

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 com-
munity 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

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mar. 1	Christie Rogers	Mar. 27	Dan Deener
	Jonas Stoy		Brian Demo
Mar. 2	Janice Keefe		Dennis Call
Mar. 5	Lynda Arnett	Mar. 29	Linda Billings
	Olivia Dawson	Mar. 30	Jeffrey Schroeder
Mar. 6	Von Rogers		
Mar. 8	Tammy Oak		
Mar. 9	Howard Griffin		
Mar. 13	Sue Schultz		
Mar. 17	Carolyn Alley		
Mar. 18	Dennis Kuder		
	Dillen Rogers	Mar. 7	Charlotte and Tom Schmidt
Mar. 20	Alice Paton	Mar. 16	Virginia and Deuane Wells
Mar. 21	Leslie Sherman	Mar. 29	Cheri and Brad Morris
Mar. 23	Darci Utt	Mar. 31	Pam and Steve Archer
Mar. 24	Sandy Short		Joycelyn and Allen Goff

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



March 2025

I want to take my pastor’s column this month to invite you to a Friday evening and Saturday event at our church on March 28 and 29. We’re calling it the South Central Kansas Christian Ashram. It’s a new name and a new (to us) effort.

The word “ashram” is unknown to most people, so let me tell you what it means. It’s an Indian word borrowed by the Methodist missionary E. Stanley Jones. In its Indian context, it referred to centers of spiritual pilgrimage, almost like monasteries, where people go for a prescribed period of time for reflection, prayer, spiritual exercises, and learning.

Brother Stanley took the format and put it in our Christian context. A Christian ashram is a period of retreat with fellow travelers seeking growth, healing, refreshment, and hope. Brother Stanley referred to a Christian ashram as “the kingdom of God in miniature.” The United Christian Ashrams, International web site says, “Come experience what Kingdom living is all about, with people who truly seek to live a life where Jesus is Lord.” The motto, you might say, of the Christian Ashram movement is, “Jesus is Lord.”

The Ashram combines table fellowship (we’ll eat together and have refreshments), worship and prayer with presentations and small group discussions. It is a very “user friendly” experience. If you have a family member or friend whom you feel would benefit; if she or he needs uplift, encouragement, or healing, the Ashram is a great time to invite them. I am always encouraged by what people share. But *no one* is required or expected to say anything. If you want to come and just listen, you will receive a blessing.

Our weekend retreat will be led by the Rev. Matt Henson, a pastor from Illinois and the Executive Director of United
(See PASTOR, p.3)



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SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST

- Ash Wednesday Observances
- We’re hosting the South Kansas Christian Ashram

From Pastor Steve’s Desk

What is a Christian Ashram?

The United Christian Ashrams international ministry is a network of spiritual events held all over the world. For a time, people can leave their busy lives behind to find a new rhythm of life focused on Jesus. We open our hearts to God and each other and come home refreshed and full of joy. The disciplines we practice at a Christian Ashram can transform the way we live all year long!



Photo credit United Christian Ashrams International website

We all are on a spiritual journey. We are looking for a way of life that is good for us, our family, friends, neighbors, and our world. Since 1930, people of all ages, all races, and all walks of life, have come to Christian Ashram retreats. We find rest and recreation. We are encouraged by Biblical teaching. We make meaningful friendships. And best of all, we see our lives transformed by the Living Lord.

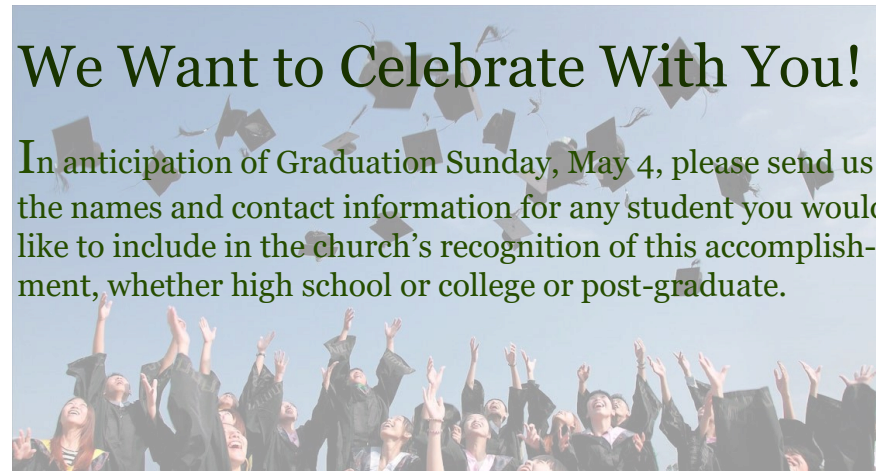
Christian Ashrams are designed to help you:

- Grow in faith through worship, teaching, and witness
- Be renewed through prayer, healing, and sharing
- See what it's like to live a Christ-centered life with diverse seekers after God's heart

Edited from <https://christianashram.org/>

We Want to Celebrate With You!

In anticipation of Graduation Sunday, May 4, please send us the names and contact information for any student you would like to include in the church's recognition of this accomplishment, whether high school or college or post-graduate.



(PASTOR, continued from p. 1)

Christian Ashrams, for which I serve as president of the board. You will enjoy getting to know Matt and hearing his insights into Christian discipleship. I'll help with the Bible study sessions.

If you want to know more about the Ashram movement, read the article included in this month's newsletter or go to their [website](https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/uploaded/ch136s.pdf). If you'd like to know more about E. Stanley Jones, who, in his day, was the most famous Christian missionary in the world, see this edition of *Christian History Magazine* <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/uploaded/ch136s.pdf>. I served as the advisory editor and wrote the article on Brother Stanley's legacy (p. 40).

Please come,

Steve

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Communion Delivery

I continue to be so thankful for the volunteers who serve communion to our homebound members. You are indeed appreciated.

Currently, I am updating the list of those being served. If you are aware of someone you feel should be called on and added to the list, please call me or the church office so they can be included in this ministry.

I'm also seeking more volunteers to serve. We deliver communion the first Sunday of each month, right after church, so our homebound members can participate with us on Communion Sunday. Everything is provided, and we'll train you in case you're not sure what to say or do.

This is a wonderful way to serve those who can no longer attend worship but who are and have been a part of our church family.

~Peggy Musson, 620.441.3067

Church office, 620.442.4530



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery 11:15a Confirmation Class 11:15a Education Committee 4p Faithbuilders	3 7p Small Group Scouts	4 10:30a Seeking Sisters	5 ASH WEDNESDAY Noon Ash Wednesday Chapel 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul; Handbells 6p Kid’s Club Youth Group 6:15 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30p Choir Practice; Cub Scouts	6 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live		8 5p Hour of Praise and Prayer, St. Paul Campus
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS! 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday 4p Faithbuilders	10 7p Small Group Scouts	11 7p Small Group Scouts	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 BOY SCOUTS BEAN FEED 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	14 5:30p Girl Scouts 7p SMP Live	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 hosted by Seeking Sisters 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 7p SMP Live	21 7p SMP Live	22 7p SMP Live
23 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Administrative Council 4p Faithbuilders	24 7p Small Group Scouts	25 7p Small Group Scouts	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 Congregation-Based Ashram Friday, 6-9 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. <u>Sign Up Here!</u>	29 7p SMP Live
30 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 4p Faithbuilders	31 7p Small Group Scouts					

Ash Wednesday Services:

 Noon observance, Little Chapel

 6:15p Service, Sanctuary

 Edgemont Campus

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
Cheri Morris
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 Maechtlen
Cheri Morris
Stephen Rankin

Finance Report

January		2025 to date	
Income	\$23,361	Income	\$23,361
Expenses	\$40,162	Expense	\$40,162

Share Meals Served 2025

Year	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5
Jan.	96	104	93	94	
Feb.	99				
Mar.					
Apr.					
May					
Jun.					
Jul.					
Aug.					
Sept.					
Oct.					
Nov.					
Dec.					

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

- Discussed logistics, including meals and registration, for the congregation-based Christian Ashram, March 28 and 29
- Approved the hiring of two youth interns in the fall
- Voted to help underwrite the May Summit at Southwestern College
- Heard short histories of St. Paul and First UMC to move forward on mission discernment

FINANCE TRUSTEES

- Put the floor waxing project on hold until better weather
- Discussed plans to repair colored glass windows at St. Paul campus. Tabled for more information
- Approved a plan to purchase two quality mobile goals in lieu of adjusting the existing basketball goals in the Fellowship Hall
- Accepted the gift proposal from John Nielsen for paint stripping the parking lot at the Edgemont Campus
- Approved the purchase of a blood pressure cuff for the Edgemont Campus in case of emergencies

WORSHIP

- Scheduled the calendar of worship events for 2025



Grieving a loss?

Find hope and healing after the death of a loved one.

Join us at **GriefShare®**

Tuesdays 1-3 p.m.
Feb. 18-May 13

Calvary Chapel
1010 S. 3rd St

Register at griefshare.org/findgroup

or contact Holly Gage at Holly.gage56@gmail.com
620.506.1005

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.

