

Epworth United Methodist Church
280 E. Stillwater Avenue
Fallon, Nevada 89406


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.





The Pastor’s Corner

Hello friends and family of Epworth UMC!

God shows up in the most unexpected places. One would think we would start expecting that, but nope! It’s always a surprise.

On November 25, I was invited to participate in a round-table discussion in Reno with Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto. I was invited because I used to be a member of a fantastic Interfaith Alliance in Reno, and one of the members let me know about the event to make sure I could attend. I didn’t know what to expect, really, but there in the presence of Christians of all kinds, as well as Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, and others I felt powerfully surrounded by the presence of God. I wasn’t the only one who noticed it either, I don’t think. It might seem surprising to some, but — and Senator Cortez-Masto actually mentioned this, too — in this age of fear and suspicion and even hatred of one another, to build friendships and work alongside those from whom we are (or think we are) very different is a powerful thing. Shocking. And inspiring. There in that room, as we talked about the spiritual and social needs of Northern Nevada, an energy began to fill the room that I can only describe as a movement of the Holy Spirit. A bond of brother-and-sisterhood. A feeling of real love for and appreciation of each other. A light that began to fill the room. I don’t know, I don’t suppose I am describing it very well. And I know it could be easy to write it off as nothing more than a passing Hallmark moment. But that’s not what it was.

I am writing today in that thin place between Thanksgiving and Christmas...on the cold edge of fall moving into winter. It’s a very earthy, ordinary time of talking and eating and telling ancient stories and bundling together for warmth. An earthy time of harvest, and coming together, and renewed awareness of the bonds that connect us. A time of year when earth and heaven come close together...when we remember a heavenly presence born into the earthy, dirty, messy stuff of life. In this Advent season, as we tell the ancient stories and bundle together for warmth in body and spirit, I pray that you feel the thinness of this place. The earth and heaven in the spaces between us. The presence of Jesus Christ in the earthy stuff of life. Because when earth and heaven meet, the Kingdom of God breaks forth in Christmas joy. And angels sing.

Let every heart prepare Him room,

Pastor Dawn

2020 BUDGET

Your Finance Team is working diligently on the budget, to present to the Church Council for a final vote in January. In the meantime, some things to give thanks for in 2019:

- ☞ We paid off the Wolf Center mortgage, and are well on our way toward raising the money to replace our roof!
- ☞ Thanks to your faithfulness, we are able comfortably to pay all of our bills, and have been able to contribute much more to the mission and ministry of the global UMC than we did in 2018.
- ☞ After a red tape-related delay in reimbursement, The HERO Club — our new after school program, in partnership with High Sierra Grange — is completely financially independent, and is contributing regularly to the church to cover utilities and insurance for the program. Check out the latest article about the program in the Fallon Post!
<https://www.thefallonpost.org/general/hero-club-practices-kindness/>
- ☞ We have been able to generously serve our community through our radio broadcast; our participation in community events and support of Fallon arts and sports programs; our own ministries like Fallon Daily Bread, Epworth Community Food Pantry, Golden Threads clothing ministry, and our HeLP Ministry; and by offering our church as a gathering place for 12 Step groups, Pop Warner Cheerleading, a Mexican folk dancing group, Lahontan Valley Choir, New Frontier Treatment Center, Child and Family Services foster program, and other nonprofits.

God is good!!

We know as well as you do, the great blessings that come when we give faithfully. So we give not just toward a particular financial goal but rather as a spiritual practice of obedience and trust in God. If you regularly tithe (a Biblical word that means giving a portion of your income — in Jesus’ time 10% of the very best a person had — to God through the church) then you know the uniquely powerful peace and even joy it brings. If you haven’t yet begun to tithe, then we pray you will prayerfully consider moving a step closer to it in 2020. And with deep prayer and faithfulness, your church will use the gifts you give to care for one another, and to reach out in ever more important ways to share the Gospel in our community and beyond.

Fellowship

"As iron sharpens iron,
so one man sharpens another."

-Proverbs 27:17

MAN UP
Men's Fellowship

Faith, Food, & Fellowship
Mondays @ 6:30am Fireside Room

Happy Birthday!

12/10	Nora Coval
12/10	Steve Fraker
12/13	Joshua Berney
12/13	Rodger Evans
12/14	Linda Brown
12/16	Dawson Frost
12/20	Clayton Kissick
12/25	Gail Camacho
12/29	Shelby Neidigh
12/30	Myrt Reichard
12/31	Nicole Raymond
12/31	Case VanZwaluwenburg ♥

♥Case, our kind and smiling greeter for many years, and delivered bread for Fallon Daily Bread, passed away earlier this year. He was followed in death by his beloved Marnie. We miss them both.

United Methodist Women empowers and improves the lives of women, youth, and children in our community and around the world.

If you would like to know more, please call
Judy Pritchard at 775-217-5611.

Or visit the UMW website,
unitedmethodistwomen.org.

**Join us the first Thursday of every
month at 1:00pm!**

Thursday, December 5, 1:00pm
Fireside Room



**3rd Sunday
of every month
12:00 noon
at the
Pizza Barn**

New to Fallon, and looking for a church home? New to Epworth UMC and want to know more? Been here forever and just want to have lunch together?

**Join us Sunday December 15 at 12 noon!
Our treat.**

Continued from page 6, "7 Traditions that Teach"

You can even ask your kids to look closely through the ornaments and pick one that reminds them of a great thing God did in their life during the past year.

- Give and receive gifts.** Christmas began with a gift—[God gave His one and only Son](#) so that our sins could be blotted out and we could be friends with Him! That's an incredible reason for us to be generous, too! But the tradition of gift-giving can become a fast-track to selfishness in our kids. They tend to get all-consumed with the question, "What do I want for Christmas?" Give your kids ways to fight back and remember the real meaning of Christmas. Each time your kids receive a gift, help them to thank God for His gift of Jesus or to tell Jesus, "Happy birthday!" As your family makes lists of gifts, purchases, wraps, and sends off gifts for others, talk about how our generosity reflects the generosity of God on the very first Christmas.
- Attend Christmas services.** Attending church as a family to commemorate the birth of Jesus re-centers our kids (and us) on the real reason for the season. Make the Christmas service a priority for your family, and take it a step further! People are more likely to attend Christmas services with you, so invite, invite, invite, and encourage your kids to do the same! Christmas isn't just about remembering the gift God gave to us—it's also about sharing the real meaning of Christmas with everyone around us!

A Thanksgiving Mad-Lib Prayer,

written by the kiddos of Epworth UMC

Thank you for the world so sweet,
like birds, trees, plants, and zombies.

Thank you for the food we eat,
like mac n cheese, tuna casserole, broccoli,
liver, and also zombies.

Thank you for the birds that sing
and pandas, dogs, polar bears, lady bugs,
and spiders.

Thank you, God, for everything
that's pink, slimy, smooth, soft, smoky, and loud

For everybody who I love,
like Grace, moms and dads, and grandmas and
grandpas

For everything that I'm made of,
because I am strong, and not so young,
and compassionate, and love God.

**You made everything I see;
Thank you, God, for loving me!**

**Do you have questions about where
you can help serve in the life of
Epworth? These people would be glad
to answer any questions.**

Rev Dawn Blundell, Pastor
pastor@eumcfallon.org

Angelina Irby, Communications Ministries
communications@eumcfallon.org

Laura Butcher, Administrative Ministries
office@eumcfallon.org

Grant Mills, Chair of Church Council
grantmfi@yahoo.com

Steve Russell, Chair of Board of Trustees
stever49@gmail.com

Steve Fraker, Chair of Staff Parish
srfraker@charter.net

Jeanie Fahl, Finance Chair
treasurer@eumcfallon.org

Doug Coval, Lay Leader
grandpa.doug@yahoo.com

Barbie Hertz, Adult Ministries
tiggeronthehill@hotmail.com

**Mary Lou Grumstrup &
Ashlee McGarity, Children's Ministries**
ml1951g@gmail.com
ashleemcgarity@gmail.com

Jackie Warburton, Music Director
jackwarburton166@gmail.com

Steve Endacott, Scouting, Troop 1776
endacottsteve@charter.net

Mary Lou Grumstrup, Worship Team
ml1951g@gmail.com

Jerry Noonkester & Margaret Knox
Epworth Community Food Pantry
and HeLP Ministries
the1906house@cccomm.net
coke@cccomm.net

Kelly Wieboldt & Mary Nelson
Golden Threads Ministries
kellywieboldt@yahoo.com

Kathy Fraker, Mission Chair
kathyfraker@charter.net

Judy Pritchard, United Methodist Women
jpritch@outlook.com

Donna Strickland, Hospitality
djst@cccomm.net

Christian Education

7 Traditions that Teach Kids the Real Meaning of Christmas

by Samantha Lowe

Christmastime is here! And so begins the all-consuming hubbub of shopping, traffic, long lines, and searches for the hot, new toy. We're busy, busy, busy and *stressed!* The holiday season can kind of just happen to us while our kids easily swallow the cultural perspective—get, get, get, and consume! Some way to celebrate the birth of Jesus, huh?

As a parent, it can get frustrating. How can you keep your kids focused on the real meaning of Christmas when you don't have time to add in *one ... more ... thing!*

Many of the traditions you're already keeping can teach kids the real meaning of Christmas. You don't need to spin up any new family traditions to make it all about Jesus. Many of the traditions *you're already keeping* can teach kids the real meaning of Christmas. Practice mindfulness in them, and you can re-center your family's celebration.

1. **Put together a nativity scene.** Buy (or make!) one in your home that is kid-proof, so your kids can handle it and play with it. As a family, read the Christmas story together, using the nativity set as you read along to help your kids have an interactive understanding of the characters they're reading about.
2. **Enjoy the surprise of an advent calendar.** Kids love the anticipation of opening each day of the advent calendar. Harness that excitement by choosing an advent calendar that includes snippets of the story of the birth of Jesus as well as poems, little pictures, tiny objects, or ornaments that represent the real meaning of Christmas.
3. **Be intentional with Christmas cards.** Whether you send out a family portrait, sign old-fashioned cards, or post on social media, think about the message your greetings send. Bring attention to Jesus' birth, not just sugarplums and warm fuzzies.
4. **Believe in Santa Claus.** How can the Santa tradition teach your kids the real meaning of Christmas? Do a little research and teach your kids that St. Nicholas was a real man, and a very generous, Christian man at that. Let every Santa you see be a reminder not of gifts to be received, but the many opportunities we have to be generous.
5. **Decorate a Christmas tree.** Kids love staring at a beautiful, decorated tree and the promise of gifts showing up beneath its boughs. Help them see more. As you decorate, talk about the evergreen nature of the tree, that it stays green and vibrant when other trees die. Tie it in with the victory Jesus won over sin and death by dying on the cross and coming back to life, and the new, everlasting life we have when we choose to love and follow Him.

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Adult Sunday School Classes

We at Epworth strongly believe that our relationship with God and each other is immeasurably strengthened when we study the Bible together. All of our classes are open to everyone, and you are invited to join us every Sunday or pop in whenever you can. If there is a topic you'd love to learn more about, or if you have any questions, please call Pastor Dawn in the church office at 423-4714.

The Uncluttered Heart Sundays after worship in the Conference Room

Led by Steve and Kathy Fraker

Join in this year's Advent study and daily devotional, beginning December 1.

The Parables of Jesus Sundays after worship, in the Wolf Center

Led by Jeanette Strong

Materials are provided and everyone is welcome!

The Gospel of Mark Sundays after worship in the Good News Room, led by Margaret Knox

Reflecting on the life of Jesus, and talking about radical discipleship.

Adult Weekday Classes

The Uncluttered Heart Women's Study on Mondays at 3:30pm in the Good News Room

Led by Kelly Frost
This class started the Advent devotional in November, but you are welcome to jump in any time. We would love to have you.

Service

You Can Be a Hero!

Volunteer to share God's love with kids in our community at our new after school program.



Registration open now!

Call Steve Russell at 775-423-4714 for more info.

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 Epworth Community Food Pantry serves hundreds of people in need each month, completely free of charge, with no qualifications or limits on how often a family can receive food. If you would like to be involved in this powerful ministry, please contact Jerry Noonkester at the church office, 423-4714. You will be so glad you did.

HeLP Ministry "He Loves People"

Every Monday and Tuesday, our church is open on a sign-up basis to those in need to shower and wash their clothes. Towels and all shower supplies are provided, thanks to your donations. Thank you, Margaret Knox, for your love and care for God's people! If you'd like to join us in greeting folks and showing them Christian kindness, please call the church office at 775-423-4714

COME SHARE THE JOY AT FALLON DAILY BREAD!

FDB is a free community meal every
Monday and Thursday at 5:15pm

Methodist Night is Monday, Dec 16th!
Volunteer to cook, clean up, or serve.

This year is our 13th anniversary! Thank you to all of our deeply committed organizers, and all of our many volunteers and donors. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please call Ron & Barbara Evans 423-2650 or Kathy Fraker at 867-3095.



Golden Threads Ministry

Providing clean, warm clothing to people in need in our community. Thank you to Kelly Weiboldt and Mary Nelson for all they do! If you would like to participate in this good work, please call the church office at 775-423-4714.

Our Scouts are models of Christian service. This month, they held a moving US Flag Retirement Ceremony for 1300-1500 flags, and spent the Monday before Thanksgiving serving nearly 150 meals at Fallon Daily Bread's Thanksgiving dinner.



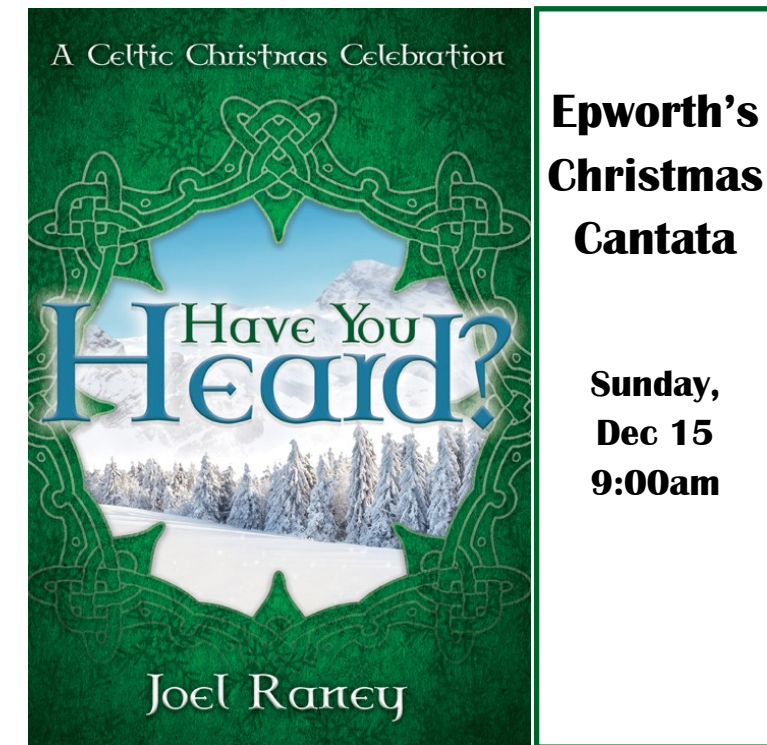
Scout Troop 1776

Jep Jepsen,
Scout Master: 666-8406
Steve Endacott,
Charter Rep: 427-5356



Troop 1776 (often called Troop Independence) meets in the Wolf Center 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 Jep Jepsen or Steve Endacott at the numbers above.

Worship



ACOLYTES
Bring the light of God into worship by
lighting the altar candles

12/1	Sophia Jeffs
12/8	Kenny Coval
12/15	Cathy McKean
12/22	Levia Coval
12/29	Tim Bennett



Worship Leaders

Welcome, lead announcements, and
read the scripture during worship.

12/1	Steve Fraker
12/8	Mary Lou Grumstrup
12/15	Ron Evans
12/22	Margaret Knox
12/29	Steve Russell

Word for the Young at Heart

Give the children's message during worship!

12/1	Barbara McGarity
12/8	Pastor Dawn
12/15	Mary Lou Grumstrup
12/22	Ashlee McGarity
12/29	Steve Russell

Make a Joyful Noise!

Epworth's Joyful Noise Choir and
Praise Team love to make music for
God ! If you'd like to join us, please
call our Music Director, Jackie
Warburton, at 423-4714.

Weekly Events and Meetings at Epworth UMC

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9am Worship Service, Sanctuary	10am-1pm Food Pantry, Wolf Center	3-6pm HERO Club, Wilson Hall	12:00pm AA/NA Meeting, Good News Room	3-6pm HERO Club, Wilson Hall	8am T.O.P.S., Fireside Room	8:00am AA/NA, Wolf Center
10:15am Fellowship and Coffee, Fireside Room	3-6pm HERO Club, Wilson Hall	5:00pm Codependents Anonymous, Good News Room	3-6pm HERO Club, Wilson Hall	5:15pm Fallon Daily Bread, Wolf Center	1:30-6pm HERO Club, Wilson Hall	7:00pm AA meeting, every second Saturday
10:45am Sunday School	5:15pm Fallon Daily Bread, Wolf Center	5:30pm Mexican Folk Dancing, Fireside Room	6pm-8pm Pop Warner Cheerleading Practice, Great Room and Fireside Room	5:30pm Mexican Folk Dancing, Wolf Center Great Room	6pm-8pm Pop Warner Cheerleading Practice, Great Room & Fireside Room	
1:15pm Worship Service @ Homestead, 365 W. A St.	6pm-8pm Pop Warner Cheerleading Practice, Great Room and Fireside Room	6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #1776, Wolf Center				



December Events and Monthly Meetings

12/5—UMW Meeting, 1pm, Fireside Room	12/14—New Frontier Christmas Party, 2pm-8pm, Great Room
12/7—Foster Care Christmas Party, 10am-2pm, Great Room	12/14—AA, 4pm-8:30pm, Fireside Room
12/7—Worship meeting, 9:30am, Fireside Room	12/16—Methodist Night at Fallon Daily Bread, 4pm, Wolf Center
12/7—Praise Team Rehearsal, 9:30am in the sanctuary	12/22—Children's Play, 9am—Sanctuary
12/13—New Frontier Staff Training Event, Wolf Center Great Room	12/24—Christmas Eve Services, Sanctuary—7pm, 11:30pm
12/14—Choir Rehearsal, 9:30am, Sanctuary	12/31—AA New Year's Eve party

December Communion Offering

Nursery Fund

Our special offering on the first Sunday in December is going towards the Nursery Fund so our little can have top notch toys and cleaning supplies.

You will find special baskets for this offering at the front of the church, for you to use as you come up to receive Holy Communion. Thank you!