

Newsletter

Two of our children ran cross country during their school years. It is a very interesting sport, with significant amounts of strategy and mental preparation. It is also very much a team sport, which is not obvious until you have the chance, either by participating yourself or vicariously through someone else, to see the “inside” of the sport. I did not run cross country. I found watching it, while my kids participated in it, very fascinating.

One bit of strategic perspective that I remember our kids’ coaches telling them went something this: “It doesn’t matter who wins the first half of the race.” The point is fairly obvious. If you’re ahead at the halfway mark, but not at the finish line, being ahead at the halfway mark doesn’t matter.

To finish well, the runner needs to know her or his strengths. A person who “has a good kick” might want to stay back in the pack during the bulk of the race, and let the leaders expend a lot of energy keeping the lead. At the end, the runner with the good kick can sprint past the leaders. On the other hand, a runner without a good kick but who can sustain a relentless pace over a long distance, might want to “up” the pace enough to take “the kick” out of the faster runner. Two strategies for winning.

This racing example provides a good object lesson for thinking about Christian discipleship. Hebrews 12:1-2 says, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” Run with endurance. Finish strong.

Maybe you don’t like the racing analogy, so think of a journey. It works the same. A successful journey involves arriving at the intended destination. A popular sentiment says, “It’s not the destination, it’s the journey,” which sounds nice but is false. A journey, to be a real journey, has to have a destination. Otherwise, you’re just out walking around.

It’s that time of year that we start taking stock. On November 5, 2 p.m., at Grandview UMC north of Winfield, we will have our annual charge conference. We will see reports of 2023, and we will make some decisions about 2024. And then, Thanksgiving is upon us, followed by Christmas, with all the busyness of preparation that these holidays hold. We work hard to get ready for them.

Are we finishing well? How are we doing in the race? In the journey? Are you headed in the direction you truly want to go? Do you think our church is headed in the direction God wants us to go? If you have any perspectives about these matters that you would like to share, I’m all ears. Let’s get together for coffee and conversation. (The church phone is 620-442-4530.) I pray that you have a clear goal for your life in Christ and that you are faithfully journeying (or running) toward it.

From Pastor Steve’s Desk



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Charge (Church) Conference
- 2024 Stewardship Campaign
- Parsonage Sold
- Worship Outreach Event for Youth and Families

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Charge Conference is Sunday, Nov. 5, at 2 p.m. at Grandview (Winfield) United Methodist Church. All members of Arkansas City United Methodist

Church are encouraged to attend. At the Charge Conference, we hear a recap of our ministry this year and approve plans for next year. Refreshments are provided.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

During the 2023 Stewardship Sunday on Oct. 22, more than \$152,600 was pledged toward our 2024 proposed budget of \$271,298 that will be presented at the church's Charge Conference Nov. 5. As a body of Christ-followers, we are on the way to stretching our faith, listening and dreaming about what God might desire of us in the upcoming year.

If you haven't yet submitted your commitment card, a copy of it is below. Cut it out and mail it to the church office at 2448 Edgemont Dr. Arkansas City, KS 67005, or drop it in the offering plate next Sunday. You can also send us an email with the details to secretary @arkcityfirst.kscox.mail.com.

A pledge card is a tool that helps the church plan, but

giving, whether by pledge or by giving "outside" the pledge process, is your personal act of discipleship.

Here are two things to remember in 2024:

- If a portion of your pledge is earmarked for the Building Fund, remember to indicate that portion in your regular giving. Write the details in the memo of your check so that the funds can be applied appropriately.
- The church office can email you a quarterly statement of giving so that you can keep track on your pledge. If you would like such a statement, call the church office at 620.442.4530.



"A church's budget is a statement of faith."

2024 Commitment of Giving

I/We will financially support God's work through the ministries of Arkansas City United Methodist Church by giving:

\$ _____ Weekly

\$ _____ Monthly

\$ _____ Quarterly

\$ _____ Annually

General Fund: _____ Building/Trustees: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address _____



2024 Giving Reminder

I/We will financially support God's work through the ministries of Arkansas City United Methodist Church by giving:

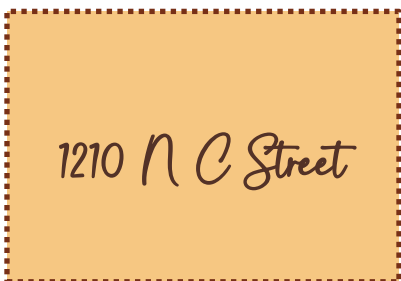
\$ _____ per _____

General Fund: _____

Building/Trustees: _____

Please keep this for your records. Please add instructions (General Fund or Building/Trustees) to your check. If you want to make changes at any time, simply call the church office at 620.442.4530. Thank you.

OTHER CHURCH NEWS



The parsonage that belonged to Arkansas City First United Methodist Church sold in September. Proceeds for the sale must be kept in reserve for pastoral housing. The parsonage for the St. Paul campus is currently rented.

The church's administrative council voted to pay half the cost of summer camp for each camper next summer. If you're not signed up for camp yet, check the Camp Horizon schedule and reserve a spot now with a \$50 deposit.

Camps	Weeks Available	Grade	Price
Main Camp	2, 4, 6, 8	3-8	\$375
Leaders in Training (LITs)	2, 4, 6, 8	9-11	\$275
Middle School Camp	Week 3: June 17-21	6-8	\$375
High School Camp (5 nights in 2024)	Week 7: July 14-19	9-CF	\$475
Preview Camp	Week 1: June 5-6	1-6	\$100
Mini Camp	Week 5: July 1-3	2-6	\$200
Day Camp Wednesday	2, 4, 6	1-5	\$45
Dates	Week 1: June 5-6	Week 5: July 1-3	
	Week 2: June 10-14	Week 6: July 8-12	
	Week 3: June 17-21	Week 7: July 14-19	
	Week 4: June 24-28	Week 8: July 22-26	

[Camp Horizon \(horizoncenter.org\)](http://horizoncenter.org)

Sign up to serve in the nursery once a month or once a quarter! Volunteers must complete an online Safe Gatherings training.

Call the office at 620.442.4530 for details.



Let us pray for each other. Contact Pam Archer at (620) 446-2456 or at parcher@cox.net to add your request to the prayer chain. Let Pam know if you'd like to receive the e-mail list as a reminder to pray.

LOCAL SERVICES

MEALS

Mondays—Northside Baptist Church; 5:30-6 p.m.

Wednesdays—Arkansas City United Methodist Church St. Paul Campus; 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays—Shepherd's Grace 5-6 p.m.

OTHER FOOD

Food Pantry, First Assembly of God Church

Manna Ministries, First Baptist Church

BLESSING BOXES

Central Christian Church

Arkansas City United Methodist Church, Edgemont and St. Paul campuses

Hog Mob Ministries

Shepherd's Grace Church

Trinity Episcopal Church

West Kansas Avenue Church of God

HOUSEHOLD

Angels in the Attic Thrift Store

Cowley County Outreach—Angel's Closet

Community Laundry Resource Service

CLOTHING

Rooted Women's Ministry

AC NAZ Free Clothes Closet

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Inside City Hall

Inside Northwest Community Center

Pershing Park

Ark City United Methodist Church St.

Paul Campus

Wilson Park

FAMILY LIFE SERVICES

305 S. Summit

SHELTER

Arkansas City Ministerial Alliance
(620) 393-0060

Winfield House of Hope

(620) 983-6464

cwleyhouseofhope@gmail.com

TRANSPORTATION

Twin Rivers General Public Transportation (620) 442-3575 or

(620) 221-6140

General Public Transportation:

(620)

221-7020

Check flyers posted on church bulletin boards for details.

FINANCE REPORT

	Sept. 2023	2023 through Sept.
Income	\$ 20,801	\$206,282
Expenses	25,446	208,208

IN MEMORIAM

Dearest Members of the United Methodist Church,

I want to express my deepest appreciation for your care, love, and concern for our family during this difficult time. Throughout the years, Don and I have deeply cherished and appreciated you, our church family, and all you have done to love and support us.

We are so grateful for your generous words and cards of love and appreciation for Donnie, your thoughtful gifts of comforting food and your kind donations to the memorials. Please know that you were so important to him and continue to be a pillar of strength for me and our family. Pastor Steve, you were so kind and present to Donnie, especially during his last few months and were a great source of comfort to him.

Thank you my dear, dear friends. A church family is a family you choose, and we are so thankful to have had you close to us for so many years.

*Much love,
Peggy Bennett and Family*

Do you shop at **Dillons**? Consider signing your shopper rewards card up to benefit the church with a cash back for all of your purchases. Here's how to do it online: [Dillons Community Rewards - Dillons Food Stores](#). You can also sign up with customer service in the store.

If you are unable to attend church on Sundays, search for Ark City UMC on Facebook and worship with us Sundays at 10 a.m.



SHARE MEALS SERVED

Monthly Totals			
Jan	318	Jul	374
Feb	334	Aug	487
Mar	407	Sep	503
Apr	326	Oct	520
May	446	Nov	
Jun	397	Dec	

ESL 2023

Date	Students	Volunteers	Nursery	
Aug. 16		13	14	2
Aug. 23		23	16	5
Aug. 30		13	15	6
Sept. 6		16	16	5
Sept. 13		13	15	5
Sept. 20		12	14	3
Sept. 27		12	13	6
Oct. 4		12	14	2
Oct. 11		11	14	5
Oct. 18		9	15	5

The joy of the Lord is my strength!

Youth and families are invited to

Joy Night!

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Winfield Island Park Main Stage


Hosted by Worship Outreach Southwestern College

Bring your own seating—lawn chairs or blankets.

worship, testimony, give aways

Drawing for an electric guitar!

NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	F/S
			<p>1</p> <p>5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells</p> <p>6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group</p> <p>6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm SMP Live</p>	3/4
<p>5 TIME CHANGE</p> <p>8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple</p> <p>8:30 am MS Bible Study</p> <p>9:30 am Coffee Time</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>2:00 pm Charge Con- ference at Winfield Grandview UMC</p> <p>6:00 pm Faithbuilders</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm Small Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:30 am Seeking Sisters</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells</p> <p>6:00 pm Kid's Club/ Youth Group</p> <p>6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul TESTING</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm SMP Live</p>	10/11
<p>12</p> <p>8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple</p> <p>8:30 am MS Bible Study</p> <p>9:30 am Coffee Time</p> <p>10:00 am Worship; Bucket Sunday</p> <p>6:00 pm Faithbuilders</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm Small Group at St. Paul</p> <p>Boy Scouts Chicken Feed</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts Service Unit Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1:30 pm UWF</p> <p>5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells</p> <p>6:00 pm Kid's Club/ Youth Group</p> <p>6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4:00 pm Girl Scouts Fundraiser</p> <p>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm SMP Live</p>	17/18 Noon to 7:00 pm Saturday Eagle Scout Cele- bration
<p>19</p> <p>8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple</p> <p>8:30 am MS Bible Study</p> <p>9:30 am Coffee Time</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>11:15 Fellowship Meal provided by CASA</p> <p>12:30 pm Finance Trustees</p> <p>6:00 pm Faithbuilders</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm Small Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:30 am Seeking Sisters</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 pm Handbells</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>23</p> 	24/25
<p>26</p> <p>8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple</p> <p>8:30 am MS Bible Study</p> <p>9:30 am Coffee Time</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>6:00 pm Faithbuilders</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm Small Group; Boy Scouts</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells</p> <p>6:00 pm Kid's Club/ Youth Group</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30 Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	5

ARKANSAS CITY
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to help people become deeply committed Christians who live authentic lives modeled after Jesus Christ to make a difference in our community and the world.

CONTACT US

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Arkansas City, KS 67005

St. Paul Campus
220 E. Washington Ave.
Arkansas City, KS 67005

Phone: 620.442.4530
E-mail:
secretary@arkcityfirst.kscoxmail.com



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 3	Russell McAlister	Nov. 25	Stephen Rankin
Nov. 5	Heather Allen		Jeff Sampson
Nov. 6	Rhonda Green Lindsay Wilson	Nov. 30	Reid Call Katie Hamilton
Nov. 8	Cindy Ball Ahri Bannister Patricia Stoy		
Nov. 11	Neila Monroe Naomi Phillips Fred Rindt		
Nov. 12	Ron Folks		
Nov. 15	Rowan Wells		
Nov. 16	Allen Goff		
Nov. 17	Peggy Musson		
Nov. 19	Brad Morris		
Nov. 20	Amanda Bannister		
Nov. 21	Keith Lile		
Nov. 22	Michelle Wilson Adam and Darci Utt		

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE