

# Newsletter

Arkansas City



March 2024

## FEELINGS AND FAITH

How does faith *feel*? And how is it supposed to feel? For example, we might think of a scripture verse like Nehemiah 8:10, “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” Some of us old-timers remember singing the Bible school song with this promise as the title. The first verse repeats that saying four times as the melody progresses. Then the second verse (if I remember) is “He gives me living water and I thirst no more,” etc. Who remembers this song?

This scriptural promise has exercised much influence, and it is easy to get the idea that authentic Christian faith therefore feels *always* joyful, *always* upbeat, *always* positive and peaceful. But is the reverse true? If I’m not “feeling it,” if I don’t feel joy right in this moment, is my faith somehow not legitimate, not “working”?

Our understanding of faith in recent decades has been shaped increasingly by subjective ways of thinking. It goes like this: “If I feel strong, then my faith is strong. If I feel weak, then my faith is weak (i.e. I don’t have enough faith).” Close by is a common view that one needs to “keep one’s faith up,” one needs to “believe and not doubt,” which, in the end, seems to me to call for a state of mind impossible to maintain. This view is strong in the secular world as much as within the church. I’m over-simplifying, but I think this observation is generally true.

If my description is in the ballpark, then I think we would benefit greatly by a more scriptural view of how faith feels. Here we find a paradox. Faith does not rely on how we feel, but feelings are organically related to our exercise of faith. We feel the joy of the Lord, significantly, because the Lord is faithful and compassionate in a way that helps to color our feelings. Our feelings, however, don’t always perfectly match the quality of our faith.

True faith in Christ is trust and reliance on him, on his word (teaching, commands, and promises) *no matter how one feels in a given moment*. In true faith, one can struggle for a time with grief or discouragement or some other conventionally “negative” feeling, without concluding that one’s faith is weak. Why? Because even in the discouragement one can cling to Christ and draw strength to face the struggle. Our feelings don’t always tell us what is true. One can have a confidence in Christ regardless of feelings.

I’m hoping that this line of thought increases your confidence in Christ and, perhaps, relaxes the anxiety about whether or not your faith is “strong enough.” It doesn’t require that you feel upbeat and positive all the time. But also, in a very paradoxical way, this recognition opens the door to more joy, more truly scriptural joy, as opposed to good but insufficient positive feelings. It’s a mystery to me to see that faith can be true and strong even when it doesn’t feel very true or strong.

My point: you can feel what you feel without worry about how God might judge your feelings. The Bible is full of examples of faithful people being brutally honest with God about their feelings. (To express this honesty with God is a revelation of strong, true faith. Job is a great example.) And the outcome, over time, is more of the very joy and satisfaction that we associate with faith.

As you continue to observe the Lenten disciplines, may your faith grow. And may your feelings *about* your faith grow as well.

*From Pastor Steve’s Desk*



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Holy week schedule
- Library Highlight
- Mac and cheese cook off

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday

Monday, March 25

- Noon, Holy Week service at First Baptist Church, Tim Smith preaching
- 12:30 pm, lunch served

Tuesday, March 26

- Noon, Holy Week service at Central Christian Church, Lori Robinson preaching
- 12:30 pm, lunch served

Wednesday, March 27

- Noon, Holy Week service at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Stations of the Cross
- 12:30 pm, lunch served

Thursday, March 28

- Noon, Holy Week service at First Presbyterian Church, Steve Rankin preaching
- 12:30 pm, lunch served
- 7 pm, Maundy Thursday service at St. Paul

Friday, March 29

- Noon, Holy Week service at Trinity Episcopal Church, Kathy Swain preaching

Sunday, March 31

- 7:10 am, Sunrise Service, east lawn, south of the shed
- 7:45 am, breakfast, fellowship hall
- 8:30 am, Sunday School
- 9:30 am, Fellowship coffee
- 10 am, Worship
- 11:30 am, Easter egg hunt



### Cards of Thanks

*Thank you for your prayers, thoughts, and cards. Nick always said, "I'm here until the Lord calls me home."*

*Now he's home.  
Alyce Anzelma*

### Memorial Easter Lilies

Call the church office at 620.442.4530 by noon, Monday, March 11, to order Easter Lilies in honor or memory of a loved one.



*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 e-mail list as a reminder to pray.*

## LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

Facing Your Giants is a David and Goliath story for everyday people. “He taunts you will bills you can’t pay, people you can’t please, habits you can’t break,, failures you can’t forget, and a future you can’t face. But just like David, you can face your giant, even if you’re not the strongest, the smartest, the best-equipped, or the holiest.”

Facing Your Giants by Max Lucado is one of the many books by Lucado in our church library. It is a book that show us the way of becoming a David and fighting our own Goliaths. You can face your giants. Why? Because you faced God’s first.

Thank you to Sandy and Forest Smith for donating many books written by Max Lucado.

~Peggy Musson

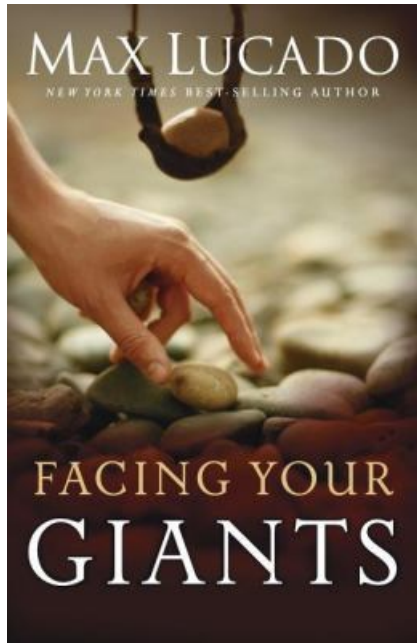
A written review or opinion of any book found in the church library will be printed in the newsletter. Send it to [office@arkcityumc.com](mailto:office@arkcityumc.com).

## WE HAVE AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hello church family. It has come to my attention that not all of you have heard that we have been blessed with a new church secretary. Not only that, she is our own Joni Rankin. Our office has been running very smoothly, and we are so lucky she enjoys doing so much more for us. I don’t honestly know how we could be without her. Next time you see Joni, please thank her for being there for all of us.



~  
Pam Rogers, chair of Staff Parish



## LOCAL SERVICES

### MEALS

Mondays—Northside Baptist Church; 5-6 p.m.  
Wednesdays—Arkansas City United Methodist Church St. Paul Campus; 5:30 p.m.  
Thursdays—Shepherd’s Grace 5-6 p.m.

### FOOD

Angel’s Closet (CC Outreach)  
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  
Private Home, 15613 N. 6th  
Shepherd’s Grace Church  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
VFW Post 1254

Bulldog Grooming (for pet supplies)

### 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.*

## ART IS AGELESS 2024

CHRISTMAS | DRAWING | FIBER ARTS | MIXED MEDIA/CRAFTS

NEEDLEWORK | PAINTING | PHOTOGRAPHY | QUILTING | SCULPTURE/3D

Entry Deadline: Mar. 22. Exhibit: Mar. 25 to Apr. 1; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Reception: Mar. 29, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Open to all area artists 65 and older. Amateur and professional. Call Presbyterian Manor at 620.442.8700 for more information.

## FINANCE REPORT

January 2024		2024 Year to Date
Income	\$36,758	\$36,758
Expenses	32,142	32,142

## SHARE MEAL SERVED

2024	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Total	Avg
SHARE							
Jan.	107	109	125	125	125	591	118
Feb.	118	120				238	119

## KID'S CLUB AND YOUTH GROUP

Dear Church Family,

Thank you! Thank you for listening, and for your abundance of responses! We now have a youth room worthy of meeting in, snacks for each week, balls to play with, and volunteers to help feed us! Thank you Dr. Nick and Christie Rogers for your work on the furniture, it is already well loved.

Thank you Cindy Freeland, Peggy Musson, and the Seeking Sisters for making sure we have snacks and people to serve them! Thank you Jill Sullivan and all the givers for balls, games, and supplies! Many things have appeared between meetings so I don't know all of the names but all of your efforts have been noticed and are greatly appreciated.

It has been such a blessing to arrive for youth group these last few weeks knowing we have what we need without the stress of having to remember or provide it all. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Nicole, Lucy, Sarah, Adam, Darci, and all the children and youth!



## IN MEMORIAM

Donna Lou Rindt, 89, longtime resident of Arkansas City, passed away peacefully with her husband of 71 years by her side, on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, at Presbyterian Manor Assisted Living. Her Celebration of Life was held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at Arkansas City United Methodist Church. Pastor Steve Rankin officiated.

Donna was born Sept. 21, 1934, to Harley and Zella (Mannion) Cowardin in Arkansas City. She was raised in Arkansas City and graduated from Arkansas City High School in 1952. Upon graduation, she attended Cowley County Community College. On Dec. 28, 1952, she married her childhood sweetheart, Fred D. Rindt. They made their home in Arkansas City where they owned Rindt-Erdman Funeral Home.

Donna is survived by her husband, Fred; her son, Jeff Rindt, and wife, Katie, of Tulsa, Okla.; and her daughter, Kelly McGuigan, and husband, Mark, of Andover, Kan.; grandchildren, David and Katy Rindt, Aaron Rindt, Cassidy and Andrew Meredith, McKenzie and Brett Gudgel, Ryan McGuigan, Janae Weber, and Lauren and Eric Busenitz.; great-grandchildren, Rowan Rindt, Macy and Matthew Gudgel, Parker Meredith, and Titus Busenitz.

She is also survived by all her friends and her wonderful neighbors who dearly loved her. Donna was preceded in death by her parents.

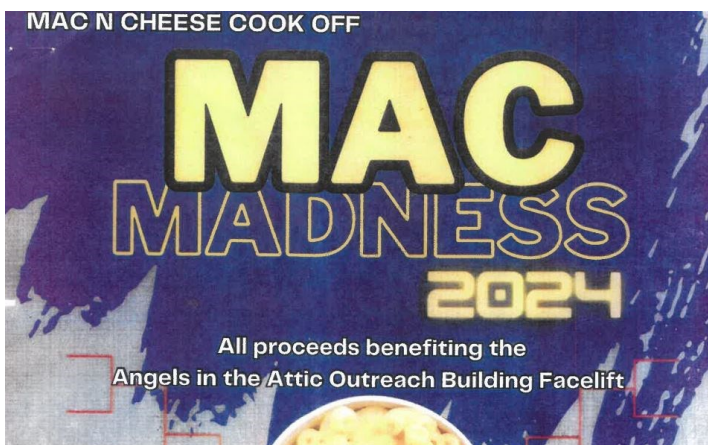
A memorial has been established for the Arkansas City United Methodist Church or Habitat for Humanity of Arkansas City. Contributions may be made through the funeral home.

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.



## MAC MADNESS TO BENEFIT ANGELS IN THE ATTIC

**Calling all cooks at Ark City UMC!** Team registration to compete in a mac and cheese cookoff is due immediately! Stop by the church office for details, or call the host, KSOK Radio, at 620.506.7312 or email [christi@ksokradio.com](mailto:christi@ksokradio.com).



## COOK OFF

Saturday


Mar. 23, 1 to 3 p.m.

Ark City Ag Building

Tickets are \$10 each (includes mac and cheese tasting kit and dessert)

Hosted by KSOK

MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	F/S
					1/2 Sat. 5:00 pm Wor- ship at St. Paul
3 8:30 am Adult Study 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship, Communion Sunday Scouts Sunday 11:15 am Communion Delivery to Shut-ins 4:00 pm Lenten Study at St. Paul	4      6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	5   10:30 am Seeking Sisters	6   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	7   4:30 pm Scouts Bean Feed 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	8/9
10   8:30 am Adult Study 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship; Bucket Sunday 4:00 pm Lenten Study at St. Paul	11   6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	12   11 a.m. Dining with Diabetes (CC Extension)	13   5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; 5:30 Handbells 6:30 pm Choir	14   7:00 SMP Live	15/16
Spring Break					
17 8:30 am Adult Study 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Meal, hosted by Monday Group 12:15 pm Finance Trustees 4:00 pm Lenten Study at St. Paul	18   6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	19   10:30 am Seeking Sisters 11 am Dining with Diabetes (CC Extension)	20   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	21   5:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	22/23
					
24 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:30 am Adult Study 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship 11:15 Administrative Council  4:00 pm Lenten Study at St. Paul	25   6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	26   11 am Dining with Diabetes (CC Extension)	27   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	28   5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	29/30
Holy Week—See p. 2 for special events					
31 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>   <b>See p. 2 for full schedule</b>					

**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.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Mar. 01	Christie Rogers Jonas W Stoy	Mar. 21	Michaelene Contreras Leslie Sherman
Mar. 02	Janice Keefe		Chad Monroe
Mar. 05	Lynda Arnett Olivia Dawson Ashton Brown	Mar. 23	Darci Utt
Mar. 08	Tammy Oak	Mar. 24	Sandy Short
Mar. 09	Bruce Cox Howard Griffin	Mar. 26	Olen Brown Courtney Gilmore
Mar. 13	Sue Schultz	Mar. 27	Dan Deener Brian Demo
Mar. 15	Lucille Woodward Nathan Monroe		Dennis Call Chad & Mandi Monroe
Mar. 18	Dennis Kuder Dillen Rogers	Mar. 27	Brad & Cheri Morris
Mar. 20	Alice Paton	Mar. 30	Jeffrey Schroeder
		Mar. 31	Steven & Pamela Archer

**CONTACT US**

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE