

The Eureka UMC **Bell Tower**

The Monthly Newsletter of
First United Methodist Church of Eureka

July 2023



PAPAL PONDERINGS

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, we are aware of the freedoms we enjoy by being independent from the rule of other nations. However, we are very dependent on each other and other nations of this world. We form alliances with other nations for energy and peace-keeping.

We all like to think we can live independently. We have a heritage of being rugged individualists in this country. I have observed the folks in Greenwood County as an outsider at the beginning of my life here. One thing that stands out for me is how people get along and help each other. I imagine when settlers came here over 100 years ago and set up housekeeping and farming in the Flint Hills, they had to depend upon each other for survival in this undeveloped land. That spirit of interdependence makes Eureka a great place to live. We celebrate our freedoms as Americans, yet citizens of other countries notice our slavery to jobs, possessions, cultural norms and societal expectations.

We need each other to survive. I did not pump the water I drank this morning. I did not grow the oats and process them for my oatmeal. It is important to realize our dependence as well as our independence. Interdependence is a shared responsibility in the church and in our community.

We are always dependent upon God for our very existence and God depends on us to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world. This year I will be celebrating Independence Day with a spirit of thanksgiving for our interdependence with each other and with God.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Linda C. Pope

July Lectionary

July 2	Matthew 10:40-42; Psalm 104:24-35b	The Power of Welcoming
July 9	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30; Psalm 145:8-14	I Will Teach You Hidden Things
July 16	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Psalm 65:1-13	What Does Your Garden Grow?
July 23	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Psalm 86:11-17	The Kin-dom is Like Someone You May Know
July 30	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52; Psalm 119:129-136	The Kin-dom is a Metaphor

The Mission of the Eureka United Methodist Church: We are a community of Christ offering love and hope through dynamic worship, creative arts, and missional outreach.

LEADERSHIP QUOTE

"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences."

~John Wesley

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Administrative Council meeting June 27 looked forward to opportunities for community involvement.

The young people working in the Music Camp this summer with Keeley Coon's leadership will present "The Little Mermaid" at the Eureka High School at 7:00 pm on July 21 and at 2:00 pm on July 22. Keeley has asked the church to provide cookie refreshments at the performances and Cindy Knotts will be accepting donations.

Our Sunday worship services are being received by growing numbers after 3 years through social media. We have 280 followers on Facebook. The council voted to purchase a new sound mixer to continue this important outreach.

The council approved a request to host the School Supply Drive which is coordinated by volunteers, social service agencies, and the local school district. On Sunday, August 6 the church will provide a light lunch to parents and children who come and help them feel welcome during their sometimes tedious collection of proper supplies. The council encouraged all church members and guests to attend the on line Leadership Institute provided by the Church of the Resurrection on September 27 (evening), 28 (all day) and 29 (morning). We can attend virtually in our Fellowship Hall. The Council voted to pay \$40 per person which reduces the cost for willing individuals. Please consider attending and register with Jan Stephens before July 15.

Lay Leader Richard Myer will continue leading a musical service at the Eureka Nursing Center which 20-some residents enjoy each month.



STAFF APPRECIATION

The church would like to thank the staff for their exceptional work in support of our church. Gift cards were given to Joanie Cain, Office Admin.; David 'Digger' Dauman, janitor; Robin Himes, pianist; and Melody York, treasurer to show our appreciation.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends, Thank you for the gift of \$533.00 in support of Music Department of Sterling College. Your gifts make our mission possible. You enable students to learn their academic discipline in the context of faith and values, developing into Christ-filled servant leaders. And as you have blessed our students, they go out into the world seeking to bless others for the glory of God. You are truly impacting generations to come.

With each generous gift received for the work and mission of Sterling College, the students, staff, and faculty are renewed and encouraged. During this month many graduates walk across the stage to receive their hard-earned diplomas. You help make this possible! Thank you for your commitment and faithfulness to Sterling College!

~Scott A. Rich, Ed.D., President

DREAM TEAM IS DREAMING...

The Dream Team met in June, brainstorming ideas to excite, energize, and attract families to our church. This group strives to suggest ways our church can further carry out our mission (offer love and hope through dynamic worship, creative arts, and missional outreach). The various committees of the church are instrumental in these plans.

One idea in the mix is to have a "Families Together" evening for families with children to gather for a meal, activities, and Christian fellowship. The team would greatly appreciate others' ideas and involvement to put this together. Please consider what your ideas are.

Team members are Patsy Garner, Rev. Linda, Cindy Knotts, Angel Friday, Robin Himes, Janet Guthrie, Connie Mitchell, and Jan Stephens.

HELP US BE INFORMED

Deadline for July's newsletter is June 23rd.

For articles, thank you's, or upcoming events you would like to see in the monthly newsletter, please submit them to:

1stumceureka@att.net or

call the church office at 620-583-5663

GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Great Plains UMC Conference was held June 7 – 10 in LaVista, Nebraska. The theme was "Clay in the Hands of our Creator". We can learn much of the proceedings from the videos and reports on-line. <https://www.greatplainsumc.org/annualconference>

Bishop Wilson's native American legacy was reflected in the discussions and he was praised for his leadership of the Ks/Neb conference in times of division and stress, as retired Bishop Blake urged members to "not to be distracted by thunder and lightning of exclusion, division, and intolerance", but to "sing louder in the storm".

The Great Plains conference includes 750 churches and is shifting the concentration of Methodists to the Midwest. There may be a consideration of redrawing district lines in the future.

You can learn more about the Great Plains Conference at GreatPlains.org, or by receiving daily emails from GP Connect.

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 -9:30 AM Worship w/Holy Communion -Fellowship Coffee	3 12:00-2:00 PM Ministerial Alliance Food Bank @ SDAC, 1710 E. River (Church Office Closed)	4  Independence Day (Church Office Closed)	5 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Grief Sup- port Group @ EUMC	6	7	1 8
9 -9:30 AM Worship -Fellowship Coffee	10 12:00-2:00 PM Ministerial Alliance Food Bank @ SDAC, 1710 E. River	11	12 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	13	14	15
16 -9:30 AM Worship -Fellowship Coffee	17	18 4:30 PM Leadership Team 5:30 PM Ad Council	19 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	20 10:00 AM Eureka Nursing Center Ser- vice - Richard Myer	21 7:00 PM Little Mermaid Musical @ Eureka High School	22 2:00 PM Little Mermaid Musical @ Eureka High School
23 -9:30 AM Worship -Fellowship Coffee	24	25 SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES 	26 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast NO United Women in Faith	27	28	29
30 -9:30 AM Worship -Fellowship Coffee	31	1	2 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	3	4	5

**MUSICAL @
EUREKA HIGH SCHOOL**



JULY 21 - 7 PM & JULY 22 - 2 PM

Refreshments will be served.
To donate cookies, see Cindy Knotts

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Join us for Worship—Sundays 9:30 a.m.



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