

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



March Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------|---|
| Mar. 1 | Christie Rogers
Jonas Stoy | Mar. 27 | Dan Deener
Brian Demo |
| Mar. 2 | Janice Keefe | Mar. 27 | Dennis Call |
| Mar. 5 | Lynda Arnett
Olivia Dawson | Mar. 28 | Marilyn Stout |
| Mar. 6 | Von Rogers | Mar. 29 | Zane Butler |
| Mar. 8 | Tammy Oak | Mar. 30 | Jeffrey Schroeder |
| Mar. 9 | Howard Griffin | | |
| Mar. 13 | Sue Schultz | | |
| Mar. 15 | Nathan Monroe | | |
| Mar. 16 | Josie Munson | | |
| Mar. 18 | Dennis Kuder
Dillen Rogers | Mar. 7 | Charlotte and Tom Schmidt |
| Mar. 20 | Alice Paton | Mar. 16 | Virginia and Deuane Wells |
| Mar. 21 | Leslie Sherman | Mar. 29 | Cheri and Brad Morris |
| Mar. 23 | Darci Utt | Mar. 31 | Pam and Steve Archer
Joycelyn and Allen Goff |
| Mar. 24 | Sandy Short | | |

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



March 2026

Toward the end of this month, just before Holy Week, we will hold a second Christian Ashram at Camp Horizon. It's a Friday evening through Saturday (till 4 p.m.) experience of spiritual renewal that includes fellowship, small group discussion and prayer, good teaching, and lively singing.

I've talked some about the Christian Ashram movement started by the Methodist missionary, E. Stanley Jones. (Here is a short piece I wrote for *Christian History* magazine, <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/brother-stanleys-legacy>). Jones borrowed a practice from India that he had seen there and brought it to the United States. A Christian Ashram is a time to step out of the labors of life and seek God for healing, guidance, and renewal.

We'll have two outstanding teachers. One is the Rev. Tom Albin, the retired Dean of the Upper Room in Nashville (part of Discipleship Ministries). Tom is an experienced pastor, an author, an incisive teacher, and a Kansas boy! He'll be our evangelist. Mark Hird, our Bible teacher, hails from Vancouver, British Columbia. In addition to the teaching sessions, we'll have times of small group discussion, worship, and prayer.

Jordan and Zane Butler will lead us in worship. I'm excited to have them share their gifts with us.

The cost for the weekend is \$50 per person which includes Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch. We encourage youth to come and participate too. If you need childcare, call the church office, and we'll make arrangements depending on the need. Lodging (\$100 per room) at Camp Horizon is available through the church office too. Register for the Ashram on the church's website www.arkcityumc.com/events or through the church office.

We are inviting churches in the area and across the annual conference, along with the churches in Arkansas City. The Christian Ashram movement is ecumenical in scope. All are welcome. I ask you to come, to give yourself some time to focus. May God touch us all with an added measure of grace!



ARKANSAS CITY
United Methodist Church

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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From Pastor Steve's Desk

Ark City UMC,
Thank you for your faithfulness in paying your mission share in full. I am grateful for your ministry among us.

Thank you,
DS Chali

2026 Ashram

Get away from it all!

Our church is hosting the 2026 South Kansas Christian Ashram this year at Camp Horizon, Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28. Sign up on the church's website at www.arkcityumc.com/events or in the narthex. Registration is \$50 per person and includes dinner Friday evening, and breakfast and lunch Saturday.

The word Ashram (pronounced ah"shrum) is from the Sanskrit language meaning, "a retreat," or more literally "away from hard work." It is a time for spiritual growth proclaiming, "Jesus is Lord," setting aside time for worship, silence, prayer, relaxation, and fellowship.

Activities begin 5 p.m. Friday, with dinner, worship, the Hour of the Open Heart, and a word from Tom Albin. The Ashram concludes Saturday by 4 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Tom Albin is currently director of development for the United Christian Ashrams International, after having served many years as its executive director, and as the dean of the Upper Room in Nashville, Tenn.

A Kansas native, Albin started out in a one-room schoolhouse before attending Ottawa University, Oral Roberts University, and Fuller Theological Seminary. He was ordained in the Methodist Church.

Mark Hird is the assistant director of the British Columbia Christian Ashram and has attended the retreat faithfully since childhood. He has an undergraduate degree in biology and a Masters of Divinity.

Hird has taken part in numerous mission trips to Mexico and recalls fondly his six-week mission trip to Tanzania where he witnessed 3,000 people accepting Jesus as Lord.

An active member of the Anglican Church, Mark serves in music, scripture reading, and Sunday School.



Tom Albin, evangelist



Mark Hird, Bible teacher

Holy Week is Early This Year

Since Holy Week 2026 falls in late March and early April, following is a preview of worship and other activities planned for the week, from Palm Sunday, March 29, through Easter Sunday, April 5.

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, Contemporary Service, 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026

Passover Seder, 5:30 p.m., \$10 per person, registration required and available on the church website www.arkcityumc.com/events.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

Sunrise Service, time TBD, on the east lawn followed by a light breakfast

Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, Communion Sunday, 10 a.m.

Communion Delivery, 11:15 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt for all Ages, 11:30 am.

Community Holy Week services will be available at a later date.

More 2026 Ashram



Zane Butler

Brothers Zane and Jordan Bulter will lead the Ashram in music and worship. Arkansas City natives, the Butlers are active in many music ministry settings in the area.



Jordan Butler

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 Sheriff Office

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

	January		2026 to Date
Income	\$44,006	Income	\$44,006
Expenses	\$40,786	Expenses	\$40,786

Share Meals This Year

SHARE Meal	Week1	Week2	Week3	wwk4	wee5
Jan.	100	114	100	114	
Feb	114	115	82		

Designated and Online Giving

A new outreach ministry of the church has begun working with local residents in need of assistance outside what is currently available through Angels in the Attic and other organizations. This new effort seeks a more relational approach to giving aid. Dac Call spearheads the team, and Cindy Freeland and Sylvia McAlister serve with him. **If you would like some of your tithes and offerings to go directly to this effort, please designate in the memo of your check “Service and Mission.”**

In addition to your tithes and offerings given by check or cash, online giving is available on our website at www.arkcityumc.com/giving. You can designate your giving online as well, plus optionally pay the bank processing fees.

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.

Attend the Passover Seder

“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’” (1 Cor. 11:23-25)



The scene that Paul recounts is the Last Supper or Passover Seder that Jesus shared with his disciples just before his passion. The meal commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and includes traditional readings, ceremonial food and drink, retelling the story, songs, and a shared meal.

Join your church family for the Passover Seder on Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

The meal includes soup, roast chicken, vegetables, salad, and dessert. Cost is \$10 for those 10 years and older; \$5 for children 5 to 10, and free for children under 5. **Sign up in the narthex or on the church’s website:**

Become a Lay Servant Minister

Monday, March 16, 2026
Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries - Basic Course,
Douglass, KS United Methodist Church

FOR MORE DETAILS & TO REGISTER, USE THE QR CODE OR CLICK HERE:
[HTTPS://WWW.GREATPLAINSUMC.ORG/LAY-EVENTS](https://www.greatplainsumc.org/lay-events)

Questions? Contact Janet Sutter, CLM
316 747 3134 or
jsutter@greatplainsumc.org

Registration deadline March 2, 2026

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