

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

ARKANSAS CITY
United Methodist Church

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec. 4	Kevin Ledford	Dec. 27	Mykenzie Goff
Dec. 7	Kyla Baker Diane Birdzell		Rowyn Hensen Carlene White
Dec. 14	Jill Sullivan	Dec. 30	Louise Smith
Dec. 16	Woody Marker	Dec. 31	Jeff Musson Jordan Wilson
Dec. 18	Lon Pressnall		
Dec. 21	Deanna Kuder		
Dec. 23	Joycelyn Goff Adah Utt		
Dec. 24	Monica Wise		
Dec. 25	Robin Petry	Dec. 4	Patty and J.O. Brown
Dec. 26	Richard Hensley	Dec. 12	Kim ang Glenn Walton

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



December

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

We pivot from Thanksgiving celebrations to the race to make it to December 25 all in one piece. And it is a race! May you give yourself a pause on occasion. May you take a deep breath and give yourself a chance to re-focus while you prepare for Christmas.

That's my prayer for you. We all will have to engage in a little resistance to see this prayer answered. Resist the temptation to suffer undue anxiety about making sure you get just the right gifts for everyone on your list. Maybe you don't worry too much, but it seems to me that too many people do. We did, and maybe still do, but we're working on resisting the temptation.

Let me share an observation from the Rankins' experience. Back in the day, Joni developed a really neat tradition for our kids on Christmas Day. Apart from stocking stuffers and maybe a couple of smaller gifts for each, we bought one big gift for all four of them to share. One year, when the older ones were moving into the middle-school years, it was a desktop computer (tells you how long ago it was). Using the structure of the poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," Joni wrote clues and hid them all over the house. The kids had to take turns reading the clues to solve the riddle built into each one to know where to look for the next clue, until they successfully discovered the treasure. It was great fun watching the little Sherlock Holmes' use their deductive logic.

Once our kids became too "grown-up" for this tradition (it took a while), I watched Joni agonize even more about making sure

Cont. on p. 7

From Pastor Steve's Desk



ARKANSAS CITY
United Methodist Church

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News.....	2-3
Calendar.....	4-5
Business.....	6-7
Birthdays.....	8
Anniversaries.....	8

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Communion Blessing
- Happy New Year!
- Church Directory
- Live Nativity

The Blessing of Communion

A steady list of homebound members and friends of Ark City UMC receive communion every first Sunday of the month, thanks to a loyal list of volunteers. Spearheaded by Peggy Musson, the servers span out across town, taking elements consecrated during worship, some going to homes, some to care homes.

Recently, when serving communion to Juarese and Woody Marker at Alderbrook, Dan Deener encountered a neighbor who asked to receive communion as well, so this vital ministry reaches out to others who desire to be in fellowship with Christ in this Holy meal. Dan reported that he too was deeply moved by the opportunity to serve.

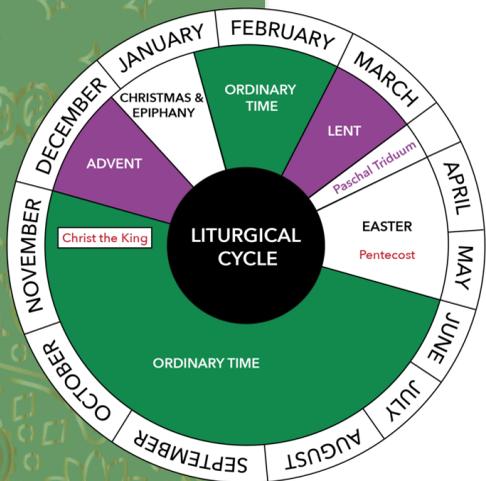
The elements are prepared in travel kits each communion Sunday by Peggy with simple instructions posted inside each kit. If this ministry tugs at your heart, call Peggy at 620.441.3067 to explore the possibility of serving. If you know of someone who desires communion and needs it delivered, contact her as well.

In addition to Peggy and Dan, other volunteers include

Dennis and Deanna Kuder, Russell and Sylvia McAlister, Trish Stoy, Pam Archer, the Ricci and Janis Goff family, and Sam and Ann Oglesby.

Happy New Year!

Yes! Advent is the beginning of the church year, and in 2025 the first Sunday in Advent was Nov. 30. The seasons of the church are why altar colors change, banners change, certain scriptures are read, and themes are followed during worship. To learn more, join Sunday school through December for, “The Church Calendar: Focusing on Christ Through Liturgical Living” in the Gathering Place at 8:30 a.m.



New Church Directory Photos

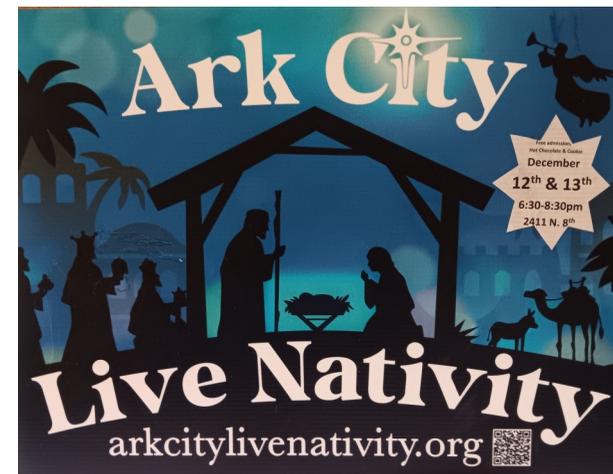
Throughout the month of December, photo-taking for an updated church directory will continue each Sunday during the 9:30 a.m. fellowship coffee time or after the morning worship.

Ricci Goff is taking photos, so there will be no professional photos offered for sale. Each family or individual should be able to complete the photo sitting in five minutes or less. Please attend or email a photo to the church office at office@arkcityumc.com.

Live Nativity

Be an angel (or a shepherd or a king) and volunteer for the drive-through live nativity, which AC UMC helps sponsor Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12 and 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The Christmas tradition is held at Bible Christian Church, 2411 N 8th St.

The set and costumes are all provided, and no words or lines are required of volunteers. Warm clothes are recommended. Call the church office at 620.442.4530 to sign up!



December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7p Small Group	2 10:30a Seeking Sisters 2p Robben Ledeker Funeral 5p Girl Scouts	3 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	4 4:45 Ed. Committee , Steamy Joe's	5 10a Communications Team, Mann's	6
7 2nd Sunday in Advent 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery 2:30p Community Music and Drama Club Concert	8 5p WV Quilt Guild 7p Small Group	9 5p Girl Scouts	10 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	11 7p Scouting USA	12 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 6:30-8p Drive Through Live Nativity @ Bible Christian Church </div>	13
14 3rd Sunday in Advent 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday	15 7p Small Group	16 10:30a Seeking Sisters 5p Girl Scouts	17 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	18 7p Scouting USA	19	20
21 4th Sunday in Advent 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Christmas Program 3:30p Caroling 5:45p Fellowship Meal, Soup Supper	22 7p Small Group	23 5p Girl Scouts	24 5p Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Church Office Closed	26	27
28 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship	29 7p Small Group	30 5p Girl Scouts	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
Cheri Morris
Janis Goff

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
Larry Swanson, ex officio

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

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

WORSHIP

Monica Wise, chair
Melba Maechtlen
Cheri Morris
Stephen Rankin

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.



Finance Report

	October		2025 to date
Income	\$18,038	Income	\$224,547
Expenses	\$19,529	Expense	\$231,318

Share Meals Served 2025

Year	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5
Jan.	96	104	93	94	
Feb.	99			101	
Mar.	95	99	84	107	
Apr.	101	101	102	93	97
May	81	82	84	82	
Jun.	90	100	99	100	
Jul.	100	82	50	88	128
Aug.	83	92	85	95	
Sept.	110	91	96	96	
Oct.	109	88	90	82	102
Nov.	112	115	107		

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

- No meetings in November or December.

FINANCE TRUSTEES

- Approved outdoor solar lights for St. Paul campus.
- Approved a \$1,000 donation to Angels in the Attic for the laundry and shower project.
- Approved the use of Forward in Faith funds to complete the deductible payment for roof replacements.
- Approved an agreement with IdeaTek for phones and internet services at both campuses.

EDUCATION

- Began practice for the children's Christmas program to be presented during children's time in worship Sunday, Dec. 21.



Cont. from p. 1

each child got just the right gift. With grandchildren, this problem ratchets even higher, but the truth is, the gift quickly fades. We all know this, even though we're still prone to too much worry. But do remember: the value of most gifts doesn't last much longer than the Christmas season.

On the other hand, the "spiritual" parts of Christmas last much, much longer and have far greater impact. The awe. The mystery of God's mighty demonstration of power in a helpless newborn. How can that be? The opportunity to share this mystery with people we love very much.

I pray that your Christmas this year has a little less stress and a little more of the lasting joy that comes with contemplating God's taking up our flesh. I look forward to preparing for that Day with you.

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Committees

EDUCATION

Janis Goff, chair
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

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Quarterly meetings in January, April, July, and October

WORSHIP

Meets as needed

EDUCATION

Meets every Thursday after the first Sunday of the month