

**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.




## Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

As I sit writing this morning, looking out my back window on the remaining bits of snow, I am thinking about how conditioned we are to start something new this time of year. Which is weird, really, because January 1 is just an arbitrary date. It's in the dead of winter, the middle of the school year, neither harvest nor planting season. It's neither Hanukkah nor Yom Kippur, neither Christmas nor Epiphany (though it falls right between those two holidays). I'm sure it has something to do with Julius Ceasar – with the well-known humility associated with Roman emperors -- naming a month after himself, and beginning the year with it, and miscalculating a bit. But for whatever reason, here in the middle of everything, many of us are feeling the expanse of the new year spread out before us, and thinking about how we might fill it in a better way.

No matter who you are, or what this year has been like for you, one thing is certain: a lot has changed. Because it always does. There is something that you are celebrating, and something that you are grieving; something you have gained, and something you have lost. You have learned something, and grown from it. You have given something good to someone, and received something good. I hope that you take some time to think about all of that, and more. I know I am. And as I sit here in the quiet, thinking about how full and rich and challenging life is, considering how I will approach the coming year, I thought I would share a few suggestions.

First, I suggest we start to treat this life more as the gift that it is. As I remember with love those that have completed life's journey this year, too many of whom were far too young, I suggest we treat our bodies with much more care. I suggest that we look at our lumps and bumps, our wrinkles and acne, our crooked parts and our straight parts, and LOVE them. If you are anything like me, then you probably treat various precious inanimate objects in your home with more loving care than you treat your own body, so I suggest that we treat our hands and feet, our backs and knees, our heart and lungs and liver and kidneys as if they were precious gifts given to us by the one we love most in the world. Because they are.

Of course, there are reasons why we eat things that are terrible for us, or don't exercise, or use substances that we know are harmful to us. Maybe it's just that the unhealthy things taste good, or make us feel good (at least for a moment), but in my experience the primary reason why we don't take good care of ourselves is that we simply don't believe we are worth the effort. And so, my second suggestion is that we tend lovingly to our spirits. In this new year, in the afterglow of Christmas, I pray that we learn to find our own worth. To know ourselves as those that God rejoices over with singing. To treat ourselves with compassion, and mercy, and even joy. It is good to be alive, and the world is better because each one of us is in it. It is time that we believe that, and live like we do.

And at the same time, because loving ourselves and loving others are deeply intertwined, I suggest that we strive to extend that same compassion, forgiveness, and even joyful appreciation to those around us, near and far. To remember that every single person – including presidents and dictators, movie stars and athletes, rice farmers and McDonalds cashiers, media moguls and homeless veterans – has a life as full of love and loss, hopes and dreams as our own.

Let's make an effort to move through this coming year with confidence and compassion, treating ourselves and others as the God-given gifts we are.

In the steadfast love of God,

**FYI JANUARY**



Chrysalis is a life-changing weekend retreat experience for teenagers and young adults. It is part of the Walk to Emmaus movement, and international movement to refresh, renew, and reinvigorate our faith. The next Chrysalis weekend is happening Friday, February 16-Monday February 19, at St Mark's UMC in Sacramento. Pastor Dawn and Margaret Knox are helping to lead it, together with friends from Smith Valley, Carson City, Sparks, and elsewhere. If you would like to sponsor someone from 15-23 years old to attend, or if you would like to work the weekend, please contact Pastor Dawn or Margaret ASAP!

Are you interested in learning how to lead Bible studies, prayer groups, ministries, or even preach? Take a Lay Servant class! Yerington Community UMC is hosting several classes in the coming months. The first one is an introductory class on John Wesley, called "Wesley: A Heart Transformed Can Change the World." The class is held on two Saturdays, January 13 and January 20, from 10am-2pm. Lunch will be provided. To register, please call Pastor Betty or Bob Weiser at Yerington Community UMC, 775-463-2174.,



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](mailto:djs@cccmm.net).

- |      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 1/2  | Janice Gibson       |
| 1/4  | Brent Hughes        |
| 1/4  | Jamie Lofthouse     |
| 1/6  | Don Johnson         |
| 1/6  | Kyndra Lewis        |
| 1/6  | Deb Nell            |
| 1/8  | Rachel Bernard      |
| 1/8  | Dawn Johnson        |
| 1/9  | Heather Mc Williams |
| 1/9  | Louie Mori          |
| 1/10 | Michelle Brown      |
| 1/15 | McKenzie Lungert    |
| 1/15 | Steve Lungert       |
| 1/16 | Eleanor Lockwood    |
| 1/17 | Kateri Jones        |
| 1/18 | Connor Butcher      |
| 1/19 | Lynn Tawney         |
| 1/22 | Mike Shira          |
| 1/23 | Cole Dillon         |
| 1/23 | Michael Irby        |
| 1/25 | Kanyon Raymond)     |
| 1/27 | Dick Powers         |
| 1/30 | Kaycee Weddell      |
| 1/31 | Julie Tawney        |

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](mailto:pastor@eumcfallon.org)

**Angelina Irby & Laura Butcher**

*Communications & Administrative Ministries*

[office@eumcfallon.org](mailto:office@eumcfallon.org)

**Maggie Neidigh**

*Co-Director of Education*

[goodnity@charter.net](mailto:goodnity@charter.net)

**Grant Mills**

*Chair of Church Council*

[grantmfi@yahoo.com](mailto:grantmfi@yahoo.com)

**Steve Russell**

*Chair of Board of Trustees*

[stever49@gmail.com](mailto:stever49@gmail.com)

**Michele Berney**

[jamm@phonewave.net](mailto:jamm@phonewave.net)

*Co-Chair of Staff Parish Relations*

**Jeanie Fahl**

*Chair of Finance Committee*

[treasurer@eumcfallon.org](mailto:treasurer@eumcfallon.org)

**Doug Coval**

*Lay Leader*

[grandpa.doug@yahoo.com](mailto: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



## 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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

## January Events and Meetings

<b>Worship Meeting</b> Saturday, Jan 13 at 9:00am	<b>Church Council Meeting</b> Wednesday, Jan 24 at 7:00pm
<b>Trustees Meeting</b> Tuesday, Jan 9 at 5:30pm	<b>UMW Meeting</b> Thursday, Jan 4 at 1:00pm
<b>Finance Meeting</b> Tuesday, Jan 16 at 7:00pm	
<b>SPRC Meeting</b> Wednesday, Jan 17 at 6:00pm	

## 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.

Jan 7	Margaret Knox	Worship
Jan 14	Mary Lou Grumstrup	
Jan 21	Doug Coval	
Jan 28	Steve Fraker	
To be a worship leader please contact Mary Lou at 423-3329		

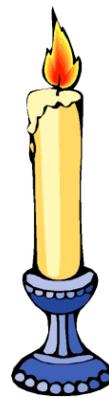
Epworth's Joyful Noise Choir and Praise Team are filled with some of Epworth's many talented musicians. If you would like to participate in either of these performing groups, you are more than welcome! Please see our Music Director, Jackie Warburton, if you would like to join or if you have any questions.

### Janaury7 Communion Servers Sophia Jeffs & Maggie Neidigh



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.

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.



Jan 7 Barbara McGarity

Jan 14 Pastor Dawn

Jan 21 TBA

Jan 28 TBA

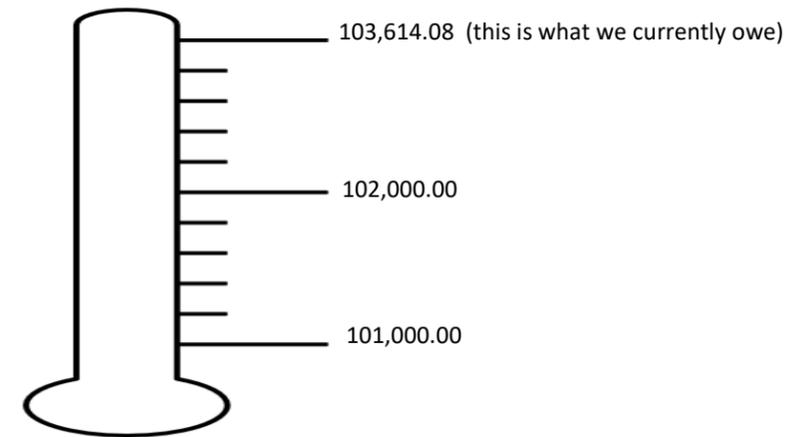
A very special thank you to all who have led the Word for the Young at Heart. Our children are a blessing and it's our responsibility to lead them in the way of His light. This is but one way we can do that.

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

## From Your Finance Ministry Team

Thank you to every member, and churchgoer for your prayers and financial donations to help us pay our bills, salaries, and the mortgage on the Wolf Center. God Bless you.

The thermometer below shows our progress in paying down our mortgage, thanks to special donations toward the principal. Each month we will update you on our progress. We are getting there!



### Nursery Help!

The nursery needs your help! Every Sunday morning during service, the church provides child care for children who aren't quite ready to sit in the sanctuary through the whole service. Safe sanctuary guidelines state that we need two adults in the nursery with the children at all times. While we try to uphold this, it has not been easy. That's why I need your help! If you would like to sign up to help in the nursery from 8:45am—10:45am-ish, please call the church office at 775-423-4714, please call me, Angelina Irby, at 775-294-5552, or put your name on the sign up sheet that will be passed around on Sunday. Thank you so much!

Lots of love, Angelina Irby – Nursery Attendant