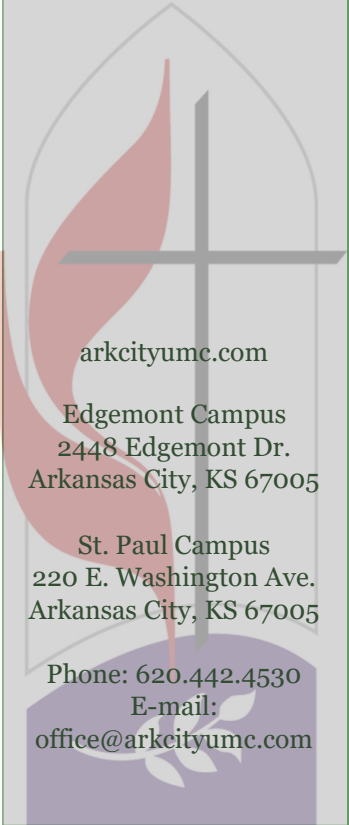


# ARKANSAS CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

|         |                     |         |                      |
|---------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Dec. 04 | Michael Munson      | Dec. 27 | Mykenzie Goff        |
| Dec. 07 | Diane Birdzell      |         | Zabreana Thompson    |
|         | Kyla Baker          |         | Carlene White        |
| Dec. 14 | Jill Sullivan       |         | Rowyn Hensen         |
| Dec. 16 | Woody Marker        | Dec. 30 | Josiah Cox           |
| Dec. 18 | Lon Pressnall       |         | Louise Smith         |
| Dec. 21 | Deanna Kuder        | Dec. 31 | Jeff Musson          |
| Dec. 23 | Joycelyn Goff       |         | Jordan Wilson        |
|         | Adah Utt            |         |                      |
| Dec. 24 | Monica Wise         |         |                      |
| Dec. 26 | Richard Hensley     |         |                      |
|         |                     |         |                      |
| Dec. 4  | JO and Pattie Brown | Dec. 12 | Glenn and Kim Walton |

*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.*

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

# Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



December 2024

The season of Advent inevitably brings out a sense of yearning in me. It's one of the two seasons of preparation (the other is Lent) in the Christian calendar. We have started getting ready for big Christmas celebrations, which come with wishes and yearnings. I'll bet some of us will be listening to Christmas music while engaged in the tasks. I've been spoiled by Sirius XM. And wow! Do we have choices for styles of Christmas music! My quick survey shows that you can choose Acoustic Christmas or Country Christmas or Holiday Pops or Holiday Soul Town. And others!

As you prepare, I encourage you to notice the yearning associated with Advent. It may be buried under the stress. Your desire may seem to be only, "I just want to get everything done on time," or "I hope those Christmas gifts I ordered on Amazon arrive before Christmas!" We also hear the yearning in "peace on earth, good will toward men" mixed in with all the other Christmas music in the shops and stores we'll be frequenting.

If we keep thinking, and listening to our hearts, we notice that the desires go further. To be at peace with God, with our loved ones, and with ourselves. We really, truly, would like all the suffering to cease, the wars to end, the conflicts and controversies to go away. We want something like how the Bible describes the garden that God created for the humans. Paradise. Shalom. All is right with the world.

For some reason, recently, an old Cass Elliot song popped into my head. (Dear young people, ask your grandparents about who Mama Cass Elliot was.) It's "There's a New World Coming," released, I think, in 1970. YouTube it.

(See PASTOR, p.3)



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- From Pastor Steve
- Puppet Ministry
- Arkalalah Chicken and Noodle Stats

*From Pastor Steve's Desk*

# Marking Our Updated Signs



Two days before Christmas 2024 marks the one-year anniversary of the addition of our United Methodist Church’s official emblem to the Edgemont campus signage. The plan to add the Cross and Flame took shape in 2007 in the Genesis Adult Sunday School class. Approximately 65 church and community members constructed and raised the emblem which was adopted at the birth of The United Methodist Church in 1968 with the merger of the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Cross and Flame symbolize the work of God in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:3)



Also newly updated is the sign on North Summit Street just off Edgemont Drive with special thanks to Steve and Lynda Arnett who spearheaded the project for the trustees.  
~Elrea Mullen and Joni Rankin

## ESL Recap

The ESL (English as a Second Language) classes for 2024 came to a close on Nov. 20. This year we had the smallest enrollment we have ever had. Thirteen students enrolled in August, but only three took the final test. We always have students who drop out or attend intermittently for various reasons. This year we had one immediately take a job in OKC and two others lost their ride to class due to their driver, also a student, working overtime. (I hope to solve the problem of lack of transportation next year. Any volunteers to give rides to those who need it?)

It turned out that most nights there were more volunteers than students. This was not a bad thing as comradeship developed among those who were not busy. A big thank you to all the volunteers! Note that four volunteers came from outside our church.

- Extra help for enrollment and placement testing – Doris Miller, Betty Rhodes, Julie Swanson and Sandy Smith
- Weekly attendance taker – Cheri Morris
- Security – Jon Oak
- Translator – Mary Loya
- Nursery – Vicki Hensley and Merylene Wentworth with Linda Neal substituting
- Teachers – Lynda Arnett, Shanna Brown, Patty Foster, Karen Goatley, Sylvia McAlister, and Joni Rankin.

At this point, I am planning to have classes start again in August 2025. That will be our eleventh year.  
~Nancy Clarkson, ESL Coordi-

(PASTOR, continued from p. 1)

Here are some of the lyrics: “There’s a new world coming, and it’s just around the bend. There’s a new world coming; one’s coming to an end. There’s a new voice calling; you can hear it if you try.” And then the song ends with “coming in peace, coming in joy, coming in love.”

It was the yearning of a generation; for the Vietnam war to end; for racial violence and injustice to cease. Sadly, as one of the YouTube commenters said, while praising Cass Elliot’s voice, “We’ve been waiting for this new day for more than 50 years.”

It’s hard to wait, but the gospel keeps us oriented. As we prepare to remember our Lord’s birth and his coming again, we yearn with expectant hope. The prophet Isaiah prayed, “O that you would rend the heavens and come down” (64:1). That is exactly what God did. In Christ Jesus, he came to dwell among us. And he has promised the new day. It will come. In the meantime, we wait. We yearn, expectantly, in Christian confidence.

May your Christmas preparations proceed with Christ’s love surrounding you.

*From Pastor Steve’s Desk*

## Christmas Cards Exchange



*Dear Methodist Church~  
Thank you for thinking of me  
at graduation. I appreciate  
all the cards and well wishes.*

*Halle Bucher*

*Dear Methodist Church~  
Thank you for all the graduation  
cards and gifts. I greatly  
appreciate everything.*

*Blake Bucher*

*Thank you for your faithful  
outreach to us throughout the  
year. Each card is treasured.*  
*Donald and Ann Hastings*

December 2024

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Monday                                                      | Tuesday                                                                            | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                       | Thursday                                                        | Friday                                                                       | Saturday |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>1 First Sunday in Advent</b><br><b>8:30a Sunday School</b><br><b>8:45a Scouts Duty to God</b><br><b>9:30a Fellowship Coffee</b><br><b>10a Worship, Communion</b><br><b>11:15a Communion Delivery</b><br><b>Confirmation Class</b><br><b>Christmas Program Practice</b><br><b>4p Faithbuilders</b> | 2<br><br><br><br><br><br><br>7p Small Group                 | 3<br>10:30a Seeking Sisters                                                        | 4<br>5p Prayer + at St. Paul<br>5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul;<br>Handbells; Cub Scout Meeting<br>6p Kid’s Club Youth Group<br>6:30p Choir Practice;<br>Cub Scouts | 5<br>Church Floors Being Waxed<br><br><br><br>5:30p Girl Scouts | 6<br>Church Floors Being Waxed                                               | 7        |
| <b>8 Second Sunday in Advent</b><br><b>8:30a Sunday School</b><br><b>8:45a Scouts Duty to God</b><br><b>9:30a Fellowship Coffee</b><br><b>10a Worship, Bucket Sunday</b><br><b>11:15a Christmas Program Practice</b><br><b>2:30p Music Club Concert</b><br><b>4p Faithbuilders</b>                   | 9<br><br><br>5p WV Quilt Guild<br><br>7p Small Group Scouts | 10                                                                                 | 11<br><br><br>5p Prayer + at St. Paul<br>5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul;<br>Handbells<br>6p Kid’s Club Youth Group<br>6:30p Choir Practice;<br>Cub Scouts           | 12<br><br><br>5:30p Girl Scouts                                 | 13<br><br><br>6:30-8:30p Live Nativity Drive Through, Bible Christian Church | 14       |
| <b>15 Third Sunday in Advent</b><br><b>8:30a Sunday School</b><br><b>8:45a Scouts Duty to God</b><br><b>9:30a Fellowship Coffee</b><br><b>10a Worship, Christmas Program</b><br><b>11:15a Finance/Trustees</b><br><b>4p Faithbuilders</b><br><b>5p Fellowship Meal/Caroling</b>                      | 16<br><br><br><br><br><br>7p Small Group                    | 17<br>10:30a Seeking Sisters<br><br><br>6 p Nikki Kirk Voice/Piano Student Recital | 18<br><br><br>1:30p UWF<br><br>5p Prayer + at St. Paul<br>5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul;<br>Handbells<br>6:30p Choir Practice                                      | 19<br><br><br>5:30p Girl Scouts                                 | 20                                                                           | 21       |
| <b>22 Forth Sunday in Advent</b><br><b>8:30a Sunday School</b><br><b>8:45a Scouts Duty to God</b><br><b>9:30a Fellowship Coffee</b><br><b>10a Worship</b><br><b>11:15a Administrative Council</b><br><b>4p Faithbuilders</b>                                                                         | 23<br><br><br><br><br><br>7p Small Group                    | 24<br><br><br>5:00p Christmas Eve Service                                          | 25<br>CHRISTMAS DAY<br><br>Office Closed                                                                                                                        | 26<br><br>Office Closed                                         | 27                                                                           | 28       |
| <b>29</b><br><b>8:30a Sunday School</b><br><b>8:45a Scouts Duty to God</b><br><b>9:30a Fellowship Coffee</b><br><b>10a Worship, Contemporary</b><br><b>4p Faithbuilders</b>                                                                                                                          | 30<br><br><br>7p Small Group                                | 31                                                                                 | NEW YEARS DAY<br><br>Office Closed                                                                                                                              |                                                                 |                                                                              |          |

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  
Curt Freeland  
Cheri Morris  
Jill Sullivan  
Larry Swanson, ex officio

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

| October  |          | 2024 Year To Date |           |
|----------|----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Income   | \$31,235 | Income            | \$258,576 |
| Expenses | \$20,644 | Expense           | \$231,917 |

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   | 82   | 405   | 81   |
| Aug.  | 82   | 84   | 88   | 88   |      | 342   | 86   |
| Sept. | 100  | 104  | 100  | 81   |      | 385   | 96   |
| Oct.  | 102  | 101  | 101  | 80   |      | 384   | 96   |
| Nov.  | 95   | 102  | 103  |      |      | 300   |      |



Drop by or call the church office to sponsor a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. You may also send an email to [office@arkcityum.com](mailto:office@arkcityum.com)

Committee Notes

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

- Approved the removal of inactive members from the membership roll per Charge Conference.
- Received the Charge Conference 2024 packet.

FINANCE TRUSTEES

- Replaced the church’s signage on Summit St.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

- Made plans for a new memorial policy to include plans for both church campuses.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Developed a proposal to begin Sunday School for children in January 2025. The proposal is on hold until after the new year.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- Scheduled worship for holiday services.

Don’t Be In Such a Hurry



“According to my Advent Calendar, there are only three more days until Christmas,” says every United Methodist who loves Christmas carols.

Additional

EDUCATION

Darci Utt  
Jill Sullivan  
Joni Rankin

MEMORIAL

Cheri Morris  
Billie Swanson  
Howard Griffin

Meeting Schedules

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

EDUCATION

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.

