

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

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 1 Kayla Dykes	June 23 Shanna Brown
June 5 Carl Morgan	Alisha Call
June 7 Mayci Allen	June 25 Ayla Allen
Brian Wise	Mary Anna Sentel
June 13 Terese Call	June 27 Albert Bacastow
June 16 Shelly Dixon	Ann Hastings
Curtis Freeland	Cathy Wilcox
June 17 Evelyn Edwards	June 28 Darrin Green
Jon Oak	
June 18 Page Burris	June 2 Linda and Kirby Neal
Michael Morris	June 3 Kayla and Mark Dykes
June 19 Debbie Ledford	June 6 Darla and Darin Mann
June 20 Cassandra Lile	June 8 Shirley and Howard Griffin
June 21 Bentlea Sampson	Peggy and Jeff Musson
Elsie Tipton	June 13 Terese and David Call
June 22 Zachary Stoy	June 18 Terri and Lon Pressnall
	June 22 Kaitlyn and Dylan Moore
	June 24 Andrea and Alec Petry

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



June 2025

It's hard for me to fathom that Joni and I have been with you three years, as of the end of June. This thought puts me in a "take stock" frame of mind, as we head into the summer.

When I started in July, 2022, you were six months into the official legal merger of the two congregations into one. Many of you and Pastor Stephanie had done an enormous amount of work. We're still growing into who we are as a single congregation.

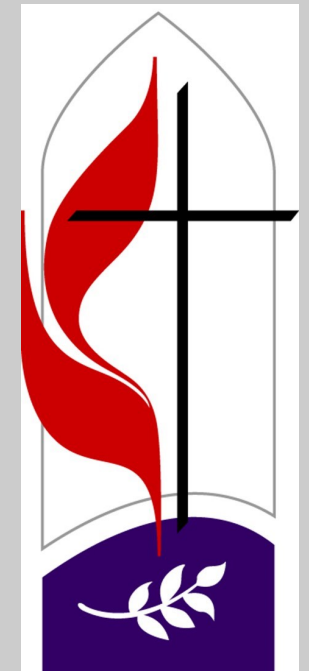
In 2022, we all were still trying to readjust after Covid. If I recall, one of the first decisions we made together was about wearing masks in worship. People were still trying to "keep a safe distance" (remember those words?), and, if I recall correctly, we decided to make masks optional. It's really hard to sing through a mask, but we were still worried about the possibility of spreading germs. It seems like almost a lifetime ago.

After Covid, the choirs got going again and we're all thankful.

Regarding the usual institutional matters, our worship attendance numbers have been steady at around 80 or maybe a bit more. The church's finances have been steady, too, thanks be to God. After some confusion about what had been decided at previous meetings, you convinced me that the traditional Administrative Council leadership structure was the way to go. We have functioning committees.

How to use our two buildings continues to be a looming question. Along with the Wednesday Share Meal (including Prayer Plus) and English as a Second Language classes, we've started a monthly Hour of Praise and Prayer in the St. Paul building and we held a Lenten study there last year. We keep thinking and praying about what else might happen at the St. Paul campus. You also sold the old First Church parsonage, and the trustees

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- VBS in July
- Summer Camp and Sunday School
- Rankins Visit Turkey

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$340 for the Keynotes Outreach Team at Southwestern College. We are glad to have your support for this very worthwhile program.

Southwestern College remains dedicated to providing students not only the tools to excel at their chosen profession but also the skills to live successfully in our ever-changing world. Your support makes a difference in the lives of our students and to the future of our college.

Again, please know that your support and ambassadorship of Southwestern College is deeply appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 620.229.6343 or by email at Kaydee.riggsjohnson@sckans.edu.

With gratitude,
Kaydee Riggs-Johnson
Vice President for Advancement, Communications and Marketing

Summer Sunday School Plans

Dale Carnegie (1888-1955), the guru for several generations of ambitious people seeking success, reportedly said, "Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get." This is sage advice, but there is much more to happiness than this bit of wisdom captures. Starting June 1 the Summer Sunday Study will explore what happiness is and how we find it. We'll read some things together. We'll share where and how we've come to think about happiness. We'll examine easy cliches. We'll look at how John Wesley described happiness and which scriptures he thought were most important. Come one, come all!

"What is Happiness, and How Do We Find It?"
Sundays, June 1-August 10
8:30 a.m., the Gathering Place

The nursery will be open, and activities for children will be available.

VBS: "Shipwrecked, Jesus Recues"

Plans are in full swing for Vacation Bible School this summer, Sunday through Thursday, July 27-31, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Join the fellowship of friends planning this important experience for children in Arkansas City. Call Lynda Arnett at 785.640.2639 for more information or sign up in the narthex.

Helpers are needed for:

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

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ~ Matthew 19:14

Summer Camps are Here!

It's time to sign up for summer camps at Camp Horizon with the first session beginning Monday, June 1. Ark City UMC is committed to paying half the cost of camp at Horizon, up to \$215, for children and youth associated with the church. Stop by the church office to pick up a scholarship form! Register for camp online at www.horizoncenter.org or by phone at 620.442.5533.

Summer Camp Horizon
A Great Plains UNITED METHODIST CAMP
www.HorizonCenter.org
2025

Camps	Weeks Available	Grade <small>*Grade for 25/26 school year</small>	Price <small>Before May 1st</small>
Main Camp	2, 4, 6, 8	3-8	\$425
Leaders in Training (LITs)	2, 4, 6, 8	9-11	\$325
Middle School Camp	Week 3: June 16-20	6-8	\$425
High School Camp <small>(5 nights)</small>	Week 7: July 13-18	9-CF	\$525
Preview Camp	Week 1: June 1-2	1-6	\$125
Mini Camp (Wed-Fri)	4 & 8	3-6	\$225
Day Camp Wednesday	2 & 6	1-3	\$50
Dates	Week 1: June 1-2	Week 6: July 7-11	
	Week 2: June 9-13	Week 7: July 13-18	
	Week 3: June 16-20	Week 8: July 21-25	
	Week 4: June 23-27		

Main Camps: Our most popular camps feature the widest variety of activities: swimming, hiking, camping out, praise and worship, jumping pillow, hammocks, archery, and more.

Leaders in Training (LITs): LITs have a hands-on experience selecting their activities, they participate in a service project, help with areas of camp, and explore their leadership abilities, all while having fun being a camper.

Middle School Camp: Crazy games, passionate worship, and meaningful relationships. This week is all about discovering yourself in Christ. Don't miss it!

High School Camp: You've not seen what camp can really be like until you come to High School Camp. You'll try new things and make new friends all while strengthening your faith in Christ! This week just might change your life! (5 nights!)

Preview Camp: This one-night session, lets campers experience the excitement and spirit of camp in a condensed format.

Mini Camp: All the fun of camp in a shorter time frame. Two-night camp is great for those with busy schedules or those easing into the camp experience.

Day Camps: Dip your toes into the world of Horizon with our day camps. Ideal for newcomers looking try it out. Join us Wednesday from 9 am to 4 pm.



Church Leaders:
Scan the QR code for a promo video and resources to help promote camp

Contact us and we can schedule a camp staff come share about Camp.

Register Online: www.HorizonCenter.org
Register by Phone: 620-442-5533

June 2025

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery 11:15a Education Committee	2 7p Small Group	3 10:30a Seeking Sisters 	4 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul;	5 Annual Conference	6 Annual Conference	7 Annual Conf.
8 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday 11:15a Prayer Plus Team	9 5p WVQG 7p Small Group	10 	11 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul;	12 7p SMP Live	13	14
15 TRINITY SUNDAY FATHER'S DAY 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Meal 12:15p Finance Trustees	16 7p Small Group	17 10:30a Seeking Sisters 	18 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul;	19 7p SMP Live	20	21 5p Hour of Praise and Prayer
22 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 12:15p Admin. Council	23 7p Small Group	24 	25 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul;	26 7p SMP Live	27	28
29 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Fifth Sunday Contemporary Service	30 7p Small Group			29	30	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
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

April		2025 to date	
Income	\$18,064	Income	\$105,418
Expenses	\$21,300	Expense	\$88,588

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	

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(and Wiley) have been working to keep the plumbing and water flowing in the right places at the Edgemont campus.

We're looking forward to new efforts and grateful for the continuing ones. The youth group and children's church have stayed steady. You added an intern to help with this ministry. Some leaders are preparing for a new Vacation Bible School this coming July (stay tuned). And watch for a new outreach effort that should start this summer.

This list is by no means the whole thing, but it does give us a sense about where we stand today. For me, the past 3 years have flown. I'm looking forward to what is to come.

~Steve

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Committee Notes

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

- No meeting was held during May due to Memorial Weekend.

FINANCE TRUSTEES

- No meeting was held during May due to summer vacations.

Rankins Visit Turkey



At left, the gate to Istanbul from Nicaea, the sight of the first and seventh ecumenical church councils.

Below, the cistern in Istanbul built in the style of a basilica.



At left, the 6th century mosaic of Jesus still visible in the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. The famous church building was converted to a mosque in 1453.



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.

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.

