Phew! The Christmas shopping season is finally over! Yes, the stores will be crowded for a few more weeks as people return their gifts that didn't fit or look right, or perhaps didn't need in the first place. They will be exchanged for something else that is the right size, color or style. In a consumer driven society, Christmas day usually marks the end of the season, but as Christians, we know that the opposite is true.

As I sit to write, I have laid out on the table before me two calendars. The first is marked with the numbers 2023 on the front. The dates on the pages inside are filled with handwritten notes each representing a commitment of time or perhaps time wasted. Each date is now past. They are memories. I cannot go back and change what I did on a particular date. Vacations were spent. Loved ones have passed. Birthdays have been celebrated. Trips have been taken. 2023 is now History. Anyone can look at my 2023 calendar and see where my priorities were by how I allotted my time.

The second calendar before me has the numbers 2024 printed on its cover. As I open it, the pages are blank. Yes, a few dates have already been spoken for by the publisher such as Christmas and Easter, Mother's and Father's Day, and other National Holidays. But for the most part, the calendar is empty. I like to think that my 2024 calendar is full. It is not necessary full of commitments. It is full of opportunities! It is full of opportunities to take that vacation with my family that I had only dreamed of in the past. It is full of opportunities to spend time with people who are important to me that I didn't spend as much time with as I would have liked the year before. All in all my new calendar is a book of dreams and second chances. It is an opportunity to set new priorities.

As I alluded to earlier, for Christians, Christmas Day is not the end of the season, it is the beginning of new opportunities. Through Jesus Christ, God established that He is a God of second chances and new opportunities. We are reminded that this little child of Bethlehem was sent to save everyone in the world from sin so that we may live anew in God's love. God has made us a priority, and has provided us a means to be made new in His love.

As the new year begins I invite you to look at the new opportunities which lie before us. New opportunities to spend time with those who are important to us, our families, our friends, and a God who loves us enough that He sent His only Son to remind us of that love. I'll see you in church!

In Christ,
Pastor Bob

GROW IN FAITH

Sunday Sermon Series:

01/07/2024: “Water and Spirit”

01/14/2024: “Call and Response”

01/21/2024: “Fish Stories”

01/28/2024: “Recognition”

“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.

DEMENTIA PRESENTATION

Dr. Gary Knepp will be doing a presentation titled “The Many Faces of Dementia” Wednesday, January 10 at 1 p.m. in Conference Room 1, here at Eureka United Methodist Church. This will be an excellent event for anyone who has a loved one suffering with Dementia or wanting to learn more.



THANK YOU!

Juliana and I are blessed to serve two wonderful congregations. Thank you all for the Christmas cards, gifts and prayers! Your friendship is greatly appreciated!

MISSION AND MINISTRY

JANUARY MISSION: HEARTLINE & HEART HOUSE

This month, our Mission is Heartline and Heart House. They are a faith-based, non-denominational, community supported non-profit organization that has been serving the needs of Woodford County, Illinois since 1982. Their mission is to provide emergency shelter for women and their children; financial aid and education; community and resource referrals; and basic essentials to residents of Woodford County who find themselves homeless, victims of domestic violence, or in any other crisis situation.

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

Missionary Support 2024

Alicia Wright—India

Connie Wieck—China

Priscilla Jaiah—Liberia

Jeff Spence—Taiwan

Davies Musigo—Kenya

Jonathan Moore— Asia

Church Family,

Thank you for glorifying God through your generous gifts. (2 Corinthians 9:13) last year to help support missions near and far. Each month in 2024 we will focus on a local, United Methodist, or Inter/national mission. Beginning with the Heartline and Heart House in January. You can share a gift for missions by placing cash in the mission bucket on the back table at the back of the sanctuary or write a check designating "Mission Outreach" on the memo line. At the end of each month, a check from EUMC will be sent to the mission of the month.

Gratefully,

Mission Team

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 www.eurekailumc.org.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Church

Calling all kids! Join Children's Church following children's message. Would you like to help out with Children's Church? Please contact the office.

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.

JOINT WORSHIP

Worship
TOGETHER

YOU'RE INVITED TO WORSHIP

March 31, 2024

At Eureka United Methodist Church

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP



Saturday, January 20 - Choir Jam Concert led by Tracy Martz from 6-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Eureka United Methodist Church. This will be a great opportunity to have some great fellowship and wonderful entertainment. You will not want to miss this event. This event is open to the public. Everyone is welcome!

GREETER MINISTRY

01/07/2024- Gary & Judy Robenstein
01/14/2024- Donna Wettstein
01/21/2024- Linda Anderson
01/28/2024- Tim & Sandi Sylvester



YOUTH GROUP

1/14– Movie Night at Pastor Bob and Juliana’s home. Join us for dinner and a movie at the Parsonage, 1024 Pepper Tree Lane, Eureka. We will serve tacos for dinner and watch a movie. Festivities will start at 5 p.m. and end approximately at 7 p.m. Bring a friend.



1/28– Volleyball night at church. (EUMC) Come show off your volleyball skills as we have fun in the Fellowship Hall! We will meet at 5 p.m. and have lasagna for supper. We will be done at 6:30 p.m. Be prepared to have some fun!

TRACY MARTZ JAM SESSION

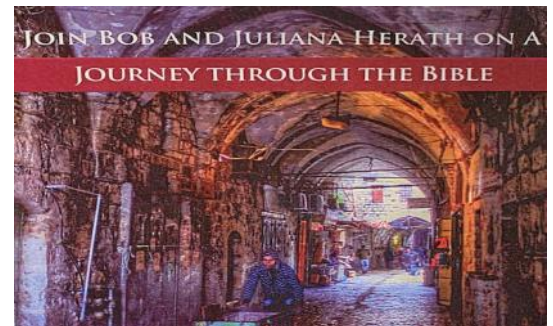


CALLING ALL PAST, PRESENT AND INTERESTED CHOIR MEMBERS. Tracy Martz is coming to EUMC January 20. We will practice from 1-4 p.m. We will then have a light meal for those singing, from 4-6 p.m. A public concert will be held from 6-8 p.m. This is a great event for those who love to sing. The concert is open to the public and we bet it will be wonderful! Don't miss this opportunity.

2024 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

There's still time if you're interested in going!

POSTPONED 1 YEAR!



JOB OPENINGS



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 left off in December with 1936.

1936 saw gambling being a topic at the March Epworth League meeting. Several of the youth spoke their thoughts on gambling. These included: Leone Potts, Joe Cremeens, Frank Pierce, Nellie Sumner, and Rhodabel Hogbin (Doty). Every Epworth meeting included a topic, scripture reading and song. During October's 1936 meeting, Lucille Cremeens, Theda Cremeens and June Cremeens sang a song entitled, "If Christ Should Come." They were accompanied by their mother.

In June of 1937, the Epworth League sponsored a candy and bake sale with proceeds going toward sending two delegates to Spring Bay Camp. In August, the youth of the Epworth League had a watermelon feast and in October, the youth group had an evening topic of "Why is Alcohol an Enemy?" Several of the youth then answered questions given out by the leader, followed by a song. Several in the group read a sentence condemning alcohol followed by a solo from Leota Davis. Reverend Smith and Reverend Waggoner each gave a talk on some men who drank alcohol. In December that year, the group went caroling and sang at 14 homes.

1938 saw the topic at the January Epworth League being "We Decide about Movies." Mr. Smith gave an example of his own experience of seeing a bad movie. Questions on seeing or picking movies were discussed. Miss Annie Smellie, a missionary, gave an interesting talk on her missionary trip to South America to the youth in February. They also donated \$6.00 earned from a fundraiser to the World's Comradeship Fund, leaving a balance of \$4.04 in the group's treasury at the end of February 1938. In June, the youth sold ice cream and raised \$3.60 towards sending delegates to East Bay Camp. An entry from their record books in August 1938, mentions the Epworth League decided to hold their following meeting at Glen Oak Park in Peoria. They decided that each member would take a basket dinner. The contents should be enough for themselves and two others. The members were advised to meet at the church by 10:30 and warned to be ready to leave by 10:45. If not, then get left behind. Another entry mentioned Mr. Smith told them the story of the "Little Brown Church in the Vale," followed with scripture, then followed with a little poem.

In 1939, the State Sanitary Water Board issued an order to Eureka to cease polluting the streams. This order would eventually bring about the City's first sewage system some 13 years later. This same year also saw Eureka's first Pumpkin Festival due to its unique position at that time as a leader in the pumpkin canning industry. The Pumpkin Festival was held October 13 and 14. Mary Elizabeth Barker was crowned as the Pumpkin Festival Queen of 1939. In addition, over the two days, there were decorations displayed in windows in the business district, 7,500 pumpkin pies distributed free, a dance on Saturday night, rides, lunch stands, a stage with many entertainment groups featured, and amusement tents. In conjunction, the Eureka High School's new football field was dedicated on Friday night with a football game between Eureka and Saunemin. There was one negative thing mentioned about the event—there was a pickpocket. The newspaper reports that "Frank Hayes, 47 of Evanston, was arrested near the tent on the J.E. Anderson lot, west of the post office by Deputy Sheriff Bruce Tallyn." He was indicted on a charge of picking pockets at the event. He was found guilty in January of 1940.

On October 16, 1940, every man in Eureka aged 21 to 36 was registered for military conscription.

Lake Eureka was built in 1941 as an impounding lake which would provide fresh water for the city. Though it was instituted to serve this essential community need, it was very soon conceived that this new lake could serve as a community attraction. The project involved clearing timber and moving over 17,000 cubic yards of dirt to build the dam and spillway. Unexpected torrential rains during early October filled the 20+ acre lake to a depth of approximately 14 feet. The quickly gathering water impeded the completion of the splasher and spillway in spite of leaving the drain valve open to release 4,000 gallons of water per minute. 1941 also saw the United States declaring war on Japan on December 8, 1941, a few hours after Pearl Harbor was attacked the previous day. When this abrupt change from peace to war took place, there were 29 Eureka men already in the services.

Although Methodists, Evangelicals and the United Brethren each had published strong statements condemning war and advocating peaceful reconciliation among nations, the strength of their positions was largely lost with American involvement in hostilities of World War II. Nevertheless, throughout the war, many church members continued to express disdain for violence and their support for conscientious objection.

After having a night watchman for 39 years, the City of Eureka expanded their police department with a daytime police officer in 1942. They hired Roy Musick, primarily to serve as a traffic officer.

A mustang fighter plane was named "Spirit of Eureka" in September, 1943, in recognition of the fact that people in our community had subscribed \$104,000 in the Second War Bond campaign.

Methodist Churches actively sought to secure world peace and order. Many laity, pastors, bishops, and church agencies supported the establishment of a world organization to serve as a forum for the resolution of international social, economic, and political problems. In April 1945, their labors contributed to the founding of the United Nations.

World War II officially ended on September 2, 1945.

We will continue in February 2024 with 1948.

BLESSINGS AND PRAYER

Birthday Celebrations

Natasha Schertz	1/03	Elijah Jackson	1/10
Jude Lehman	1/06	Dennis Musick	1/17
Marty Lehman	1/06	Chris Lee	1/19
Cheryl Kenagy	1/08	Norma Savage	1/21
Gary Schoof	1/09	Jean Miller	1/22
Carolyn Schoof	1/09		

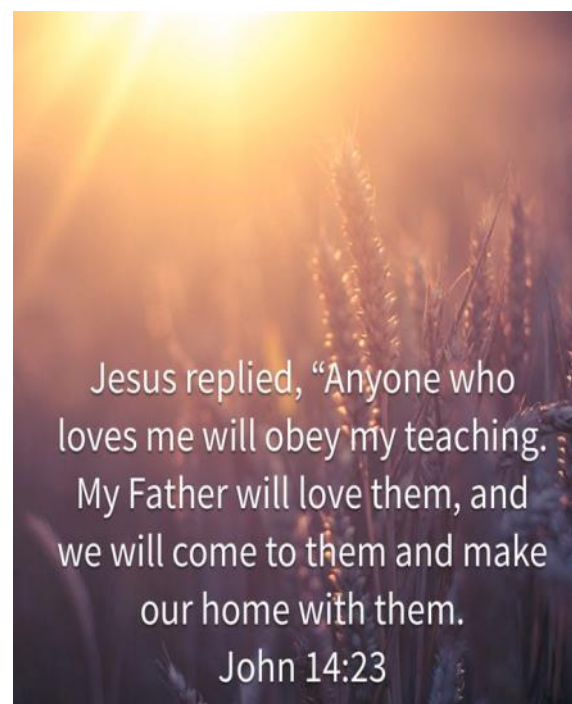
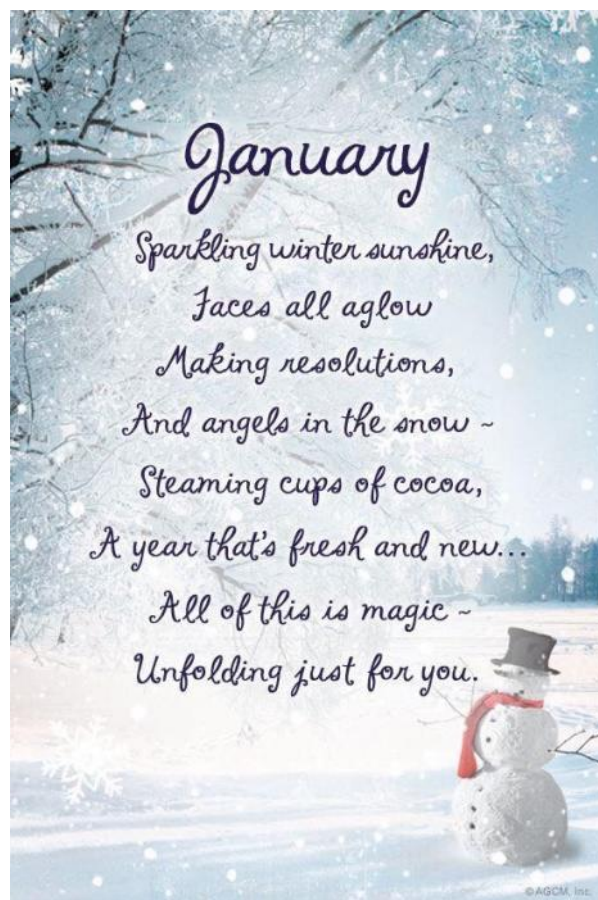
Anniversary Celebrations

No January 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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Greeters</u> 7 Robensteins 14 D. Wettstein 21 L. Anderson 28 Sylvesters	1 NTA-FH 4:15 p.m.	2	3 Nominations Comm. Meeting 6 p.m.	4 Girl Scouts— FH 5-8:15 p.m.	5	6
7 9 a.m. Worship * Tear down Christmas décor immediately following service!	8 NTA-FH 4:15 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30-8 p.m.	9 6p.m. Council Meeting	10 Dr. Gary Knepp “Many Faces of Dementia” Presentation 1 p.m.	11 Girl Scouts— FH 4:30-8:15 p.m.	12 Book Club— FH 9:30-11:30 a.m.	13
14 9 a.m. Worship 5p.m. Youth Group	15 NTA— FH 4:15 p.m.	16	17	18 Girl Scouts-FH 5-8:15 p.m.	19	20 Tracy Martz Jam 1-4P practice 4-6P meal 6-8P public concert
21 9 a.m. Worship	22 NTA— FH 4:15 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30-8 p.m.	23	24	25 G. Scouts 4:30-8:15p.m. FH	26	27
28 9 a.m. Worship Hospitality Meeting immediately following service. 5p.m. Youth Group	29 NTA-FH 4:15 p.m.	30	31	Pastor Bob’s Schedule: Eureka - Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m. to 12 noon Roanoke - Tuesday and Thurs. 9:15am to 12 noon		