

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.

Address Correction
Requested

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

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Feb. 03	Michael O'Hara	Feb. 12	Stella Rogers
	Daren Reese	Feb. 13	Brookelyn Sanburn
	John Nielsen	Feb. 15	Natasha Bucher
Feb. 05	Phyllis McCorgary		Emilee Wells
	Eric Rogers	Feb. 16	Virginia Wells
	Maranda McMichael	Feb. 17	Darla Mann
Feb. 06	Ray Wentworth	Feb. 21	Janice Bobek
	Linda Long	Feb. 22	Joann Goff
	Pam Messenger	Feb. 23	Kevin Lowery
	Morgan Cruz		Josiah Amezcua
Feb. 08	David Call	Feb. 24	Darci Sampson
Feb. 09	Elrea Mullen	Feb. 25	Dac Call
	Peggy Thomas		Kaitlyn Moore
	Wyatt Dickey	Feb. 27	Linda Rahn
Feb. 11	Betty Tanner		Nick Rogers
	Barbara Branson		
	Pat Rogers	Feb. 16	Deanna & Dennis Kuder

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



February 2025

Ah, the month of February. Are thoughts of love coming to your mind? Do you have Valentine’s Day plans?

It reminds me of a comical story from my high school days. I was a senior, 17 years old, and less than a month away from graduating. I had joined a Christian singing group – the Challengers (it was the 70s) – which I have mentioned a time or two in messages. God used our leader, Betty Jo Banks, to make a huge impact on my relationship with God.

Betty Jo had a daughter, who sang in the group. Her name was Bekki. She had a gorgeous voice and was very pretty, and we were about the same age, and we met through the group. The sparks flew, the stars aligned, and we started dating. She came to my senior prom, and I went to hers. It was great fun and, since we were seniors and felt oh, so grown up(!), it all seemed pretty momentous.

One evening, we were sitting together in the moonlight, talking (yes, just talking). I’m not the most demonstrative guy when it comes to affection. I’m pretty reserved, actually, but I really liked Bekki, so I worked up the nerve to say, in a playful voice, “You know, I kinda’ like you.” All of a sudden, things got serious. She looked at me with big doe eyes and said, “You know, I don’t think I *just* like you.” Now, pay attention to the word order. What I heard her say was, “You know, I just don’t think I like you.” I was, to say the least, stunned. I had just made a sincere if lame play and she appeared to be shutting me down, which was very confusing. So, I said, “Well, maybe we shouldn’t be here.” Again, the doe eyes: “I don’t think you understand,” she said. “I think I love you.”

Uh oh. Totally uncharted territory here.

The relationship didn’t last long. Mercifully, an old flame came along and swept Bekki off her feet, and she dumped me.

God worked mysteriously though powerfully in that experience. The Challengers had a bunch of teenage kids in it, and

(See PASTOR, p.3)



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Edgemont Campus Update
- Join SMP Live

We’re back to activities at the Edgemont Campus beginning Sunday Feb. 2!

From Pastor Steve’s Desk

Edgemont Campus Update

Work is finally complete on the water line at the Edgemont Campus. The building is up and running again. Plumber Bob replaced the church's water line with PEX from the south side of the south parking lot to the Edgemont Drive water main. In addition, the building received a sewer cleanout and a ball valve pressure check on the north end of the building.

Thanks be to God that Arkansas City United Methodist Church hasn't missed a beat because of the hidden gem in our St. Paul Campus where the church has worshipped from the end of Advent, through Christmastide, and into 2025.

Members of Administrative Council are currently in discussion on the best way for the church's

physical assets to help accomplish the mission and vision of this local congregation in this time and place. All the church's properties provide possibilities for a hopeful future of fruit-



Cards of Thanks!

Thank you for the prayers, well wishes, and cards sent to me after my hip replacement surgery. I'm progressing at a normal rate after six weeks. I appreciate you.

Sandy Smith

ful ministry in Arkansas City. Please be in prayer for a clear and strong vision of how the physical assets of Arkansas City United Methodist Church can bless the Kingdom of God!



(PASTOR, continued from p. 1)

Bekki and I were part of the leadership group. Our younger peers watched me anxiously to see how I would handle things. The old flame had joined the singing group too, so things got awkward fast.

I learned something of God's love in that painful (for the moment) teenage experience. I learned of God's faithfulness, of the love of Christian brothers and sisters, of the Body of Christ. It was a great lesson. The Challengers were like family. I could have reacted to the injustice of being dumped in ways that harmed the group. I didn't, not because I was such a put-together guy. I really wasn't. God gave me a desire, plain and simple, to forgive, to make peace.

Valentine's Day is the Feast of Saint Valentine, a saint who ministered to persecuted Christians during Roman Empire days. Through him, God's love and faithfulness was made plain. You don't need a cheesy card from anyone to be reminded that God loves you. Through thick and thin, ups and downs, good times and bad, the best of all, God is with us. He is the God of steadfast love. May we never forget.

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Join SMP Live!

Pastor Steve leads a study every Thursday evening from 7 to 8 p.m., and February begins a study on the Book of Hebrews. You can join in person at the Edgemont Campus in the Gathering Place OR log on online via Zoom. In fact, depending on the weather or other circumstances, you can join in person one week and online the next.

To get the link to join online, you must register for the class. Click [Events | The Spiritual Maturity Project](#) (or type "www.spiritualmaturityproject.org/events" into your internet browser). Once you sign up, you'll receive an email with instructions to join on your computer, phone, or tablet. Call the church office if you need assistance.

The weekly sessions are *A Word from God for A World that Refuses to Acknowledge God: A Study of the Book of Hebrews*. The Spiritual Maturity Project (SMP) is a resource for hungry Christians.

Cards of Thanks!

Dear Pastor Steve and Ark City UMC,
I am so grateful for your hard work and faithfulness in paying your 2024 Mission Share in full.
I want you to know that Bishop Wilson and the cabinet appreciate your ministry and witness.
Thank you!
Chali, DS—
Southcentral Kansas

Dear Ark City UMC,
Thank you for the use of your costumes again...
Also, a special thank you to Lynda Arnett and Elsie Tipton for greeting people going through. The whole success of the Live Nativity is the people who volunteer to help fill in where needed.
We appreciated the snacks too. Your church is a real blessing to us.
This year, 125 vehicles went through the 2 nights...We look forward to working with you again next year.

Arlene Johnson
Bible Christian Church

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	All church activities have returned to their previously-scheduled locations. If you are uncertain of your meeting location, contact your leader!					1
2 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery 11:15a Confirmation Class 4p Faithbuilders		3	4 10:30a Seeking Sisters	5 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul; Handbells 6p Kid’s Club Youth Group 6:30p Choir Practice; Cub Scouts	6 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	7
9 SCOUTS SUNDAY 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday 4p Faithbuilders	10 5p Walnut Valley Quilt Guild 7p Small Group Scouts	11	12 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul; Handbells 6p Kid’s Club Youth Group 6:30p Choir Practice; Cub Scouts	13 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	14	15 5p Hour of Praise and Prayer, St. Paul Campus
16 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Meal sponsored by CASA 12:15p Finance/Trustees 4p Faithbuilders	17 7p Small Group Scouts	18 10:30a Seeking Sisters	19 1:30p UWF 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul; Handbells 6p Kid’s Club Youth Group 6:30p Choir Practice; Cub Scouts	20 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	21	22
23 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Administrative Council 4p Faithbuilders	24 7p Small Group Scouts	25	26 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul; Handbells 6p Kid’s Club Youth Group 6:30p Choir Practice; Cub Scouts	27 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	28 We’re still collecting pint-size sour cream containers. Drop them off at the church kitchen.	

Finance Report

December		2024 Year End	
Income	\$29,664	Income	\$309,847
Expenses	\$17,061	Expense	\$268,924

Share Meals—The Past 10 Years

Year	People served	Avg. Served Weekly	Avg. Helpers Weekly	Avg. Expenses Weekly
2014	1,687	35	7	\$36.96
2015	1,312	27	7	\$41.20
2016	1,451	28	6	\$31.34
2017	1,754	36	5	\$47.28
2018	1,534	33	5	\$39.11
2019	1,907	39	5	\$29.68
2020	2,295	47	4	\$24.60
2021	2,953	60	4	\$32.76
2022	3,705	76	4	\$36.38
2023	4,913	98	5	\$34.30
2024	4,782	96	6	\$34.89

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

- Furthered plans for a congregation-based Christian Ashram, scheduled for March 28 and 29
- Passed a motion to create a statement of principle that we want to be a sanctuary church provided we can meet all the legal and logistical requirements
- Began a series of discussions on mission discernment. What is our purpose as a church, and what makes us distinct?

FINANCE TRUSTEES

- Continued receiving bids to fix the drain on furnaces at St. Paul Campus
- Continued a door-lock inventory at the Edgemont Campus
- Renewed the church's insurance policy with Brotherhood Mutual
- Working on a proposal to adjust the basketball goals at the church to enhance recreational usage
- Clarifying room usage for Scouts

EDUCATION

- Making plans for summer VBS, Wednesday evenings in July

MEMBERSHIP

- Pastor Steve sought recommendations from Administrative Council about what to do about baptized members who are no longer attending AC UMC, some of whom the church has no contact information. No recommendation has yet been made.

Freebies! Come and Get 'em!

- **Folding chairs:** The St. Paul Campus has numerous metal folding chairs to give away. Call the church office to make arrangements to pick some up.
- **Piano:** the Edgemont Campus has a piano in the little chapel to give away. Spread the word to anyone you think might be interested. Pick up can be arranged by calling the church office. 620.442.4530

Committees

EDUCATION
Jill Sullivan, chair
Lynda Arnett
Janis Goff
Andrea Petry
Joni Rankin
Darci Utt

MEMORIAL
Cheri Morris
Billie Swanson
Howard Griffin

MISSION/OUTREACH
Dac Call
Cindy Freeland
Sylvia McAlister

LAY LEADER AND MEMBER
TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Larry Swanson

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

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.

