

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

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept. 2	Cruz Soule	Sept. 18	Don Hastings
Sept. 7	John Bottomley		Billie Swanson
Sept. 8	Travis Brown	Sept. 19	Kyle Anstine
Sept. 9	David Messenger	Sept. 20	Donovan Arrowsmith
	Serenity Wilson		Grainger Graham
Sept. 10	Haylea Sampson	Sept. 21	David Billings
Sept. 11	Steve Collingsworth		Jeff Shaw
	Jaycee Graham		Marcella Suckley
Sept. 13	Marty Nuckols		Adam Utt
Sept. 14	Katie Phillips	Sept. 22	Michael Musson
Sept. 15	Lloyd Birdzell	Sept. 27	Kat Rogers
Sept. 16	Ladonna Anstine	Sept. 28	Patrick Simmons
Sept. 18	Douglas Anstine	Sept. 29	Darlene Kinzie
	Steven Archer		
Sept. 1	Cindy and Curt Freeland	Sept. 16	Alisha and Dac Call

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



September 2024

I recently read a book that included the intriguing phrase, “cruel optimism.” It describes something we know in lots of different areas of life. For example, you want to lose weight. You try one diet. It doesn’t work, so you try another diet. It works for a little while and then doesn’t. So, you try yet another diet and it, too, disappoints, but you keep looking. You keep trying.

Maybe diet is not your issue. Maybe it’s New Years resolutions. Each year you make them. Each year, after a few tries, you give up in boredom or discouragement. Whatever habit you may be trying to quit, or whatever new habit you may be trying to develop, we are all very aware of the fact that, lots and lots of times, the effort doesn’t produce what we envision it to produce.

But we keep trying. The cruel optimism is thinking that “this time,” the diet, the New Years resolution, the new technique, will work. This time. The optimism lies in the assumption that we are able to do whatever it was we tried and failed to do. The cruelty is that our optimism so often disappoints.

The opening line of the old hymn, “Fill My Cup, Lord,” gets at the same point: “Like the woman at the well, I was seeking for things that could not satisfy.”

(See PASTOR. p.5)



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Fall Garage Sale
- Confirmation Begins
- Welcome Back Picnic

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Fall Consignment Garage Sale

Spread the word that we're having a large consignment garage sale at the church Friday, Sept. 27, and Saturday, Sept. 28. If you want to sell your extra "stuff," call the church office to reserve a table. Here's how it will work:

- Bring your things to the church Thursday or Friday morning and set up 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.
- 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!)

In Addition:

Some very capable and thorough volunteers have gone through the church building to sort items to sell for the church. Come to the sale if you're interested in purchasing any of the church's "extras."

Habitat for Humanity



"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16

Are you interested in helping others? It really is rewarding. Habitat for Humanity of Arkansas City is looking for volunteers in various areas: board

members, family selection, fundraising, and building and construction. Anyone interested in helping with this endeavor, please join us on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall to discover more.

~ Curt and Cindy Freeland

Confirmation Launches!

Nearly 40 invitations were mailed to youth ages 12 through 17 inviting them to participate in Confirmation 24-25. These 40 young people are associated with AC UMC either as baptized members or participants in Kid's Club or Youth Group. If you've ever wondered, "Where have all our children and youth gone?" the answer is that many of them are still here, and some need reminded that they belong to the church!

In addition to meetings with Pastor Steve, each confirmation participant will be matched with a mentor who will meet with them at least seven times during the academic year. Will you be a mentor? (You'll receive training.) Call or email the church with your, "Yes!"

620.442.4530

office@arkcityumc.com

Shoe Project Thanks

Thanks so much to those who made 376 Arkansas City children happy with a new pair of shoes to start school. Whether you assisted monetarily (43 church members gave \$4,038), helped prepare the July third Sunday meal, or provided prayers for success, thank you. The Shoe Project was also made possible by \$1,000 from the Kiwanis Club of Ark City, \$500 from Rotary Club members of Ark City, \$750 from the White Foundation (Bob and Pat White, family of Pam Archer), \$1,750 from Walmart Community Grant, and a large anonymous donation. The shoes were available for pre-K through eighth grade with 404 vouchers handed out. A special "Thank you" to Pam Archer, Ann Oglesby, Peggy Bennett, Darla Mann, Marcia Musson, Peggy Musson, Lynda Arnett, Cathy Wilcox, Curt Freeland, and Charlotte Schmidt who assisted on distribution day, and to Joni Rankin for working many hours to obtain the Walmart grant. Great job helping Arkansas City Children!

Until next year...



Library Highlights

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

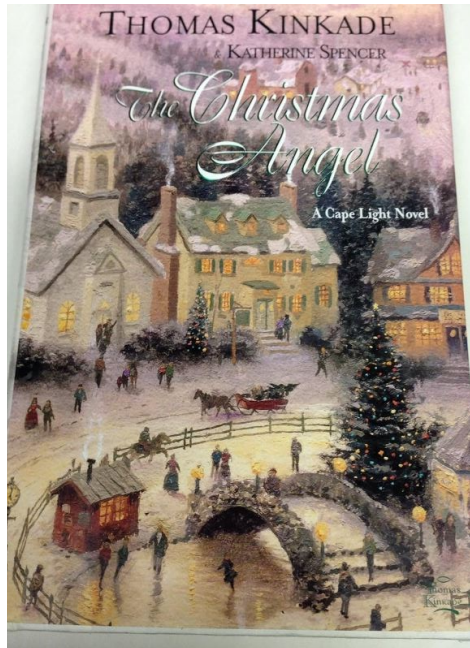
Young Adults

Book three, written by Thomas Kinkade and Katherine Spencer, is much like books one and two that we have explored in other Library Highlights: it will not disappoint as it keeps the reader captivated from chapter to chapter. Christmas is always the most peaceful time of year in Cape Light. But there will be more magic and wonder than usual this year.

Experience that awe as Mayor Emily Warwick jogs one morning and comes upon an abandoned new born baby. She gets temporary custody of the child while an investigation is underway to locate the child's mother or other relatives.

What happens to Baby Jane and the lives touched by this innocent child in the heart-warming book, The Christmas Angel, is one of great satisfaction and enjoyment.

~Peggy Musson



Christmas in Arkansas City

Arkansas City United Methodist Church is participating in the live nativity at Bible Christian Fellowship Church Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13 and 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The vignette of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary requires two volunteers. Let Lynda Arnett know if you want to participate in this moving Christmas tradition.

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.



Continued

(PASTOR)

God created us as desiring beings. We desire to do right, to be good. We desire a good life, *the* good life. The ultimate good that humans desire is God. Rather than succumb to cruel optimism, we trust in a good God who has power to bring to pass our holy desires.

The Christian life is characterized by desire. We desire a rich, meaningful relationship with God, and God is faithful to meet us. How? Through the practices of the church: worship, study, prayer, meditation, fasting, serving.

The church is a community of people who desire to know God and to be known by God. This fall, we're focusing on scriptural images of the church, and we're thinking about how our hearts respond to those images. The church is a community where we can grow together, encouraging one another by speaking the truth in love.

Maybe you know someone who has dropped out of the church experience. This season is a good time to invite them to rejoin us. Maybe you know someone thinking about what it means to be a Christian. You could invite that person, too. We're learning together what it means to be Christian, and, together, to be the church.

I encourage you to use our fellowship picnic on September 15 as the opportunity to invite someone. Let your light shine! Remember, we are desiring beings. People you know desire good. The ultimate good is God. Let's help people meet him.

Help a Pastor Out!

I've been challenged by the Cowley House of Hope board to raise funds for the new temporary homeless shelter. (I missed the fundraising run!) Please consider sending a donation to the church designated for the Cowley House of Hope. We'll make sure they receive our contributions!

~ Steve

From Pastor Steve's Desk

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Communion Delivery to Homebound	2 LABOR DAY Office Closed 7p Small Group	3 10:30a Seeking Sisters	4 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul Handbell Practice Cub Scouts 6p Kid’s Club Youth Group 6:30p ESL Teacher Training Choir Practice	5 5:30p Scouts 1328 7p Scouts 328 7p SMP Live	6	7 9—noon Arkalalah Noodles at St. Paul 11a-1p Confirmation Launch @ Camp Horizon
8 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship (Bucket Sunday)	9 5p Quilt Guild 7p Small Group	10	11 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul Handbell Practice Cub Scouts 6p Kid’s Club Youth Group 6:30p ESL Teacher Training Choir Practice	12 5:30p Scouts 1328 7p Scouts 328 7p SMP Live	13	14
15 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Third Sunday Fellowship Meal 12:15p Finance Trustees	16 7p Small Group	17 10:30a Seeking Sisters 1p Nominating Committee	18 1:30p UWF 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul Handbell Practice Cub Scouts 6p Kid’s Club Youth Group 6:30p ESL Teacher Training Choir Practice	19 5:30p Scouts 1328 6:30 Habitat Meeting 7p Scouts 328 7p SMP Live	20	21 All day Kiwanis, kitchen 5p Hour of Prayer & Praise
22 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Administrative Council	23 7p Small Group	24	25 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul Handbell Practice Cub Scouts 6p Kid’s Club Youth Group 6:30p ESL Teacher Training Choir Practice	26 5:30p Scouts 1328 7p Scouts 328 7p SMP Live	27 All-Church Consignment Garage Sale Friday noon through Saturday 1 p.m.	28
29 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 6	30 Piano tuning 7p Small Group					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!

YOU'RE INVITED!!!!

**KID'S CLUB: PRESCHOOL-5TH GRADE
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: 6TH-8TH GRADE
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: 9TH-12TH GRADE**

**WEDNESDAYS, 6-7:30
DINNER IS PROVIDED**

**ARK CITY UMC
2448 EDMONT DR.
USE DOOR #9
COME TO THE GYM**

**CALL OR TEXT DARCI
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
620-441-8196**

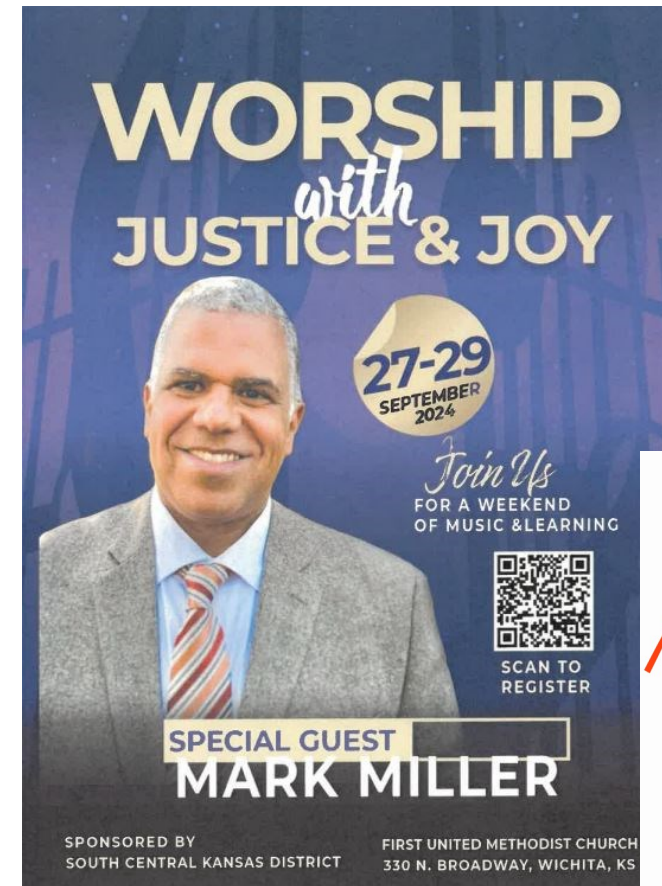


Welcome Back Picnic

Seeking Sisters is hosting the Third Sunday Fellowship Meal in September (Sunday, Sept. 15), 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



Additional Worship Opportunities



WORSHIP
with
JUSTICE & JOY

**27-29
SEPTEMBER
2024**

Join Us
FOR A WEEKEND
OF MUSIC & LEARNING

**SPECIAL GUEST
MARK MILLER**

SPONSORED BY
SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS DISTRICT

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
330 N. BROADWAY, WICHITA, KS



**HOUR OF
PRAYER &
*praise***

SATURDAY
Sept. 21
@ 5 P.M.

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

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.

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

July 2024		2024 Year To Date	
Income	\$33,789	Income	\$181,820
Expenses	\$21,660	Expense	\$165,212

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			86

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

- Heard from trustees on plans to revise church sign on Summit.
- Considered Scouts’ request for additional space.
- Heard plans for Kid’s Club and Youth Group.
- Accepted Cindy Freeland and Deb Collingsworth as volunteer wedding coordinators in anticipation of an October wedding.
- Discussed a proposal of four options for regular worship at St. Paul campus. Voting planned for September meeting.
- Considered pursuing grant options for Spanish speaking ministry/worship opportunities.

FINANCE TRUSTEES

- Received a proposal for the church sign on north Summit.
- Continuing research on church sanctuary lighting.
- Continuing discussion on the future of church facilities.
- Approved an additional security camera installation in the hall facing the south doors but retained locking procedure.
- Initiated contact with the Arkansas City Fire Department for planning and implementation of smoke detectors/alarms.
- Approved repair of water line that feeds the north hallway and two kitchen faucets.

Additional

EDUCATION
Darci Utt
Jill Sullivan
Joni Rankin

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

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