

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.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jan. 2	Kieren Sullivan	Jan. 17	Deuane Wells
Jan. 3	Sylvia McAlister		James Sherman
Jan. 4	Marcia Musson	Jan. 18	Jack Crumbliss
Jan. 6	Roger Black		Lisa Kerbo
	Rosemary Simmons	Jan. 19	Betty Rhodes
Jan. 7	Penny Harrill		Kenan Flanders
Jan. 8	Max Utt		Wesley Hartman
Jan. 9	Pamela Archer	Jan. 20	Eli Munson
	Trevor Drake	Jan. 21	J.O. Brown
Jan. 10	Billie Vining		Valerie Call
	Mandi Monroe		Chloe Kirk
	Axel Young	Jan. 23	Sheila Haynes
Jan. 11	Kirby Neal	Jan. 25	Linda Neal
	Carol Black	Jan. 26	Lucy Daniel
Jan. 13	Shirley Griffin	Jan. 27	Steve Arnett
	Everett Green	Jan. 28	Josh Phillips
Jan. 15	Madison Oak		Justin Phillips
	Melody Drake		Hadley Smyer
Jan. 16	Debbie Collingsworth	Jan. 29	Joni Rankin
	Jeri Crumbliss	Jan. 31	Stacy Pike
			Dedra Wilson
Jan. 8	Lynda & Steve Arnett	Jan. 11	Rhonda & Darrin Green
Jan. 11	Pam & David Messenger	Jan. 29	Merylene & Ray Wentworth

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

arkcityumc.com

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Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



January 2025

My January 2024 pastor’s newsletter column was titled, “Year of Discernment and Decision.” Why did I use these terms? In one sense, discernment and decisions are part of the normal life of the church. We are an organization, and every organization has business to do. We worship, study, and serve. We make decisions about when, where, and how. We also have to pay the bills and keep the lights on (and the water and sewer working).

But beyond the basic functions of a church that need constant attention from its leaders, we are in an unusual position. Two congregations became one legally, at the beginning of 2022. Becoming one congregation spiritually, developing an identity as one congregation that we share, takes time and attention. We did some good work in 2024. More good work to come.

We’ve done quite a bit of discussing about our two facilities, which we now call the Edgemont campus and the St. Paul (Washington St.) campus. We are grateful to have both, especially in times like now when water and sewer challenges at the Edgemont campus made moving all worship and group activities to St. Paul necessary. These situations indicate some of the ongoing discerning and deciding that we need to do. How do we utilize our facilities the best way to do what God is calling us to do in this new season of church life? Some questions are difficult but necessary to entertain.

Questions about our facilities drive us to more basic questions. Who are we as a United Methodist congregation participating in the Kingdom of God? Whom is God calling us to reach in 2025? How do we love our neighbors in Arkansas City? How do we care for the needy? How do we share Christ’s love with them? How do we invite them into a rich and growing fellowship with God? These questions are real ones that need careful, prayerful consideration. 2025 is the year to accept this challenge.

(See PASTOR, p.3)



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Let’s Do It Again
- Liturgists and Children’s Ministry

From Pastor Steve’s Desk

Let's Do It Again

More than 25 members of the AC UMC church family read through the entire Bible in 2024. What an adventure! The Bible includes all types of literature: history, poetry, gospel, apocalypse (putting earth-shattering events into vivid picture language), prophecy. And it's not your typical chronological saga, nor is it a how-to manual. Reading it is putting ourselves at the feet of Jesus, being his students, and being willing to be shaped by what we hear—even when we don't understand it all. The Holy Spirit is still at work.

Download Bible App Now

100% FREE. NO ADS OR PURCHASES EVER.



Scan the QR Code with your mobile device to download Bible App.



Let's do it again in 2025!

You can find the weekly Bible readings by downloading the YouVersion Bible app on your phone or by scanning the QR Code at left with your phone camera. Once you've downloaded the app, go to Plans and search for "Bible in a Year: 364-Day Reading Plan."

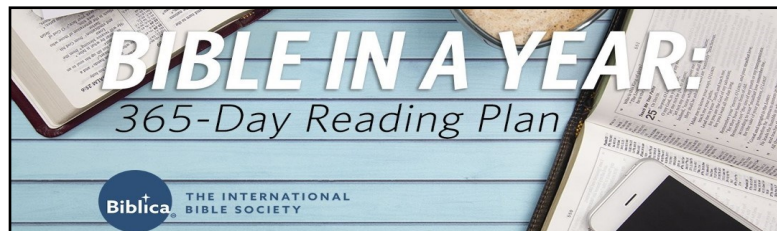
The image is below so you can find the plan everyone is using.

Each day, after you've read the daily passages, tap each circle next to the passage to indicate you've read it. That way, the new day's reading will appear when you open the app the following day.

If this is all too complicated for you, but you want to use the phone app, come visit Joni in the church office during regular office hours or following worship on any given Sunday. She'll help you get your phone set up.

And if that is too complicated, pick up the daily readings in the weekly bulletin insert. OR email the church office (we need your email address) and we'll email you a copy of the weekly reading every week.

Let's do it again!



(PASTOR, continued from p. 1)

And so, I'm thinking of that great hymn, "Be Thou My Vision," but using the plural "our." I'm asking you to pray for God to give us vision. There are many good things we could do. Let's do what God leads us to do together. Walking through 2025 with the confidence that we are following him faithfully will certainly be an exciting adventure.

And...

Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help make the move to the St. Paul campus for worship. I could not name all the people who helped (there are many) but I will mention the tasks that people picked up to make the move seamless. St. Paul was quickly decorated for Advent and Christmas. The tree, the banners, the paraments are beautiful. The poinsettias had to be moved, the choir robes, too. Bulletins and attendance registers and related items had to make their way to St. Paul. And there are, no doubt, tasks I've overlooked because you just saw the need and did it. Christmas was beautiful in so many ways.

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Liturgists and Children's Ministry

Do you feel a Godly nudge to help lead your church family in worship on Sunday mornings? Consider adding your name to the liturgist and children's sermon rotation. Even if you're comfortable with one role but not the other, there is a place for you to minister to your church family. Contact Pam Archer at parcher@cox.net or 620.446.2456 to add your name to the list.

And...

We're looking for nursery volunteers too. There is no advance preparation for the nursery. All that is needed is the desire to serve parents with small children, giving them the opportunity to worship unhindered. If you are willing to serve on occasion and to complete the Safe Gatherings training, call the church office at 620.442.4530.

Save the Date

Family Life Services 40 Years

Strong & Keeping On!

Thursday, January 16

3-7 p.m.

305 S. Summit St.

Arkansas City, KS

Thanks!

So enjoyed your caroling at the Manor. You left a wonderful impression on all the residents.

Thanks,

~David and Pam Messenger

The families and staff of EmberHope thank you for ... your continued love and support.

~Mitch Drees, VP of Development and Church Relations

Thank you for being an important part of our mission to make an impact in the lives of young people.

~Dina Salzar, Support Services Manager.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Until further notice, all activities in January are scheduled at the St. Paul campus due to water and plumbing issues on the hill!		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Church office closed	2 5:30p Girl Scouts	3	4
5 8:30a Sunday School 8:45a Scouts Duty to God 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery 4p Faithbuilders		7 10:30a Seeking Sisters	8 5p Prayer + at St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul; Handbells 6p Kid's Club Youth Group 6:30p Choir Practice; Cub Scouts	9 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	10	11
12 8:30a Sunday School 8:45a Scouts Duty to God 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday 11:15a Safety Meeting 4p Faithbuilders	13 7p Small Group Scouts	14	15 1:30p UWF 5p Prayer + at St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul; Handbells 6p Kid's Club Youth Group 6:30p Choir Practice Cub Scouts	16 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	17	18
19 8:30a Sunday School 8:45a Scouts Duty to God 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Meal (UWF) 12:15p Finance/Trustees 4p Faithbuilders	20 7p Small Group Scouts	21 10:30a Seeking Sisters	22 5p Prayer + at St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul; Handbells 6p Kid's Club Youth Group 6:30p Choir Practice Cub Scouts	23 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	24	25
22 8:30a Sunday School 8:45a Scouts Duty to God 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Administrative Council 4p Faithbuilders	27 7p Small Group Scouts	28 7p SPRC	29 5p Prayer + at St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul; Handbells 6p Kid's Club Youth Group 6:30p Choir Practice Cub Scouts	30 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	31	

Committees

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Monica Wise, chair
Cindy Freeland, secretary
Billie Swanson, finance
Larry Swanson, Lay Leader
Dac Call
Nancy Clarkson
Dan Deener
Deanna Kuder
Russell McAlister
Sylvia McAlister
Jill Sullivan

FINANCE/TRUSTEES

Darin Mann, chair
Deanna Kuder, secretary
Billie Swanson, finance
Larry Swanson, Lay Leader
Lynda Arnett
Dan Deener
Ricci Goff
Doris Miller
Forest Smith

MEMBERSHIP

Darla Mann, chair
Ralph Keefe
Doris Miller
Joni Rankin

NOMINATIONS

Stephen Rankin, chair
Curt Freeland
Cheri Morris
Jill Sullivan
Larry Swanson, ex officio

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Alisha Call, chair
Mykenzie Goff
Russell McAlister
Doris Miller
Elrea Mullen
Sam Oglesby
Billie Swanson

WORSHIP

Monica Wise, chair
Melba Maehtlen
Cheri Morris
Stephen Rankin

Finance Report

NOVEMBER		2024 Year To Date	
Income	\$21,607	Income	\$280,183
Expenses	\$19,946	Expense	\$251,863

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	100
Dec.	105	101	80			286	95
Avg.	99	95	97	92	92	4782	95

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

- Water/sewer issues at Edgemont campus considered
- Memorial wall policy and plaque updates in the works
- Approved a congregation-based Christian Ashram

FINANCE TRUSTEES

- Receiving bids to fix the Edgemont campus water and sewer issues.
- Receiving bids to fix the drain on furnaces at St. Paul campus.
- Planning a door-lock inventory at the Edgemont building.
- Considered insurance quotes and renewed the church's policy with Brotherhood Mutual.
- Delayed floor waxing until the water issues are resolved.
- Approved closing the Building Fund checking account to track trustee income and expenses within the General Fund checking account.

Building Fund Clarification

The church has two bank accounts related to buildings and facilities: the Forward in Faith account, which holds funds for future building capital improvements, and the Building Fund, which is for ongoing building and facility upkeep. When members pledge to the Building Fund, they pledge support for ongoing facility (not operational) maintenance of all the church's properties.

At the December committee meeting, the trustees voted to close the checking account for the Building Fund and continue tracking income and expenses for the trustees within the General Fund checking account. If you pledge to the Building Fund, those pledges will be applied to the line item designated to the trustees for regular facility maintenance. In this light, call the church office if you would like to make any adjustments to your 2025 giving pledge.

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.

