

Newsletter

One of my favorite contemporary Christian songs comes from Steven Curtis Chapman. It's called "The Great Adventure." Take a look at this acoustic version from 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGHa8-6Tyh8>.

My heart stirs at these words from the chorus:

Saddle up your horses, we've got a trail to blaze
Through the wild blue yonder of God's Amazing grace.
Let's follow our leader into the glorious unknown.
This is the life like no other whoa whoa,
This is The Great Adventure.

Saddle up. Let's ride. Chapman's song joyfully speaks to the call. It's God call. The Christian life is not all about safety and security. Our culture's overbearing safety mindset doesn't fit the Christian life. Life is a risk. The Christian life certainly is a risk. Abram, following Yahweh's voice, left his home in Ur and headed south. Where? He didn't know. God had said, "I will show you the land I want you to have." All Abram had was God's promise. And God's presence. It is enough.

Developmental psychologists tell us that a child growing up needs the right amount of support coupled with risk. Sooner or later, Mom or Dad must take their hands off the back of the bicycle, even while they trot alongside the wobbly new bike rider. The training wheels must come off. The young eaglet must leave the nest. The young adult needs to try something in which the outcome is not predetermined, something valuable, something that matters, something therefore that is risky.

The Christian life is no different! So, let me ask you to ask yourself these questions: "If I were to become fully what I think God wants me to be, what do I need to change? Change always involves risk. Effort. Courage. Persistence. Humility. If you were to take a step toward more evident Christlikeness, what needs to change? Take the risk. Discipleship is a joyful adventure.

What about our congregation? What sort of change is God working among us? If everything we do is always manageable; if we always know in advance that we have the resources for whatever project we may be considering; if everything we try always feels like it fits comfortably within our capacities; if everything is always "realistic," then we are not following our Leader.

Let's be willing to stretch. Let's dare ask God to reveal his great power in us, through us, for others. Let us live The Great Adventure.

From Pastor Steve's Desk



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- News.....2
- News and Services3
- Ministry Reports.....4
- In Memoriam.....4
- Events Calendar.....5
- Birthdays and Anniversaries ...6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- 2024 Stewardship Campaign
- Children's Retreat at Horizon and 2024 Camps
- All-Church Picnic a Hit
- Arkalalah Noodles



STRETCHING OUR FAITH IN 2024

This fall, the 2023 stewardship emphasis takes place during October. The theme is “Stretching Our Faith.” In preparation for the November 5 Charge Conference (our annual church meeting), which, among other responsibilities, has the task of approving our budget, we kick off plans for the 2024 budget.

The week of October 8, packets will be distributed with a letter explaining our stewardship emphasis, the proposed budget for 2024, and a pledge card table of amounts and percentages that you can use as you pray about your commitment for the upcoming year.

Each Sunday during October, we will hear stories of how giv-

ing to Christ and his church has stretched the faith of givers.

October 22 is Pledge Sunday. During worship, you are invited to come forward with your completed cards and pledged amounts.

Most of what we do in life requires trust. Trust is another word for faith. A church’s budget is a statement of faith. We look at the future prayerfully, asking God to guide us in the ministries we undertake. The stewardship committee, representing Arkansas City United Methodist Church, is asking each of us to pray and see how God will stretch our faith as we look forward to next year.

“A church’s budget is a statement of faith.”

RETREAT!

Second- through fifth-graders are invited to “God on the Go,” a retreat at Camp Horizon Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14-15. The annual conference will pay half of any registration, making your cost only \$35 per child. If you have children/grandchildren/neighbors, friends in this age group, invite them to register online at

<https://forms.gle/eJkT6FWbBNxf4oA1A> (forward the newsletter you received by email!)

Just in!

Full scholarships are available for God on the Go Children’s Retreat if the \$35 registration fee is prohibitive. Call the church office at 620.442.4530 to learn more!

Register early to get the 2023 rates and take advantage of lower monthly payments.

Go to www.horizoncenter.org



SIGN UP HERE



2024 DATES AT 2023 RATES!

Prices will go up to the 2024 rates after October 15

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 2: June 10-14 Week 3: June 17-21 Week 4: June 24-28	Week 5: July 1-3 Week 6: July 8-12 Week 7: July 14-19 Week 8: July 22-26	

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC A HIT!



Nearly 100 church members, friends, and family spent Sunday afternoon on September 17 at Camp Horizon for a hamburger and hotdog cookout with all the fixin's.

The weather was near perfect in the 80s with just enough breeze to keep the bugs at bay. Popular activities for the children included a huge bouncy mound, swings, hammocks, playgrounds, games, and trails. The more mature crowd



strolled to Inspiration Point or relaxed in lawn chairs until everyone else was worn out.

Seeking Sisters small group spearheaded the event with



several other small groups contributing side dishes and desserts. Aaron Wise grilled all the hamburgers and hotdogs. Thank him when you see him!



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, North Campus and St. Paul
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
cowleyhouseofhope@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.

IN MEMORIAM

To all of momma's church family,

Thank you so much for all the get well cards. Prayers and messages during mom's illness and of course during her passing.

Thank you for the wonderful lunch after her service, and a special thank you to Pastor Steve for opening St. Paul's up to us for her service. God bless you all!

Stephanie and the family of Vicki Jo Saltsman

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, join us on Facebook at



<https://www.facebook.com/arkcityUMC>

Or search for Arkansas City United Methodist Church on Facebook to join Sundays at 10 a.m.

FINANCE REPORT

August 2023		2023 through August	
Income	\$ 15,205		\$185,481
Expenses	18,532		182,762

SHARE MEALS SERVED

		Monthly Totals	
Jan	318	Jul	374
Feb	334	Aug	487
Mar	407	Sep	503
Apr	326	Oct	
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

FROM ANGELS IN THE ATTIC

We thank you for your continued support. Your food donations continue to help us feed those in need. We received your recent check and want to say thank you—to all of you. God bless you all.

Ivy Beals, Outreach Manager

2023 Annual Chicken 'n Noodle Dinner

Take-Out Meals ONLY

\$10.00 per meal
Homemade noodles
Homemade roll
Green beans, Potatoes
Water bottle
Chocolate or white cake

Saturday, Oct. 28
Pick-up between 11am-1pm
St. Paul UMC
220 E. Washington
Tables will be set-up outside weather permitting.

It is best to preorder if possible.
Tickets sold at the door until 1:00 or we run out of food.

PreOrder Information Posted on Church Facebook Page,
Ark City UMC, Arkansas City, KS

Thank you for supporting our church!

OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	F/S
<p>1 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship, Communion 6:00 pm Faithbuilders</p>	<p>2 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group</p>	<p>3 10:30 am Seeking Sisters 1:30 Debone chicken for Arkalalah</p>	<p>4 5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul 6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>5 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm SMP Live</p>	6/7
<p>8 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship; Bucket Sunday 11:15 Quarterly Safety Meeting 6:00 pm Faithbuilders</p>	<p>9 5:00 pm Quilt Guild 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group</p>	10	<p>11 5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul 6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>12 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm SMP Live</p>	13/14
<p>15 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Meal 12:30 Trustees/Finance 6:00 pm Faithbuilders</p>	<p>16 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group</p>	<p>17 10:30 am Seeking Sisters</p>	<p>18 1:30 pm UWF 5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul 6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>19 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm SMP Live</p>	20/21
<p>22 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship 11:15 am Admin Council 6:00 pm Faithbuilders</p>	<p>23 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group</p>	24	<p>25 5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul 6:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>26 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm SMP Live</p>	27/28
<p>29 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship 6 pm Faithbuilders</p>	<p>30 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group @ St. Paul; Boy Scouts</p>	31			

Saturday
 11 am to 1 pm
 Chicken and Noodles
 at
 St. Paul

A r k a l a l a h

**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

Edgemont Campus
2448 Edgemont Dr.
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



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 1	Aaron Bucher Forest Smith	Oct. 21	Ellie Didion Cheri Morris
	Darren and Brittany Mora	Oct. 22	Vicki Hensley Jennifer Collins
Oct. 2	Sandra Rush	Oct. 26	Dan Richards
	Matthew Sullivan	Oct. 27	Darin Mann
	Richard Thomas	Oct. 28	Ayla Retzer Janis Goff
Oct. 3	LaDonna Bazil	Oct. 29	Terri Schroeder Andrea Hernandez Cindy Freeland
Oct. 4	Journey Dykes	Oct. 30	Kim Walton Gracelan Dixon
Oct. 7	Charlotte Schmidt	Oct. 31	Rodger Maechtlen John Bazil Arleta Rice Folks Pat and Pam Rogers
Oct. 9	Jeff Martin		
Oct. 10	Rebecca Martin John and Gerry Bazil		
Oct. 11	Sam Oglesby		
Oct. 12	Jett Soule		
Oct. 13	Bob Payne		
Oct. 14	Pam Rogers		
Oct. 15	Kara Parks		
Oct. 16	Kaeli Sullivan		
Oct. 19	Price Allen		
Oct. 20	John Cook		

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE