

Sunday, January 4, 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: Arise with hope, and shine with love!

People: Shine forth with the wisdom of God!

Liturgist: Arise with mercy, and shine with grace!

People: Live in righteousness and peace.

Liturgist: Arise with justice, and shine with compassion.

People: Radiate the brightness of Christ!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN**

Joy to the World

UMH 246

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

HYMN SING

Request your favorites from any of the 3 songbooks

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-9 Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the **LORD** has risen upon you. **2** For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the **LORD** will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. **3** Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. **4** Lift up your eyes and look

around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. **5** Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. **6** A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the **Lord**. **7** All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house. **8** Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? **9** For the coastlands shall wait for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the **Lord** your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has glorified you.

Matthew

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: **6** "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." **7** Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' **9** When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Rev. Libby Themis

***RESPONSIVE HYMN**

The First Noel

UMH 245

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

King of justice and righteousness, receive these gifts, that they may be treasures for a world in need. Receive the treasures of our hearts and our lives- treasures poured out before you, that we may bring light and life to all. Extend our gifts around the world to root out evil and bring new life filled with hope. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

You Are Mine

FWS 2218

STAR WORDS

COMMUNION

UMH 13-15

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

This Light of Mine

UMH 585

***THE BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Arise, shine, for Christ's light has come.

People: Christ's light goes with us now.

Pastor: Arise, go forth, for you are Christ's lights.

People: May we shine with wisdom and love.

***POSTLUDE**

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Al Jones

Jim Leyerzapf

Wendy Robinson (knee replacement 12/9)

Myckie Spencer

Pam Jackson

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

Paul Hoerner (Father of Angie)

Sue Murry (recovering from a heart attack)

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

Carl Hansen

Carl & Barb Funston

Scot Budden (Pastor Libby's brother)

Delores Schmidt (Mother of Velda B.)

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:

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.

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!

DON'T FORGET TO TURN OUT THE LIGHTS!

To help keep costs down, please remember to turn off lights and fans and turn down the heater when you are finished in a room. If you have a room reserved and then end up not needing it, please let the office know.

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 - \$ TBD

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

- 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

MONDAY, JANUARY 5 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Office
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light - Peatling Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Committee - 200
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Peatling Hall
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice - Sanctuary

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

- 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: Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: TBD

Slides/Sound/Livestream: TBD

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Keith & Barb Emig

10:30: Will & Molly Burton

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

Phone: 785-564-1977 — libbythemis@gmail.com

Chris Seets, Administrative Assistant

Phone: 785-263-2623 — office@abilenefirstumc.org

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

wendy@abilenefirstumc.org

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

clark@abilenefirstumc.org

Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus