

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

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 1 Larry Swanson
May 4 Tammie Demo
Alister Henson
May 5 Pattie Brown
May 7 Dorothy Gilstrap
May 12 Neveah Elms
May 17 Carolyn Shriver
May 18 Peggy Bennett
May 26 Roy Lee Morse
May 27 Sarah McAlister
May 28 Melba Maechtlen
Ann Oglesby

May 3 Billie and Larry Swanson
May 15 Darci and Jeff Sampson
May 20 Monica and Aaron Wise
May 22 Sandy and Forest Smith

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Arkansas City United Methodist Church

Newsletter



May 2026

There is an old saying, attributed to President John F. Kennedy, about a Chinese character in the alphabet that stands for both crisis and opportunity. My quick AI search (I'm trusting this source for this point) says that it's actually not true, but the truth still makes the point that I want to make. The character, written in English, is *weiji*. *Wei* does mean danger. *Ji* means crisis or turning point, not opportunity. So, it's close. Opportunity does seem often to reside within a turning point. Ark City UMC is at that point now. It has to do with our local organizational structure.

The denomination has given churches the opportunity to adopt a different leadership structure that is more flexible and suitable to our local ministry concerns. It's based on a manual called *Mission Possible*. It presents a leadership vision with a simplified administrative body to replace our current Administrative Council structure. Generally, there will be less reporting at meetings and more dreaming and strategic thinking about how we can love our neighbors and reach them for Christ. Ministry teams put together by team leaders, rather than committees, is another part of the envisioned change.

But(!), very importantly, the decision to move to this new approach to leadership requires input from the whole congregation. This means that we need your input. We'll be finding ways in the next couple of months to explain this possibility and hear from you. We want to know what you think. To change the structure requires the permission of our district superintendent to begin exploration, and a charge conference vote to ratify the decision.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Summer Camps
- Church Directory
- Graduation Sunday
- Gospel Concert

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Camp Horizon Summer 2026

Summer break from school is just around the corner, making it a great time to enroll the children in your life in church camp. Arkansas City United Methodist Church pays half of each camper's tuition (up to \$275) for children associated with the church. Scan the QR code below to register, or go to www.horizoncenter.org. Our church's discount code is **ArkCity**.

CAMP HORIZON
2026 SUMMER SCHEDULE

620-442-5533
www.horizoncenter.org

Main Camp & Leaders in Training
\$445*
Session 1: June 8 - 12
Session 2: June 22 - 26
Session 3: July 6 - 10
Session 4: July 20 - 24

Main Camp: 3rd - 8th Grade
LIT Camp: 9th - 11th Grade

Register Here

Week long prices increase \$25 May 1st!

Middle School & High School Camp
MS Camp: June 15-19 \$465*
HS Camp: July 12-17 \$575*

Day Camp: (10-5 pm) \$50
June 9 1st- 3rd Grade
July 7 1st-3rd Grade

Preview Camp: (1 Night) - \$125
June 10-11 2nd -5th Grade
July 8-9 2nd -5th Grade

Mini Camp (2 Nights)- \$235
3rd - 6th Grade
Session 1: June 24-26
Session 2: July 8-10
Session 3: July 22-24

Church Directory Prints May 4

Final print for the new church directory is scheduled for Monday, May 4. Contact the church office immediately to verify your directory information before that date, or check the draft version in the narthex Sunday, May 3, before or after worship. If you would like to make any changes to your directory information, mark your corrections on the sample directory in the narthex or call the church office at 620.442.4530. The finished directories will be ready for pick up at the church by Sunday, May 10.

Graduation Sunday is May 17

Join your church family for the monthly potluck fellowship dinner and help celebrate our graduates immediately following worship Sunday, May 17. Worship is at 10 a.m. with lunch served around 11:15 a.m. Our local graduate is Mykaylee Goff, daughter of Ricci and Janis Goff, who graduates from Arkansas City High School in May.

Also graduating this year is Corey Sims, grandson of Ken and Lynda Carr, who graduates from the University of North Texas in Denton, TX.

Call the church office to add your special graduates to the list for recognition Graduation Sunday.

Thank you for the prayers, thoughts, cards, phone calls, and hugs extended to me at the time of my sister Judy Learned's death. I don't know how anyone can get through life without a supportive church family. I love you all.

*Thanks again,
~Billie Swanson*

Cont. From Pastor Steve

If this sounds familiar to you, it is because back in 2021-2022, you did enter into the discernment process, but it got caught in the change of pastors in 2022. We'll try to pick up where we left off. Danger-opportunity.

Danger-crisis-opportunity. We're not in danger. We do face challenges. It's an opportunity for us to respond faithfully and move forward. I eagerly anticipate your input.

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

	March		2026 to Date
Income	\$35,487	Income	\$102,997
Expenses	\$27,237	Expenses	\$92,986

Share Meals This Year

SHARE Meal	Week1	Week2	Week3	Week4	Week5
Jan.	100	114	100	114	
Feb	114	115	82	115	
Mar.	104	106	98	102	
Apr.	113	114	106	115	

Ark City Family Life Services

Family Life Services, 305 S. Summit in Arkansas City, keeps the church office notified of news and activities, including tax credit benefits for donations. Their mission is “to save one life and change another through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” They “empower women (and men) making difficult pregnancy decisions and share the hope and support they need for the precious life they bear.”



Join our Email List!



Just scan the QR code with your phone camera, and complete the info.
 OR you can email your information to director@flsonline.net

To join the FLS mailing list, scan the QR code at left, or email director@flsonline.net.

St. James COGIC Hosting Concert

A gospel music concert, *Intimate Worship 2026*, is coming to the Burford Theatre in Arkansas City Saturday, June 20, at 7 p.m.

Dove Award winner and Grammy nominated artist Kierra Sheard-Kelly is featured along with additional national, regional, and local artists.

Tickets are \$60 for VIP seating, \$50 for the floor, and \$40 for the balcony. They may be purchased online at www.jwk2026.eventbrite.com or by check made payable to Intimate Worship, St. James Church of God in Christ, PO Box 191, Arkansas City, KS 67005. To reserve your tickets, email perfectpraise40@yahoo.com when you mail your payment. Group tickets for 10 people or more may be secured by May 10.



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

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7:30a Men's group
3 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Communion 11:15a Communion Delivery 4p Faithbuilders	4 7p Small Group	5 10:30a Seeking Sisters 5p Girl Scouts	6 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6:30p Pack 3328	7 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting America	8	9 7:30a Men's group
10 MOTHER'S DAY 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship, Bucket Sunday 11:15a Outreach and Mission 4p Faithbuilders	11 7p Small Group	12 5p Girl Scouts	13 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6:30p Pack 3328	14 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting America	15	16 7:30a Men's group 1-3p Mykaylee Goff grad reception
17 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Meal 12:15p Finance Trustees 4p Faithbuilders	 7p Small Group	19 10:30a Seeking Sisters 5p Girl Scouts	20 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6p UWF/UMW, Parlor 6:30p Pack 3328	21 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting America	22	23 7:30a Men's group
24 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship 11:15a Administrative Council 4p Faithbuilders		25 7p Small Group	26 5p Girl Scouts	27 5p Prayer +, St. Paul 5:30p Share Meal, St. Paul 6:30p Pack 3328	28 7p SMP Live 7p Scouting America	29
31 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Fellowship Coffee 10a Worship (Contemporary) 4p Faithbuilders						