

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

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

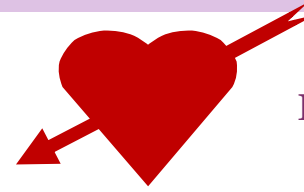
Feb. 3	John Nielsen	Feb. 21	Janice Bobek
Feb. 5	Phyllis McCorgary Eric Rogers	Feb. 22	Joann Goff
Feb. 6	Linda Long Pam Messenger Ray Wentworth	Feb. 23	Kevin Lowery
Feb. 8	David Call	Feb. 24	Darci Sampson
Feb. 9	Elrea Mullen Peggy Thomas	Feb. 25	Dac Call
Feb. 11	Barbara Branson Pat Rogers Betty Tanner	Feb. 27	Linda Rahn Nick Rogers
Feb. 12	Stella Rogers		
Feb. 15	Natasha Bucher Emilee Wells		
Feb. 16	Virginia Wells		
Feb. 17	Darla Mann		

Feb. 16 Deanna and Dennis Kuder

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



February 2026

The One Big Story

Christian discipleship always involves learning. Learning means more than simply understanding true statements and learning to distinguish true from false. For learning to be true learning, it needs to turn into action. In the Christian faith, we call it fruit.

Learning requires study. I find it a great joy to help people grapple with topics relevant to Christian discipleship and important for our growth. This is why we do SMP Live on Thursday evenings. We have people in the room with us and people online through Zoom. It's like a Sunday School class that takes "deep dives" into the Bible and Christian doctrine. You can join either way, online or in-person. We start at 7 p.m. and stop at 8 p.m.

We just started a new study, called "The One Big Story." The Bible's main literary characteristic is narrative, a story. In this case, it is the story of God: who God is and what God is doing. Even though the Bible is full of many different kinds of writing from different ages and, to some degree, different cultures, there is a story that holds all the diversity together. It's the story of God's faithfulness to fallen human beings and, even more, God's faithfulness to the whole creation. It's an honest story about God's goodness and our human waywardness, about God's judgments and our salvation.

Cont. on p. 7



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

- The One Big Story
- New UWF
- 2025 ESL Recap
- Giving

From Pastor Steve's Desk

ESL 2025 Recap

-this article was inadvertently left out of the January newsletter.

The ESL (English as a Second Language) classes concluded before Thanksgiving with six students in the morning classes and nine students in the evening classes.

At enrollment, students are evaluated to determine their level. A total of seven students were enrolled in the First Steps classes which prepare the students for the curriculum we use thereafter. The other eight students were enrolled at various levels and curriculum withing their level: Reading and Spelling or Reading Comprehension and Writing Composition.

Six of the First Steps students passed their test at the end of classes. A total of eleven tests were taken by the other eight students because some were working out of two books. Nine of the eleven tests were passed with all students passing at least one of their tests.

Our last session was for recognition and celebration. All students who passed were awarded certificates. In addition, two students were awarded certificates and \$10 Braums gift cards for perfect attendance, and two students were awarded certificates and \$5 Braums gift cards for missing only one class session.

Volunteers include Deb Holman, Sylvia McAlister, Joni Rankin, Patty Foster, and Nancy Clarkson, morning classes; Cathy Wilcox, Karen Goatley, Sylvia McAlister, and Nancy Clarkson, evening classes; Betty Rhodes, Cheri Morris, and Doris Miller, enrollment; Martha Garcia and Melissa Mendez, translators; John Oak, security; Sandy Smith and Nancy Talbert, pre- and post-testing.

As noticable from the names of volunteers, our ESP program is a community effort. Thank you to all who helped make this possible.

~Nancy Clarkson, ESL Coordinator

We sure enjoyed the Christmas caroling! It was great to see Pam singing along. Thanks for the poinsettia and the cards you send.

Shalom,
David and Pam Messenger



Dear church family,

I just want everyone to know how much I appreciated all the prayers, phone calls, food, Christmas cards, visits, texts, and get well cards and words of love and encouragement after my surgery. Since surgery was on my right shoulder, I was not able to send Christmas cards this year. Please forgive me. Just know how much everything meant to me and how dear my church family is to me !!!

~Doris Miller

New UWF Chapter

Our first meeting of the new chapter of United Methodist Women/United Women In Faith went well.

Present were Sylvia McAlister, Lynda Arnett, Peggy Thomas, and Phyllis Stewart. These, along with Melba Maechtlen, will be the new members to start.

We elected a slate of officers: president, Sylvia McAlister; vice president, Peggy Thomas; secretary-treasurer, Lynda Arnett; spiritual growth, Peggy Thomas; and social action, Sylvia McAlister.

It was a unanimous decision that half the mission pledge would go to local and state missions and the other half to the district, part of which will be sent on to the conference and then nationally. It was a very informal meeting with some good conversation, helping us to get to know each other better. We have a diversity of thinking which should be valuable. Later in the year when it stays light longer we will plan at least two evening meetings.

~Sylvia McAlister



It's not always easy to see the thread of the One Big Story that connects all the books of the Bible together. This study follows that story thread through the Bible, so that we can see more clearly how we have become part of God's story of salvation. Pastor Steve leads the study every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. through March 26 in the Gathering Place. **If you're unable to get out in the evenings, join online via Zoom at spiritualmaturityproject.org/events.** Call the church office if you need help with Zoom.

St. Paul United Methodist Church,

Thank you for allowing us to host our annual Christmas party at your church. We greatly appreciate it.

~Cowley County
Sherrif Office

Dear Ark City UMC,

Thank you so much for your support of the Live Nativity. We appreciate all you did for us: supplying the hot chocolate, providing greeters, and allowing us to borrow costumes to provide about half of what we needed. We give special thanks to volunteer greeters and your coordinator, Monica Wise.

A total of 130 vehicles went through, 58 on Friday, and 72 on Saturday.

I pray that you will continue to support this ministry. It wouldn't be as great without your help, and we love working with you.

Blessings,

~Arlene Johnson
Bible Christian Church

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery 4p Faithbuilders	2 7p Small Group	3 10:30a Seeking Sisters 5p Girl Scouts 7p SPRC	4 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	5 4:45 Ed. Committee, Starbucks 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting USA	6	7
8 Scouting Sunday 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday 11:15a Ad Co. (Jan. meeting) 4p Faithbuilders	9 7p Small Group	10 5p Girl Scouts	11 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	12 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting USA	13	14
5 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 5p Girl Scouts	18 1:30p UWF 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	19 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting USA	20	21
22 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Administrative Council	23 7p Small Group	24 5p Girl Scouts	25 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group	26 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting USA	27	28



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 Maehtlen
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

	December		2025 Year End
Income	\$41,212	Income	\$318,224
Expenses	\$24,726 not including roof work	Expenses	\$272,668

Share Meals History—17 Years

SHARE Meal	People served	Avg. Served Weekly	Avg. Helpers Weekly	Avg. Take-Outs Weekly
Jun.-Dec.	no	data	collected	
2009	638	32		
2010	1,850	37	8	
2011	1,893	38	7	5
2012	2,225	46	7	6
2013	1,657	35	8	6
2014	1,687	35	7	6
2015	1,312	27	7	6
2016	1,451	28	6	7
2017	1,754	36	5	7
2018	1,534	33	5	10
2019	1,907	39	5	11
2020	2,295	47	4	42
2021	2,953	60	4	62
2022	3,705	76	4	76
2023	4,913	99	5	98
2024	4,782	96	6	96
2025	4,521	97	9	96
Total:	41,077			
Average:	2416	50.6	6.1	35.6

To Designate or Not to Designate

When giving to Arkansas City United Methodist Church, it is not necessary to designate whether your giving is to support the general budget of the church or to support facilities and grounds. However, you may continue to designate giving if you prefer that your contribution be limited to those or other specific ministries or purposes.

In addition to giving in person or by mail, you may go to the website (www.arkcityumc.org) and click on Give to make your one-time or reoccurring contribution.



Cont. from p. 1

It's very important for us to know that we are in the story! The Bible, with events happening in the past, shows us God's continuing, purposeful work until all that God intends for creation is brought to completion. Think of how you fit in the book of Acts and the book of Revelation, for example. We can see also that the church problems we find in Paul's letters or the sufferings we read about all through the pages of Scripture are problems and challenges we face today. God is the main Actor in this story and we are actors with him.

This study will go until Easter. It's not too late to join. If you miss a session, we put everything on our Spiritual Maturity Project YouTube channel.

You have a role in the One Big Story. Do you know what it is?

From Pastor Steve's Desk

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

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