

Sunday, January 11, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410

785-263-2623 — www.abilenefirstumc.org

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME, GOD SIGHTINGS, AND JOYS

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

OPENING PRAYER

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** (congregation response in **bold**)

Liturgist: Come, servants of God.

People: God's Spirit has called us here.

Liturgist: Come, servants of Love.

People: God's Spirit calls us to justice and peace.

Liturgist: Come, followers of Christ.

People: God's Spirit calls us to reconciliation and love.

Liturgist: Come, beloved children of God.

People: God's Spirit is a blessing for all.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN** *Down to the River to Pray* WS 3164

FAMILY TIME (children of all ages are invited to come forward)

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30) *Amazing Grace-My Chains are Gone* Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 42:1-9 Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSV)*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him he will bring forth justice to the nations. **2** He will not cry

or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; **3** a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. **4** He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. **5** Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: **6** I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, **7** to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. **8** I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. **9** See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' **15** But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17** And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

You are Beloved

Rev. Libby Themis

***RESPONSIVE HYMN**

Spirit Song

UMH 347

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER

"I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Mighty God of love and justice, send your Spirit upon these gifts of personal treasure and worldly wealth; send your Spirit upon our gifts of time and talent. Breathe into us and into these offerings the newness of your life, the faithfulness of your justice, and the hope of reconciliation and peace.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

You Are Mine

vs 2 FWS 2218

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

Wade in the Water

FWS 2107

***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:

Dustin Rageth (SIL Janice H., had a stroke, has started PT)

Jim Barlow (awaiting gallbladder surgery)

Luke Hunter (in a skiing accident in Colorado, is now home)

Sally & Jordan Cullor (sister & nephew of Linda Bankes)

Al Jones

Jim Leyerzapf

Myckie Spencer

Pam Jackson

Paul Hoerner (Father of Angie)

Sue Murry (recovering from a heart attack)

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

Carl Hansen (has moved to nursing home in Junction City)

Carl & Barb Funston

Scot Budden (Pastor Libby's brother)

Delores Schmidt (Mother of Velda B.)

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:

The Family of Jane Foltz, Bob Dishman, Rachel Prichard, Tom Litke, Kathy Ducker, Barbara Webster-Haynes, Nathan Robbins, Deb Daniel, Jamye Comp, Kim Decker, Mike Jantz, Jacque Havice, Macie Heller, Scott Budden.

THOSE WORSHIPING 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

RADIO BROADCAST

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast, contact Chris in the office. The cost is \$70.00 a Sunday. You can choose who you want in honor or memory of.

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY- originally November 30, 2025

United Methodist Student Day is an annual observance within the United Methodist Church that focuses on supporting students pursuing higher education.

Purpose

- It raises funds for scholarships and educational programs for United Methodist students.

When It Occurs

- This observance typically takes place on the last Sunday in November.

How It Works

- Congregations are encouraged to take a special offering during worship services.
- Funds collected are used to support students in their educational endeavors, particularly those attending United Methodist-related institutions.

Impact

- The initiative aims to make higher education more accessible for students, fostering leadership within the church and community.

For more information, you can visit the official United Methodist Church website or consult local church resources.

DIRECTORY PHOTOS AND INFORMATION

If you haven't stopped by the office to have your picture taken or to double check your information for the directory please make plans to do so. Chris will be reaching out to anyone who hasn't stopped in starting next week. Thank you for all the help on this project!

COMMUNITY MEAL

The next community meal will be Monday, January 12, 2026. Going forward all meals will be served at Sterl Hall, 619 N. Rogers St, Abilene.

FIRST UMC POWER & LIGHT

3:30 p.m. every Wednesday following the school calendar. This is designed for Kindergarten-5th grade kids. Wendy and her crew will make sure fun is had by all with Bible stories, crafts, snacks, and games.

YOUTH GROUP

Designed for grades 6-12. Meets every Wednesday, following the school calendar, at 6:00 p.m. in Peatling Hall. We have dinner, games and Bible discussion. Bring a friend or two!

EXERCISE GROUP INFORMATION

Everyone is invited to the exercise group that meets in the Narthex on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. It features a few videos of different stretches and light exercises that anyone can benefit from. See you there!

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.

CARD MINISTRY

The Card Ministry Group meets on Monday mornings at 10:00 in room 208. They have been busy making beautiful cards that are available to purchase. The display rack in the Narthex has been restocked, so be sure to take a look. Everyone loves getting 'real mail', a card can really make someone's day.

BREAD MINISTRY

To all who are able to support the Bread Ministry for first time visitors, please bring loaves of homemade bread to the church on Sunday. All types & sizes of bread are appreciated, quick bread, yeast bread, artisan bread. Please wrap in Saran wrap &/or baggies. Your willingness to help donations are greatly appreciated. Visitors have been very pleased.

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 - \$ 4013.00

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

- 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. Disciple Fast Track Bible Study - Library

MONDAY, JANUARY 12 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group - 208
- 5:30 p.m. Core Meeting - 204
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group - Narthex

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

David Haight Birthday

- 9:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group - Narthex
- 3:30 p.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, JANUARY 15 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Patsy Barlow Birthday

- 7:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting - 200

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

Mary Ann Bond Birthday

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Chantay Porter Birthday

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service
- 9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Class
- 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM or 95.9 FM
- 11:45 a.m. Disciple Fast Track 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: Anna Gugler & Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: Kevin Bailey & Anna Gugler

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Linda Kolacny & Leslie Hoffman

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

10:30: Bette Engelhaupt & Chris Seets

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus