




Epworth UMC

Our Mission...

- Welcoming All
- Growing Spiritually
- Serving God by Serving Others
- Giving Hope
- Come Belong!

Our Vision ...

Letting everyone know God's Love saves us.




FYI DECEMBER

By Dream-Wallpaper.com

Merry almost-Christmas, friends!

I confess, I am one of those people who looks forward to Christmas every year. Even though Walmart and Lowes put out the Christmas decorations too early. Even though it is WAY over-commercialized. Even though it brings with it the traditional mini-uproars about the latest Starbucks cup, and mini-arguments over whether the cashier cheerfully wishes us "Happy Holidays" or "Merry Christmas." I still love it. I love the decorations, I love the music, I love the special meals and traditions. The Christmas tree lighting in downtown Fallon just the other day literally made me cry.

But it hasn't always been that way. There have been years when it was much harder to enjoy the season, when grief was too raw, money too tight, life too full of stress and trouble. I know that some of you reading this right now might be feeling that way, too. "A Christmas Carol" was always a staple at our house, growing up. My mom's favorite had Albert Finney as Scrooge, but we watched almost every single version at one point or another. Muppets, Mickey, Bill Murray, Patrick Stewart, Jim Carrey. Scrooge, as we know, is not a lover of Christmas. He has griefs and regrets of his own, that have turned into cold bitterness. At one point, annoyed with the kindly cheerfulness of it all, he snarls: "If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled in his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart!"

Now, this isn't an overtly Christian story. It doesn't mention Jesus at all, I don't think. And yet, God is in it, all over it. In his bitterness, God finds him, and cares for him, and offers him redemption. When he meets the ghost of Christmas present, Scrooge emerges from his cold, gray, cheerless room to find a huge, laughing giant surrounded by light and greenery and good food, and he says, "Scrooge, you don't know me or any of my brothers who came before me. Look!! Look upon me and know me better, man!" The Psalmist says nearly the same thing to us: taste and see that THE LORD IS GOOD.

This Christmas, whether the season may find us joyful, or struggling, celebrating or dreading, there is maybe no better advice for us: to look around, and know God better. After the food, behind the lights, apart from the glitter and tinsel, to know the God who surrounds us with sights and touches and tastes of goodness every single day. As we hear again the profoundly important stories of a virgin mother, and a prophecy, and a miracle in the form of a child born in the simplest, humblest possible way, may we remember that it is God's joy to make miracles for us in ordinary things. In ordinary people. In ordinary life. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

At the end of his story, Scrooge is a changed man, and declares that from this moment he will begin go keep Christmas well, not just this day but every day, all year, every year. After meeting the last ghost and confronting his own silent, unknown future, Scrooge becomes filled with joy and wonder, a joyful sense of urgency to live life fully NOW. RIGHT NOW. Newly appreciating the joys of life, newly healed and forgiven, inspired to be a better, kinder, more loving and generous man, he rejoices. And he goes to church. I pray that God touches you this season, with comfort, peace, and even joy. Merry Christmas


In the steadfast love of God,



Christmas Eve

Worship, carols, and candlelight at
9:00am, 7:00pm, and 11:30pm

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of Epworth United Methodist Church

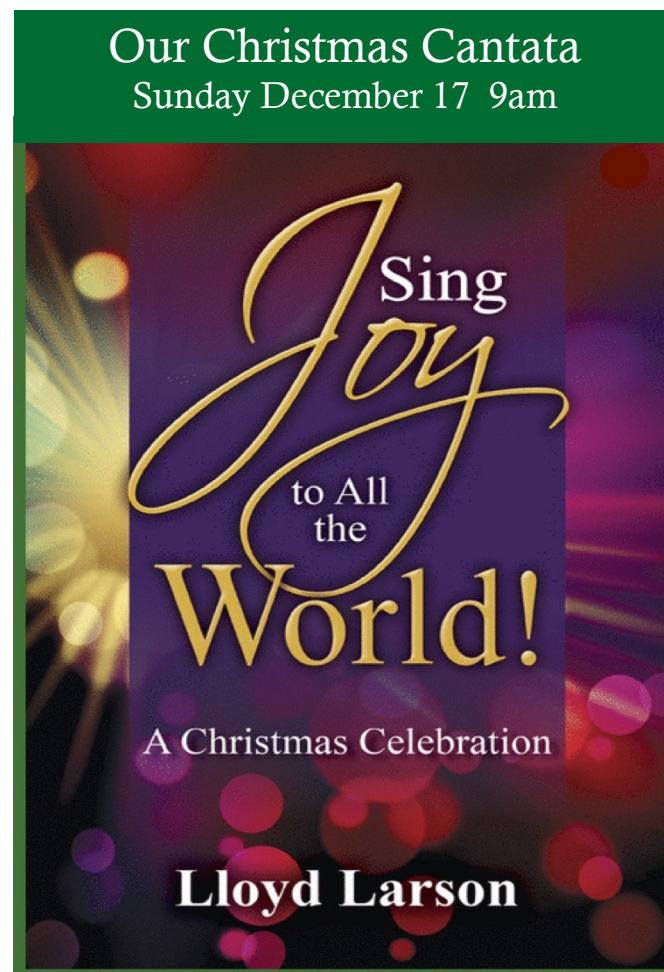


The Longest Night

A service of hope
and healing
this holiday season.

Wednesday, Dec 20
7:00pm

Epworth UMC
280 E Stillwater, Fallon
775.423.4714



Our Christmas Cantata
Sunday December 17 9am

Sing
Joy
to All
the
World!

A Christmas Celebration

Lloyd Larson

Hospitality is also looking for volunteers to help with setting up and cleaning up Sunday morning fellowship. The regular snack sign-up will now include a "helper" section as well. Please consider offering your time and energy as well as your snack-prep skills! Questions regarding our Hospitality committee can be sent to Donna at djs@cccmm.net.

- | | |
|-------|----------------------|
| 12/3 | Phil Pinder |
| 12/5 | James Lofthouse |
| 12/10 | Steve Fraker |
| 12/13 | Josh Berney |
| 12/13 | Roger Evans |
| 12/14 | Linda Brown |
| 12/16 | Dawson Frost |
| 12/19 | Cameron Mills |
| 12/20 | Clayton Kissick |
| 12/22 | Carmen Trinidad |
| 12/23 | Mike Lafferty |
| 12/23 | Ryan Taylor |
| 12/25 | Gail Camacho |
| 12/28 | Lizzie Ebner |
| 12/29 | Shelby Neidigh |
| 12/30 | Rachelle Lunger |
| 12/30 | Myrt Reichard |
| 12/31 | Heather Eberhart |
| 12/31 | Nicole Raymond |
| 12/31 | Case VanZwaluwenburg |

Happy Birthday!

Do you have questions about where you can help serve in the life of Epworth? These people can help you...

Dawn Blundell

Pastor

pastor@eumcfallon.org

Angelina Irby & Laura Butcher

Communications & Administrative

Ministries

office@eumcfallon.org

Maggie Neidigh

Co-Director of Education

goodnity@charter.net

Grant Mills

Chair of Church Council

grantmfi@yahoo.com

Steve Russell

Chair of Board of Trustees

stever49@gmail.com

Donna Strickland

djs@cccmm.net

Co-Chair of Staff Parish Relations

Michele Berney

jamm@phonewave.net

Co-Chair of Staff Parish Relations

Jeanie Fahl

Chair of Finance Committee

treasurer@eumcfallon.org

Doug Coval

Lay Leader

grandpa.doug@yahoo.com



Fallon Daily Bread

A hot meal served every Monday and every Thursday @ 5:15 pm.

Methodist Night will be on Monday, December 18.

If you would like to donate homemade desserts, they are more than welcome and greatly appreciated!

Barbara or Ron 423-2650 or Kathy 867-3095

If you would like to receive the Fallon Daily Bread newsletter, please call Kathy Fraker.

Each Monday **10am-1pm** in Wolf Center

Serving all that come to our doors seeking a few extra items for their table. Donations are always welcome!



The food pantry also makes used/new clothing available to those in need. We currently have 4 racks of clothes and nothing to replace with when gone.

In this spirit, we ask for your support by bringing in clothing not being used. You may drop off on Mondays 9 to 3 or put in church foyer. Especially in need are winter coats, child clothes: however, most any thing would be appreciated.

Submitted by Pantry Coordinator, Jerry Noonkester

Please do not leave donations by the back door!

Boy Scout Troop 1776

Steve Cathey, Scout Master: 217-2783
Steve Endacott, Charter Rep: 427-5356



Wolf Center is the meeting place for Troop 1776 (often called Troop Independence). They meet every Tuesday evening at 6:30 for training, service, fellowship and leadership through the BSA. If you have a boy aged 11 to 17 that would like to join the Boy Scouts call either Steve Cathey or Steve Endacott at the numbers

Salvation Army in Fallon might have to close!

Pastor Chris Miller at First Southern Baptist here in Fallon has been running the Salvation Army program in town for 10 years. Over time, he has lost team members and has been running essentially alone. With his other commitments, he is just not able to do that anymore. The Salvation Army is a major part of serving the needy in our community, and we would hate to lose it! If you would like to be a part of a team to help manage this program, please let Pastor Dawn know by calling the church office.

The most immediate need is for a team of people to ring the Christmas bell at Walmart! This fundraiser raises almost ALL the funds for the year. Please call the church office to volunteer!

Weekly Events and Meetings at Epworth UMC

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9am Worship Service, Sanctuary	10am-1pm Food Pantry, Wolf Ctr	10am Celebrate Freedom, Sanctuary	10:30am Alzheimers & Dementia Support, Homestead (2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays)	5pm-6:30pm Pub Theology w/Pastor Dawn, Sandwinds	8am T.O.P.S., Fireside Room	No regularly scheduled activities
10:15am Fellowship and Coffee, Fireside Room	3:30pm Women's Study Group, Good News Room	6pm Celebrate Recovery, Sanctuary		5:15pm Fallon Daily Bread, Wolf Center		
10:30am Sunday School, all ages	5:15pm Fallon Daily Bread, Wolf Center	6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #1776, Wolf Center		7pm Joyful Noise Choir, Sanctuary		
1:15pm Worship Service @ Homestead, 365 W. A St.		7pm Lahontan Valley Concert Choir, Fireside Room				

Epworth United Methodist Church

280 E. Stillwater Ave
Fallon, NV 89406
Phone 423-4714

Church Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday
9am to 3pm

December Events and Meetings

12/7 UMW Gen. Mtg, 1pm Wolf Center	
12/12 Board of Trustees Mtg, 5:30pm Conference Room	
12/17 Choir Christmas Cantata during service	
12/24 Christmas Eve services 9am, 7pm, 11:30pm	

Worship Servants

Throughout this page you will find information on ways that you can be a Worship Servant, or someone who is active in presenting worship and helping to enhance the worship environment. If you would like to learn about leading in worship (by serving Holy Communion, reading scripture, leading the Word for the Young at Heart, lighting the candles, or more), please contact Mary Lou Gumstrup at 423-3329.

Dec 3	Judy Pritchard
Dec 10	Ron Evans
Dec 17	John McGarity
Dec 24	Jim Foster Steve Russell Barbara McGarity
Dec 31	Jim Hertz
To be a worship leader, please contact Mary Lou Gumstrup at 423-3329.	

Worship Leaders

Epworth's Joyful Noise Choir and Praise Team are filled with some of Epworth's many talented musicians. If you would like to participate in either of these performing groups, you are more than welcome! Please see our Music Director, Jackie Warburton, if you would like to join or if you have any questions.

December 3rd Communion Servers

Steve and Chris Russell



Being an acolyte means that you have the honor of bringing the light of Jesus Christ in to the sanctuary to begin our worship. Each Sunday we will have one acolyte.

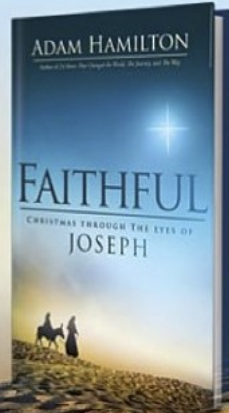
Our Acolyte Coordinator is Ashlee McGarity. If you would like to participate as an acolyte, please call the church office at 423-4714 or make a note on your welcome card.



- December 3 Barbara McGarity
- December 10 Pastor Dawn
- December 17 Mary Lou Gumstrup
- December 24 Kelly Frost (morning)
Jackie Warburton (evening)
- December 31 Steve Russell


A very special thank you to all who have led the Word for the Young at Heart. Our children are a blessing and it's our responsibility to lead them in the way of His light. This is but one way we can do that.

If you feel God leading you to serve as a part of this ministry, please call Barbara McGarity at 217-5736.



FAITHFUL

CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF JOSEPH



Advent Bible Study

Sunday mornings at 10:30am at Epworth UMC
Mondays at 3:00pm at Epworth UMC
or Thursdays at 5:00pm at Sandwinds Restaurant

Thank you from your Hospitality Team!

Our annual pie auction was a great success. Thank you to everyone who made delicious desserts, and to everyone who bought them to enjoy at home! Your participation gives us a pot of money to use to provide food and fellowship for celebrations of life or other special events during the year. Thank you!

Kids Christmas program

December 10, at 10:30
(after 9am worship)

