

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

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jan. 3	Sylvia McAlister	Jan. 19	Betty Rhodes
	Millie McGowan	Jan. 20	Eli Munson
Jan. 4	Marcia Musson	Jan. 21	J.O. Brown
Jan. 6	Roger Black		Valerie Call
Jan. 8	Max Utt	Jan. 25	Linda Neal
Jan. 9	Pam Archer	Jan. 27	Steve Arnett
Jan. 10	Axel Young	Jan. 29	Joni Rankin
Jan. 11	Carol Black	Jan. 31	Stacy Pike
	Kirby Neal		
Jan. 13	Everett Green		
	Shirley Griffin		
Jan. 15	Madison Oak		
Jan. 16	Debbie Collingsworth		
	Jeri Crumbliss	Jan. 8	Lynda and Steve Arnett
Jan. 17	James Sherman	Jan. 11	Pam and David Messenger
	Deuane Wells		Rhonda and Darrin Green
Jan. 18	Jack Crumbliss	Jan. 29	Merylene and Ray Wentworth

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



January 2026

A Real Christian

Many of us are old enough to remember the phrase, “the real McCoy,” (not to be confused with the sitcom of the 50s and 60s, “The Real McCoys” with Walter Brennan). The real McCoy is a way of talking about the real thing, the real deal, the standard.

Where did the phrase originate? I found two answers. The one I find most convincing dates back to the 1870s. An African American engineer by the name of Elijah McCoy invented and patented a lubricating cup for steam engine locomotives. In those days they had to stop the trains frequently to oil engine parts. The cup McCoy invented allowed for continuous oiling of the parts while the train was running. People tried to cash in on the new technology with cheap knockoffs, but none worked as well as the real McCoy lubricating cup.

The real McCoy. The real deal.

What makes a real Christian? This question is harder to answer than a first glance would suggest. Is it believing certain points of doctrine? Is it church membership and regular worship attendance? Is it reading the Bible and praying and practicing other disciplines? Is it doing good for other people? Taken separately, all these answers are true and necessary, but partial, and they leave out one key characteristic.

In “The Character of a Methodist,” John Wesley equated being a Methodist and being a real Christian. He wrote, “A Methodist is one, who has the love of God shed abroad in his heart, by the Holy Ghost given unto him: one who loves the Lord his God

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Changes to UWF
- Camp Horizon Campaign
- Church Directory
- Ministry Opportunities

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Changes @ United Women in Faith

We have been busy these last four months. In September, we brought hygiene items and gave them to the Cowley College student pantry. We also helped fix salads and cookies for the Music Club concert. Sylvia McAlister and Linda Neal served at the concert as a fundraiser for UWF.

In October, we gave memorials: Cindy Ball for the Gift of Memory, and Donna Rindt for the Dedicated Lights. Helen Bossi will receive the Mission Recognition Pin.

In November, Lynda Arnett gave the lesson on World Thank Offering. We also voted to disband at the end of the year. A new group will start the first the year. [See the following note.]

We finished with Christmas stories and memories, and refreshments.

President, Cheri Morris

A remnant of the former United Women of Faith has decided to revive the local unit and continue as Arkansas City United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith (ACUMW/UWF).

Unit meetings will begin Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 1:30 p.m. in the Edgemont campus parlor. Our first meeting will include refreshments and planning to help establish what we want this group to look like and when is the best months, days, and time to meet so that the most people can attend. Enter the building by door #2.

We invite any women who want to know God, experience a supportive fellowship of women, and be involved in missions in our community and the world to join us. If you have any questions or suggestions for the best time to meet, call or text Sylvia McAlister (cell) at 620.446.1650 or Lynda Arnett (cell) 785.640.2639.

Sylvia McAlister

Still Taking Directory Photos

Volunteers are still available right before or after worship each Sunday to take your church directory photos. Please stop by the fellowship hall for individual and family photos. No professional pictures are offered for sale. If you are unable to attend in person, please email a photo to the church office at office@arkcityumc.com.

Seeking a Place to Use Your Gifts?

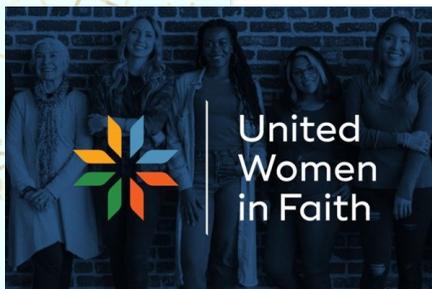
TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

The church has a small list of individuals who are seeking a ride to and from worship on Sunday mornings. If this need moves your heart, and you have a vehicle and can supply a ride, please contact the church office at 620.442.4530.



CARE MINISTRY TEAM COORDINATOR

In addition to the prayer chain and communion delivery to homebound members and friends, there is a growing need for a volunteer care ministry coordinator at the church. A care ministry coordinator serves like the deacons in Acts 7. This ministry calls for a person with good organizing skills, attention to details, and a compassionate heart. It involves making sure no one is overlooked for pastoral and hospital visits, collaborating with individuals and groups who offer meals to sick or convalescing members, and keeping the other care ministries of the church informed. Speak to



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3
4 2nd Sunday of Christmas 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery	5 7p Small Group	6 EPIPHANY 10:30a Seeking Sisters 5p Girl Scouts	7 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	8 4:45 Ed. Committee , Steamy Joe's 7p Scouting USA	9	10
11 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday 11:15a Safety Meeting	12 7p Small Group	13 5p Girl Scouts	14 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	15 7p Scouting USA	16	17
18 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Meal 12:15p Finance Trustees	19 7p Small Group	20 10:30a Seeking Sisters 5p Girl Scouts	21 1:30p UWF 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	22 7p Scouting USA	23	24
25 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Administrative Council	26 7p Small Group	27 5p Girl Scouts	28 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	29 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting USA	30	31

Committees

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Billie Swanson, finance
 Larry Swanson, Lay Leader
 Dac Call
 Nancy Clarkson
 Dan Deener
 Deanna Kuder
 Russell McAlister
 Sylvia McAlister
 Janis Goff

FINANCE/TRUSTEES

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

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
 Doris Miller
 Elrea Mullen
 Billie Swanson

WORSHIP

Monica Wise, chair
 Melba Maechtlen
 Cheri Morris
 Lynda Carr
 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

	November		2025 to date
Income	\$52,165	Income	\$277,012
Expenses	\$16,623	Expense	\$249,942

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		
Dec.	115	110	110		

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.

Camp Horizon Safety Campaign

Camp Horizon has launched a Safety First Campaign to raise funds for three important projects:

- Secure the camp entrance and automatic gate to control traffic flow and regulate those who enter the grounds—\$200,000
- Jumping pillow shade structure to reduce heat exposure and prevent heat-related injuries—\$50,000
- Pole barn and site prep to extend the life of heavy machinery and equipment and clear high traffic zones and safer walking paths—\$100,000

Pledges will be received in 2026 and 2027 with the projects to be completed in the spring of 2027.

To learn more, go to www.horizoncenter.org.



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with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind, and with all his strength. God is the joy of his heart, and the desire of his soul...”

Do we love God wholeheartedly? Love is more than a feeling, though it certainly does include feelings. Is God the joy of our hearts? The desire of our souls? What does this description mean? How do I know if I'm a real Christian? Dare we ask ourselves these questions?

Starting in this new year, we're going to explore what it means to be a real Christian during worship. Let's do some serious thinking and pressing on to faithful discipleship!

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Here's the reading plan for 2026! Search your Life Church Bible app (You Version) and begin reading January 1, 2026.



Following Jesus One Year Bible Reading Plan
 365 Days



Committees

EDUCATION
 Janis Goff, chair
 Joni Rankin
 Darci Utt
 Mykenzie Goff

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