

Sunday, January 18, 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: Listen, O coastlands. Pay attention, you people of God.

People: God has called each of us to be a light to the nations.

Liturgist: The Lord has put a new song in our lives, a song of praise to our God.

People: We will sing of God's salvation. We will shout of God's faithfulness.

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People: God has called each of us to be a light to the nations.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

UMH 140

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

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30)

Come, Christians Join to Sing

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 49:1-7 John 1:29-42 (NRSV)

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. **2** He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. **3** And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' **4** But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God.' **5** And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— **6** he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.' **7** Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

John 1:29-42

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." **31** I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' **32** And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. **33** I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." **34** And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.' **35** The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, **36** and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' **37** The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. **38** When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' **39** He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. **40** One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). **42** He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

What's in a Name?

Rev. Libby Themis

***RESPONSIVE HYMN**

We Are Called

FWS 2172

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

What does God require of us, and with what shall we come before the Lord? It is not with sacrifice and burnt offerings, but with hearts filled with praise and lives bent on justice. In joy and thanksgiving for the tender mercies of our God, may today's offering be a sign of our commitment to bring God's justice and compassion to our communities and to the larger world. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

You Are Mine

vs 2 FWS 2218

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

The Summons

FWS 2130

***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:

Alexis Dutt (Daughter of Greg & Sandi, lives in Minneapolis-St. Paul)

Sean Zernickow (Son of Chuck & Sandy, prayers for medical testing and impending surgery)

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:

Dr. Ben Smith, principal of AHS, had two surgeries at KU Med last week to remove cancer from his back, spinal cord area, prayers of healing, 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.

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.

WEEKLY LEARNING CONVERSATIONS IN WORSHIP

Each week, as part of our "Who Are You?" worship series, we will have a time of discussion and sharing about who we are individually and as a church. This week, we will be looking at our names. What does your name mean? Were you named after someone, etc. Next week, there will be a much more lengthy discussion on Gifts of our Head, Hands, Heart, and Spirit. We all have them; sometimes, we just don't think of them. :-)

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. Thank you for all the help on this project! The office is hoping to have the directory available Feb. 1.

CHURCH LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

After last year's successful devotional, we would like to ask the congregation to join us in creating another Lenten Devotional for 2026. Here's how you can help: Write your own devotional with a similar format to most daily devotionals that usually start with a short scripture, then a body with a meditation, then a short prayer. A good example would be like that found in The Upper Room or Daily Bread. (This is not a mandate but a suggestion.) If that seems overwhelming or scary you could choose a published devotional. Perhaps it would be something you have saved. A poem or very short essay or even just scripture would be appropriate. Just make sure you give credit to the author. We need 40 entries, so if you feel led to submit more than one, that would be appreciated. We want to include every member including youth. **We have a deadline of February 9 in order to get the booklet printed in time for Ash Wednesday on February 18.** The booklets will be available for your use starting with our Ash Wednesday Service.

NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY

Collect that loose change laying around the house in the laundry room, on the couch, and in the bottom of your purse, it's Noisy Offering Sunday next week! Let's make some noise! Proceeds will go to The Little Free Pantry.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MEETING

All women of the church are welcome to join us, Wednesday, January 21, at 12:45 p.m. in room 200 as we start off our new year together. Refreshments will be served.

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 - \$ 2371.00

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Happy Birthday Chantay Porter

- 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 19 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Happy Birthday Maya Robinson and Ray Wyatt

- 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 20 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Pearl Acheson

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Office
- 12:45 p.m. United Women in Faith Meeting - 200
- 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 22 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Joy Clemence

- 7:00 p.m. EOTT Board Meeting - 200

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Happy Birthday Sherryl Gray

- 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: Rick Williamson & Jill Lang

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Heather Heger & Cecilia Clemence

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Kevin & Ann Bailey

10:30: Kent & Diane Wyatt

FIRST UMC STAFF

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Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus