

Newsletter

Arkansas City



May 2024

We're venturing on a series of topics, starting the last Sunday of the month of May and going through August, that I'm calling "Little White Lies." What is a white lie exactly? The answer to that question will help me show what I mean, and why I'm using this phrase for the summer.

A 2020 *Psychology Today* article describes a white lie as a false statement or story people tell that has no real negative impact, or is used when telling the truth is too complicated, awkward, or painful. Often, white lies help us avoid conflict. A white lie in this sense serves a social purpose. "How are you today? Oh, I'm just fine." You may not be "just fine" at the moment, but you know the person asking is simply following a social convention.

I made the mistake (for far too long) of trying to answer honestly, though briefly, when someone asked, "How are you?" In my mind's eye, I can still see myself, in response, wrinkling my brow and trying to formulate an answer. It finally hit me, "They're just being polite. Don't sweat it."

Here's a white lie that many of us appreciate: "You look much younger than your age." And every husband knows the answer to the question, "Does this dress make me look fat?"

My spin on "white lies" for this summer sermon series has to do with sayings, often in slogan form, that I've heard many times over the years, sayings that seem so right and good but hide sinister implications. They therefore erode faith, even though they almost always contain a degree of truth and sometimes valuable truth. The truth comes wrapped, sadly, in deception, even though the sayer speaks very sincerely.

So, each week I'll tackle another example of a little white lie floating around in Christian circles. We'll talk about doctrine (does it divide?), the Bible (too confusing, too dated?), and the role of faith in public life (keep your religion to yourself!), to name just a handful. We'll have some fun along the way, but the purpose of these sermons, as you might imagine, is very serious. The goal is always to help us all grow in our knowledge and love of God and our love for neighbor.

One caution: you may think that any number of these topics is not relevant to you or to this community. That a sermon always has to feel immediately applicable is one of the little white lies we've heard many times. Like any other training, discipleship sometimes requires enduring discomfort to get to the knowledge, confidence, and joy that we all desire.

Of course, there is no excuse for a bad sermon. Maybe like Olympic judges, you should all have cards with numbers on them. At the end of each sermon, you could hold up a card...

PS: "Little White Lies" will also be the topic of Sunday School each week. We'll dig deeper into last week's topic each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. It's open to all ages. We'll have tables and chairs for younger participants (and some quiet activities) and the nursery will be open. Let's keep learning together.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Events	2
News	3
Ministry Reports	4
Events Calendar	5
Birthdays	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Spotlight on Graduates
- Library Highlight
- Kid's Club Youth Group Hiatus
- Thanks to Lucy Daniel

From Pastor Steve's Desk

SAVE THE DATE, SUNDAY, MAY 12!

Cards of Thanks

We would like to say, "Thank You" to all our church family for all of your prayers, phone calls, cards, and other offers to help Shirley and I while I was in two hospitals and the Presbyterian Manor recovering from total knee replacement and heart attack. God bless all of you for thinking about us.

*Howard and Shirley
Griffin*

Donations

Visit Ark City is seeking donations for the annual 4th of July fireworks display. Mail support for this patriotic cause to:

Visit Ark City
106 S. Summit
Arkansas City, KS 67005

The church has a padlocked document shredding bin just inside Door #2 with a slot for small stacks of documents requiring shredding. A contract with Twin Rivers Developmental Supports ensures secure shredding and removal. If you have large amount of material to shred, take it directly to Twin Rivers located at Strother Field for a 17¢/lb. fee. Smaller amounts may be deposited in the shredding bin at the church.

Senior Spotlight

Halle Bucher, UMKC

School of Dentistry
Dental Hygiene

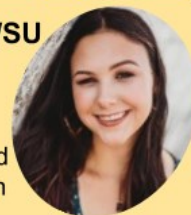
Church, AC UMC



Jolee Wells, WSU

BS in Finance
Church, AC UMC

Working at RCB, and
planning to be a loan
officer.



Blake Bucher, ACHS

Football, Baseball
Church, AC UMC

Future, Coffeyville College
Baseball



Paige Burris, ACHS

Cheer, Yearbook, StuCo
NHS, Choir, Scooters

Youth Group, AC UMC
Future, Newman University,
Cheer Scholarship



Neveah Elms, ACHS

Cheer, Lifeguard,
Theater, Choir
Church, Youth Group,
AC UMC

Future, Cowley College



Mykenzie Goff, ACHS

Cheer, Lifeguard, Yearbook,
NHS, StuCo, Crochet Club
Church, Youth Group,
AC UMC

Future, Southwestern College,
Cheer Scholarship



Everett Green, ACHS

Eagle Scout, 4H,
Shooting Sports
Church, AC UMC

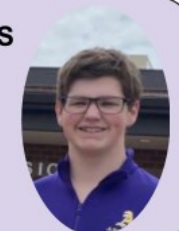
Future, WSU
Engineering Program



Payton Lowrie, ACHS

Pizza Hut, Guitar,
Trombone, Golf,
Church, AC UMC

Future, K-State



Rayli Sullivan, ACHS

Wrestling, Theater,
Braums, Dance, Art,
Women's Glee Club
Church, St. Paul, AC
UMC, VBS Volunteer
Future, Cowley College



You are invited to help us honor our graduates on Sunday, May 12. A short reception will follow the service in their honor. Graduates will have a special table in the Fellowship Hall for cards and gifts.

National Day of Prayer Observation
Thursday, May 2, 2024, noon
Wilson Park Rotunda (lunch provided)

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

Recently, the children's books in the church library have been reorganized. The children's book section can be found on the shelves to the right, just inside the library door. Chapter books and books for young adults are to the left of the entrance.

Instructions for checking out books are posted just above the check-out desk under the light switch. There you will also find the card basket and the book return container. If your child is unfamiliar with how to borrow a book from the library, please assist them by following the instructions posted on the bulletin board. Marcia Musson is also available to assist first-time borrowers.

Good literature is available at the public library, but literature from a Christian perspective can only be found at the church library!

Visit the church library any Sunday morning or during regular church office hours, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



If you have photos of Lance or the Carrithers family while they served in Arkansas City, please send them to Derby Woodlawn by June 1 for inclusion in the ceremony.

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

Rent and Utilities

Salvation Army, 800.336.4547 ext. 0

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.

FINANCE REPORT

March 2024		2024 Year to Date	
Income	\$20,039	Income	\$74,852
Expenses	\$21,017	Expense	\$75,557

SHARE MEAL SERVED

2024	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Total	Avg.
Jan.	107	109	125	125	125	591	118
Feb.	118	105	105	103		238	119
Mar.	100	88	117	108		413	103
Apr.	108	109	106			323	108

COMMITTEES NOTES

FINANCE/TRUSTEES

- The privacy fence on the west side of the sanctuary will be replaced.
- The appears to be a plumbing issue with pipes between the church and the city line. Updates to come.
- The committee is working to update the church's building use policy and fees.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

- We chose nonattending members to contact in order to obtain an understanding as to why they are not attending.
- We suggested possible members for the Memorial Gifts Committee.
- Members volunteered to attend meetings to bring back to the committee and the congregation on whether to form a policy of same sex weddings and a non-celibate LGBTQ pastor for our church.

The last day for Children's Church with Lucy Daniel is Sunday, April 28. Lucy has served the children of Arkansas City United Methodist Church as an intern this academic year with special lessons and activities each Sunday for school-aged children. If you see Lucy or want to send her a note of thanks, please email her at lgld0126@gmail.com.



Summer hiatus for Kid's Club and Youth Group begins Wednesday, May 8, after the May 1 year-end celebration. Special thanks to Darci Utt, Nicole Dawson, and their team of volunteers who have provided this vibrant ministry to the children and youth of the church and larger community. Kid's Club and Youth Group will be back in the fall!

If you're interested in helping to create children's worship packets for worship during the summer, call the church office at 620.442.4530.

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.



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.

MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	F/S
			1 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	2 AC Police SWAT train- ing at St. Paul Noon National Day of Prayer @Wilson Park 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	3/4 10 am Sat. Prayer+ eval. Rankin home
5 8:30 am Adult Study 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship, Communion Sunday 11:15 am Communion Delivery to Shut-ins 6:00 pm Faithbuilders	6 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	7 10:30 am Seeking Sisters	8 5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; 5:30 Handbells 6:30 pm Choir	9 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	10/11
12 MOTHER'S DAY GRADUATE SUNDAY 8:30 am Adult Study 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship; Bucket Sunday 11:15 am Graduates Re- ception 6:00 pm Faithbuilders	13 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	14	115 1:30 pm UWF 5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; 5:30 Handbells 6:30 pm Choir	16 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	17/18
19 PENTACOST 8:30 am Adult Study 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Third Sunday Meal 12:15 pm Finance Trustees 6:00 pm Faithbuilders	20 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Small Group	21 10:30 am Seeking Sisters	22 5:00 pm Prayer + 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; 5:30 Handbells 6:30 pm Choir	23 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	24/25
26 MEMORIAL WEEKEND NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:30 am MS Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am Worship 11:15 Administrative Council 6:00 pm Faithbuilders	27 MEMORIAL DAY 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	28	29 5:30 pm SHARE Meal @ St. Paul; 6:30 pm Choir	30 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 SMP Live	

**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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 01	Larry Swanson	May 26	Roy Morse
May 04	Tammie Demo Dustin Sullivan Cady Dickey Alister Hensen	May 27	Sarah McAlister
May 05	Pattie Brown	May 28	Melba Maechtlen Ann Oglesby Dylan Moore Dalton Collins
May 07	Dorothy Gilstrap		
May 11	Lawrence Swaim		
May 12	Neveah Elms		
May 14	Robben Ledeker Justin Musson		
May 17	Paul PJ Brown		
May 18	Peggy Bennett	May 15	Darci and Jeff Sampson
May 21	Amy Arrowsmith	May 20	Monica and Aaron Wise
May 25	Belinda Allen Jordan Retzer	May 22	Sandy and Forest Smith
		May 31	Billie and Larry Swanson

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:
office@arkcityumc.com



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE