



DECEMBER 2022

Arkansas City UMC *Newsletter*

MISSION: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (Matt. 28:19-20)

From the desk of Pastor Steve



The Feast of the Incarnation

"It's the most wonderful time of the year," sang Andy Williams more than a half century ago. It is one of those timeless Christmas songs, always a staple of the season.

But is it the most wonderful time? Let's be honest. The month leading up to Christmas is filled with stress, as trees and decorations go up (along with our blood pressure) and we race around finding just the right gifts and stocking stuffers and decorations. Come on, admit it! For all the enjoyment of picking out just that right gift for a loved one, for all the delicious anticipation of gathering with those same loved one, for all the "peace on earth, good will toward men" that we sincerely but spasmodically feel, this season is also full of hassle and distraction. The good Christmas spirit comes and goes as quickly as the foam on top of one of those fancy Christmas coffee drinks.

Too dark? Too curmudgeonly? Too Grinchy? Maybe a little, but not much. Every year I feel the same concern. I don't want us to allow the good to become the enemy of the best. Christmas cheer is good, truly good, but when it floats free of the meaning of the holiday, it competes with the best.

I guarantee you that, when our family gathers to celebrate Christmas, I'll be participating enthusiastically in the whole messy affair, from trying once again to surprise Joni with something, to watching the grandchildren tear into their packages, to thinking back fondly on what we did when our now grown children were actual children, to stuffing down another piece of panettone (an Italian Christmas bread with dried fruits in it) while listening to my kids semi-sincerely complain about how bad it is.

But also, to pause. To ponder. *Really* ponder the meaning of what we are celebrating. It is the feast of the Incarnation of the Word of God. It is God taking human nature to save us from our sins (as Matthew 1:21 tells us). I will never cease to marvel at this great mystery, that God is so fiercely determined to rescue us that the glorious Son "left his Father's throne above" to share our predicament and deliver us from ourselves. We can spend a thousand years plumbing the depths of this great act and never reach the bottom. But, oh, how wonderful it is to ponder the mystery.

It's why the church many centuries ago developed the season of Advent. A time to prepare, penitently, for the coming of the Lord. While we prepare, we watch. And wait. He is coming. We remember his coming as the Holy Infant and we look forward to his coming in glory.

I'm hoping that, as you scurry around getting ready for the celebration of all your Christmas traditions, you allow ample time to think about what God has done in the Incarnation and why. Sit. Take a breath. Read the Christmas story. Read other scriptures (if you need some suggestions, call me). Pray. Give thanks to God for this inestimable gift.

And hum along with Andy as he sings, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." With the season in proper perspective, it will be truly wonderful.

TO:



The family of **Susan Rozelle** who passed away November 8th.

The family of **Tom Hollingsworth** who passed away on November 15th.

The family of **Bill Stinson** who passed away on November 19th.

The family of **Jon Oaks**, whose brother **Ira** passed away unexpectedly.

**IN MEMORY OF
SUSAN ROZELLE**

**Ark City United Methodist Church
would like to say a very special**

~ THANK YOU ~

**To all of our church family who so
graciously gave memorial gifts in Susan's
honor. May we bless others in her name.**

To Christ Be The Glory



2023 Volunteers Needed!

Sunday Worship Services need for the following:

Liturgists

Children's Time Presenters

Ushers

If the Lord is nudging you to get up and Praise the Lord, prayerfully consider volunteering. January still has lots of openings. Call the church office @ (620) 442-4530 M-F 9a-2p

Pastor Steve's Spiritual Maturity Project

will **NOT** meet during December.

SMP live will resume on Thursday, Jan 5th



Parsonage for Sale

The trustees of the Arkansas City United Methodist Church, Inc. have voted & the 2022 Annual Charge Conference has approved the sale of the parsonage located at 1210 N. C Street, Arkansas City, KS.

The house has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, & an attached 2 car garage. There are 2008 sq ft of living area on the main floor and a 1000 sq ft basement.

Appliances included are refrigerator, range, dishwasher, washer & dryer. Backyard is fenced w/ patio & detached storage shed. Price is \$185,000.

If you or anyone you know has interest in viewing this property, please contact Wiley Wilcox at (620) 442-4350.



HANDBELL PRACTICE

Please come join us!

Wednesdays @ 5:30 PM

CHOIR PRACTICE

Please come join us!

Wednesdays @ 6:45 PM





Formerly United Methodist Women
Sylvia McAlister, President

The United Women in Faith will have their next meeting **Dec 21, 2022 at 1:30 PM** in the gathering room. All women are welcome. Everyone bring a Christmas treat and a story, remembrance, poem or tradition. We would LOVE to have some guests!

God Bless You & Merry Christmas to All,
 ~ Sylvia McAlister



**NEW CHURCH
 OFFICE HOURS**

As of **DECEMBER 2022**

MON - FRI

9 AM - 2PM

November Share Meals 261



Nancy Clarkson would like to share with you all the **PROUD ESL Fall 2022 Graduates**. Best of wishes to them all in their future endeavors!

Finance \$ Report

October 2022

Income	\$20,865.47
Expenses	<u>16, 917.17</u>
	\$ 3,948.30



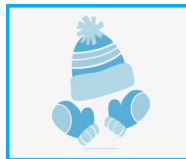
We have "adopted" 40 children from the **Angels in the Attic Christmas Kids**. If you would like to sponsor a



child, pick a snowman from the tree outside the Sanctuary doors. Make sure **you sign the sheet** to identify which snowman you have selected. The **UNWRAPPED gifts** and wrapping paper or gift bag (with the snowman and identifying number) need to be returned to the church by **December 11**. Please check off your

name on the list to let us know you have dropped off your gift.

Church Family, we encourage you to honor a loved one this Holy Season by placing a poinsettia in the sanctuary in their honor. **Cost per poinsettia is \$17.50 each**. Orders & payment must be to the church by **DEC 14th**. Drop by the office between 9-2 M-F and ask for Lisa.



We have a **Christmas tree** set up on the north side of the gym for **hats and mittens**. They will all be donated to local children.

We also have two tables set up on the north side of the gym for **Christmas Cards** that you want to send to our church family. This is a tradition we are using from St. Paul. **Bring your cards each week**



and save some postage. It helps to have your cards alphabetized. **Please make sure you stop by the tables and pick up the cards that are addressed to you!**

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	2	3
4 9:00 am Youth Bible Study 10:00 am Worship & Communion 2:00 pm Children's Program practice 4:30 pm Christmas Caroling Party	5 7:00 pm Small Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	7 5:30 pm Share Meal 5:30 pm Handbell practice 6:00 pm Kids Club/Youth 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Choir practice	8 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	9	10
12 9:00 am Youth Bible Study 10:00 am Worship & Bucket Sunday 2:30 pm Music Club Christmas Program	12 7:00 pm Small Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Quilt Guild	13 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	14 5:30 pm Share Meal 5:30 pm Handbell practice 6:00 pm Kids Club/Youth 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Choir practice	15	16	17
18 9:00 am Youth Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Meal 12:15 pm Children's Christmas Program	19 7:00 pm Small Group	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21 1:30 pm United Women in Faith 5:30 pm Share Meal 5:30 pm Handbell practice 6:45 pm Choir practice	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 pm <i>"Lessons & Carols"</i>
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 am Worship	26 7:00 pm Small Group	27	28 5:30 pm Handbell practice 6:45 pm Choir practice	29	30	31

**Ark City United
Methodist Church
wishes you and
your loved ones
safe travels,
happy memories
and blessings .**

*Jesus
is the
Reason
for the season*



*• Merry •
Christmas!
• Happy •
New Year!*



December 28 Kim Black
December 30 Louise Smith
 Josiah Cox
 Jeff Musson
 Jordan Wilson

December 1 Kirby Barbour
December 4 Joann Ebert
December 7 Diane Birdzell
December 14 Jill Sullivan
December 16 Woody Marker
December 21 Deanna Kuder
December 23 Joycelyn Goff
 Adah Utt
December 24 Monica Wise
December 25 JESUS
December 26 Richard Hensley
December 27 Carlene White
 Zabreana Thompson
 Mykenzie Goff
 Rowyn Hensen

Arkansas City
 United Methodist Church
 2448 Edgemont Drive
 Arkansas City, KS 67005

Return Service Requested

Phone: 620-442-4530

