

Newsletter

Arkansas City



February 2024

It's a Process

I've never been very deeply involved in construction. When I still lived at home, my dad would take on house repair projects to supplement his rather meager pastor's income (it was a different day) and I helped. I've done some roofing, I've poured some concrete. I've done plenty of simple household fix-it projects. When I get around people who really know what they're doing, however, I realize how unskilled I am.

At the same time, I'm fascinated with the process needed for construction projects. And the patience. Probably some of you have visited the Sears Tower in Chicago. The builders excavated a hole 100 feet deep just for the foundation. Imagine how long it took just to dig the hole to get started. (Think about all the legal and financial work that had to be done even before breaking ground on the work!) It took 3 full years to complete Sears Tower.

Thinking on these things, I cannot resist mentioning the old cliché: "Rome wasn't built in a day." Rome had been around several hundred years before it became the powerful empire we know from history. Building a tower or building an empire just takes time.

And so does building a church. By "church," I mean people, not a building (although our facilities present one set of questions for us as we ponder the future), but let's also keep one thing clear. Jesus Christ is the builder of his church. We don't build the church. We don't build the kingdom. Whenever I hear people talk this way, I admit, I flinch. I think I understand. It does take our effort, but the energy of our effort, especially the sustained energy over time, comes from Jesus Christ.

Keeping clear who is in charge of the building project for our church, we do know that it is time for us to get to work. We have important work to do. As I mentioned in the January newsletter, 2024 is a year of discernment and decision. As we proceed, we promise to communicate as best we can. Communication includes listening. If you have questions or concerns; if you have thoughts and suggestions, please call the church office and we will direct your question or concern to the appropriate leader on the Administrative Council.

To discern and decide what God is calling us to do means that we're entering a process. A process needs and is built on a plan. A process has steps. It takes time. It inevitably will result in some mistakes and course corrections. The process therefore also takes patience, patience with the process and with one another. And if or when we lose our patience, we will ask for and give forgiveness.

In 2024, Christ is building his church in Arkansas City United Methodist Church. It's a process. May we have the desire and the patience to undertake it.

(Please do call the church office with questions and concerns. We are genuinely interested in what is on your mind.)

From Pastor Steve's Desk



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Ash Wednesday
- Library Update
- Reading the Bible in a year with your church family

THIS IS HIS BODY. THIS IS HIS BLOOD.

It is with a grateful heart that I acknowledge and thank those who have served and continue to serve communion to the homebound members of our church. This ministry happens each first Sunday of the month right after we who gather for Communion Sunday partake.

In addition, the homebound members receive The Upper Room for daily devotions and frequent hand-made

gifts from Seeking Sisters (with assistance from the children), marking holidays and special times of the year. Many times, a good visit blesses the server as much as the served.

Our mission is to remind our church family at home that they are

not forgotten but rather remain an important part of our church.

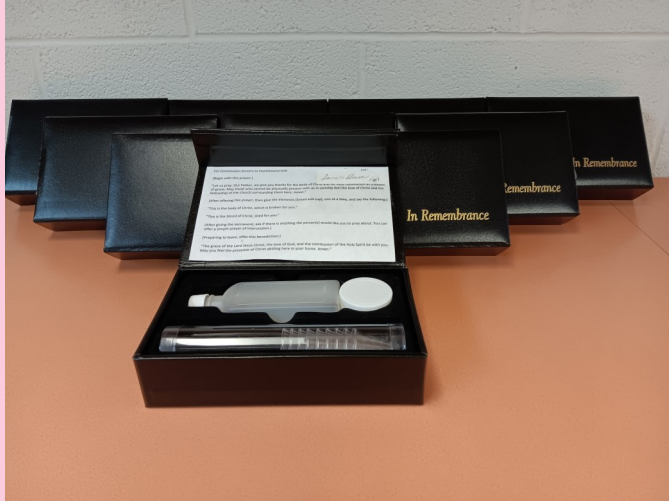
Thank you to each person who sacrifices a little bit of time on Communion Sundays as a ministry to others. Those serving in this capacity include:

Dennis and Deanna Kuder
Curt and Cindy Freeland
Russell and Sylvia McAlister
Sandy and Forest Smith
Dan Deener
Trish Stoy
Pam Archer
Ricci and Janis Goff, Mykenzie and Mykaylee
Doris Miller
Sam and Ann Oglesby

God bless each of you. I appreciate your dedication.

~Peggy Musson

PS. If you are homebound and would like to receive communion, contact Peggy at 620.441.3067.



Cards of Thanks

Happy New Year!

Your donation and support made a big difference for 1,283 local children this Christmas.

It is amazing what we can do when we come together to help others.

Thank you for being a part of it all!! Let's continue to spread happiness and make a positive impact together.

The answer to poverty is not wealth, but community!

The Ladies at Angels

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ASH WEDNESDAY OBSERVANCE

Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. receive ashes and pray in the chapel as your time permits.

An Ash Wednesday service is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday

['aSH 'wenz,dā] 

NOUN

the first day of Lent in the Western Christian Church, marked by services of penitence.



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.

LIBRARY PROJECT

Next time you're at the Edgemont campus (yes, we have an Edgemont campus and a St. Paul campus of Arkansas City United Methodist Church), check out the clean-up, organization, and updates at the church library. Marcia Musson, with help from Peggy Musson and others, spent many hours going through books and materials to get our library in top shape. Come peruse the shelves and check out a book for study or entertainment. Here is an example of what you'll find.

The Noticer, by Andy Andrews.

Who is this mysterious old drifter who is known by "Jones"? This white haired elderly man carrying a battered old suitcase shows up just as his's needed most. The people of Orange Beach, Alabama, like all humans have their share of problems. These situations can seem like dead ends, but Jones has a gift for seeing what others miss and believes there is no such thing as a dead end. He says, "it only takes a little perspective to recognize the miracles in our moments, like the seeds of greatness tucked into our struggles."

The Noticer, based on a remarkable true story, blends fiction and allegory in an entertaining and inspiring instruction manual for better living. This can be found on the big display case in the church library. If you would

Brick Project

After the all-church picnic at Camp Horizon in September, it was noted that the path to Inspiration Point is missing a brick from the new Arkansas City United Methodist Church. Seeking Sisters, the small group that meets at the church every first and third Tuesday of the month, are fixing that oversight with funds raised by hosting the April third-Sunday fellowship dinner. "Two Chuches. Stronger Together."



like to read Jones' story, sign the card on the inside of the book and place the card in the small gray basket on the desk by the library entrance. When finished, return your book to the large wicker basket on the same desk.
~Marcia Musson

FREE! If you would like to own a set (or sets) of glass luncheon dishes, pick them up in the church kitchen by the end of February. Any remaining sets will be donated.

Circus Tickets! The church has a number of special rate tickets to the Spectacular Extreme Circus at Hartman Arena Friday, Feb. 16, Saturday, Feb. 17, and Sunday, Feb. 18. Stop by the church office if you're interested.

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
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

Nicholas Ralph Anzelmo, Jr. 97, died

Jan. 14, 2024, at his home in Arkansas City.

His service was

Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Nick was very active in the ministries of Arkansas City First UMC, then Arkansas City UMC, serving on boards, in the kitchen when needed, in Sunday School, and as a friend and mentor to many.

Nick is survived by his wife, Alyce; daughter, Nicki (Fred); son, David (Pam); and daughter, Valerie (Mike); as well as many grandchildren, step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step great-grandchildren, and step great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Phyllis; sister, Opal Short; and brother, Joseph.

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.



FINANCE REPORT

December 2023		2023 Year End
Income	\$31,849	\$249,566
Expenses	22,142	247,176

SHARE MEALS SERVED

Year	People served	Weekly average people served	Average Helpers Weekly	Average Take Outs Weekly	Average Outside Donations Weekly	Average Expenses Weekly
2019	1,907	39	5	11	\$37.50	\$29.68
2020	2,295	47	4	42	\$21.94	\$24.60
2021	2,953	60	4	62	\$30.61	\$32.76
2022	3,705	76	4	76	\$19.39	\$36.38
2023	4,913	98	5	98	\$42.00	\$34.30

READING THE BIBLE TOGETHER IN 2024



It's not too late to catch up with the rest of the congregation on your Bible reading. We are growing in knowledge and gaining confidence in reading scripture as an emphasis for Ark City United Methodist Church in 2024. If you are able, install the

YouVersion Bible app



on your phone or tablet, and sign up for the plan called "Bible in a Year: 365-Day Reading Plan." (Look for the image above in your search because there are numerous daily reading plans.) We started January 1, so you'll need to catch up.

If you cannot use the app, get your reading plan from the weekly bulletin inserts, or call or email the church office and we'll send it to you via email. office@arkcityumc.com or 620.442.4530.

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	F/S
				1 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	2/3
4 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship, Communion Sunday Scouts Sunday 11:15 am Communion Delivered to Shut-ins 6:00 pm Faithbuilders	5 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	6 10:30 am Seeking Sisters	7 5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; 5:30 Handbells 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Scouts	8 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	9/10 Girl Scouts overnight lock-in
11 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Disciple 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship; Bucket Sunday 6:00 pm Faithbuilders	12 5:30 WV Quilt Guild 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	13 SHROVE TUESDAY or MARDI GRAS	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 11 am—1 pm Chapel 6 pm Sanctuary 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; 5:30 Handbells 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Scouts	15 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	16/17
18 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; New Study 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Meal, hosted by UWF 12:15 Finance Trustees 4:00 pm Lenten Study 6:00 pm Faithbuilders	19 <i>Celebration of Discipline</i> by Richard Foster 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group <i>Let Me Ask You a Question: Conversations with Jesus</i> at St. Paul	20 10:30 am Seeking Sisters	21 1:30 pm UWF 5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; 5:30 Handbells 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Scouts	22 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	23/24 Saturday 6:30 pm All-Church Game Night
25 8:30 am Adult Sunday School; Celebration of... 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship 11:15 Administrative Council 4:00 pm Lenten Study, StP 6:00 pm Faithbuilders	26 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	27	28 5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; 5:30 Handbells 6:00 pm Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Scouts	29 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 3	Michael O'Hara Daren Reese	Feb. 12	Stella Rogers
Feb. 5	Maranda McMichael Phyllis McCorgary Eric Rogers	Feb. 13	Gavin Wilson Brookelyn Sanburn
Feb. 6	Ken Bryant Morgan Cruz Linda Long Ray Wentworth Pam Messenger	Feb. 15	Emilee Wells Natasha Bucher
Feb. 7	Gavon Moore	Feb. 16	Virginia Wells
Feb. 8	Kyle Tilson David Call Julian Moore	Feb. 17	Darla Mann
Feb. 9	Wyatt Dickey Elrea Mullen Peggy Thomas	Feb. 21	Janice Bobek Lynn Dziedzic
Feb. 11	Barbara Branson Betty Tanner Pat Rogers	Feb. 22	Joann Goff
		Feb. 23	Kevin Lowery Josiah Amezcua
		Feb. 24	Darci Sampson
		Feb. 25	Dac Call Kaitlyn Moore
		Feb. 27	Nick Rogers Linda Rahn

CONTACT US

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE