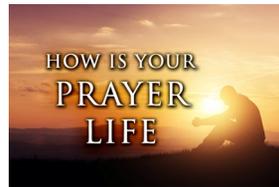




MAY 2023

Arkansas City UMC *Newsletter*

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



SUMMER PLANS

I am sure I am not the only person who is flabbergasted at how quickly 2023 is passing. Entering the month of May, we stand right on the edge of the summer schedule. The month of May is full of end-of-year activities for students: award ceremonies and graduations and maybe a wedding or two and a class reunion and who knows what else! Which means moms and dads are busy. And grandmas and grandpas.

We used to say that during summertime things slowed, but we don't say that any more. Many of us lament this fact and worry about being too busy. Something has to give. Which turns the pastor's thoughts toward what too often does give. Warning: As the old folks used to say, the preacher is about to quit preaching and go to meddling! When we feel the pressure of so many things to do, too often what we let go of first are the practices of Christian discipleship.

I want to get to one neglected practice, in particular, and ask your interest in a summer experience, but before I do, let me assure you that pastors (a pastor friend of mine says that we pastors get paid to be Christians, a truth that smarts a little) feel exactly the same pressure. Numerous studies have consistently shown that when pastors get overrun with ministry demands, the first thing to go is their prayer life. I know the danger personally and I've often marveled at the irony. What we so intently want to encourage in others, we too easily neglect ourselves.

It is perfectly acceptable to me if you, on occasion, ask me, "How is your prayer life? You can ask. I will answer honestly.

Another area of neglect is study and here I warm to my task in this column. Thanks in part to COVID and, in part, to that frustrating busyness, summer becomes the season when we hang up our study practices.

This coming summer, I am going to run a pilot project and try something that I think we all need. Every congregation needs a core group of people who are serious about study. Really serious. Persistently serious. I will informally call this group a house of study. This phrase is used in colleges and universities or theological schools, but it really should apply to all disciples of Jesus Christ. Remember, the word "disciple" means "student."

I am asking interested persons to join me this summer for a serious study. Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour, starting June 4. We will practice what professors and scholars call a "close reading" of Bible texts. There is no set method. There is not a 1-2-3-list of steps to follow. We will simply read closely, slowly, at a leisurely pace. And we will ask questions.

Good study takes time. It takes effort. It takes a willingness to feel the stresses of learning, just like it does in any area of learning. This kind of study bears real fruit. We grow in knowing God. Our hearts change.

Will you join me in the house of study? If you are interested in talking about it, please give me a call at the church office: 620-442-4530. The only skill you need is not really a skill. It is the determination to study, to do some work, and to bring your honest heart to that work. I look forward to meeting you around the Word.



Please join us in a celebration of

Larry & Billie Swanson's 60th Wedding Anniversary

Saturday - May 13, 2023 - 5:30 pm
at

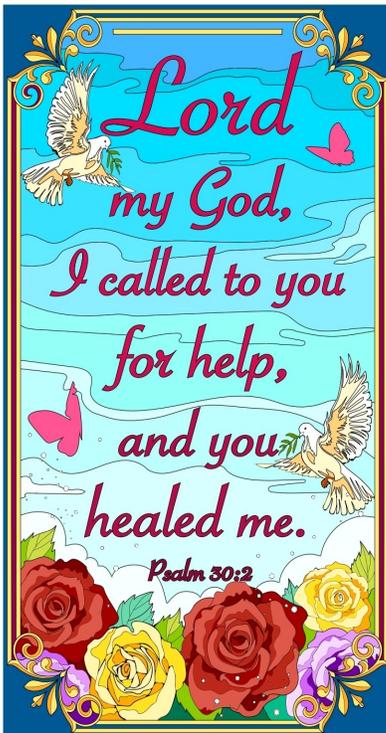
Jeff & Darla Swanson's Barn
26429 141st Rd, Arkansas City, KS

Pulled pork, tea, water & cake provided
Please bring your lawn chair and a side dish if you'd like. If you can't make it for supper, come on out and just enjoy a visit.

No gifts please

Your attendance is gift enough!

Also Celebrating several other Milestones!



MANY THANKS
FOR CONTINUED PRAYERS, VISITS, CARDS, & WELL WISHES THIS LAST MONTH.

Never has the old gospel song, "I Can't Even Walk Without You Holding My Hand" (literally) meant so much!

Jehovah-Rapha means "the LORD who heals." **AMEN!**

~Lisa Kerbo~

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



PLEASE JOIN US!

9:30 AM

before Worship Service.

The UWF met April 19. We will have **UWF Sunday on July 19th**. We will be helping Cindy Freeland & Seeking Sisters with the **UMCOR** Kits. We will be doing at least 10 and maybe as many as 20 of the Health Hygiene Kits, and sending them to Conference with Larry Swanson.

Our next meeting will be **May 17th in the Gathering Room at 1:30 PM** where we will finish assembling any health kits not already assembled. All women in the Church are encouraged to attend.

Sylvia McAlister
Co-president of UWF



United Women in Faith

May's 3rd Sunday Fellowship Meal

will be provided by

Sun Night Small Group

Proceeds will go to UMCOR -
(Cleaning Buckets & Hygiene Kits)



326 SHARE MEALS
SERVED IN **APRIL 2023**

According to UMCOR's website [Global Ministries - Connecting the church in mission \(umcmission.org\)](https://www.umcmission.org), emergency supplies like the kits that ARK CITY UMC are putting together during May are much needed and having an impact in a variety of far flung locales.

UMCOR's recent timely response reads as follows:

***Updated March 27, 2023 ***

Cyclone Freddy, which hit the southeastern eastern coast of Africa on February 4, 2023, was both the longest-lasting and most powerful tropical cyclone ever recorded worldwide. Over a five-week period, it made landfall twice and caused more than 700 deaths in five countries.

UMCOR responded by issuing relief grants for emergency rations and hygiene supplies to hard-hit areas of Mananjara, Madagascar and Zambezia Province, Mozambique through UMCOR's Mozambique Disaster Management Office. UMCOR is monitoring the situation and will provide updates on further relief efforts.

Also, a big **SHOUT OUT** to the **VOLUNTEERS** who are continuing to so graciously donate their time and talents to fill in at the church office and help keep things running smoothly in my absence & to assist me in the coming weeks as I return to the work. **MUCH APPRECIATED!**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Small Group <i>7:00 pm</i> Boy Scouts <i>7:00 pm</i>	2 Seeking Sisters <i>10:30 am</i> Girl Scouts <i>6:30 pm</i>	3 SHARE Meal <i>5:30 pm</i> Kids Club/Youth Group <i>6:00 pm</i> Cub Scouts <i>6:30 pm</i> Choir Practice <i>6:45pm</i>	4 Girl Scouts <i>5:30 pm</i> SMP LIVE <i>7:00 pm</i>	5	6
7 Adult Sunday School <i>8:30 am</i> Youth Bible Study <i>9:00 am</i> Fellowship Time <i>9:30 am</i> Worship (Communion) <i>10:00 am</i> Data Walk <i>2:00 pm</i>	8 Small Group <i>7:00 pm</i> Boy Scouts <i>7:00 pm</i>	9 Girl Scouts <i>6:30 pm</i>	10 SHARE Meal <i>5:30 pm</i> Kids Club/Youth Group <i>6:00 pm</i> Choir Practice <i>6:45pm</i>	11 Girl Scouts <i>5:30 pm</i> SMP LIVE <i>7:00 pm</i>	12	13
14 Adult Sunday School <i>8:30 am</i> Youth Bible Study <i>9:00 am</i> Fellowship Time <i>9:30 am</i> Worship (Bucket Sun) <i>10:00 am</i>	15 Small Group <i>7:00 pm</i> Boy Scouts <i>7:00 pm</i>	16 Seeking Sisters <i>10:30 am</i> Girl Scouts <i>6:30 pm</i>	17 UWF <i>1:30 pm</i> SHARE Meal <i>5:30 pm</i> Kids Club/Youth Group <i>6:00 pm</i> Choir Practice <i>6:45pm</i>	18 Girl Scouts <i>5:30 pm</i> SMP LIVE <i>7:00 pm</i>	19	20
21 Adult Sunday School <i>8:30 am</i> Youth Bible Study <i>9:00 am</i> Fellowship Time <i>9:30 am</i> Worship <i>10:00 am</i> Fellowship Meal <i>11:15 am</i> Finance Meeting <i>12:15 pm</i>	22 Small Group <i>7:00 pm</i> Boy Scouts <i>7:00 pm</i>	23 Girl Scouts <i>6:30 pm</i>	24 SHARE Meal <i>5:30 pm</i> Kids Club/Youth Group <i>6:00 pm</i> Choir Practice <i>6:45pm</i>	25 Girl Scouts <i>5:30 pm</i> SMP LIVE <i>7:00 pm</i> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26	27
28 Adult Sunday School <i>8:30 am</i> Youth Bible Study <i>9:00 am</i> Fellowship Time <i>9:30 am</i> Worship <i>10:00 am</i> Administrative Council <i>11:05 am</i>	29 Small Group <i>7:00 pm</i>	30 Girl Scouts <i>6:30 pm</i>	31 SHARE Meal <i>5:30 pm</i> Kids Club/Youth Group <i>6:00 pm</i> Choir Practice <i>6:45pm</i>			

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

Return Service Requested

Phone: 620-442-4530



Birthdays in

May 01	Larry Swanson
May 04	Nick Anzelmo (97 yrs.), Cady Dickey, Alister Henson, Dustin Sullivan
May 05	Pattie Brown
May 07	Dorothy Gilstrap
May 12	Neveah Elms
May 14	Robben Ledeker (98 yrs.)
May 17	PJ Brown
May 18	Peggy Bennett
May 19	Debbie Kendrick
May 25	Belinda Allen, Jordan Retzer
May 26	Roy Lee Morse
May 27	Sarah McAlister
May 28	Dalton Collins, Melba Maechtlen, Dylan Moore, Ann Oglesby

