

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

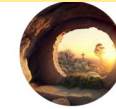
April Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 4	Mark Dykes Stacy Wells	April 22	Maggie Green
April 5	Nicole Dawson-Nielsen	April 30	Doris Miller Hannah Parks
April 6	Helen Gibson		
April 8	Owen Bannister		
April 10	Wyatt Paton Phyllis Stewart		
April 11	Dave Geisler		
April 12	Gary Howell		
April 14	Mykaylee Goff		
April 17	Emmerson Allen Ken Carr		
April 19	Ralph Keefe	April 5	Betty and Dusty Rhodes
April 20	Scarlett Rogers	April 21	Marcia and Michael Musson Miriam And Zachary Stoy
April 21	Andrew Musson		

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



April 2026

If you are one of the people reading through the Bible this year, you recently read John 21. It narrates one of the encounters Jesus' disciples have with the risen Christ. (In those 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and his ascension, according to scripture, he is not constantly with the disciples, but "shows up" at strategic times.) Here, in John 21, some of the disciples return to their old occupation and go to the Sea of Galilee to fish. While out on the lake, in the hazy light of daybreak, they see Jesus standing on the shore, but they don't recognize him. Is it because of the dim light? Maybe. When Jesus tells them to fish on the other side of the boat, and they catch a huge number of fish, they then recognize him.

Back up a chapter. In John 20, we find a weeping Mary at Jesus' tomb. Jesus approaches her and asks, "Why are you weeping?" She doesn't recognize him: "Supposing him to be the gardener..." Presumably, Jesus is standing close enough to her that she can see him well, although, again, it is in the dim light of early morning. (There might be a pattern here.) Not until Jesus says her name does she recognize him.

One more, from the gospel of Luke: Two disciples (note, people who knew Jesus reasonably well) are walking on the road to Emmaus. Jesus appears to them and asks, "What are you discussing with each other?" They tell him the whole story of Jesus' death. Arriving at their destination, they invite the stranger to eat with them. Jesus, acting like the host, "took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them." Luke says, "Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight."

The gospel stories of the resurrection include this feature of strangeness about Jesus' resurrection body. It's a real,

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From Pastor Steve's Desk



ARKANSAS CITY
United Methodist Church

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Easter Schedule
- Butler Baby Shower
- Safety Meeting

Weathering the Storms for ACUMC

Now that it appears that spring has sprung, these photos from the winter snow are a good reminder that the church is made up of those people who love and serve Jesus Christ in many capacities.



In the late February snow, Darin Mann stepped up to shovel the St. Paul campus sidewalks to make ready for serving the Share Meal, for which he is also the Chief Cook and Bottle Washer. Stalwart hands in preparing the meal include Darin's dad, Jimmy Mann; Darla Mann; Wiley Wilcox; Dac Call, and Deanna Kuder, plus many others who routinely show up to package up the regular Wednesday evening meal and pray with those waiting to be served.



Meanwhile, at the Edgemont campus, Wiley Wilcox and Steve Rankin rented a skid steer to clear the parking lot and sidewalks.

While the church's dependable custodian, Dorothy Gilstrap, is

off work to address medical needs, Wiley Wilcox is also providing custodial coverage for the Edgemont campus.

In the past decades, Melba Maechtlen has led us on the organ, sharing her exceptional musical gift with our local body of Christ. While she recovers, others have stepped in to give of their gifts: Monica Wise, Cathy Wilcox, Steve Rankin, Zane Butler, Ken and Lynda Carr, plus others.

These are just a few examples of those stepping up when feeling or hearing a nudge from God. The list does not include new liturgists and children's time, new helpers in the kitchen, new leaders in specialized ministries, or the very many faithful servants in the long-time activities of the church. Thanks be to God!

Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026

Passover Seder, 5:30 p.m., \$10 per person 11 and older; \$5 for children 5 to 10, and free for children under five, advanced registration required

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

Sunrise Service, 7 a.m., 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 a.m.

Monday, April 6, 2026

Church Office Closed

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.

Baby Shower—All Come

A baby shower for Alana and Zane Butler is scheduled during the third-Sunday fellowship meal in April, the 19th, immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service.

Bring a gift and your favorite dish to share at the potluck lunch and celebrate with the Butlers the soon arrival of their first child, a daughter, due around the first of May.

Ladies,

Thank you so much for the wonderful (and delicious) meal after the funeral service. We truly appreciate your support, time, and hard work. It was a blessing.

*Sincerely,
~Lon, Alisha, and family*

Church,

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

~From the Family of Terri Lea Pressnall

Darla and Darin,


Thank you sooo very much for allowing us to have Neita's wedding shower at the [St. Paul] church. The church holds a special place in all of our hearts. Neita was baptized in this church. Her first birthday party was here. She attended the church with Meme, and having her bridal shower here makes it complete.

Being in the church makes us feel close to our grandparents and great grandparents. Thank you for always making us feel welcome!!

Sincerely

~Amy L. Hankins

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Noon: First Assembly of God	6:30p Bible Christian	1 Noon First So. Baptist 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30p Pack 3328	2 Maundy Thursday 9a Home School Co-op Noon St. James COGIC 5:30p Passover Seder 7p Scouting USA	3 Good Friday Noon Random Rd. Community Church 5:30p Pack 3328 Committees	4 Holy Saturday 7:30a Men's group
5 EASTER 7a Sunrise Service and Light Breakfast 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery 11:30a Easter Egg Hunt 4p Faithbuilders	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7p Small Group	7 10:30a Seeking Sisters 5p Girl Scouts	8 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30p Pack 3328	9 9a Home School Co-op 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting USA	10	11 7:30a Men's group
12 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday 11:15a Outreach and Mission 11:15a Safety Meeting 4p Faithbuilders	13 5p Quilt Guild 7p Small Group	14 8a Quilt Guild All Day 5p Girl Scouts	15 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group 6p UWF/UMW, Parlor 6:30p Pack 3328	16 9a Home School Co-op 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting America	17	18 7:30a Men's group
19 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Meal 12:15p Finance Trustees 4p Faithbuilders	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Alana and Zane Bulter Baby Shower</p> </div> 1:30p Jane Hodek 7p Small Group	21 10:30a Seeking Sisters 5p Girl Scouts	22 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30p Pack 3328	23 9a Home School Co-op 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting USA	24	25 7:30a Men's group
26 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Administrative Council 3p Home-School Program 4p Faithbuilders	27	28 5p Girl Scouts	29 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p Kid's Club/Youth Group 6:30p Pack 3328, FH	30 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting USA		

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 Maechtlen
 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

	February		2026 to Date
Income	\$23,503	Income	\$67,510
Expenses	\$24,963	Expenses	\$65,749

Share Meals This Year

SHARE Meal	Week1	Week2	Week3	wwk4	wee5
Jan.	100	114	100	114	
Feb	114	115	82	115	
Mar.	104	106	98	102	

UMW/UWF

The United Methodist Women/United Women of Faith unit met Wednesday, Mar. 18. Melba gave an interesting program called “Mapping our Meanders” with a little history about how the UMW started as a missionary society after two women visited India and saw their great need. We have meandered a long way. We are meandering a little as a unit restart, getting organized again.

We will be meeting at 6 p.m. in the evenings for the next three meetings the third Wednesdays of April, May, and September. We will take off three months in the summer, except for sponsoring the third-Sunday meal to raise funds for an undecided local mission or more. We are hoping to gain new members, especially women that have to work during the day, but could attend an evening meeting, both members of ACUMC and women, 12 and older, who have just started attending. We would like new participants to help us decide which missions to support. We have some good ideas and hope to see some of you soon. Our next meeting is April 15, 6 p.m., in the parlor.

~Blessings to all, Sylvia McAlister, president

Time to Prepare for Safety

Brandy Rice of the AC fire/EMS department will be returning to ACUMC for the annual safety training, Sunday, Apr. 12, at 11:30 a.m., in the Gathering Place. The one-hour training is open to everyone.

Brandy will provide updated information and printed material, to include emergency procedural changes.

The training is important and useful anytime and anywhere, not just in church, since medical emergencies do not announce when or where they will occur. In the March 19 *Cowley Courier Traveler* it was reported that a Cowley College student athlete’s heart stopped during practice. The athletic trainer used an AED and got the heart started before the ambulance arrived.

The church has an AED. Would you know how to use it? Would you hope someone nearby could use it if your heart stopped? In addition to using an AED, the training will include CPR and other important information.

~Nancy Clarkson, chair of the security team

Cont. From Pastor Steve

touchable body that bears the scars of the crucifixion. However, it doesn’t act like a normal body that we know so well.

Right now, we have limited vision, limited understanding. We just can’t see clearly the nature of the resurrection body that we will share in the new creation. But this is the gospel message. Heaven (the new creation) is like something we know, yet unlike anything we have ever experienced. 1 John 3:2-3 tells us that “what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.” We will be like him because our bodies will be resurrection bodies. We will be like him because we will love God perfectly, wholly, just as Jesus loved his—and our—Father.

May we all rejoice in these resurrection promises—strange though they may be.

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