



September 2022

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

One of my favorite principles when it comes to thinking about the Christian life is leadership author Stephen Covey's statement: "Begin with the end in mind." To lead an optimal, fruitful life, one needs to be clear about the purpose, the goal. This is what he means by "end."

What is the "end" of the Christian life? It is very easy for us to think, "Well, death is the end, and then heaven." Heaven is the Christian's confident hope, yes, but there is more. Following Covey's maxim, the end of the Christian life has to do with our purpose in this present life as well as the future life of heaven. The goal of the Christian life, here and now, is to become wise, godly, joyful, stable, confident, consistent followers of Jesus Christ, that is, to model him in our character and action. This vision holds for us as individual believers *and* as a congregation.

It is common for people to think of the Christian life mainly in terms of believing certain doctrines (very important, yes) and doing certain actions (also very important). This view can easily degenerate into a kind of surface level rule-following that drains most of the real life out of the Christian life. It illustrates what John Wesley, father of the Methodists, referred to as formalism, which is to focus on externals.

But the richness of the faith takes us deeper than these surface level truths. It's an exciting journey and all believers are called to it.

Indulge your imagination for a moment. If you were to say honestly, "I really *enjoy* being a Christian," what would your picture of enjoying the Christian life include? My guess is that your response would include relationships that matter to you. Deep and transparent friendships and a sense of belonging, including a relationship with the living God; knowing that he knows and loves you. Another guess is that what you do as a Christian – that is, specifically *faith-driven* actions – carry significance unlike any other activities. I really enjoy certain activities (attending college football games, for example), but they don't hold a candle to doing what I feel like God put me on the earth to do.

As your pastor, I am committed to helping you grow to maturity in Christ. A major theme verse for me is Colossians 1:28-29, "It is [Christ] whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me."

As we walk this journey together, let's stay focused on the end – the full measure of the stature of Christ – and see what truly amazing things God does in us and through us.

We are excited to have the Southwestern College Worship Team with us on September 11, 2022.



**SOUTHWESTERN
COLLEGE**

Please join us for worship!



**SOUTHWESTERN
COLLEGE**



We have a new name! United Methodist Women (the long familiar UMW) is now **United Women in Faith**. Remember that name, United Women in Faith.

After taking a summer break we will be starting back with our regular third Wednesday meetings. The first meeting of the fall will be on September 21 at 1:30 PM in the Gathering Room.

We were not entirely inactive over the summer. The United Women in Faith (UMW) with Billie Swanson's help served the dinner for the Teresa Howell funeral for which we received a much appreciated donation of \$100.

We have fallen behind in our Pledge to Missions, having been able to pay only \$400 of a pledged \$1200. Please come to the meeting prepared to help us catch up on this pledge to the ministries of the broader church.

Five new books have been added to the Library for the reading program. I hope everyone has continued reading during the summer.

Sylvia J. McAlister,
United Women in Faith, President



Pastor Steve is starting a study on Thursday evenings, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM, starting September 8. The study is called "SMP Live." "SMP" stands for Spiritual Maturity Project. We're going to study the much ignored book of James. Please attend in person (we'll be in the Gathering Room), but if you prefer, join online. You can register through this link: <https://www.spiritualmaturityproject.org/events>. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and you'll see where to input your information. When you register, you will then receive the Zoom link for each meeting.

If you prefer to get this newsletter digitally or be added to the email prayer chain list, please contact the church office. Pam Archer (parcher@cox.net) takes care of our prayer chain.



The family of Dick Watson who died August 8th.



21st year of Shoe Project

Thanks so much to those that made 244 Ark City children happy with a new pair of shoes to start school (24 vouchers were not redeemed). 31 church family members gave \$2,740. The Shoe Project also received \$500 from Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs of Ark City, \$500 from the White Foundation (Bob and Pat White), and \$1,000 from a Walmart Community Grant. The \$1,000+ not spent last week purchasing the shoes will go towards those students that teachers and counselors recommend needing shoes throughout the school year. A special thank you to those who assisted the day we handed out the vouchers: Charlotte Schmidt, Peggy Bennett, Pam Archer, Kayla Dyke, Linda Neal, Larry Swanson, and Marcia Musson and Cheri Morris..



**Just a reminder
Kid's Club and UMYouth
Begin on September 7th at
6:00 pm. at
2448 Edgemont Dr.**

August Share Meals

402



SEPTEMBER



Sun **Mon** **Tues** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

<p>FH = Fellowship Hall GR = Gathering Room</p> <p>4 10:00 am Worship & Communion</p>	<p>5 Labor Day—Office Closed</p> <p>7:00 pm Share Group, Parlor</p>	<p>6 1:00 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>7 5:30 pm Share Meal at St. Paul</p> <p>6:00 pm Kids Club and Youth Group</p> <p>6:00 pm ESL</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>8 5:30 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm SMP Live</p> <p>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9 8:00 am Noodle Making at St. Paul UMC</p>	<p>3 2:00 pm Marty Nuckols 90th Birthday Party</p>
<p>11 10:00 am Worship & Bucket Sunday</p> <p>10:20 am Children's Church</p>	<p>12 4:00 pm Quilt Guild</p> <p>7:00 pm Share Group, Parlor</p>	<p>13 1:00 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting</p>	<p>14 5:30 pm Share Meal at St. Paul</p> <p>6:00 pm Kids Club and Youth Group</p> <p>6:00 pm ESL</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>15 5:30 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm SMP Live</p> <p>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 10:00 am Worship</p> <p>10:20 am Children's Church</p> <p>11:15 Covered Dish</p> <p>12:15 am Finance/Trustees</p>	<p>19 7:00 pm Share Group, Parlor</p>	<p>20 1:00 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>21 1:30 pm United Women in Faith</p> <p>5:30 pm Share Meal at St. Paul</p> <p>6:00 pm Kids Club and Youth Group</p> <p>6:00 pm ESL</p> <p>6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>22 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>5:30 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm SMP Live</p> <p>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23 9:00 am Soroptimists in kitchen</p>	<p>24 9:00 am Kiwanis in kitchen</p>
<p>25 10:00 am Worship</p> <p>10:20 Children's Church</p>	<p>26 7:00 pm Share Group, Parlor</p>	<p>27 1:00 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Staff Parish</p>	<p>28 5:30 pm Share Meal at St. Paul</p> <p>6:00 pm Kids Club and Youth Group</p> <p>6:00 pm ESL</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>29 5:30 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm SMP Live</p> <p>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>30</p>	



September 2
Cruz Soule

September 7
John Bottomley

September 10
Haylea Sampson

September 11
Jaycee Graham

September 13
Marty Nuckols

September 18
Steve Archer
Don Hastings
Billie Swanson

September 20
Grainger Graham

September 21
Donna Rindt
Adam Utt

September 22
Michael Musson

September 25
Brantley Graham

September 28
Pat Simmons

September 29
Darlene Kinzie

September 29
September 29

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Return Service Requested

Phone: 620-442-4530

