

# Newsletter

Mark 11:24, “So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Promises like this one from Jesus make me nervous. In making this admission, I’m admitting two things:

Professionally, as a pastor with theological training, I know how important it is to understand Scripture as accurately as possible, so as not to give people the wrong impression about what the Bible says (and doesn’t say). Real damage has been done in people’s lives by careless, sloppy, unqualified, self-interested interpretations.

Personally, as a Christian I confess that far too often this response is grounded in lack of faith. I have been educated – as virtually all of us have been – in a completely naturalistic way of thinking. It is a form of what is known as Deism – the belief that God stands distant. He created the world we inhabit. He set up laws for nature to follow. He gave us moral laws to govern human life. But then he leaves everything to run according to those laws.

But here we have Jesus making a blanket promise to his disciples. “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Anything Jesus? Really? Whatever I ask? Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.

Let’s get some things cleared up. First, Jesus will not answer a prayer that contravenes God’s holy purposes for us. Honestly, do we believe and expect God to give us whatever we ask, if granting that request makes us less than God wants us to be? No. We cannot expect God to work against his own purposes in affirmatively answering our requests.

So, let’s just recognize that there are some limits to Jesus’ blanket statement. But let’s move on to the promise and the possibility. Let’s take Jesus at his word. This promise in Mark comes in the context of Jesus’ triumphal entry. He is days away from his death and resurrection. The world is about to change. His disciples are about to change in unimaginable ways. The power of God to save, to transform, to make new, to heal, to redeem, is about to be unleashed on the world.

If we concentrate, then, on the mountains (see Mark 11:23) that need to be removed – the barriers to resist the presence of God’s kingdom in our midst, and we ask God for really big things, what would we ask? What would *you* ask?

This fall season, let’s dream a little. Let’s pray for God to show us what big things he wants to accomplish in and through us. Let’s pray the prayer of faith. Let’s take Jesus at his word and watch what God does.

From Pastor Steve’s Desk



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- New Signage
- New Bible Study for Middle Schoolers
- Children’s Retreat at Horizon
- All-Church picnic
- Join us Sunday mornings on Facebook if you are unable to attend worship in person.



## THE SIGN IS GOING UP

The sign of the Cross and Flame was accepted in 1969 as the official insignia of the United Methodist Church representing the Trinity. God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son is represented by the Cross itself, and the Flame represents the Holy Spirit. The flame is a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw “tongues, as of fire,” Acts 2:3.

The use of this insignia had several important beginnings. One was when the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with The Methodist Church in 1968 to form The United Methodist Church. Since that time, many replicas of this exact design have been used to represent The United Methodist Church.

Regarding the newly completed Cross and Flame constructed for the Edgemont location, it began in 2003 with the use of a pattern drawn to scale on Butcher paper and a vision by members of the

Adult Sunday School Class. The goal continues to be to enhance the outreach and visibility of the church as a welcoming place to worship and serve our Lord, Jesus Christ. Within the last 17 years there have been many church members, community residents, and business people who have donated their talents and time to make this project a reality. Well over 50 people, from Arkansas City, Wichita, and Eudora have been instrumental in the completion and erection of this Trinity Cross and Flame.

A more detailed history, from conception to completion, will soon to be available. It includes the people who have persevered to complete this project in spite of delays and obstacles. Noted also will be some miraculous events which were experienced throughout these 17 years by many of those who have been involved.

~ Elrea Mullen

*“The goal continues to be to enhance the outreach and visibility of the church as a welcoming place to worship and serve our Lord, Jesus Christ.”*

### NEW BIBLE STUDY

Mykenzie Goff begins a Bible Study Sunday, Sept. 3, at 8:45 a.m. for **middle schoolers and older tweens**. Please share this opportunity with the young people in your sphere to help Mykenzie follow a nudging from the Holy Spirit. Consider other ways of support too, like providing a ride to church and committing to pray for a fruitful ministry!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**God On The Go**  
CHILDREN'S  
RETREAT

**2ND - 5TH GRADE**      **REGISTRATION: \$70**      **OCTOBER 14-15**

**CAMP Horizon**  
A Great Plains UNITED METHODIST CAMP

## MEET OUR INTERNS

Raidyn Tyler is a freshman at Southwestern College from Andover, Kan. While studying philosophy and religion, he participates in Discipleship Southwestern. He worked at Camp Horizon last summer and is helping with maintenance there this fall. Raidyn loves working with young people, being useful, and getting to know people.



Lucy Daniel is a sophomore at Southwestern College from Mulvane, Kan. While studying psychology she participates in track, Worship Outreach, and Discipleship Southwestern. She has worked at Camp Horizon the last two summers and worked at Grace UMC last school year. Lucy loves leading worship, working with children, and spending time with her dog.

Raidyn and Lucy will be working with the youth group, Kid's Club, and Sunday morning children's church.

## ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Celebrate your church family and the arrival of fall with a picnic at Camp Horizon.

**Sunday, Sept. 17, at 12:30 p.m.**

All food is provided by various small groups, so bring your friends and family for hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the goodness that goes with a picnic. Enjoy outdoor activities and the fellowship of our church family.

*Let us pray for each other. Contact Pam Archer at (620) 446-2456 or at [parcher@cox.net](mailto:parcher@cox.net) to add your request to the prayer chain. Let Pam know if you'd like to receive*

*The family of Lucille Woodward would like to thank the church family for the many acts of kindness at the loss of their mother and grandmother.*

*Special thanks to those who prepared the meal for the family, and also to Pastor Rankin for his lovely message. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.*

## 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](mailto: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

Sympathy is extended to Sandy Rush whose sister-in-law, Charlotte Marie Wise, died Aug. 16.

Sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of Avis Bickford who died August 12. Avis was 91 and lived at Alderbrook Village.

## FROM YOUR CHURCH 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, 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

July 2023		2023 through July
Income	\$ 32,875	\$170,276
Expenses	31,071	164,230

## SHARE MEALS SERVED

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

## DISCIPLE FAST TRACK STARTING SOON

Sign up to attend DISCIPLE Bible Study beginning Sunday, Sept. 10, at 8:30 a.m. in the Seekers Sunday School classroom. If you want to join, let Larry Swanson know to expect you. Books are provided.

## ESL 2023

Students Enrolled: 23      Volunteers: 16      Children in the Nursery: 5

## SHOE PROJECT YEAR 22

Thanks so much to all of those that made 358 Arkansas City children happy with a new pair of shoes. Whether you assisted the service project monetarily (32 families gave \$2,470) or through your prayers, all was appreciated. The Shoe Project was also made possible by \$750 from Kiwanis of Ark City, \$500 from the White Foundation (Bob and Pat White), \$500 from the local Rotary Club, and \$1,000 from a Walmart Community Grant. This year we added sixth through eighth graders besides the prekindergarten through fifth grade children to receive a \$20 pair of shoes to start school. A special Thank You to Pam Archer, Deanna Kuder, Darla Mann, Marcia Musson, Peggy Musson, Linda Neal, and Charlotte Schmidt who assisted with the project.

~ Cindy Freeland

## LIBRARY UPDATE

The church library is undergoing sifting and sorting as Marcia and Peggy Musson continue to spend their "free time" going through books and other print material. Once everything is re-organized, additional resources will be added to the collection to build up the body of Christ "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Eph. 4:12-13) Stop by the library to see the progress and check out the free books on the tables in the fellowship hall.

## SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Bible Reading Unadorned 8:45 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship, Communion	4 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Small Group; Boy Scouts	5 10:30 am Seeking Sisters	6 5:30 pm, SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells 6:00 Kid's Club/ Youth Group 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul 7:30 pm Choir	7 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm SMP Live	8	9
<b>10</b> 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; DISCIPLE Fast Track 8:45 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship, Bucket Sunday	11 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group; Boy Scouts	12 6:30 Girl Scouts	13 5:30 pm, SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells 6:00 Kid's Club/ Youth Group 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul 7:30 pm Choir	14 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm SMP Live	15	16
<b>17</b> 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; DISCIPLE Fast Track 8:45 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship 12:30 am All-church picnic Camp Horizon	18 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group; Boy Scouts	19 10:30 am Seeking Sisters	20 5:30 pm, SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells 6:00 Kid's Club/ Youth Group 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul 7:30 pm Choir	21 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm SMP Live NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23
<b>24</b> 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; DISCIPLE Fast Track 8:45 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10 am Worship 11:15 am Administrative Council 12:30 Prayer + Training/ Lunch	25 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group; Boy Scouts	26	27 5:30 pm, SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; Handbells 6:00 Kid's Club/ Youth Group 6:30 pm ESL @ St. Paul 7:30 pm Choir	28 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm SMP Live	29	30

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### 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.

Sept. 01 Curt and Cindy Freeland	Sept. 15 Lloyd Birdzell
Sept. 02 Cruz Soule	Sept. 16 Dac and Alisha Call
Sept. 07 John Bottomley David Messenger Alyssa Joseph	Sept. 18 Don Hastings Billie Swanson Steven Archer
Sept. 10 Haylea Sampson Xavier Hernandez	Sept. 20 Grainger Graham
Sept. 11 Steve Collingsworth Jaycee Graham	Sept. 21 Donna Rindt Adam Utt
Sept. 13 Martella Nuckols	Sept. 22 Michael Musson John Gilstrap
Sept. 14 DeeDee Moore Katie Phillips Marvin and Karen Bottomley	Sept. 25 Brantley Graham Sept. 27 Kat Rogers Sept. 28 Patrick Simmons Sept. 29 Darlene Kinzie

### Arkansas City United Methodist Church

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



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE