

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

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ARKANSAS CITY
United Methodist Church

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Oct. 01	Forest Smith	Oct. 27	Darin Mann
Oct. 02	Sandra Rush		Ayla Retzer
	Richard Thomas		Terri Schroeder
	Matthew Sullivan	Oct. 28	Janis Goff
Oct. 03	LaDonna Bazil		Kim Walton
Oct. 04	Journey Dykes	Oct. 29	Cindy Freeland
	Don Gingher	Oct. 30	Rodger Maechtlen
Oct. 07	Charlotte Schmidt	Oct. 31	John Bazil
Oct. 11	Sam Oglesby		Arleta Rice Folks
Oct. 13	Pam Rogers		
Oct. 16	Kaeli Sullivan		
Oct. 19	Price Allen		
	Ellie Didion		
	Vicki Hensley	Oct. 10	Gerry and John Bazil
Oct. 21	Cheri Morris		Vicki and Richard Hensley
	Andrea Petry	Oct. 23	Diane and Lloyd Birdzell
Oct. 22	Helen Bossi	Oct. 31	Pam and Pat Rogers

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



October 2025

It's the time of year when our church starts planning for the upcoming year. On November 16, our annual charge conference will take place. During this meeting, we do a number of things, like electing new officers and approving our budget for 2026. It's more than a business meeting, even though it can feel very much like all we're doing is church business.

With that thought in mind, I want to write a word about tithing. A tithe is 10% of one's income. (Most people think of it as income you have after taxes.) There is no New Testament command to tithe, and we obviously don't require it. People have all kinds of reasons and all kinds of financial demands. We leave it up to each of us to work out our financial commitments to support the church's ministries.

A tithe is just enough of a portion of our income to stretch our faith, in other words, to *feel* what it feels like to trust God in tangible ways. In this sense, the tithe symbolizes something bigger and more basic than figuring out how we support a church budget.

A tithe helps us think about our feelings about money and possessions. While this season of the year demands that we talk about the church budget and all the matters that go with being an organization with facilities, would you take some time to think about how you feel about the possessions you steward? About the quality and extent of your trust in a good God who promises to provide?

With whatever amount you commit to the church's budget for the upcoming year, would you be willing to consider having your faith stretched a little? Our community has many needs. How might God work through us if we say yes to him in faith?

From Pastor Steve's Desk



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Lost and Found
- Chicken Noodle Dinner Pre-order
- Stewardship Campaign
- Cards of Thanks

Dear friends in ministry,

Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I'm certain their response would be — Thank you!

And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationships, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people in need.

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes,
General Secretary,
General Board of Global
Ministries and UMCOR

All Part of the Story

SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 BY ANDREW GARLAND BREEDEN (TENNESSEE)
REPRINTED IN PART WITH PERMISSION

On the flight home from a vacation out west, my seatmate asked me what I do for a living. When I told her, she said she knew *The Upper Room* well because her grandmother was a longtime reader. This is not an uncommon experience. Someone asks me about my job, I tell them, and they go on to talk about their connection to *The Upper Room*.

I would be lying if I said I don't love these interactions. They remind me that my work has value and that I am part of something with a reach that extends far beyond what I'm actively thinking about each day. It began long before me and will hopefully continue long after I'm gone.

The magazine you hold in your hands goes back several decades — nine to be exact. This year, 2025, we celebrate our 90th year of publication. The story of our origin and subsequent history is varied, full, and rich. And it all started with a mustard seed. Frances Craig, a member of a Methodist church in San Antonio, Texas, and Dr. Grover Emmons, a preacher with all the right connections, recognized the need for a devotional resource for daily home use. Through their hard work, prayer, and ingenuity, they made it happen. The inaugural issue was already at the printer when Dr. Emmons got the idea for the name of the new magazine while listening to a sermon on the upper room and the events of Pentecost from Acts 1 and 2.

The first issue went to press in 1935 with a print run of 100,000 copies. We were soon printing half a million copies, and the number continued to grow. While we've made small changes to the size and format over the years, the core attributes of the magazine remain unchanged — the daily pattern of prayer and meditation, fine art on the cover, ordinary people sharing their faith stories, and the devotional guide's global character.

Story, cont.

El Aposento Alto, the Spanish-language edition of *The Upper Room*, appeared on the scene in 1938, making it almost as old as the English-language edition and our longest running translation. In the years since, we've grown to more than 30 language editions in over 100 countries around the world. *The Upper Room* has survived, among other challenges, wars, a national paper shortage, significant shifts in the publishing industry, and a global pandemic.

In the decades since our founding, our vision has expanded beyond the daily devotional guide to include other magazines, book publishing, and programs. Some of our offerings have changed with demand and the spiritual needs of the community we serve. In addition to the daily devotional guide, our current publication and program resources include Upper Room Books, The Academy for Spiritual Formation, Walk to Emmaus, Face to Face, Journey to the Table, and The Center for Healing and Resilience.

While our roots are in the Methodist church, our content and mission are ecumenical, and we work hard to remain true to the biblical story from which we take our name. *The Upper Room* is a place where everyone, in all our God-given variety and diversity, can gather to share experiences of how God is working in our lives.

There's more to the story of *The Upper Room*. A lot more. If you want to explore our history in greater depth, I recommend reading *Where the World Meets to Pray: People and Stories of The Upper Room* by Mary Lou Redding (Upper Room Books). I read it about once a year to ground myself in my work and place in *The Upper Room's* ministry.

Copies of the *Upper Room* are available in regular and large print in the hallway south of the fellowship hall.

Ark City Methodist Church,

Thank you all so much for coming to campus for our community & club fair! We appreciate you taking the time to connect with our students and welcome them to our community! We hope to see you next year at this event!

Thank you & Go Tigers!

Peyton Snively, Director of Student Life

Thank you for your words of sympathy, your voice of concern, your gesture of caring and the love you offer.

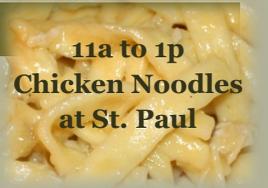
From the family of Charles Kinzie

Thank you to Steve and the wonderful ladies who prepared the meal for our family.

Rob and Cindy Blevins.

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30p ESL	2 Scouting USA 7p SMP Live	3	4 9a Rolls, Edgemont	
5 THIRD-GRADE BIBLES 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery	6 7p Small Group	7 10:30a Seeking Sisters 5p Girl Scouts	8 1 p Chicken deboning, St. Paul 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30p ESL	9 Scouting USA 7p SMP Live	10	11q	
12 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday 11:15a Safety Committee	13 7p Small Group	14 5p Girl Scouts	15 1:30 p UMF 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30p ESL	16 Scouting USA 7p SMP Live	17	18	
19 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Dinner 12:15p Finance Trustees	Seeking Sisters Hosting 20 7p Small Group	21 10:30a Seeking Sisters 5p Girl Scouts	22	23 Arkalalah		24	25 11a to 1p Chicken Noodles at St. Paul
26 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Admin. Council	27	28 5p Girl Scouts	29 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30p ESL	30 Scouting USA 7p SMP Live	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
Jill Sullivan
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 Maehtlen
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

	August		2025 to date	
Income	\$29,445	Income	\$187,421	
Expenses	\$20,095	Expense	\$185,447	

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		

Lost and Found

A rather large number of sunglasses, reading glasses, water bottles, and keys have been turned in to the church office. Please stop in to find your missing items!

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 the timeline for a new church directory. Billie Swanson is chairing the project with Darla Mann, Janis Goff, and Joni Rankin on the committee. Picture taking will begin in November with complete plans outlined in the November newsletter.
- Approved paying 50%, up to \$275 per camper, for 2026 summer camps at Camp Horizon.

FINANCE TRUSTEES

- Cancelled the September meeting for the all-church picnic

Loving Through Giving

Stewardship Sunday is October 26, allowing plenty of time for the Trustee Finance committee and Administrative Council to complete the church's budget for 2026. Campaign cards will be mailed the second full week in October. At that time, copies will also be available in the narthex. What is God calling you to give to your church family and community in 2026? Can He be trusted to provide? Let's pray together to discern.



Get Your Chicken Noodles Here!

It's time to pre-order your Arkalalah chicken noodle dinner, served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, from the St. Paul kitchen. For \$10 per person, the meal includes home-made chicken and noodles, a roll, green beans, mashed potatoes, cake, and water. Pre-order on the church's Facebook account.

<https://www.facebook.com/arkcityUMC>



Committees

EDUCATION

Janis Goff, chair
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

EDUCATION

Meets the first Sunday of the month