

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.

arkcityumc.com

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



August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Aug. 3	Anita Smith Denise Simmons	Aug.15	Merylene Wentworth Glenn Walton Davis Simmons
Aug. 4	Karen Bottomley	Aug. 18	Logan Monroe
Aug. 5	Ricci Goff Jolee Wells	Aug. 19	Marvin Bottomley Aaron Wise Bowie Call
Aug. 6	Sandy Smith Wiley Wilcox	Aug. 20	Gage Musson
Aug. 7	Alyce Anzelmo Missy Call	Aug. 21	Charles Kinzie
Aug. 13	Nickolaus Hernandez Annika Hernandez	Aug. 24	Tom Schmidt
Aug. 14	Violet Beyer	Aug. 25	Glen Morrison Ross Bannister
		Aug. 27	Christine Tanner
		Aug. 29	Bill Graham
Aug. 2	Melba & Rodger Maehtlen	Aug. 14	Cathy & Wiley Wilcox
Aug. 3	Sylvia & Russell McAlister	Aug. 15	Christie & Nick Rogers
Aug. 5	Tammy & Jon Oak	Aug. 15	Missy & Dennis Call
Aug. 7	Janis & Ricci Goff Ann & Sam Oglesby	Aug. 31	Joni & Stephen Rankin

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



August 2024

OK, so it's not the new year, but every August *feels* like a new year starting. Students and teachers head to school. People return from summer vacations and prepare to buckle down for the fall. Church programs on summer hiatus start gearing up. For twenty-five years, I worked on a college campus. When August hit, I started feeling the anticipation of a new year, the joy of seeing returning students and getting acquainted with the new ones. Unless a school has a very active summer school, a college campus has an almost morgue-like feel during the summer. When the students hit campus for all the start-up activities, it's a hectic but fun ride.

It's not exactly the same with churches, but I think there is something instructive for us if we were to imagine the coming August as the beginning of something truly new. I shared a couple of thoughts along these lines with Administrative Council at our July meeting. In September, Seeking Sisters, one of our small groups, is hosting a "Welcome Back" picnic on the Edgemont campus lawn. We hope to see some faces we haven't seen in a while and some new faces. In September, we will start a new confirmation class. (If you're confirmation age, stay tuned.) I'm eager for these things to get off the ground.

What else can we think of as new? I hope to try a new focus on sharing our faith with others. I saw a recent bit of research that shows United Methodists are hesitant to speak of their faith to others for fear of offending. I understand this apprehension. I recognize it in myself, even though I love talking to people about Christ and the Christian faith (and, besides, it's my "job"). Getting started is hard.

Two points to consider: First, we know well the general opinion about "organized religion." Many people find it irrelevant and maybe even morally repugnant. Mainline churches in the United States grew accustomed to sitting in the cultural driver's seat for (see PASTOR p. 5)



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SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST

- Fall Consignment
Garage Sale
- Confirmation Begins
- Welcome Back Picnic
- Handbells and Choir
Starting Up

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Fall Consignment Garage Sale

Start going through your closets and store rooms and sign up for a table at the All-Church Consignment Garage Sale Friday and Saturday, Sept. 27-28. Here's how it will work:

- Bring your things to the church to sell from your own table.
- Price your own items and "man" your own sales.
- Return a tithe (a minimum of 10%) of your sales to the church to help pay for advertisement.
- At the end of the garage sale, remove your unsold items and donate them to a local charity or discard them. (In other words, leave nothing behind!)

Call the church office at 620.442.4530 to sign up to participate.

In Addition:

There will be a table of church items for sale. If you would like to help sort and identify sale items in the church buildings during August and September, please call the office.

Shoe Project This Month

This is the twenty-third year we have given parents a \$20 certificate for shoes for each child in the family. Due to generous gifts from this body of Christians, we are able to extend the offer to include pre-K through middle-schoolers instead of stopping with the fifth grade. Vouchers will be distributed Sunday, Aug. 11, 2-4 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.



Dear church friends,

Thank you so much for the nice card and for thinking of me. I saw the doctor yesterday, and he said for 90 years old that I'm doing really well.

They take good care of me here, and Sue comes often. The food is unusually good, and we play cards and bingo. Hello and good thoughts for everyone there.

Barbara Branson

Confirmation is Coming!

Beginning Saturday, Sept. 7, and completing on Easter Sunday, Apr. 20, 2025, Confirmation 24-25 is in the works! All young people age 12 and up are invited to participate. There will be seven teaching sessions led by Pastor Steve during those nine months, with the rest of the confirmation experience happening between students and their mentors (volunteers from the church).

Confirmation classes provide an opportunity to explore and ask lots of questions about the Christian faith. Sign up by calling or emailing the church office. Stay tuned for more!

620.442.4530

office@arkcityumc.com

Choir and Handbells Too!

As the summer winds down, choir and handbells pick back up! First day of practice for both ensembles is Wednesday, Aug. 28, handbells at 5:30 p.m. and choir at 6:30 p.m., both at the Edgemont campus.

Choir will perform

Sunday, Sept. 8, during worship.

If you've thought about joining, now is the time to contact Monica Wise to get your questions answered!

620.506.7728

Blessing of the Backpacks!

Be sure to attend worship Sunday, Aug. 11, and bring your school backpack, whether you're a student, a teacher, or other school support staff. Be Blessed!

Dear United Methodist Church,

We want to thank you for the delicious dinner you provided before Geneva Rain's funeral. You not only filled our bodies but also our hearts with your love and kindness as you served us.

Please accept [this gift] as our expression of love to all of you at the United Methodist Church. God bless you all!

Sincerely,

Scott Rains and family

The Church Library is located near the south entrance to the education wing. Instructions for checking out books are posted to the right of the entrance to the library.

Categories include:

Biographies

Children

Devotionals/Prayer/Faith

Encouragement

Fiction

Holidays

Love/Marriage/Family

Max Lucado

Non-Fiction

Resources

Success/Self Help/

Motivational

Young Adults

If you are unable to attend church on Sundays, search for Ark City UMC on Facebook and worship with us online Sundays at 10 a.m.



Library Highlights

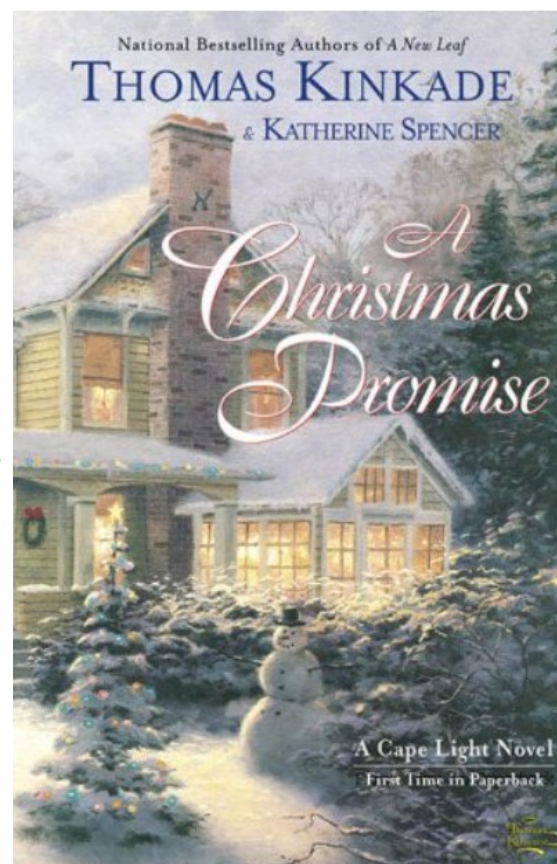
The holiday season is upon the townspeople of Cape Light. Read about a special guest, James Cameron, a minister who runs a mission in Central America. He comes to Cape Light to work with Reverend Ben and his desire is to spend time with the warmhearted residents of the town.

It's during a snowstorm when James' car collides with another car that the first hint of trouble befalls this close-knit community. No one is hurt, but out-of-towner, Leigh Baster, is forced to stay until her car is repaired. Trying to escape a troubled past, Leigh figures Cape Light could make a decent hiding place for a few days.

Read [A Christmas Promise](#) by Thomas Kinkade and Katherine Spencer to find out how a few days turns into months for Leigh as she falls in love with Cameron. Will their relationship grow in spite of her past?

Enjoy this and other novels in the church library.

~Peggy Musson



Continued

(PASTOR)

a long time (hence the name of the publication, *The Christian Century*). For fifty years or so, we have been losing that grip on social prominence. Even if we don't know statistics or pay attention to trends, we feel (and we older folks have felt for a while) how the winds have shifted. It feels extra risky to mention faith to someone, unless we already know that they're Christians themselves and like to talk about such things.

Another point that I find both intriguing and encouraging is a new trend among young people (Gen Z) of positive interest toward faith topics. No one likes being lectured or talked down to, regardless of age, and we should keep this fact in mind. At the same time, maybe we can start to imagine that, if we find appropriate ways to bring up the topic of faith, we will find receptive conversation partners.

This fall, then, I'd like to engage all interested persons in some thinking about and practicing how we share the faith with new people. This effort will not necessarily involve signing up for meetings. We can be flexible on format. It will involve some reading, perhaps, or listening to podcasts and thinking. And then we'll try some things (individually and relationally, not a new program that requires a bunch of organization). I hope to help more of us get comfortable with talking about the faith and even beginning to enjoy positive conversations with people.

Stay tuned. In the meantime, may God bless you with peace and rest in the month of August.

From Pastor Steve's Desk

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.

In case you don't know the pastor:

Rev. Stephen W. Rankin, Ph.D., is from rural Kansas. He has served churches in Italy, Illinois, and Kansas, and is retired from Southern Methodist University where he served as Chaplain of the University, after having also served as Kirk Chair of Religion at Southwestern College. He is a retired member of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

August2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7p Boy Scouts	2	3
4 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Communion Delivery to Homebound	5 7p Small Group	2 10:30a Seeking Sisters	7 10a Stepping Up Study 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6:30p ESL Teacher Training	8 7p Boy Scouts	9	10
11 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship (Bucket Sunday)  	12 9a WVQG all day 7p Small Group	13	14 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30 Share Meal, St. Paul 5:30 ESL Testing/Placement/ Training 6:30p ESL Classes Begin	15 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 7p Boy Scouts 7p SMP Live	16	17 5p Hour of Prayer & Praise
18 8:30a “Little White Lies” 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Third Sunday Fellowship Meal 12:15p Finance Trustees	19 7p Small Group	20 10:30a Seeking Sisters	21 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30 Share Meal, St. Paul 6:30 ESL, St. Paul	22 7p Boy Scouts SMP Live	23	24
25 8:30a “Little White Lies” 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Administrative Council 6	26 7p Small Group	27	28 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30 Share Meal, St. Paul Handbells 6:30 ESL, St. Paul Choir	29 7p Boy Scouts 7p SMP Live	30	31 LABOR DAY WEEKEND 7

Kid's Club and Youth Group

Weekly activities for children begin Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 6 p.m.. Kid's Club, for children pre-K through fifth grade will be led by Nicole Dawson; middle-schoolers, sixth through eighth grade by Lucy Daniel, and ninth through 12th graders by Darci Utt.

Watch your email for opportunities to sign up to serve or provide snacks!

Welcome Back Picnic

Seeking Sisters is hosting the Third Sunday Fellowship Meal in September, and they're planning a "welcome back" picnic on the lawn of the church's Edgemont campus. Plans include a hamburger cook-out, lawn games, and even a bounce house. Spread the word to members and friends whom we haven't seen since Covid!

Sign Up for the E-mail List

Weekly scripture for Reading the Bible Together are emailed out every Thursday from the church office. If you'd like to be on the email list, call the office at 620.442.4530 or send an email to office@arkcityumc.com



Reading the Bible Together

Steve and I had the privilege of living in Rome, Italy, as newly-weds. We went as youth workers to an interdenominational church in the Roman suburb, Casal Palocco, and Steve became the pastor of the church in eight short months. It was his first pastorate. The church had a board of elders who were from Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, United Methodist, and Church of Christ churches, and from atheism. They were Italian, British, Dutch, Armenian, Maltese, Sri Lankan, and American. Not only did we learn to love the Italian culture living there, but we learned to love people from different denominations and nationalities. Needless to say, it was life-changing.

I'll never forget living in Rome and opening the Bible to the book of Romans. In the opening greetings: "To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:" (Rom. 1:7) All of a sudden, the book was written to me! I read more closely and listened more attentively.

My favorite New Testament scholar, N.T. Wright, says the book of Romans is Paul's theological masterpiece. It entails a coherent argument, or rather a set of coherent arguments, from start to finish and is written in a circular fashion so that themes mentioned early in the letter come back around with a deeper argument later. It should be read regularly from start to finish. The whole book.

That's not what we're doing as we read the Bible together, but once we move on from Romans, take my advice and circle back and read the whole thing over again in one sitting. Listen for the words Paul repeats throughout the book. One such word is "righteousness" which Wright translates as "covenant faithfulness." In other words, God's righteousness is God's faithfulness to the covenant he has with human beings. So, when Paul calls the Corinthian Christians, "the righteousness of God," he's saying that through Christ, they are what God promised to Adam, and Moses, and Abraham, and David—the world—all along.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor. 5:21)

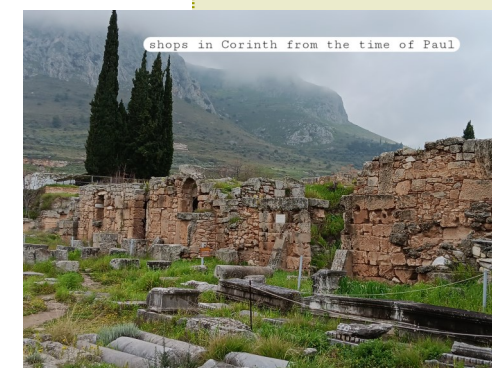
~Joni Rankin

Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.



Committees

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Monica Wise, chair
Cindy Freeland, secretary
Billie Swanson, finance
Larry Swanson, Lay Leader
Dac Call
Nancy Clarkson
Dan Deener
Deanna Kuder
Darin Mann
Russell McAlister
Sylvia McAlister
Peggy Musson
Pam Rogers
Darci Utt

FINANCE/TRUSTEES
Dac Call, chair
Deanna Kuder, secretary
Billie Swanson, finance
Larry Swanson, Lay Leader
Lynda Arnett
Dan Deener
Darin Mann
Doris Miller
Forest Smith

MEMBERSHIP
Darla Mann, chair
Ralph Keefe
Doris Miller
Joni Rankin

NOMINATING
Stephen Rankin, chair
Cindy Freeland
Cheri Morris
Jill Sullivan
Larry Swanson
Darci Utt

SPRC
Pam Rogers, chair
Alisha Call
Mykenzie Goff
Russell McAlister
Sam Oglesby
Billie Swanson

WORSHIP
Monica Wise, chair
Melba Maechtlen
Cheri Morris
Stephen Rankin

Finance Report

June 2024		2024 Year To Date	
Income	\$15,074	Income	\$148,030
Expenses	\$18,755	Expense	\$143,552

Share Meals 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	80		403	101
May	107	82	72	80	80	421	84
June	83	86	84	86		323	81
July	82	73	84	84			

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.

Committee Notes

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

- Planned conversations in October for church members to consider wedding and clergy preferences.
- Heard update on plans for confirmation classes for middle and high schoolers beginning in September.
- Approved a picnic and outdoor activities for the September Third Sunday Fellowship Meal hosted by Seeking Sisters on the Edgemont campus lawn.
- Approved a consignment-type garage sale in September. Unused items in the church building will also be offered for sale to the public.
- Approved updated fire and tornado safety plans.

FINANCE TRUSTEES

- Approved the rental of a bounce house for the third Sunday Fellowship Meal hosted by Seeking Sisters in September, provided the company has a certificate of insurance.
- Approved an all-church consignment-type garage sale in the fall.
- Continued discussion on the future of church facilities.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Reviewed and updated the church's employee policy manual.

Committee Calendar

AD COUNCIL
Every Fourth Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

FINANCE/TRUSTEES
Every third Sunday, 12:15 p.m.
(following the fellowship meal)

MEMBERSHIP
No regularly scheduled meeting time

NOMINATING
Meets as needed beginning in the fall

SPRC
Quarterly meetings in January, April, July, and October

WORSHIP
Meets as needed

If you are unable to attend church on Sundays, search for Ark City UMC on Facebook and worship with us online Sundays at 10 a.m.

