

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Second Week of Advent: Being Present with Peace

Sunday, December 7, 2025

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410

785-263-2623 — www.abilenefirstumc.org

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Please fill out the insert in today's bulletin to register your attendance and place in the offering plate when it is passed.

BECOMING PRESENT- AN ADVENT RITUAL

PRAYER OF PRESENCE

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

***OPENING HYMN** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* UMH 196

THE GIFT OF YOUNG DISCIPLES

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT VIDEO *Live from Bethlehem*

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11 and 2 Peter 3:8-15a (NRSV)

"Console my people, give them comfort," says your God.

"Speak tenderly to Jerusalem's heart, and tell it that its time of service is ended..."

A voice cries out, "Clear a path through the wilderness for YHWH! Make a straight road through the desert for our God!"

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low; let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges become a valley!

Go up on a high mountain, you who bring good news to Zion!

Shout with a loud voice, you who bring good news to Jerusalem!

Shout without fear, and say to the towns of Judah "Here is your God!"

Like a shepherd you feed your flock, gathering the lambs and holding them close, and leading mother ewes with gentleness.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

There's Something About that Name (sing 2x) UMH 171

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

Here begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: as it was written in Isaiah the prophet: "I send my messenger before you to prepare your way, a herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of our God. Clear a straight path.'" And so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

SERMON *Crying out for Messengers of Peace* Rev. Libby Themis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Lord God, you have shown us your glory: in your holy word, in the blessings of our daily lives, and in the promise of your eternal kingdom. You share your glory with us, giving us the power to live in holiness and godliness. Your loving patience gives us hope as we await the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. In gratitude and thanks we offer you our hearts, our lives, and all that we have. Use these gifts, we pray, to prepare your way of salvation and to establish your realm of peace. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING CAROL**

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

lyrics on the screen

***THE BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer concerns will be listed in the bulletin for 4 weeks unless the church office is notified otherwise.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

The Family of Dennis Schwarz (nephew of Lehman's)

Cesia Berruecos (Prayers of thanks for my host family, their health & life)

Joan Stetler (Aunt of Robbie Reese)

Paul Hoerner (Father of Angie)

Barry McFadden (friend of Malorie R., heart surgery on 11/24)

Sue Murry (recovering from a heart attack)

The Family of Don Soeken (Brother of Diane Wyatt)

JR Soeken (Brother of Diane Wyatt, healing from heart procedure this week)

Ed & Velda Becker (continued prayers of strength & determination for Ed)

Bob Dishman (BIL David Haight)

Carl Hansen

Carl & Barb Funston

Scot Budden (Pastor Libby's brother)

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:

For safe travels for all those traveling for the Holidays, The Family of DeLyn Farr, The Family of Dan Morabito, Jane Haney Family (friends of the Lehmans), The Family of Melissa & Mark Hortman, Rachel Prichard, Tom Litke, Kathy Ducker, Barbara Webster-Haynes, Nathan Robbins, Deb Daniel, Jamye Comp, Kim Decker, Mike Jantz, Jacque Havice, Macie Heller.

THOSE WORSHIPPING FROM HOME: Norris Marshall, Bonnie Byers, Karen & Steve Crump, Dorothy Veach, Dorothy Snider, Linda Chase, Carl Hansen, Myckie Spencer, Charles Spidell, Hope Higgins, Jim Leyerzapf, Evelyn Carter, Al Jones, Jolene Hunt, Glen & Joan Dawson, Don & Mary Rickley, Phyllis Welton.

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:

Please contact the office or write the name of your loved one serving on the back of your attendance sheet.

Cory Donley, Colby Miller, Evan Middleton, Kayla Lee, Derek Lipson, Daelan McKnight

THOSE IN AUTHORITY: The World Leaders, The President, the Governor, the Mayor, County Commissioners, the County Attorney, and other elected officials and the judiciary (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We ask that if you use the church at times not on our calendar, you let the office know in advance. We have found some lights and appliances on, and doors unlocked in various parts of the building, and we didn't know anyone had been in those spaces. Please help us keep our guests, congregation, staff, and building safe by keeping us informed.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT VIDEO CAST

Jared Vinduska-Sheep
Easton Hagar- Shepherd
Mason Bryant- Horse
Ben Andres- Horse
Luke Hunter- Reporter Elizabeth
Luke Watson- Reporter Zach the
Samaritan
Cale Castel- Esther
Tristian Gillan- Dave
Sean Melleny - Commercial Camel
Kwik Klean

Anna Holt- Commercial Fishmenders
Brenna Bryant- Mary
Shane Bryant- Joseph, Magi
Claire Cormack- Reporter
Cora Vinduska- Census Comercial
Thad Pekarek- Shekel
Piper Immel-Inn Keeper
Jordan McCurter-Magi
Jackson Forbes- Magi
Chloe Klein- Reporter
Brody Cochran- Reporter

SHEPHERD'S RUN

This is an outreach program that we do every year to take goodies to places that are open on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day who are working and not spending the holiday with their family. Some of those places include the hospital, police/fire station, nursing homes and convenience stores open all the time. Thank you for sharing with others on Christmas. Please have donations to the church by NOON Christmas Eve.

POINSETTIAS

If you would like to bring a poinsettia for Christmas Eve, please have them here by the 10:30 worship service Dec. 21. There are a limited number of poinsettias for sale in the office, they are \$10.00 ea. Please write your name on them and pick them up by Dec. 28 or after the 11:00 p.m. service on Dec. 24. If you would like them to be in honor or memory of someone, please let the church office know by Dec.16.

MITTEN, HAT, SOCKS & UNDERWEAR TREE

Once again, we will be collecting NEW mittens, gloves, hats, socks, and underwear for those in our schools this holiday season. Sizes

toddler to adult XL. They will be taken to the school by December 19. Place them on the tree in the Narthex or the box below the tree.

AUBURN MEDICINE LIDS AND BEST CHOICE LABELS

The Questors Sunday School class continues to collect Best Choice labels and Auburn Medicine lids to raise money. You can bring your donations to the office any time during regular hours or on Sunday mornings.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE

Everyone is invited to the Open House at the Parsonage, 1600 N. Campbell, Saturday, December 13 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Come share some time with Pastor Libby and others during this Holiday Season.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Holiday television ads, movies, and music tell us this is the time of year when everyone should be happy, and everything should be perfect. The message is that it is a joyful time of year, but joy may not be what some of us are feeling during the holiday season. For many, this may be a time of struggle for various reasons. Perhaps a loved one has recently died, one's health could be declining, or it could be because of loneliness. Whatever the reason, if you are struggling to find Christmas joy, the First United Methodist Church of Abilene invites you to attend a Blue Christmas Service. This service is held at the beginning of winter when the sunlit days are short, and the dark nights are long. Join us at the First United Methodist Church, 601 N. Cedar, on December 16, at 7:00 p.m. for this Blue Christmas Service. It will be a time of gathering with others and acknowledging that you are not alone in struggling with the holidays. If you have questions, please contact the church office at 785-263-2623.

WE ARE ON THE RADIO AND STREAMING ONLINE

If you can't make it to church, but would like to listen to our service live, simply tune into KABI 1560 AM or 95.9 FM at 10:30 a.m. You can also stream the worship service at abilenefirstumc.org.

OFFERING

Needed each Sunday - \$ 5870.81 Last Sunday - \$ 5550.28

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service
- 9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM or 95.9 FM
- 11:45 a.m. Fast Track Disciple Bible Study - Pastor's Office

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group - 208
- 5:30 p.m. Core Meeting - 204

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 OFFICE HOURS 8-12

- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson Exercising - Narthex- All Invited

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 9:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group - Narthex
- 3:30 a.m. Power & Light - Peatling Hall
- 5:15 p.m. Bell Choir Practice - Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Peatling Hall
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice - Sanctuary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 OFFICE HOURS 8-12

- 5:30 p.m. Blockheads Quilters Group - 200

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 2:00 p.m. Parsonage Open House - 1600 N. Campbell

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service
- 9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Class
- 9:30 a.m. Directory Photos - Office
- 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM or 95.9 FM
- 1:00 p.m. Fast Track Disciple Bible Study - Library

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please note that **bold type** indicates congregational participation. An asterisk (*) indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able. "UMH" stands for *The United Methodist Hymnal* (blue book); "FWS" stands for *The Faith We Sing* (black book); and "WS" stands for *Worship and Song* (green book).

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision: a church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Piano: Amanda Cormack & Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: Rick Williamson & Will Burton

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Leslie Hoffman

Advent Wreath: 8:15 Ray, Joan, & Tanner Wyatt

10:30: Andy, Angela, Eyler, & Anna Holt

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Ellen Jones & Mary Jane Oard

10:30: Janice Hoffman & Bette Engelhaupt

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus