

# Arkansas City UMC *newsletter*

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



How do I wrap up this final newsletter after 11 years? I have decided I can only share what's on my heart — no different from any other newsletter article.

In the “Nature of the Theological Task” in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline, 2016*, the statement titled “Scripture” reads:

*United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine. Through Scripture the living Christ meets us in the experience of redeeming grace. We are convinced that Jesus Christ is the living Word of God in our midst whom we trust in life and death. The biblical authors, illumined by the Holy Spirit, bear witness that in Christ the world is reconciled to God. The Bible bears authentic testimony to God's self-disclosure in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as in God's work of creation, in the pilgrimage of Israel, and in the Holy Spirit's ongoing activity in human history (The United Methodist Book of Discipline, UM Publishing House, Nashville, 2016, pg. 83-84, paragraph 105).*

So as United Methodists, we start with scripture, but also acknowledge the importance of tradition, experience and reason. *The UM Book of Discipline, 2016*, sums it up by saying,

*In theological reflection, the resources of tradition, experience, and reason are integral to our study of Scripture without displacing Scripture's primacy for faith and practice. These four sources — each making distinctive contributions, yet all finally working together—guide our quest as United Methodists for vital and appropriate Christian witness (pg. 88, paragraph 105).*

As the Wesleyan Covenant Association works with the newly launched Global Methodist Church, I think it is important for us to remember that we, as United Methodists, believe scripture is Spirit-inspired. This is not the same as inerrant or infallible, which mean the entire Bible is to be taken literally.

If that was our belief, I would not be your pastor

— as women were forbidden as leaders of a church. Of course, I would not be married to Paul either, since slavery was acceptable in the world of the New Testament. Lord have mercy! Obviously, there are instructions, laws, standards and norms which were accepted by authors of the New Testament, but which we radically reject today!

In no way does this mean our faith in Christ is watered down or weak. It means we, as followers of Jesus, daily seek his heart and will. We acknowledge our sin, repent, and rely fully on God's grace in Christ. We have been set free!

As Steve Harper writes, “Christ has set us free **for** things. It is not enough to be delivered from something; we must be directed into something else” (*Life in Christ*, Steve Harper, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2020, pg. 107). We must be filled by the Holy Spirit! The Apostle Paul says, “By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things” (Galatians 5:22-23). Bearing fruit *is* life in Christ — God's love poured into us for the transformation of the world.

May God continue to gift, guide, and guard us!

Know that I love you and carry you in my heart!

*Pastor Stephanie*

**June 5: Pentecost Sunday with Communion**

Wear red. Farewell Potluck for Pastor Stephanie following worship.

**June 8-11:** Annual Conference in LaVista NE

**June 12: Trinity Sunday, Peace with Justice**

**Offering & Bucket Sunday;** Pastor Stephanie's last Sunday

**June 19: Father's Day & Juneteenth**

Pastor Dennis Kuder preaching

**June 26:** Pastor Russell McAlister preaching

**July 3: Rev. Stephen Rankin's first Sunday**





Madison Oak and Peyton Brown welcomed their son into the world on May 8, 2022 at Olathe Medical Center. Remington Lee James Brown weighed 7 lb. 14 oz., and was 19 3/4" long at birth. Jon & Tammie Oak are Remington's grandparents.



We welcomed our new sister in Christ, Olivia RoseMarie Dawson, who was baptized by water and the Spirit on Sunday, May 15, 2022.

From Left: Tasha, Nicole (Olivia's mom), Olivia, Pastor Stephanie, and Darci.



**United Women in Faith**  
(new name for UMW)

More than 3,000 gathered in Orlando, Florida, and online for United Women in Faith's Assembly 2022, held May 20-22 at the Orange County Convention Center. Twenty-four countries and all 50 states were represented at the event with the theme "Turn It Up!"

Hundreds of women even came a day early for an Ubuntu Day of Service, putting together seed, meal, and hygiene packets for local Florida outreach organizations, including Cornerstone Family Ministries, a United Women in Faith national mission institution supported by members' giving.

Keynote speakers were the Rev. Sung Yeon Choimorrow, Heather McTeer Toney, and General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson. This Assembly also featured a theologian-in-residence, Janet Wolf, author of United Women in Faith's mission study *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*, who preached throughout the weekend.



Thank you, Pastor Stephanie, for the lovely service for our son Josh. Thank you, to the ladies who fixed the delicious meal.

Thank you to all,  
Vanessa and Justen Swartzell & family

To all church members, Thank you so much for all the cards, phone calls, prayers, thoughts, food, and love that was sent following my surgery. All of it was GREATLY appreciated. I am on the mend but still have a ways to go.

God's love and blessings to all!!!  
Doris Miller

THANK YOU to Darci Utt, Nicole Dawson and Denise Simmons for faithfully leading Kids Club and Youth Group every Wednesday evening this past school year! You are AWESOME and your greatly appreciated!! For others who volunteered, provided food and any other assistance, many, many thanks!!!



Congratulations Graduates!

Cady Dickey  
Nathan Monroe  
Josie Munson  
Jonas Stoy



~Lucille Woodward and family on the death of her great-grandson, Josh Swartzell, on April 29, 2022.

~Gary Howell and family on the death of his wife, Thresa, on May 18, 2022.

**May 2022— Share Meals**

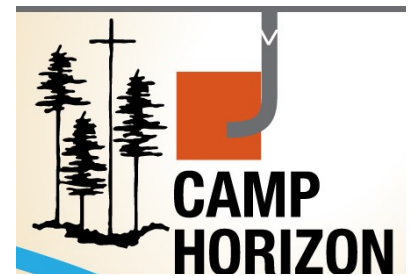
May 4	70
May 11	80
May 18	74
May 25	66





**Kids Club & Youth Group 2021-2022**

Left: Kids Club  
Right: Youth Group  
Lower Left: Pastor Stephanie with both groups and their farewell gift  
Lower Right: Making pizzas!



Robben Ledeker and three other pickle ball players went to Camp Horizon to show the counselors how to play! Thank you, Robben, for sharing your love of this game with others!



Plans are under way to resume ESL (English as a Second Language) classes this August. These classes will take place on Wednesday evenings at St. Paul. This will be year number 8 after not having ESL for two years due to the pandemic.

Because of this move to St. Paul, changes in the program will also be made, which includes not serving a meal to the students and volunteers. Instead, we will provide a wrapped snack and bottled water which can be taken to class. If someone needs a meal they can take advantage of the "Grab and Go" meal, already established at St. Paul on Wednesdays, before ESL start time.

As with any program the church takes on, ESL relies on volunteers for its success. The curriculum does not require those teaching to know Spanish. Although that could be helpful, we do recruit Spanish speakers to work as translators where needed.

We also need people to enroll students and take care of checking people in each week. One of those changes we are making is to have two nights for enrollment and placement testing a week before classes start.

Perhaps one of the more interesting positions to do is what we call a "floater". Floaters can be used as substitutes when someone is unable to be there. When not being asked to substitute, they assist teachers in classrooms. They go through the same training before ESL starts as the teachers and those who do registration and attendance. It's a good way to get an overall picture of what we do.

We are also planning to provide a nursery for children 5 and under for both students and volunteers. Nursery workers need to have Safe Gatherings approval through the United Methodist Conference. This is done in about 3-4 hours over the computer. The church office (620 442-4530) can provide the web site and further information.

If you are interested in helping in any capacity, you can pick up a sheet with two columns titled "ESL Volunteer Information" and "ESL Schedule" on the small table in the narthex next to the sanctuary wall. Also on that table is a sign-up sheet to volunteer. It is important that volunteers be fully vaccinated and boosted against Covid-19.

Nancy Clarkson meets with anyone new who is considering teaching to show them the curriculum and talk about procedures. You can call Nancy at 620 442-1221 if you have questions or need to arrange a time to meet.

This is an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. The students have always shown their appreciation for what we do.



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	1	2	3	4
5 10:00 am Worship & Communion 11:15 pm Covered Dish Farewell to Stephanie	8 5:30 pm Share Meal at St. Paul	9 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	10 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	11
12 <b>Peace with Justice Sunday</b> 10:00 am Worship & Bucket Sunday	15 5:30 pm Share Meal at St. Paul	16 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	27	18
19 <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> 10:00 am Worship	22 5:30 pm Share Meal at St. Paul	23 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	24	25
26 10:00 am Worship	29 5:30 pm Share Meal at St. Paul	30 7:00 pm Boy Scouts		

*FH = Fellowship Hall  
GR = Gathering Room  
P = Parlor*



June 21	Bentlea Sampson	June 1	Kayla Dykes
June 22	Gerald Loomis	June 5	Ray White
June 23	Zachary Stoy	June 7	Mayci Allen
June 25	Alysa Call	June 10	Richard Fair
June 26	Shanna Graham	June 13	Terese Call
June 27	Amy Cox-Whitford	June 14	Adalynne Joseph
June 28	Ann Hastings	June 16	Shelly Dixon
June 28	Cathy Wilcox	June 17	Curt Freeland
June 28	Darrin Green	June 17	Jon Oak
		June 20	Cassandra Lile

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Return Service Requested

Phone: 620-442-4530

