



March 2023

# 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



***(Announcement about Internet Service at the Church: We regret any inconvenience you may have experienced contacting us at the church. Our internet service was down for 9 days running until today, 2/28. For most of this time, our phones at the church also have not worked. We are sorry for all the confusion. Cox Communications is working to get everything in proper order again. Given the foreshortened time frame for finishing the March newsletter, this edition will be smaller than usual.)***

## ***The Joy of Lent***

It's not common that we think of Lent as a time of joy. The Ash Wednesday service is solemn: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." It is serious, yes, but the goal is freedom, life, and joy.

So, while Lent is a time of reflection, fasting, prayer, and repentance, the goal is new life, transformed life. The Lord's goal is not condemnation but salvation. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Jesus' prayer reveals the heart of God. We rejoice in this good news.

But penitence and a willingness to amend our ways is key to this hope. God will not force us to do what we prefer not to do. But if we do repent, confess our sins, and resolve to live according to God's commands, we experience freedom. Paradoxically, confessing our sins to a trusted person lifts the burden from our shoulders and lets us walk in the newness of life. Admitting verbally to someone else that we have fallen short of God's glory is often scary at the beginning. Once done, knowing that God has removed our sins "as far as the east is from the west" is such a joy.

One of my favorite Michael Card songs is "Joy in the Journey."

***There is a joy in the journey; there's a light we can love on the way.  
There is a wonder and wildness to life, and freedom for those who obey.  
And all those who seek it shall find it, a pardon for all who believe,  
Hope for the hopeless and sight for the blind.***

***To all who've been born of the Spirit and who share incarnation with him;  
Who belong to eternity, stranded in time, and weary of struggling with sin.  
Forget not the hope that's before you, and never stop counting the cost.  
Remember the hopelessness when you were lost?***

***There is a joy in the journey; there's a light we can love on the way.  
There is a wonder and wildness to life, and freedom for those who obey.***

As you journey through Lent, may you feel the joy increasing as you realize the lovingkindness of the Lord, who heals our diseases and forgives all our iniquities.



The February fundraising soup lunch by the **UWF** was a big success. Since all the food was donated by the UWF and others, we cleared \$644.00. This will all go to our missions. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success; those who cooked, donated, helped set up and clean up as well as eat the food. **All women are invited to join the UWF.** We have a lot of good fellowship as well as donate to numerous missions. We meet every 3rd Wed at 1:30 pm in gathering room except for June, July, and August. We help conduct 1 Sunday service during the summer, plus support missions locally, nationally, and internationally. We learn about current needs and support the health and well-being of women and children.

**Sylvia McAlister, Co-President**

**March's 3rd Sunday Fellowship Meal** will be provided by **Seeking Sisters.**



**April's 3rd Sunday Fellowship Meal** will be provided by **Mon Night Small Group.**

**A Note From Lisa Kerbo Sunday March 5**

I thank everyone for your prayers & understanding these last few days while I have been very under the weather & working from home. These last two weeks have been a real "doozy" between this and the internet/phones down in the office. Normal office hours & operations should resume this coming week, Lord willing, for **He** is bigger than any obstacle!



**334 SHARE MEALS SERVED IN FEBRUARY 2023**

**Finance Report**

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

**February 2023**

Income	\$ 25,153
Expenses	<u>21,881</u>
	\$ 3,272

**Happy Saint Patrick's Day**


Christ be with me,  
 Christ within me,  
 Christ behind me,  
 Christ before me,  
 Christ beside me,  
 Christ to win me,  
 Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me,  
 Christ above me,  
 Christ in quiet,  
 Christ in danger,  
 Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
 Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

- St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer



# March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 5:30 pm SHARE Meal 5:30 pm Handbell Practice 6:00 pm ESL 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm Cub's Scout 6:45 pm Choir Practice	<b>2</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm SMP Live	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:30 am DISCIPLE Fast Track 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Youth Bible Study 10:00 am Worship ( <i>Communion</i> ) 4:00 pm Lenten Study	<b>6</b> 4:30 pm Boy Scouts (Bean Feed) 7:00 pm Small Group (St Paul's)	<b>7</b> 10:30 am Seeking Sisters 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>8</b> 5:30 pm SHARE Meal 5:30 pm Handbell Practice 6:00 pm ESL 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm Cub's Scout 6:45 pm Choir Practice	<b>9</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm SMP Live	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30 am DISCIPLE Fast Track 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Youth Bible Study 10:00 am Worship (Bucket SUN) 4:00 pm Lenten Study	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Small Group  	<b>14</b> Yeah! Enjoy your	<b>15</b> 1:30 pm UWF 5:30 pm SHARE Meal 5:30 pm Handbell Practice 6:45 pm Choir Practice	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm SMP Live	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30 am DISCIPLE Fast Track 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Youth Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Meal 12:15 pm Finance Committee 4:00 pm Lenten Study	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	<b>21</b> 10:30 am Seeking Sisters 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>22</b> 5:30 pm SHARE Meal 5:30 pm Handbell Practice 6:00 pm ESL 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm Cub's Scout 6:45 pm Choir Practice	<b>23</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm SMP Live	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30 am DISCIPLE Fast Track 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Youth Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 11:05 am Steering Committee 4:00 pm Lenten Study	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>29</b> 5:30 pm SHARE Meal 5:30 pm Handbell Practice 6:00 pm ESL 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm Cub's Scout 6:45 pm Choir Practice	<b>30</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm SMP Live	<b>31</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>

Arkansas City  
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Return Service Requested

## March 2023 Birthdays



Mar 20 Alice Paton  
Mar 21 Steve Moore  
Mar 21 Leslie Sherman  
Mar 23 Darci Utt  
Mar 24 Sandy Short  
Mar 26 Olen Brown  
Mar 27 Reagon Mora  
Mar 27 Brian Demo  
Mar 27 Dennis Call  
Mar 28 Dan Deener  
Mar 28 Darc Mann

Mar 01 Christie Rogers  
Mar 02 Janice Keefe  
Mar 05 Lu Helzer  
Mar 06 Olivia Dawson  
Mar 06 Lynda Arnett  
Mar 06 Von Rogers  
Mar 08 Tammy Oak  
Mar 09 Howard Griffin  
Mar 13 Sue Schultz  
Mar 15 Lucille Woodward  
Mar 18 Dillen Rogers  
Mar 18 Dennis Kuder  
Jackson Kendrick