



The Messenger

Eureka First United Methodist Church

November 2025



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*Following Jesus
Thriving in Community
Healing the World*

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Friends,

Blessings to you as we anticipate the holiday season. We are moving from the routines of autumn into the time of celebration. Many of you may already be in holiday-preparation mode. I try to get as much done before Thanksgiving as possible because December is a busy enough time. There are gifts to buy, decorations to pull out, Christmas cards to address, celebrations to plan. Before we dive in fully, may we take a moment to consider what we want this holiday season to be like.

What values do we want our celebrations to reflect? Advent is one of my favorite times of the year because it is a season of anticipation. It is a time of getting ready, not just on the outside, but on the inside as well. We get ready to welcome the presence of God anew.

As a community we will have many opportunities to prepare our Spirits to celebrate the fullness of God's gifts. We will have our angel tree again to offer gifts to those in need. Our Advent Tea is coming up with its support of local missions. And our challenge for the season is to set apart a portion of our holiday budget for a birthday gift Jesus would particularly enjoy.

Our worship theme will be about seeing the presence of Christ among us. Fr. Richard Rohr's book, the Universal Christ, will be our guide. We are made in the image of God and are infused with the breath of the Holy Spirit. May we

reflect the love of God in the ways we honor this time of

Thanksgiving and celebration.

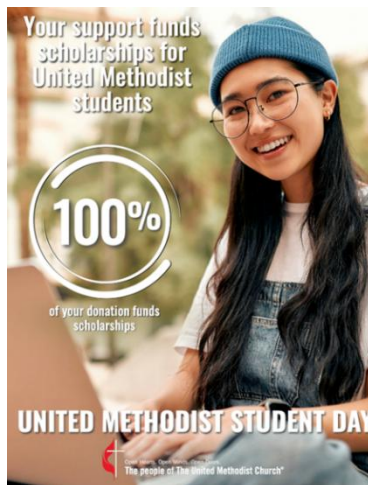
*Blessings,
Rev. Amy Beth*



Church Conference:
Wednesday November
12th at 4pm

Every year our church gets together and plans for the coming year of ministry. At this gathering recognize changes in our membership, we agree on the pastor's compensation, and we

elect our leadership. A Church Conference is an open meeting. All members have voice and vote. Our new District Superintendent, Rev. Mike Harrell will preside by Zoom.



**United Methodist
Student Day is
November 16th**

We have one of our six special Sundays this month. These are Sundays when the entire United Methodist church worships with a common theme and gathers a common offering. Our goal is \$1 per member. With millions of members in the U.S. and abroad,

we can do a great deal with \$1 each.

This special Sunday is for scholarships. Education has always been seen as critical in the Methodist tradition. This is an opportunity for us to gather the resources to help

students together.



We have been focused on the Changemakers Series in recent weeks. We began with compassion, considered collaboration, worked with

creativity, and are now concluding with empowerment. Our world is in need of the love and grace of God now as much as ever. We have a calling on us to be a part of what God is doing in this moment in this place.



Members received a letter inviting them to specify in what ways they will live out our membership vows to uphold the ministries of the

church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. On November 2nd we will submit these covenants so that we can prepare for the 2026 year of ministry.

Worship Notes:

November 2nd

Changemakers: Empowerment
Pledge Sunday
Mark 10: 46-52 & Mark 6: 30-44

November 9th

Luke 20: 27-38

November 16th

United Methodist Student Day w/ special offering
Luke 21: 5-19

November 23rd

Christ the King Sunday
Luke 1: 68-79

November 30th

First Sunday in Advent
Reflecting the Sacred: Sacred Time
Romans 13: 11-14 & Matthew 24: 36-44



The Word became flesh and made a home among us.”
John 1: 1-14 (CEB)

The Christmas season is a time when the juxtaposition of the sacred and secular feels sometimes blatantly opposed, and sometimes quite blurred. The word “sacred” points to something dedicated as “holy” and “set apart.” This year, you are invited to a spiritual journey of seeing ALL things pregnant with the Holy. What could our experience of the Advent and Christmas season be like if we lived it imagining that everything is reflecting the sacred?

The Word became flesh and made a home among us.”
John 1: 1-14 (CEB)



Naloxone Training:
Sunday,
November 9th
11:30am

Our community has the highest per capita rate of opioid overdose in the state. Our pastor, Rev. Dr.

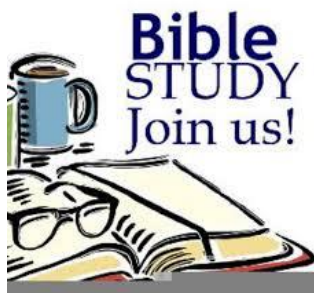
Amy Beth Durward, our Lay Leader, Dan Dionne, and Pam Coen have been participating in a program that is training religious leaders in addiction and recovery issues. One step in that program was being trained not only to give naloxone to reverse an opioid overdose, but to take that training back to our congregations.

This training will prepare you to reverse an opioid overdose with naloxone nasal spray. We have free naloxone to distribute. Our hope is that this training is never needed, but that if needed the resources will be there to save a life.



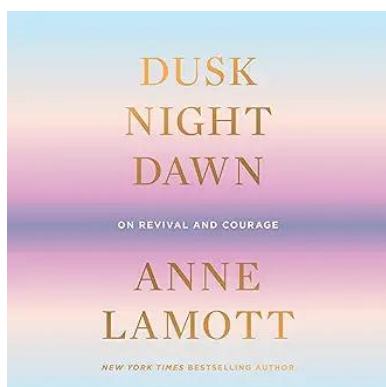
Second Sunday Brunch November 9th!

We'll do breakfast for brunch! French toast casserole, fruit salad and pigs in a blanket.



Bible Study continues 4pm Thursdays on Zoom

Our Bible study continues to meet on Zoom at 4pm on Thursdays. We focus on the lectionary passages for the week, seeing how they fit into the whole of the Bible. There has been a request to address the basics of the Bible and how it is put together. If you are interested in Bible study, but this time doesn't work for you, please let Rev. Amy Beth know.



New Book for our Wednesday Study!

We are beginning our new study of *Dusk, Night, Dawn* by Anne Lamott. From the *Chicago Tribune* review: In *Dusk, Night, Dawn*, Anne Lamott explores the tough

questions that many of us grapple with. How can we recapture the confidence we once had as we stumble through the dark times that seem increasingly bleak? As bad news piles up - from climate crises to daily assaults on civility - how can we cope? Where, she asks, "do we start to get our world and joy and hope and our faith in life itself back...with our sore feet, hearing loss, stiff fingers, poor digestion, stunned minds, broken hearts?" Come join us for this inspirational and personal study! We at 11:45 am in the Church Library—bring your lunch! All are welcome!



66th Annual Advent Tea!

Needed: table hosts! We still have room and need for some more folks to host tables in order to

accommodate everyone we expect to attend! We also need folks to help out with administration, planning, setup, and cleanup. It will take many hands to put on our 66th Annual Advent Tea! Contact Catherine Moore for more information or to sign up to support our beloved tradition!

The charities that will be the beneficiaries of the 66th Annual Advent Tea are The Senior Resource Center's "Meals on Wheels" program (go to <https://humsenior.org/programs/nutrition-programs/home-delivered-meals/> for more information) and CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Children)—find out more at <https://www.humboldtcasa.org/>.



Growing in Grace Groups

Our GIG groups are geared up for the Fall! And we want new people to join! Which group suits you best? They're all pretty wonderful!

Zoom Group (men and women): Tuesdays, 7 pm
Women's Group: Wednesdays, 1:30 pm, Christie Hall
Men's Group: Thursdays, 10 am, at the Dionne's.
New Group (men and women): Second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1:30 pm, meeting at Stasia VanBuskirk's house or the church library.



United Women in Faith Assembly 2026

The United Women in Faith has been a powerful community for leadership development and social change. They gather every four years at an Assembly. This is an opportunity to hear amazing speakers, enjoy powerful worship, and learn about the issues on which we are currently focusing. **Dream it! Believe it! Do it!** May 15-17 in Indianapolis, IN
Keynote Speakers: Stacey Abrams & Rev. Carolyn Abrams
Go to unfaith.org/assembly for more information or to register.



Church Family News



November Birthdays

2 Pam Coen	18 Erin Powers-Taylor
5 Barbara O'Brien	20 Ari Valdes-Vincent
7 Larry O'Keefe	21 Karen Newton
10 Ted Romo	21 Judy Taylor
11 Robert Powers-Taylor	22 Linda Lewis
11 Michael Davies-Hughes	23 Lisa Lewis
16 Jim Ross	24 Michelle Johnson Span
17 Kathryn Dunning	27 Cathy Ryan

November Anniversaries

7 Michele & Erin Woodburn

Congratulations! -- If we missed your special day or have the incorrect date please call the church office so we can get it right next year.



- for those fighting cancer; including Matt, Lou, and Betsy
- traveling mercies for those on the road; including Judy, Sara, Jack, and Linda
- for those struggling with longterm health issues; including Hillary & Michael and Lolita
- for those dealing with pain; including Lou and Margie
- for those without homes as the rain has returned
- for those grieving loss, including the family of Tom
- for the Halloween holiday, that it be safe and fun
- celebration of 5 years cancer free for Marie
- thanksgiving that harvest season has concluded
- hope for our nation, that our political climate may be improved



Missions

meetings we share a meal, review our finances, plan activities, and work together to support services here in

MISSION COMMITTEE MINUTE

I'd like to take a minute and introduce you to our Mission Committee members. This group is active in our church and surrounding communities. At our

Humboldt County. Members are Louise Fredrickson, Marie Granshaw, Linda Dionne, Pam Coen, Pastor Amy Beth, Angela Cameron, Jane Nelson, Catherine Moore and Galeladi Runningbrook.

At our last meeting we decided to award the proceeds from our upcoming Advent Tea to Meals on Wheels and CASA. Both of these agencies serve vulnerable people in our community. Earlier this year we were able to make donations to Food for People, Humboldt Domestic Violence Services and Glen Paul School. We also provide on going support to Eureka Women's Rescue Mission,, Betty Chin clients in transitional housing (Laundry) and high school outreach.

If you have any questions about our committee or suggestions for service projects, please let us know.



Food Donations to be weighed Sunday, November 2nd

We will have our regular collection on Sunday,

November 2nd. Remember that our target is 100 pounds! If you have donations of non-perishable food items for our food closet, **including pet food**, please arrange to deliver them to the church office before the scheduled Sunday by calling the office at (707-442-3015).



Birthday and Anniversary Piggy Bank

Every month we celebrate life's special milestones in front of the congregation while stuffing our coins and bills into the little Brown Church piggy bank on Birthday and Anniversary Sunday. We keep getting older. We keep counting our blessings. Slowly the years accumulate. Slowly the money accumulates too. This year, the **Judy Taylor Youth Initiative** will be the recipient of our accumulated birthday and anniversary money. Judy now has many youths who come by the office regularly for snacks and a safe place to be.



History Tidbit from Ann Hunt

What do you know about the Methodist Men's organization in the Eureka Methodist

Church?

In the archives we have a certificate of Charter for Methodist Men dated 19 Aug 1947.

From the early 1920's, we have a list of "Methodist Men." The list is undated but the Rev. D.O. Lockwood tops the list. He served Eureka's Methodist Church from 1920-1923. The other men listed were: George F. Phreanor, George W. Watson, J.L. Kennedy, Roy S. Melvin, J.T. Manon, M.B. Hanson (or Hansen), Herbert Christie, Aaron Smith, Arthur M. Smith, Frederick Johnson, W.C. Shuster, Mr. McDermott, B. T. Clark, John Morehead, Wm. McClaskey, L.M. Burnell, J.S. Burnell, Len Blackburn, W. L. Miller, Walter Thomas, J.C. Harrison, W. A. Hepler, and M. W. Stringfield.

We also have a collection of "prayers and sermons" (variously dated late 1960's and through the 1970's) that were delivered at the jail and/or the rescue mission. The notebook they were originally in, was labeled "Methodist Men Sermons." The notebook was also labeled, N.L.O., which may stand for Nile L. Olsen a former member of the church and chair of the trustees. Nile died in Sept. 1987.

The handwritten sermon dated 11 Feb 1968, begins, "We of the Eureka Methodist Church are here this afternoon to share with you some of the Great truths of our Christian Faith." Was this an out-reach of the congregation or a project of the Methodist Men? Who participated?

Denomination-wide there were Methodist Men's groups of various kinds in America from 1898. The earliest group being the Methodist Brotherhood. For many decades "Brotherhoods" going by a variety of names spread across the M.E. church and the denominations that would in time unite with the M.E. Church.

Methodist Men as a group emerged in the early 1940's. In 1968, after unification with the Evangelical United Brethren, men's groups changed their names to United Methodist Men.

Over the years, Methodist Men's groups were more often identified with their sponsored projects.

Most widely was their sponsorship of scouting ministries. Less widely remembered is their sponsorship of the Methodist Layman, (a precursor of the Together magazine founded in 1962) which began in the 1920's and the Methodist Men's Radio Hour which began in 1952. Though the Methodist Men's Radio Hour no longer exists, it would give rise to a number of independent evangelistic radio and internet outreaches (mostly originating in the southern conferences of the Methodist Church) but designed for a global audience.

The archives would love to have more information on First Church's connections to United Methodist Men. What can you add to what we know.

Blessings!
--Ann Hunt



From your friendly editor

We welcome comments on this newsletter that can lead us to serve you better. And remember that anyone can contribute! This. Just send an email to danielleedionne@gmail.com. **This is a change to the email, so please update your contact list.** The old email, dldionne@suddenlink.com, is still active, but I now use it mostly for commercial purposes—and that's not you!



What is a “CLM”?

In some recent conversations, several people have voiced some confusion about just what my role as a “CLM” actually means. And I realized that the questions make very good sense. This congregation has never had a CLM assigned until me, so has no expectations, and that is confounded by my wider role within the North Coast Circuit.

Let’s start with definitions. A CLM is a Certified Lay Minister within the United Methodist Church. There are many of us—four now within our Circuit of six churches--and the number is growing in our Annual Conference every year. But what does it mean to be a “Certified Lay Minister”? That gets really confusing, because, being Methodists, we have a lot of labels for a lot of different roles, and those labels often change. For example, I became a Lay Speaker over 30 years ago, a Certified Lay Speaker 16 years ago, was “transitioned” to become a Certified Lay Servant about 10 years ago, became a Trained Lay Minister five years ago, and am now a Certified Lay Minister.

The difference between Lay Speaker/Servant and Lay Minister is training and commitment. A Lay Minister does 100 hours of coursework, the equivalent of several college classes, that teach the range of duties and responsibilities of running a church. When the training is completed, we are judged to be duly ready to take on running a church or other critical duties. The District Superintendent then looks for a suitable role for the candidate. Upon appointment at Annual Conference, the role is committed, and the Lay Minister becomes a Certified Lay Minister.

The traditional role for a CLM is to take on a church that, for financial or other reasons, is unable to support an ordained pastor, or one where no suitable pastor can be found. These tend to be small churches in isolated places. Without CLMs, there would be no one to run these small but vital churches.

That’s the traditional role—but not mine. Figuring out what to do with me when I became a Lay Minister caused a

lot of head-scratching. Eureka has a full-time pastor, so didn’t need me to step into that role. Nor was I anxious to take on a full-time church role somewhere else, having just retired from a demanding career.

So they decided, in a burst of insanity or inspiration (time will tell!), to assign me to all six churches in the North Coast circuit. In order from south to north, those churches are Fortuna, Eureka, Arcata, McKinleyville, Crescent City, and Smith River. But what do I actually do with these churches?

The obvious part is preaching. If a pastor needs to take a weekend away from their church, they can ask me to step in, and I will certainly do so if I’m available. These calls are fewer than you might expect, only one or possibly two a month.

Another part of the job is helping to connect our circuit pastors so we can share ideas and experiences; my role in that is as “Circuit Secretary” to help with meetings, agendas, and resources.

The rest of the job is whatever we—me, the pastors, and the congregations—make of it. This is new territory for all of us. What that means for Eureka First, which is my home church as well as one of the churches to which I’m assigned, is that I am here to fill needs. So if there’s something you need, just ask!

--Dan Dionne

On the Lighter Side—the Modern Pulpit!

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“This week’s sermon is about how we all need to simplify our lives. Unfortunately, I lost the whole thing when my computer crashed.”