



JULY 2023

# Arkansas City UMC *Newsletter*

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



From  
Pastor Steve

## ***One Year In***

You know the old adage: “Time flies while you’re having fun.” It’s true. It has been a year since I started serving as your pastor and the time has flown by. It has been a blast. It’s serious work that we’re about, but also fun. And the time has flown. So, let’s do a little taking stock.

Truth be told, when Joni and I moved back to Kansas in November, 2020, I had no plans (whatsoever) of pastoring a congregation. We had started a ministry – the Spirit Maturity Project. COVID quickly changed our ministry plan, prompting us to pivot to online courses. We were finding our way, because neither of us ever planned to start a ministry of this sort, once I left higher education, and we certainly didn’t plan on doing so much through Zoom!

To be honest with you, we’re still sorting out the scope of the Spiritual Maturity Project (SM). When I agreed to serve as your pastor, Joni and I saw both the possibilities and the limits. We could see ways that the SMP fit well within pastoral ministry. We also saw how we would need to modify our thinking and doing to be faithful to the responsibilities of a pastor. Yes, one year in, we are still finding our way.

One year in, I am very excited about the ministry opportunities we have in Arkansas City United Methodist Church. Again, to be honest with you, we face some real complexities. We are part of a connectional denomination undergoing some serious challenges. In the United States, we are 20% smaller in the past year or so because of the number of congregations that have left United Methodism. Denominational changes inevitably will be felt at the local level. We are also two congregations becoming one here in Arkansas City. The legal and financial work to merge the two congregations was pretty much finished by January 2022. You had been worshipping together and, when I arrived, some things were nicely settled into place. But also, the complications. How are the two becoming one? We are not a large congregation, and we own two church buildings. What do we do with them?

This question is not simply a practical one. It is a missional question, infused with the legacies of previous generations. How do we continue good ministry in the two locations? How do we make a difference in our community, a difference that represents well the Kingdom of God? The Share Meal represents wonderful outreach. We’re thinking about how to enhance this ministry. The ESL program is also crucial for helping immigrant people establish themselves in their new home. But what about worship gatherings in what we now call the south campus (St. Paul)? Is there more to do? The Administrative Council is exploring some options.

And so, one year in, I think we need to see things realistically AND with the eyes of faith and hope. We must pay the bills and maintain properties that require much attention. (I’m very grateful to the people in our church who give their time and love to this work.) We face ongoing challenges on several fronts. This is the realism part. We can also dream. And listen to the Spirit’s voice, telling us, “This is the way. Walk in it,” and we can fully expect to see people’s lives change. We have freedom to dream. And dream big. Let’s imagine what God might do through us as we place our future firmly in God’s hands.



Summer Sunday School  
Beginning June 4th @ 8 :30 am

Bible Study Unadorned Pastor Steve Rankin  
Adult Sunday School Russell McAlister

Activities for Children of All Ages in Nursery

On Break thru Summer

Children's Church  
Summer Activity Packets located in wagon in Narthex

UWF (July & August)  
Sunday Night Faithbuilders Group  
Handbells and Choir  
Kids Club and Youth Group  
Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts

Coffee, hot tea & sweet treats are available every Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall.



PLEASE JOIN US!

9:30 AM

before Worship Service.

THE CHURCH OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED  
MON JULY 3 & TUE JULY 4  
NO SMALL GROUP MEETING  
MON 7/3  
NO SEEKING SISTERS  
TUE 7/4  
NO SMP LIVE  
THUR 7/6



July 22

Ralph & Janice Keefe

67 years

HAPPY

ANNIVERSARY



Finance Report

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

May 2023

Income	\$ 18,902
Expenses	<u>16,922</u>
	\$ 1,980



It is that time of year to help provide Arkansas City students with shoes.

This is the twenty second year we have provided \$20 gift certificates for shoes to students in our community. This year pre-kindergarten through eighth grade children will benefit from the dollars that you provide for this endeavor. Money will be collected until August 6th, the distribution date of the vouchers. Dollars have also been given from Ark City Kiwanis, Rotary Club and a grant from Walmart.

Thank You for your dollars are well spent!



397 SHARE MEALS  
SERVED IN JUNE 2023

# JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> <b>Adult Sunday School</b> <i>8:30 am</i> <b>Coffee Time Fellowship</b> <i>9:30 am</i> <b>Worship (Communion)</b> <i>10:00 am</i> <b>3rd Quarter Safety Meeting</b> <i>11:05 am</i>	<b>3</b> Church Office Closed	<b>4</b> Church Office Closed	<b>5</b> <b>SHARE Meal</b> <i>5:30 pm</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 UWF SUNDAY</b> <b>Adult Sunday School</b> <i>8:30 am</i> <b>Bible Reading Unadorned</b> <i>8:30 am</i> <b>Coffee Time Fellowship</b> <i>9:30 am</i> <b>Worship (Bucket Sun)</b> <i>10:00 am</i>	<b>10</b> <b>Small Group</b> <i>7:00 pm</i> <b>Boy Scouts</b> <i>7:00 pm</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>SHARE Meal</b> <i>5:30 pm</i>	<b>13</b> <b>SMP LIVE</b> <i>7:00 pm</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>Adult Sunday School</b> <i>8:30 am</i> <b>Bible Reading Unadorned</b> <i>8:30 am</i> <b>Coffee Time Fellowship</b> <i>9:30 am</i> <b>Worship</b> <i>10:00 am</i> <b>Fellowship Meal</b> <i>11:15 am</i> <b>Finance Meeting</b> <i>12:15 pm</i>	<b>17</b> <b>Small Group</b> <i>7:00 pm</i> <b>Boy Scouts</b> <i>7:00 pm</i>	<b>18</b> <b>Seeking Sisters</b> <i>10:30 am</i>  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>19</b> <b>SHARE Meal</b> <i>5:30 pm</i>	<b>20</b> <b>SMP LIVE</b> <i>7:00 pm</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>Adult Sunday School</b> <i>8:30 am</i> <b>Bible Reading Unadorned</b> <i>8:30 am</i> <b>Coffee Time Fellowship</b> <i>9:30 am</i> <b>Worship</b> <i>10:00 am</i> <b>Administrative Council</b> <i>11:05 am</i>	<b>24</b> <b>Small Group</b> <i>7:00 pm</i> <b>Boy Scouts</b> <i>7:00 pm</i>	<b>25</b> <b>Seeking Sisters</b> <i>10:30 am</i>	<b>26</b> <b>SHARE Meal</b> <i>5:30 pm</i>	<b>27</b> <b>SMP LIVE</b> <i>7:00 pm</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Adult Sunday School</b> <i>8:30 am</i> <b>Bible Reading Unadorned</b> <i>8:30 am</i> <b>Coffee Time Fellowship</b> <i>9:30 am</i> <b>Worship</b> <i>10:00 am</i>	<b>31</b> <b>Small Group</b> <i>7:00 pm</i> <b>Boy Scouts</b> <i>7:00 pm</i>	<b>1</b> <b>Seeking Sisters</b> <i>10:30 am</i>	<b>2</b> <b>SHARE Meal</b> <i>5:30 pm</i>	<b>3</b> <b>SMP LIVE</b> <i>7:00 pm</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

It's time to prepare for our 10th year of **ESL (English as a second language) classes** starting this August. Once again, the classes will take place at St Paul's on Wednesday evenings. However, classes will start a half hour earlier and be in session from 6:30-8:00 pm.

We will have a student enrollment night on Wednesday, August 16th, a week in advance of the first class night. Class sessions will begin August 23rd, and end on November 15th.

Volunteers are needed to serve as teachers. Teacher training will take place the evening of August 9th. Teachers will also help with testing of new students during enrollment. Anyone considering teaching for the first

time will meet with Nancy Clarkson who serves as coordinator. She will explain procedures and the curriculum and answer questions before volunteers commit to teach. Knowing Spanish is not required. Translators will be available if needed.

People who are willing to be substitute teachers are also needed. They will receive the same training as the other teachers. They will also be needed on enrollment night.

Volunteers are also needed to register students and keep track of attendance of students and volunteers. Once everyone has arrived and been accounted for, they are free to leave.

Two nursery workers for children from infancy to kindergarten are also needed. They will need Safe Gathering training if they do not already have it. The church office can give guidance on how to go about doing this.



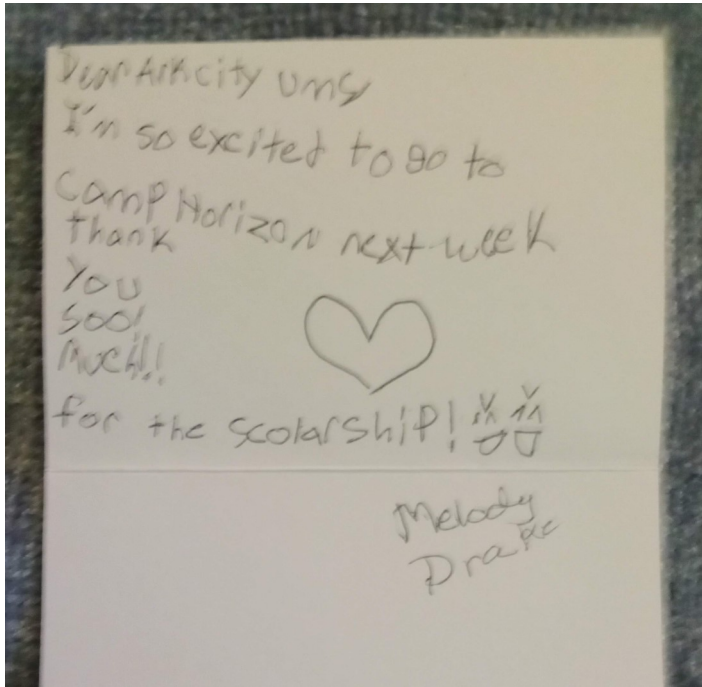
A volunteer sign-up sheet will be on the table in the narthex next to the double doors. Please talk with Nancy Clarkson or a past volunteer if you have questions. You can call Nancy's home phone at 620 442-1221. Please leave a message and your phone number if she is not available. You may also be able to visit with her before church as she is usually in the narthex.



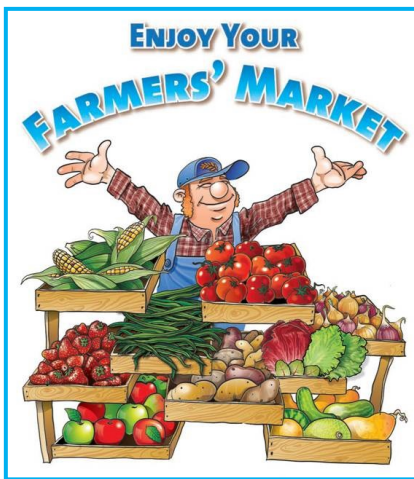
Involvement in ESL can be very rewarding for those who volunteer. A little time investment by a volunteer can make a big difference in someone's future.



Melody Drake, 10 years old



### Support your local farmers markets!



The Ark City Farm & Art Market is open on Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m. at Wilson Park, 701 N Summit, Arkansas City. The Walnut Valley Farmers Market is open Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., at the entrance to Island Park in Winfield. Markets are scheduled to be open weekly through the end of October.

Meet our vendors and learn more at [risecowley.org/farmers-markets](http://risecowley.org/farmers-markets) and like us on Facebook for featured produce and products (@CowleyFarmersMarket).

SNAP-EBT is accepted. Visit the market info booth to learn more!



### UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

“is the international mission, humanitarian relief and development organization of The United Methodist Church.”

UMCOR sends people every day to assist with fires, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. Thank you, church members, for providing the money and items for 41 hygiene kits (approximately \$15/kit) and 10 cleaning buckets (approximately \$75/bucket). That’s a total of \$1360! A special Thank You to the United Women in Faith for purchasing items and putting together the hygiene kits and the Seeking Sisters small group for doing the same with the cleaning buckets, and for Larry Swanson for taking them to annual conference. **Thank You church!**,

*(Seeking Sisters assemble cleaning buckets)*



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

*Return Service Requested*

Phone: 620-442-4530



*Birthdays in*  
*July* ★★



July 03	Andrew Wilson, Nancy Clarkson
July 06	Terri Pressnall
July 13	Debbie Payne
July 15	Mya Wilson Thompson, Justin Boone
July 16	Rebecca Stoy
July 19	Rayli Sullivan, Donna Massey
July 20	James Suter, Gilbert Estep
July 22	Owen Bucher
July 27	Dusty Rhodes
July 29	Cammy Boone





**Mark Your Calendars**  
**Angels in the Attic**  
**Stuff the Bus is**  
**July 29th 11AM-1PM**  
**at**  
**Ark City Walmart**  
**Watch for more**  
**information!**

**Will e-mail details**