

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

## July Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 3	Nancy Clarkson Andrew Wilson	July 1	Lynda and Ken Carr Deb and Steve Collingsworth Stacy and Brian Wells
July 6	Terri Pressnall	July 9	Peggy and Richard Thomas
July 9	Lynda Carr	July 12	Tasha and Aaron Bucher
July 13	Claire Hartman	July 22	Janice and Ralph Keefe
July 15	Justin Boone		
July 16	Rebecca L Stoy Alana Butler		
July 19	Donna Massey Rayli Sullivan		
July 22	Owen Bucher		
July 24	Abram Rankin		
July 27	Dusty Rhodes James Suter		
July 27	Jennifer Munson		
July 27	Ellie Wise		
July 29	Cammy Boone		

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



July 2025

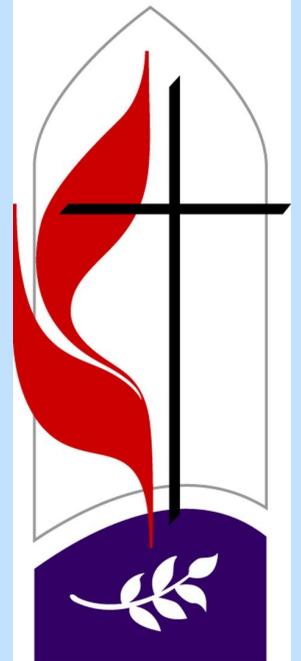
In a recent Sunday sermon, I admitted that I have rarely preached on “politics.” Exceedingly rarely. Maybe never.

But that’s not quite true. I have avoided preaching about topics related to partisan politics that typically align with what Democrats or Republicans think.

I have talked about politics in other ways, though. I regularly refer to Jesus as King and Lord and have said, likewise, that “Caesar” (whoever fits this moniker) is not. This is a very political claim because it reminds us that all government stands under the scrutiny of a Righteous Judge and Lord of all. That there really is such a thing as justice, but, at best, we only approximate it, and, further, that we all fall short of it.

To avoid the animosity of our current political culture and to see perhaps more clearly how to be *Christianly* political, I’d like to recommend a book I’ve recently read. It’s written by Michael Bird, an Australian Bible professor, and N.T. Wright, an English Bible professor. They are both well-known, world-aware, scholars. They know about their respective countries and a lot about our own. They insist that Christians “build for” the Kingdom of God rather than building the Kingdom ourselves. We should never forget this subtle but important distinction. Building God’s kingdom is something God does and we participate under God’s authority. These authors also argue for a liberal democracy (not to be confused with what is called liberal or progressive in our politics) as the best earthly expression of government that honors the image of God in which all people of all races and nations are created.

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- VBS in July
- Shoe Project Underway
- Photographers Needed

*From Pastor Steve's Desk*

Dear Arkansas City UMC,

Thank you for your gifts in support of Lydia Patterson Institute. Because of your support, Lydia Patterson Institute continues its mission and our students continue to rise.

This spring, we celebrated the class of 2025, and we are proud to share some joyful news:

- 100% of our seniors graduated and were accepted to college.
- We are ranked #3 among private high schools in El Paso.
- We are among the top 20% in Texas for faculty with advanced degrees and campus diversity.

Thanks to your generosity, we also opened a brand-new STEM Makerspace, expanded athletics and mentorship programs, and continue to provide a safe, faith-based environment where students on both sides of the border can grow into leaders.

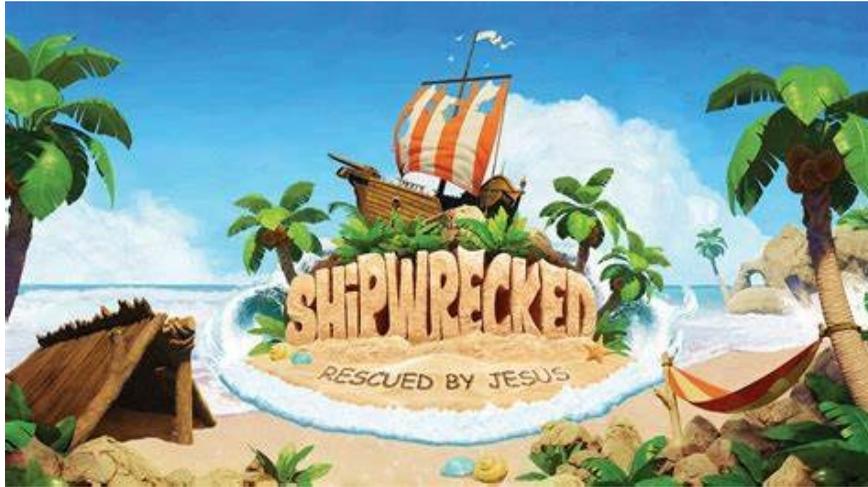
Your gift is more than a donation—it is an act of faith and hope.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Domingo Betancourt  
Development Director  
Lydia Patterson Institute

## Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus

Vacation Bible School is Sunday, July 27, through Thursday, July 31, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., at the St. Paul campus. Each night starts out with a light supper and includes Bible story time, crafts, activities, music, and exploring God's beautiful world. Children pre-school through 5th grade are invited to attend. Register online at <https://www.arkcityumc.com/>



## Help Create the Experience!

If you haven't yet volunteered for VBS, helpers are needed for

- Creative crafts
- Recreation
- Story time
- Music in motion
- God in creation

Sign up in the narthex to help one, two, or every evening, Sunday, July 27, through Thursday, July 31. **Help in advance by attending work days at the Edgemont Campus Wednesdays, July 9 and 16, from 9 to 11 a.m.**

A collection box for donated materials is also in the narthex. Donate your coffee creamer bottles, paper towel rolls, milk jugs, vegetable cans, Pringles cans, and beads.

Call Lynda Arnett at 785.640.2639 with questions or to sign up to help.

## Shoe Project Ramping Up

Every child needs new items, especially when starting school. AC UMC is currently collecting funds for shoes for children pre-K through eighth-grade. Records show that since 2002, our church has provided shoes for 7,019 children. Job well done! Let's keep up the great work helping Ark City children.

~Cindy Freeland



## Disaster Relief Opportunities

The Great Plains Annual Conference has organized several opportunities for churches in our conference to get involved in disaster relief.

Our local church can join the 12 x 12 Club. To join, we

1. Register at [htapley@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:htapley@greatplainsumc.org).
2. Make 12 UMCOR relief kits.
3. Store them at AC UMC.
4. If they are not called for within six months, give them to a local organization, family, school, or business.
5. Repeat the process.



## UMCOR Depot

Spend a week with Volunteers in Mission at the United Methodist Committee on Relief Depot in Baldwin, LA. Cost is \$340 per person which covers housing, meals, and a \$50 non-refundable deposit. All ages are welcome. For more information, email [htapley@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:htapley@greatplainsumc.org).

Dear church family,

Thank you, everyone, for the birthday wishes, whether physical, digital, or word of mouth!

Elsie Tipton

# July 2025

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 10:30a Seeking Sisters	<b>2</b> 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul	<b>3</b> 7p SMP Live	<b>4 Independence Day</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery 11:15a Education Committee	<b>7</b> 5p WVQG 7p Small Group	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9-11a VBS Workday 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul	<b>10</b> 7p SMP Live	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday	<b>14</b> 7p Small Group	<b>15</b> 10:30a Seeking Sisters	<b>16</b> 9-11a VBS Workday 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul	<b>17</b> 7p SMP Live	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 5p Hour of Praise and Prayer Prayer + Game Night
<b>20</b> 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Meal 12:15p Finance Trustees	<b>21</b> 7p Small Group	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul	<b>24</b> 7p SMP Live	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 12:15p Admin. Council	<b>28</b> 7p Small Group	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b> 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul	<b>31</b> 7p SMP Live		

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## 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 Maehtlen  
Cheri Morris  
Stephen Rankin

# Finance Report

May		2025 to date	
Income	\$12,508	Income	\$117,926
Expenses	\$27,237	Expense	\$115,826

## 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	

(continued from p. 1)

A paperback copy of this book (200 pages long) on Amazon costs a bit more than \$14. The Kindle version is \$10, I think. If you would like some help thinking as a Christian about how to think of our political climate, I recommend it.

We soon celebrate our nation's founding. It's a good time to remember the vision of liberty and justice that animated our founders, remembering that they didn't think up these ideas on their own. Regardless of our particular political persuasions, we all look to a much higher power.

*From Pastor Steve's Desk*

Let us pray for each other. Contact Pam Archer at (620) 446-2456 or at [parcher@cox.net](mailto: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

- Approved Janis Goff as chair of the Education Committee.
- Decided to create an in-house church directory. Plans to date are to recruit three or four volunteers who can take photos for six to eight weeks in September and October, starting with the Third Sunday Fellowship Meal.
- Approved a policy for posting flyers on the church's bulletin boards. It states, "for placement of a community advertisement on a church bulletin board, the following is required:
  - The flyer must be posted no more than two weeks prior to the event;
  - The name of the organization sponsoring the event must be included on the flyer.
  - Contact phone number must be included on the flyer.
  - Date of the event must be included on the flyer.

The church's mission will be considered on the subject matter of the flyer."

## FINANCE TRUSTEES

- No meeting was held during June due to Father's Day.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Approved a work schedule for VBS.
- Discussed plans for Sunday School in the fall.

## Are You a Photographer?

The Administrative Council has voted to create a new church directory and is seeking three or four volunteers who could take photographs of church members on Sundays in September and October. If photography is your gift, the church needs you! Call the office at 620.442.4530 to volunteer.

## Committees

### EDUCATION

Janis Goff, chair  
Jill Sullivan  
Lynda Arnett  
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.

