

Newsletter

CONTOURS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

My father-in-law, David Leeper, of blessed memory, had a dirt works construction company. Among other things, he made terraces in fields, dug ponds, and built locations for oil rigs.

Terraces are found, of course, on land that slopes. To cultivate the soil, the farmer follows the contours of those terraces. The purpose of a terrace is to catch and conserve water and to help prevent soil erosion, which is especially important in this part of the world where dry periods and strong winds, or, on the other hand, torrential rains, can cause problems.

I like this metaphor – contours – for the Christian life. There are patterns of belief, attitude, and practice that we follow in Christian discipleship. To follow these contours is to follow Christ in his character and his teaching. These contours are indispensable to living joyfully and faithfully. Like the contours of terraces that help to preserve land and slow down water movement, the contours of the Christian life help us to live as real Christians.

We’re going to spend time the next few weeks, beginning August 6, looking at the contours of the Christian life as they are described in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7. There, we encounter some very familiar passages, like the Beatitudes, the “blessed are you who...” statements. We’ll find some tough lessons that Jesus teaches, on topics beginning with “You have heard that it was said...but I say to you...” Some of those topics are sensitive and we will have to walk attentively through them.

Some of the contours are about familiar practices, like praying and giving, and Jesus calls us to pay attention to our motives. We’ll be checking ourselves to see if our hearts align with Christ’s. Some are about discerning where our treasures are stored. And we’ll wind up asking the question, “Do we seek the kingdom above everything else?”

Contours. This word serves as a metaphor – a symbol – for us to consider how closely our lives follow the patterns that Jesus has established for his followers. May we learn from Jesus how life goes, and may we receive these teachings with gratitude and courage!

One last thing. We are starting a new ministry at the St. Paul campus in relation to the Wednesday evening SHARE Meal. It’s called Prayer Plus (Prayer +). We want to offer intercessory prayer for people who receive food through the SHARE Meal and who may need more than food. We will listen to them, pray with them, and do what we can to meet the other needs that they confide to us. Interested? Keep reading this newsletter to learn more.

In an important way, Prayer + is our attempt to follow some of the contours of the Christian life. May we follow them with real joy.

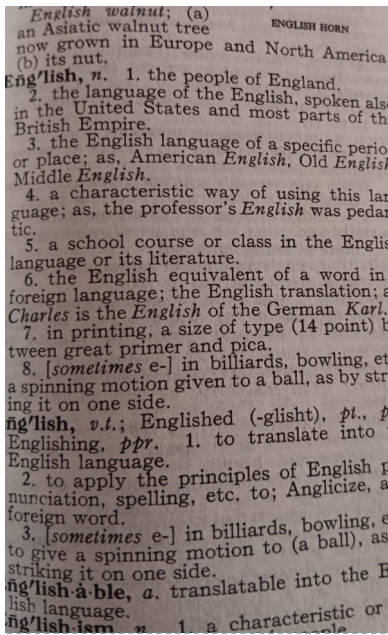


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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Shoe Sunday is Here!
- ESL begins this month at St. Paul Campus
- New Ministry: Prayer +
- Join us Sunday mornings on Facebook if you are unable to attend worship in person.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES

It's not too late to be blessed as a volunteer with English as a Second Language classes that run Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., August 23 through November 15 at the St. Paul campus.

Training for teachers and translators is Wednesday, August 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Training for those helping with enrollment, attendance, and translating is Wednes-

day, August 16, at 5:30 p.m.

Enrollment and placement of students is Wednesday, August 16, at 6:30 to 8 p.m. and will continue until all arrivals have been served.

Call Nancy Clarkson at 620.442.1221 or 620.446.2233 if you have questions or are wondering how you might get involved. You won't regret it.

"I thought I was volunteering to help others and ended up being the one who was blessed!"

SHOES SUNDAY

Arkansas City United Methodist Church has been putting new school shoes on the feet of local children for 22 years and Sunday, August 6, is the big day for 2023. As many as 250 to 300 certificates will be given out for children pre-k through 8th grade to purchase a pair of shoes at the local Walmart.

In addition to special contributions by members of our church, funds have been received from Kiwanis, Rotary Club, from a Walmart Community Grant.

"Thank you, members of the church, for supporting families in Arkansas City."

~Cindy Freeland

PRAYER PLUS

A new prayer ministry is launching the first Wednesday in September (the 3rd) in conjunction with the SHARE Meals at the St. Paul campus. Anyone with a heart for intercessory prayer is invited to come to an

Information Meeting and Lunch

Sunday, August 27, at 12:30 p.m. in the Gathering Place

At Prayer +, we will serve in groups of 2, as we are able, to offer prayer for those who may need more than food. We will listen to them, pray with them, and do what we can to help meet their needs as they confide in us.

The church really does possess a hope that the world does not understand. Let's expand our SHARE to share hope of new life with others. Do you feel a nudge from the Holy Spirit to say, "yes"? Attend the information meeting and lunch to get answers to your questions.

Call the church office at 620.442.4530 or email us at secretary@arkcityfirst.kscoxmail.com to let us know you're coming so we can make lunch plans accordingly.



Grieving a loss?

Find hope and healing after
the death of a loved one.

Join us at
GriefShare®

Weekly grief support group

When: Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
August 29 - November 28

Where: Calvary Chapel
1001 S. 3rd Street
Arkansas City, KS 67005

Contact: Holly Gage
holly.gage56@gmail.com
620-506-1005

Register: griefshare.org/findgroup

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*Let us pray for you. Contact Pam Archer at
620.446.2456 or at parcher@cox.net to add
your request to the prayer chain. Do you pray
for others? Let Pam know you'd like to receive
the list.*

LOCAL SERVICES

MEALS

Mondays—Northside Baptist
Church; 5:30-6 p.m.

Wednesdays—Arkansas City
United Methodist Church St. Paul
Campus; 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays—Shepherd's Grace 5-
6 p.m.

OTHER FOOD

Food Pantry, First Assembly of
God Church

Manna Ministries, First Baptist
Church

BLESSING BOXES

Central Christian Church

Arkansas City United Methodist
Church, North Campus and St. Paul

Hog Mob Ministries

Shepherd's Grace Church

Trinity Episcopal Church

West Kansas Avenue Church of God

HOUSEHOLD

Angels in the Attic Thrift Store

Cowley County Outreach—Angel's
Closet

Community Laundry Resource
Service

CLOTHING

Rooted Women's Ministry

AC NAZ Free Clothes Closet

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Inside City Hall

Inside Northwest Community Cen-
ter

Pershing Park

Ark City United Methodist Church
St. Paul Campus

Wilson Park

FAMILY LIFE SERVICES

305 S. Summit

Check flyers posted on church bulle-
tin boards for details.

IN MEMORIAM

A music memorial for **Maybelle Smith** has been established with the church. Maybelle was 89 years old when she died July 6 at her daughter's home in Boerne, TX.

Funeral services for **Vicki Saltsman** were held at the St. Paul campus Wednesday, August 2.

The service for **Lucille Woodward** is scheduled for Monday, August 7, at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

As the body of Christ, remember to extend condolences to family and friends who grieve.

If you are unable to attend church on Sundays, join us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/arkcityUMC>

Or search for Arkansas City United Methodist Church on Facebook to join Sundays at 10 a.m.



United Women of Faith is collecting aluminum pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Wichita. Add your pull tabs to the large jar near the coffee maker in the kitchen!

FINANCE REPORT

Please specify on checks whether offering is for General Fund or Building Fund.

June 2023

Income	\$ 16,905
Expenses	<u>20,707</u>
	\$ -3,802

SHARE MEALS

374

Meals Served in July

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

The UWF has not met during June, July, and August, but will meet again in September on the usual third Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 1:30 p.m.

In spite of the break, we have, however, been active. We collected money to send MyKenzie Goff on the METour. The METour was cancelled due to not enough applicants. We will decide at the September meeting whether to save the money for next year or to try to return it to all those who donated.

We put together 33 health care kits, but they did not have parking for a van at the Annual Conference, so we will wait until we have transportation for the kits, or the Church decides what else to do with them.

One member attended a spiritual retreat at El Dorado United Methodist Church. The guest speaker was Lora Jones, a pastor's wife who lost her entire family in a car accident. She was the only one to survive. The Monday night group is doing a study of the book written by Lora, purchased at the retreat.

One member attended Mission U at FUMC in Wichita. The study was from "Living The Kin-Dom: Exploring the Lord's prayer."

We celebrated UWF Sunday by leading worship on Sunday, July 9, and encouraged women to join UWF by including non-UWF members in the service. Billie Swanson gave the sermon and Alisha Call was the song leader.

AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:30 am Seeking Sisters	2 10:30 am Vicki Saltsman funeral 5:30 pm SHARE meal @ St. Paul	3 7 pm SMP Live	4	5
6 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Bible Reading Unadorned 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship, Communion 2-4 pm Shoes	7 10:30 am Lucille Woodward funeral 7 pm Small Group; Boy Scouts	8	9 5:30 pm, SHARE Meal 6:30 pm ESL training @ St. Paul	10 7 pm SMP Live	11	12
13 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Bible Reading Unadorned 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship, Bucket Sunday	14 4:30 Quilt Guild 7:00 pm Small Group	15 10:30 am Seeking Sisters	16 5:30 pm SHARE Meal; ESL Training @ St. Paul 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul	17 7 pm SMP Live	18	19
20 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Bible Reading Unadorned 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship 11:15 am Third Sunday Dinner 12:30 pm Finance/Trustees	21 7 pm Small Group; Boy Scouts Summer Awards NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul	24 7 pm SMP Live	25	26
27 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Bible Reading Unadorned 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship 11:15 am Administrative Council 12:30 Prayer + Training/ Lunch	28 7 pm Small Group	29	30 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul	31 7 pm SMP Live		5

**ARKANSAS CITY
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to help people become deeply committed Christians who live authentic lives modeled after Jesus Christ to make a difference in our community and the world.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 3	Denise Simmons	Aug. 15	Fallon Mora	Aug. 24	Tom Schmidt
Aug. 4	Karen Bottomley	Aug. 18	Logan Monroe	Aug. 25	Glen Morrison
Aug. 5	Ricci Goff	Aug. 19	Marvin Bottomley	Aug. 27	Christine Tanner
	Jolee Wells		Bowie Call	Aug. 29	Shawna Allison
Aug. 6	Sandy Smith		Bonnie Fair		Bill Graham
	Wiley Wilcox		Aaron Wise	Aug. 30	Blake Bucher
Aug. 7	Alyce Anzelmo	Aug. 20	Gage Musson		
	Missy Call	Aug. 21	Charles Kinzie		
Aug. 13	Annika Hernandez	Aug. 22	Nancy Waggoner		
	Nick Hernandez	Aug. 23	Bart Allen		
Aug. 14	Violet Beyer		Brian Black		
	Joseph Hooley		Felicity Dykes		
	Ryan Soule				

**Arkansas City
United Methodist Church**

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

