

# The Bell Tower

The Newsletter of the

**First United Methodist Church of Eureka**

521 N. Main street, Eureka, KS USA

ph: 620-583-5663 email: 1stumceureka@att.net



**November 2017**



## **GLEANINGS: THOUGHTS FROM AROUND THE EDGES**

By Rev. Kenneth Baker

### **Thanksgiving**

*With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
Micah 6:6-7(NIV)*

Thanksgiving is upon us, AGAIN! It just seems like yesterday, that we were scurrying about, looking for the sales on turkeys and pumpkin pies, and making sure there was enough butter on hand to slather on fresh-baked biscuits or warm rolls. As well, many of us were busy scanning all the ads and looking online for all the sales that were sure to come on this thing we call "Black Friday." But did we remember to be thankful?

Now I've never been quite sure whether the first Thanksgiving was an occasion when the early Pilgrims were marking a successful harvest with a celebratory feast, whether they were saying 'thanks' to their Native American friends, or taking time to thank God. Actually, I expect it was a combination of all three. They were alive! They had pantries and root cellars stocked for the winter. They just might make it.

As the Thanksgiving tradition comes down to me, there is a similar admixture. To me, it is a time to celebrate, to be joyful for many things – for family and friends, for a warm home to shelter me, for a great church and congregation, but especially, for all God has done in my life to bless me and keep me. And the question arises for me – what shall I do to thank God for all God has done for me. Should I come before God with thousands of burnt offerings, with rivers of costly oil, with sacrifices so dear to me that it would be like tearing out my own heart? Truly, there is nothing I can ever do to repay God for all God has already done in my life. And that is *not* what God asks for us – for repayment. Rather, if we are truly thankful to God, all God asks is the following: "*what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*" (Micah 6:8) That's all? Yes. If we want to be truly thankful to God, just those three things.

This Thanksgiving, let us together resolve to act justly to all people, and to God. To not only *be* merciful, but to *love* mercy, which means we participate in God's grace, adding our own grace to everyone we encounter. And then, lest we think too highly of ourselves - to walk humbly with God, acknowledging God is God, and we are not. And being truly thankful for that. God loves us! Let us remember to love God back, and while we are at it, to love each other as well.

May you have a blessed and thankful Thanksgiving, my sisters and brothers,  
Pastor Ken, Eureka United Methodist Church.

The Mission of the Eureka United Methodist Church is to be a living, breathing, celebrating entity where time, money, and the talents God has given us are freely and joyously given, where serving God through ministry is a way of life.

# What's happening at the Main Church On the Main Street in Eureka, Kansas USA?

## UMW MEETING

There will be a general meeting of UMW on Sunday, November 12, following worship service, around 10:45. Agenda items include:  
Report of Fall District UMW meeting  
Report of Fall Festival  
Election of 2018 officers  
Suggestions for 2018

There are new books from the Reading Program in the UMW library in the Family Room. These books may be checked out by anyone and will need to be returned to the church Family Room by November 24th so they can be mailed back to Conference UMW.

Morning Circle will meet Thursday, November 16 at 9:30. Patsy Garner is hostess and Linda Downing has devotions.



Christian and Congregational Church  
Women's Fellowship

## Annual Christmas Tea

UMW Women are invited:

**Thurs, December 7, 2017**

**1:30 p.m.**

**117 E. Third St.**

**Special Music:  
Pop Chorus**



## COMMUNITY LINC

### Eureka Dinners

Thurs, Nov 9th @ UMC

Thanksgiving Dinner, Thurs, Nov 24th @ UMC

### Hamilton Dinner

Wed, Nov 15th @ Hamilton Community Center

### Madison Dinner

Tues, Nov 28th @ Madison Community Center

Ministering the Love of Christ to ALL People.

Meals are provided :

Eureka—Every 2nd & 4th Thursdays

Hamilton—Every 3rd Wednesday

Madison—Every 4th Tuesday

Community LinC continues to serve meals for food, fellowship, and faith sharing in our community. This group has offered meals in Eureka for 4 years and now has meals being served in Hamilton and Madison. The Eureka meals are usually served in our church utilizing our wonderful facilities. Our church is proud to be a part of this mission happening twice a month in our church building.

Watch the newspaper, Facebook, or posted signs for times and menus.

## CHRISTMAS IN EUREKA

### Saturday, December 2nd

The Eureka Chamber of Commerce is planning Christmas activities and a parade for Saturday, December 2nd. There will also be vendors, Santa at the Greenwood Hotel, refreshments in various places on Main Street and groups of carolers. They are asking that the churches each provide a float for the parade. UMC is planning to have a float and carolers. **We need a volunteer to provide 2 UMC banners, one for each side of the float.**



## 4-H SUNDAY WAS OCT 8<sup>TH</sup>



Harmony  
Sunflowers  
&  
Racing  
Wranglers



## CHURCH CONFERENCE

### December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Worship, Potluck, Church Conference. Bring your favorite dish and plan to visit with the District Superintendent. Please begin working on the reports and budgetary requests needed.

## WANTED!

'recyclable' plastic food containers and lids for our supply in the kitchen.



**Daylight Saving Time Ends  
November 5th**

Please remember we need your support – even when you are not here. You can now easily give your offerings electronically by EFT. No need to write checks or carry cash, easier to continue to support the Church even when you're out of town. For more information contact the office.

## Sermons for November 2017

Series Name:

# Rule #1 and the Ten Commandments

<sup>35</sup>Once, an expert in the law, tested Jesus with this question: <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”  
<sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”<sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**Series Theme:** Getting back to basics. The world these days seems so complicated, so over-burdened, so chaotic, so violent, and seems also to have strayed so far from the biblical basics we were all taught in Sunday School, even in grade school, as children. This month we will finish the Ten Commandments, always asking, “how might attending to these commands enhance my life today, and bring order back to the world?” We continue this month, starting with the ninth Commandment (Thou Shalt Not Give False Testimony), return to the Fifth Commandment (we skipped this one earlier, to address the world situation after the massacre in Las Vegas), and return to the last Commandment (on Covetousness) on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Sound good?

### November 5th: Communion Sunday.

**Sermon: Thou Shalt Not Give False Testimony” Exodus 20:16**

Old Testament Lesson: Proverbs 6:16-19

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 5:33-37

### November 12th:

**Sermon: Honor Your Mother and Your Father” Exodus 20:12**

Old Testament Lesson: Proverbs 6:20-23

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 6:1-3

### November 19<sup>th</sup>:

**Sermon: Thou Shalt Not Covet Exodus 20:17; 24:3-8**

**Key Verse: Exodus 24:3(NIV)** <sup>3</sup>When Moses went and told the people all the LORD’s words and laws, they responded with one voice, “Everything the LORD has said we will do.”

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 57:17-19

New Testament Lesson: John 14:23-24

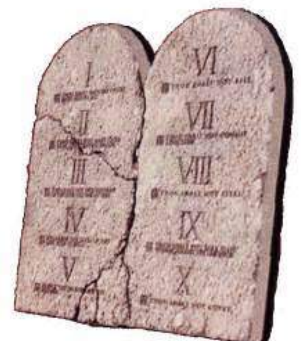
### November 26th: Thanksgiving Sunday/H.O.G. Sunday

**Sermon: Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread Matthew 6:11**

**Key Verse:** <sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread. **Matthew 6:11(KJV)**

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 16:1-4, 14-16, 31

New Testament Lesson: John 6:28-35





# MINISTERS FOR NOVEMBER

## GREETERS

Nov 5	Judy Schlegel, Rise Russin	Nov 19	Phil & Ann Johnston
Nov12	Paul & Jackie Seeley	Nov 26	Jack & Linda Downing

## USHERS

Nov 5	Roger & Darla Winfrey, Keith Ball	Nov 19	Matt & Cammie Wilson, Richard Myer
Nov12	Jan Taylor, Volunteers	Nov 26	Volunteers

## SCRIPTURE READERS

Nov 5	Harold Garner	Nov 19	Jan Friday
Nov12	Harold Garner	Nov 26	Janice Massey

## ORGANIST

Nov 5	Robin Himes	Nov 19	Rhonda Boone
Nov12	Rhonda Boone	Nov 26	Robin Himes

## COFFEE TIME

Nov 5	Paul & Jackie Seeley	Nov 19	Jack & Linda Downing, Mary Lou Chadderdon
Nov12	Need Volunteers	Nov 26	Judy Schlegel

It is always nice on Sunday morning to join with others and share the activities of your week.  
Lots of planning for future events go on at Coffee Hour.

If it were not for volunteers this would never happen. Thank you to all who step up and help.



**Rev. Ken's surprise quilt.**

**Thank You! Thank You!**

**My heart felt thanks to the ladies who made and gave me this beautiful quilt! I love it and will cherish it forever. Pastor Ken**

## 63rd Annual Fall Festival 2017



**Raffled 'Rose of Sharon'  
quilt won by  
Linda McClintick.**

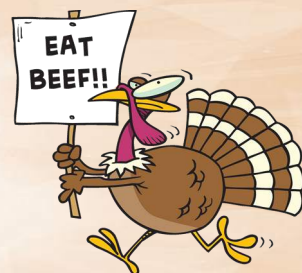
Thank you to the  
UMC quilting group  
for assembling this  
beautiful quilt.



We had another successful Fall Festival this year. Thank you to all who helped, The Cinnamon Rolls/ Coffee time in the morning and Craft/Baked Sale were well attended and made good incomes for our church missions. About 250 meals were served with the chicken or beef dinner. Over 600 quilt tickets were sold and Linda McClintick was the lucky winner. Total profit was \$ 3351.00.

This annual project of our church not only supplements funds for church operation and missions, but is an outreach to our church family and other community members. The conversations and feeling of fellowship throughout the day were priceless. If you have suggestions of ideas for future Fall Festivals, please let Pastor Ken, Jan Stephens, or Cindy Knotts know.

# November 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>  6:00 PM Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  10:00 AM—2:00 PM Trail Life  Cattlemen's Day
<b>5</b> 9:30 AM Worship w/ Communion Fellowship Coffee  	<b>6</b>  6:00 PM BSA	<b>7</b>  	<b>8</b>  6:00 PM Choir	<b>9</b>  6:00 PM Community LinC Dinner	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  VETERANS DAY 
<b>12</b> 9:30 AM Worship Fellowship Coffee  UMW General Meeting  2:00 PM Racing Wranglers 4-H	<b>13</b>  6:00 PM BSA	<b>14</b>  5:30 PM Finance 6:00 PM Administrative Council	<b>15</b>  1:00 PM Ministerial Alliance @ UMC  6:00 PM Choir	<b>16</b>  9:30 AM UMW Circle Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30 AM Worship Fellowship Coffee	<b>20</b>  6:00 PM BSA	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  6:00 PM Choir	<b>23</b> Happy Thanksgiving  6:00 PM Community LinC Dinner	<b>24</b>  (Church Office Closed)	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30 AM Worship Fellowship Coffee	<b>27</b>  6:00 PM BSA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  6:00 PM Choir	<b>30</b>		





**The First United Methodist Church of Eureka**  
521 N Main Street, PO Box 286  
Eureka, KS USA 67045  
Ph: 620-583-5663

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**Worship—Sundays 9:30**



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Friends of Eureka First United Methodist Church