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March 10, 2021

Hello, members and friends of Epworth UMC!

Here I am, sitting in a comfy chemo chair wrapped in a quilt handmade by good friends, surrounded by other patients and amazing nurses. A woman was here just now finishing her last treatment, and brought flowers for the nurses. They gave her a big loud bell to ring and the whole place applauded. Brought tears.

I was given a gift of a beautiful devotional called "Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness" by Nan Merrill. It is a sort of meditation on the psalms we know and love, using somewhat different language to express the same ideas from a bit of a different perspective. Rewording the parts especially that call for God to smite enemies and whatnot, and focusing more on the evil in us that comes from our own ego, on forgiveness, and on God as Love itself. I am finding it really wonderful. Here's an example of a rewriting of Psalm 3:

O Beloved, how numerous are my fears!

*They rise up in me whispering,
there is no help for you.*

*Yet You O Beloved radiate Love
around me, my glory;*

gratitude becomes my song,

When I cry out to You,

You answer within my heart.

*I lie down to sleep; if I should
awaken, my Beloved is there*

*holding me with strength
and tenderness.*

I feel secure.

*Now, I shall forgive all illusions
that my ego tries to build.*

For my courage is in You, O Love,

*You who are the Lover hidden
in every heart.*

Rise up, Love! Set me free!

For through Your guidance,

My fears will fade into love.

Free from fear, I will know

*the Oneness of Being that
encompasses everything!*

*I shall be free to serve Love
with a glad and open heart.*

I have been praying with that all morning, so I thought I would share it with you. So much trouble in our lives comes from fear. What if we forgave ourselves of it, and gave it all to God, and were free?

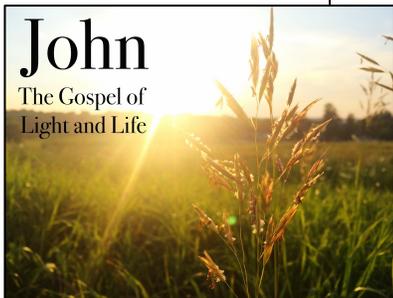
In faith, hope, and love,

Pastor Dawn

Worship Any and Everywhere!

I AM The Way, the Truth, and the Life

This week, while Pastor Dawn is resting and recovering from her latest chemo treatment, Jim Wieboldt is bringing us a message about the wonderful love of our lord Jesus Christ. Our reading comes from John 14:1-7, part of Jesus' long final sermon to his disciples as he prepares for the culmination of his ministry. He is trying to prepare them for his departure, telling them that he is preparing a place for them where he is going, and reminding them that "you know the way to the place I am going." Phillip protests. "We don't know where you are going, how can we know the way?" And Jesus responds, "I AM the way. And the truth, and the life." You might like to take some time before worship on Sunday, to read this passage and sit with it awhile, to see what God might be saying to you through it.



**“I am the Way.
And the truth,
and the life. No
one comes to
the Father
except through
me.”**

John 14:7

Thanks to the excellent work of our city and county in getting folks vaccinated, and thanks to the faithfulness and diligence of our members, **we are able to welcome folks back in to worship at 50% capacity!** We continue to wear masks when we gather, and keep socially distant, and sanitize our spaces before and after each use, and we plan to keep up those practices long into the future. But we are able to have hymnals and Bibles in the pews again, and cushions back in the pews! The Praise Team will be joining us in worship again soon, too, and we are so glad to be able to sing and praise the Lord again. Whenever you feel ready, we would love to see you.

Oh, one wrinkle: because not everyone has been vaccinated, and not everyone is ready to worship in person just yet, we are missing some important leadership. We need your participation, **especially in running the sound and video during worship!** Please contact Pastor Dawn ASAP if you are willing to lean the system, and be part of a team who can play that important role in our worship services.

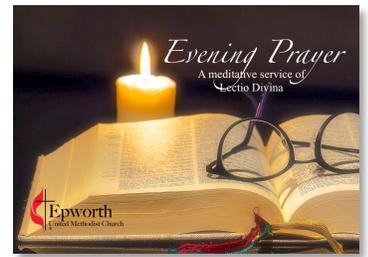
In the coming weeks and months, we will be talking together and making decisions about when is the right time to safely begin Sunday School, nursery care, and coffee and goodies in the Fireside Room. Our priority is always the health and safety of everyone, while we live out our faith. Your thoughts are welcome and really helpful to us as we prayerfully discuss and consider. Please send your questions and thoughts to Grant Mills grantmfi@cccomm.net, Doug Coval grandpa.doug@yahoo.com, Kathy Fraker kathyfraker@charter.net, and/or Pastor Dawn at pastor@eumcfallon.org.

Pastor Dawn hopes to join us for **virtual coffee hour after worship at 10:45am.** Because we are worshipping in person, it takes a bit more time before she can get away to start the Zoom call, so we have shifted the time by 30 mins. You will get the link in your email as always; if you prefer to join by phone, here's the number:

1 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: **870 1639 8986**
Passcode: **929340**

Friday Night Prayer

Every Friday night at 7:00pm, join us via Facebook Live for a quiet time of scripture and prayer. We use beautiful music, silence, and a special way of praying with the Bible called lectio divina to open our hearts to God. The video will be posted on YouTube after it airs on Facebook, so that you can use it to pray whenever it is the best time for you.



News and Fun Stuff

Turn Your Clocks Forward on Saturday!

It's time to SPRING FORWARD! Set your clocks ahead an hour when you go to bed on Saturday night, so that you won't be late for church! ☺



Good News Corner

- Maggie Neidigh's son Pat has received his new heart! Within just a few days, his breathing tube is removed, he has been walking, and is eating and drinking. Praise God for this incredible gift of new life, and thank God for the family who made it possible. That in itself is its own incredible miracle of love and generosity in the midst of pain.
- Tony Albiston's latest PET scan shows NO cancer at all in his bones! Prayers that he continues to improve in health, and regains strength in body and spirit.
- Trent Kroll just received his last chemotherapy treatment this week, and is in remission! It has been a difficult few months of treatment, praise God that it has been successful. Continued prayers for healing as he recovers, and regains health and strength, and returns to normal life feeling great.
- SEND US YOUR GOOD NEWS! Little things that bring you joy, or big miraculous answers to prayer. Send them to Laura at office@eumcfallon.org or call the church office any time 423-4714.



HERO Club Fundraiser at Ana's Café on April 17!

Ana's Café is partnering with the HERO Club for an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner fundraiser on April 17 from 4 til 9pm. The meal includes salad, bread and a drink, too, for only \$10.99! Or only \$2.99 for kids under 8 years old. All proceeds go to the HERO Club. Spread the word!

"Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross" by Susan Robb. A Multi-Church Bible Study for Lent

Our Lenten study continues with the wonderful book by Rev Susan Robb, who – it turns out – is a United Methodist Pastor in Texas! We meet via Zoom on **Wednesdays at 7:00pm**. There are hard copies of the book available in the church office for anyone who might like to read it, on your own or for our study. The Zoom link, phone number to connect by ordinary house phone, and other info will be sent to everyone by email.

March Birthdays!

Jill Pinder, 3/3
Kathy Reynolds, 3/3
♥ John McGarity, 3/6
Eunice Bailey, 3/8
Trent Kroll, 3/14
Debbie Moorhead, 3/15
Becky Miller, 3/17
Amy & Christina
Hesselgesser, 3/22
♥ Ed Miers, 3/22
Gail St Clair, 3/22
Pat Smith, 3/23
Abby Mulcahy, 3/24
Artemis Sears, 3/24
Debbie Sherman, 3/29
♥ Fred Roeder, 3/31

We can still hear the voice and see the smile of our beloved John McGarity. We miss him so.

Fred Roeder was the beloved husband of Carol, and Ed Miers the beloved husband of Wilma. Fred and Ed both past just a few years ago.

We are so thankful for their faithfulness and love.

Church Council Meeting Sunday March 14 After Worship

Join us **in person** for our bimonthly Council meeting! Tell us your joys and concerns, hear reports of our different ministries, and plan together how we will be sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our neighbors in the coming season. We will meet in the Fireside Room, and the meeting will begin at 10:30.

Sunday School Supplies!

As we move slowly toward returning to normal at worship, we need to re-supply our Sunday School classrooms! All kinds of art supplies (construction paper, safety scissors, glue sticks, small glue bottles, paints, crayons, pencils, nontoxic washable markers, all KINDS of stuff) are welcome.

Grief Class and Support Group

Rev Trudy Erquiaga and Pastor Dawn are restarting our grief group, and would love to include anyone who might like some good friends to talk and pray and give and receive support with. You will find it full of love and understanding, and helpful guidance as you move through your time of grief. It doesn't matter if your grief is recent, or years ago...you are welcome, and we will love to have you. Currently we have been meeting on Fridays at 1pm, but we would love to hear from you about what works best for your schedule. Please call Pastor Dawn on her cell phone at 775-671-5553 with any questions, or to let her know what might be the best day and time for you.

Easter Egg Hunt for the Neighborhood!

Your Worship team and Children and Family Ministries team would love to put on an Easter Egg hunt for our church and the whole neighborhood, on Saturday April 3! If the weather is good, we will hide the eggs all around the church grounds. If it's cold and yucky, we will hide them all over the church building. **We would love your donations of filled plastic Easter Eggs!** Please take care to make sure the goodies inside the eggs are nut-free (look carefully at labels, you'd be surprised where nuts lurk), so that kids who are allergic don't get left out. Bring them by the church office on Mondays or Tuesdays, or bring them to church on Sundays. Thank you!

Look for Ways to Love One Another at Justserve.org

Our LDS friends manage an outstanding website that seeks to match up needs in our community with folks who can volunteer to help. There are a bunch of great things you can do, from active outdoor stuff to things you can do from home. New opportunities pop up all the time, too! Some examples:

- **Help Chuck Doucette at Top Gun** provide a free hot soup lunch for folks in need on Tuesdays
- **Assemble hygiene kits** for unhoused folks in our community
- **Donate or borrow books** at the Little Free Library
- **Write letters** to lonely residents at Homestead

Oh, AND! **If you have any need for help at home** – like, something repaired or help in the yard, or anything at all – or if you know someone who does, please call the church at 775-423-4714. We would love to invite our neighbors to participate in that sort of work through Epworth, and we will post the need (not with your home info or anything, just the church's) on JustServe.