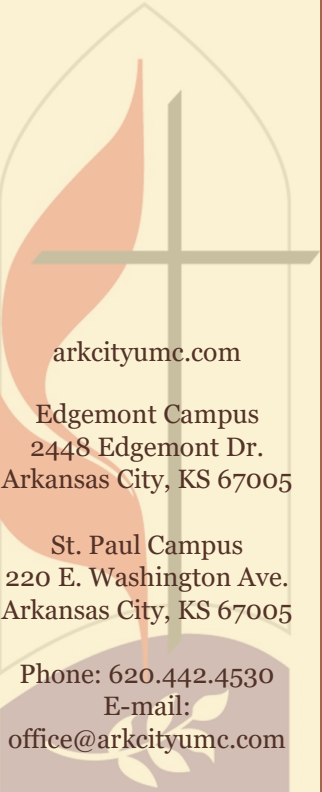


ARKANSAS CITY
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Our mission is to make
disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of
the world.

Our vision is to help peo-
ple become deeply com-
mitted Christians who
live authentic lives mod-
eled after Jesus Christ to
make a
difference in our com-
munity 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

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Oct. 1	Aaron Bucher	Oct. 19	Vicki Hensley
	Forest Smith		Lori Bland
Oct. 2	Clint Bryant		Ellie Didion
	Sandra Rush	Oct. 21	Cheri Morris
	Richard Thomas		Andrea Petry
	Matthew Sullivan	Oct. 22	Jennifer Collins
Oct. 3	LaDonna Bazil	Oct. 26	Dan Richards
Oct. 4	Journey Dykes	Oct. 27	Terri Schroeder
Oct. 5	Deborah Hunt		May Belle Evinger
Oct. 7	Charlotte Schmidt		Darin Mann
Oct. 8	Pam Bryant		Ayla Retzer
Oct. 9	Sharon Coggins	Oct. 28	Janis Goff
Oct. 11	Jett Soule		Kim Walton
	Sam Oglesby	Oct. 29	Cindy Freeland
Oct. 13	Pam Rogers	Oct. 30	Gracelan Dixon
Oct. 16	Kaeli Sullivan		Rodger Maechtlen
Oct. 19	Price Allen	Oct. 31	John Bazil
	John Cook		Arleta Rice Folks
Oct. 10	LaDonna and John Bazil	Oct. 23	Diane and Lloyd Birdzell
	Vicki and Richard Hensley	Oct. 31	Pam and Pat Rogers

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



October 2024

As I write this piece, fall has officially arrived, we received some much-needed rain, and Arkalalah preparations have begun. Fall is one of my favorite times.

This year, it comes with a feeling of sober responsibility. Some of you are aware of the difficulties The United Methodist Church has been experiencing. By the time you receive this October newsletter, the convening conference of the Global Methodist Church (GMC) will have taken place in San Jose, Costa Rica, and a new denomination will have formed. That new denomination came about from the disaffiliations of congregations from the UMC.

“Why did churches disaffiliate?” you might be asking. As is so often the case, different people give differing answers. Certainly, among the most controversial have been disagreements about whether we should bless same-sex marriages and ordain non-celibate gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender people. This topic has gotten most of the attention in press and conversation. Opinions among General Conference delegates who represent annual conferences – we’re in the Great Plains Annual Conference – generally have broken into three categories. Using the most common terms for these groups, the Traditionalists maintain that scripture and the church’s historic ethical teachings forbid the approval of same-sex relationships. Progressives argue that the scriptures do not forbid consensual same-sex relationships and that all sexualities are part of God’s good creation. Centrists want to leave the ethical decision to local churches and individual clergy, insisting that the church can stay together even though we disagree about sexuality.

(See PASTOR, p.4)

From Pastor Steve’s Desk



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST

- Upcoming Opportunities for Children
- Safe Gatherings
- Congregational Feedback sought
- Meet the Kids and Youth

Summer Lawn ✓

Blazing sun, high temps, and dusty winds did not stop our dedicated lawn-mowing volunteers from their weekly grass meeting on the church lawn!

Thank you all so much for signing up and spending your summer days cutting, edging, spraying, and watering. Our church is beautifully kept because of you all!

~Blessings, Lynda Arnett,
(trustee coordinating lawn mowing)

Puppeteers Wanted!

Who: 6th, 7th, and 8th graders

When: Beginning Wed. Oct. 16
5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall
(just before Kid's Club
and Youth Group)

With: Lynda Arnett and Jill Sullivan

Come join the fun!

Four Live Nativity Volunteers

Four volunteers are needed for the Christmas Live Nativity at Bible Christian Fellowship Church Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13 and 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Arkansas City United Methodist Church is sponsoring the vignette of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary. It requires two sets of each, Gabriel and Mary, in case it is cold and volunteers need the chance to warm up. Call the church office to volunteer!

Safe Gatherings

At the September Administrative Council meeting, the council reaffirmed the church's commitment to follow Safe Gatherings protocol, which lays out safety measures for volunteers serving children and vulnerable adults.

Safe Gatherings requires two trained volunteers in each setting where children or vulnerable adults are served. (i.e. nursery, children's church, communion delivery to homebound, etc.).

Nursery and children's church are in need of additional Safe Gatherings approved volunteers! If you are called to serve children and/or the parents of small children, consider becoming a Safe Gatherings-

approved volunteer for either of these ministries.

If you are currently serving children or vulnerable adults and are not Safe Gatherings approved, call the church office to arrange your free training and background check.

**2024 Annual
Chicken 'n Noodle
Dinner**

\$10.00 per meal
Homemade noodles
Homemade roll
Green beans, Potatoes
Water bottle
Chocolate or white cake

**Take-Out
Meals ONLY**

Saturday, Oct. 26
Pick-up between 11am-1pm
St. Paul UMC
220 E. Washington
Tables will be set-up outside
weather permitting.

It is best to preorder if possible.
Tickets sold at the door until 1:00 or we run out of food.

**PreOrder Information Posted on
Church Facebook Page,
Ark City UMC, Arkansas City, KS**

Thank you for supporting our church!

**HOUR OF
PRAYER &
*praise***

**SATURDAY
Oct. 19
@ 5 P.M.**

St. Paul Campus of
Arkansas City United
Methodist Church
220 E. Washington

Continued From the Pastor's Desk

(PASTOR)

The position of The United Methodist Church, until this past May 2024, has been that we do not permit gay weddings to be done on United Methodist Church properties, nor do we ordain non-celibate, openly gay or lesbian clergy candidates. This most recent General Conference (the policy-setting body for the whole denomination) removed all restrictive language regarding same-sex relationships. It is now permissible for UM clergy and congregations to perform and to host gay and lesbian weddings.

There is much more I could say (and, if you want to follow up for individual conversation, I'm happy to talk), but this is enough, I think, to provide context for the need we have now to get a sense of what congregants prefer here locally. On page 5 in this newsletter, our Administrative Council Chair, Monica Wise, provides instructions for how we will discern what we will communicate to the district superintendent. When it is time for the bishop and cabinet to make pastoral appointments, they have asked for, and will have, a sense about whether ACUMC is willing to permit same-sex weddings on its properties and whether the church would receive a non-celibate gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender pastor.

Bishop David Wilson made a [short video](#) stating what the General Conference decisions mean and what they don't mean. If you cannot access the link above, you can request the link by emailing the church office at office@arkcityumc.com. I strongly encourage you to watch it. It's 3 1/2 minutes long.

As your pastor, I believe I bear responsibility to help you make as informed a decision as possible. To that end, I have made a [video](#) (fair warning, longer than 3 1/2 minutes) listing the important topics and summarizing different viewpoints to help you discern. Let the church office know if you want the link to that video too.

With all this in mind, our Administrative Council solicits your feedback.

(See MORE, p.5)

Continued From the Pastor's Desk

(MORE)

Finally, let us continue to share in Christ's love for one another. We can bear witness to that love as we deal with a difficult and contentious topic that provokes strong feelings. This moment is a good time for us to show what the love of Christ is like in a community where not everyone thinks the same. I've been praying much about this matter and will continue to do so. Please join me.

God bless you richly.

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Give Your Input

Because of the changes to the Book of Discipline related to same-sex marriage and the ordination of openly gay and lesbian person, and because Bishop Wilson has asked for local churches to make their preferences known, the Administrative Council has decided to take a straw poll from our congregation. If you participate in the life of Arkansas City United Methodist church, your input is welcome, regardless of official membership status.

Sunday, October 13, following worship, you will have the opportunity to answer two questions regarding your convictions. Each person will receive a straw poll ballot containing the relevant statements, with a box to check your agreement or disagreement. No identifying information will be requested with the straw poll. It does not represent an official policy, only a statement of congregational preference. This information will help the DS and his cabinet with future decisions.

~Monica Wise, Administrative Council chair

Thank you for your donation. Your generous gift will make it possible for us to provide a quality education to many. We are infinitely thankful.

~Your friends at
Lydia Patterson
Institute

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:30a Seeking Sisters 2p Deboning Chicken, St. Paul	2 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul Handbell Practice 6p Kid's Club Youth Group 6:30p ESL, St. Paul Choir Practice Cub Scouts	3 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live Scouting America	4	5
6 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Communion Delivery to Homebound 6p Faithbuilders	7 7p Small Group	8	9 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul Handbell Practice Cub Scouts Meeting 6p Kid's Club Youth Group 6:30p ESL, Choir Practice Cub Scouts	10 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live Scouting America	11	12
13 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship (Bucket Sunday) 6p Faithbuilders	14 All Day WV Quilt Guild 7p Small Group	15 10:30a Seeking Sisters 1p Nominating Committee	16 1:30p UWF 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul Handbell Practice 6p Kid's Club Youth Group 6:30p ESL Choir Practice Cub Scouts	17 5 :30p Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall 7p SMP Live Scouting America	28	19 5p Hour of Praise & Prayer
20 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Third Sunday Fellowship Meal 12:15p Finance Trustees 6p Faithbuilders	21 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7p Small Group	22 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Scouts, Kitchen	23 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul Handbell Practice Cub Scouts 6:30p Choir Practice	24 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	25	26 Arkalalah Chicken 'n Noodle Dinner @ St. Paul 11a-1p
27 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Administrative Council 6p Faithbuilders	28 7p Small Group	29 7p SPRC	30 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul Handbell Practice Cub Scouts 6p Kid's Club Youth Group 6:30p ESL Choir Practice	31 HALLOWEEN 7p SMP Live		

Kid's Club and Youth Group

We have kicked off a great semester of Kid's Club and Youth Group. Having Lucy as our intern makes it possible for us to have a separate group for the middle school students. If you happen to have bean bag chairs, or other seating you aren't using the middle school would love to take them off your hands. We have a very active group of students. If you have time in your schedule to support them at their events, they would love to see you! These are your current active Wednesday night students:

Intern Lucy Daniel - Southwestern College junior, Discipleship, Worship Outreach, track, chapel

Ellie Didion - senior at Newkirk High School. Club soccer in Ponca. Newkirk High School soccer. Teacher prep program at Pioneer Tech

Mykaylee Goff - junior at ACHS. ACHS cheerleader, marching band (clarinet), Purple Wave flag team, National Honor Society, FFA, Skills USA, FCA, SADD Club, works at Pumpkin Pants Ranch

Kenan Flanders - Junior at ACHS, Football

Haylea Sampson - junior ACHS, club softball, ACHS volleyball, basketball, & softball, Hope Squad, StuCo, FCA, National Honor Society

Cameron Layton - junior ACHS, SADD Club, FCA, Hope Squad

Journey Dykes - sophomore ACHS, band (trombone), theatre, fall musical (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*), National Honor Society, Hope Squad

Matthew Sullivan - sophomore ACHS

Lauryn Coursey - sophomore ACHS, SADD Club, theatre, choir, fall musical (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*), National Honor Society, Hope Squad

Bentlea Sampson - freshman ACHS, club softball, ACHS volleyball, basketball, & softball, Hope Squad, FCA

Clark Kirk - 8th grade ACMS, band (percussion)

Trevor Drake - 8th grade homeschool, guitar, church confirmation class

Felicity Dykes - 7th Grade ACMS, ACMS Tennis & Basketball, ACMS Choir, Theatre, Kays Club, SADD Club, Hope Squad, FCA, Voice Lessons, Church Confirmation Class

Brian Wise - 7th Grade Dexter, Dexter Football, Basketball, Band (Trombone), School Choir, Guitar

More Youth

Kieran Sullivan - 7th grade ACMS, basketball, wrestling

Reid Call - 6th grade ACMS, ACMS orchestra (cello), piano, ACMS choir, Kays Club, FCA, book club, voice lessons, church confirmation class

Melody Drake - 6th grade ACMS, band (snare drums & bells), book Club, Girl Scouts, church confirmation class

Chloe Kirk - 6th grade ACMS, band (trumpet), Girl Scouts, Southwestern Children's Choir

Cailynn Layton - 6th grade ACMS, orchestra (viola), Kays Club

Olivia Dawson - 4th grade Jefferson, rec soccer, basketball, track, tennis, piano, Southwestern Children's Choir

Adah Utt - 3rd grade C4, rec soccer, basketball, track, tennis, piano, Southwestern Children's Choir

Alister Henson - 2nd grade Adams

Rowyn Henson - kindergarten Adams

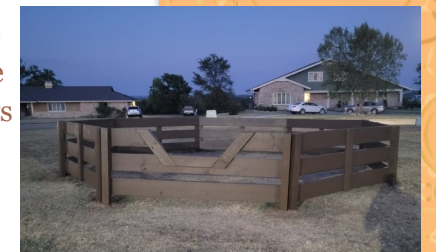
Max Utt - 3 years old



In case you've noticed what looks like a pen for animals on the church lawn, just south of the lawn mower shed, meet Swea Gootee. She is on her way to becoming an Eagle Scout, and this pen is her Eagle Scout project: a gaga ball pit.

Gaga ball is a gentler version of the old dodgeball game. It is played within the walls of a pit like this, and players eliminate each other by hitting them in the legs with a ball. The winner is the last person remaining.

Gootee is a member of the Scouting America troop that meets in the church Thursday nights. She is a junior at Ark City High School. In addition to scouting, she is on the FFA officer team, plays in the orchestra, enjoys going to leadership camps, meeting new people, and getting out of her comfort zone. Her parents are Travis and Lillie Gootee.



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

August 2024		2024 Year To Date	
Income	\$26,030	Income	\$207,850
Expenses	\$20,829	Expense	\$186,041

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				

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

- Appointed a focus group to propose a vision for utilizing two campuses. Their report is expected in January.
- Reaffirmed the church’s commitment to abide by Safe Gatherings policy to safeguard volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults.
- Confirmed the need to continue monthly meetings rather than quarterly.
- Approved appointment of Memorial Committee members, Cheri Morris, Billie Swanson, and Howard Griffin

FINANCE TRUSTEES

- Meeting cancelled for all-church picnic.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- Requested that the Education Committee plan a children’s Christmas program.
- Planning an all-church caroling party on Dec. 15 or 22.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Working to clean up church membership and participant records.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- Began meetings to gear up for Charge Conference and for 2025 at AC UMC.

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.

