

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Human Relations Sunday

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**)

To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned.

To those who dwell in gloom and despair, God's glorious presence has appeared.

God is indeed our light and our salvation.

We will follow, unafraid, where God and Jesus lead us.

Let us worship our God of light and promise.

Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN**

O Love, How Deep

vs 1-3 UMH 267

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

SPECIAL MUSIC (8:15)

Through All Of It

Clark Williamson, vocalist

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30)

Namaste

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:18-23 Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. **19** And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ **20** Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **21** As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. **22** Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. **23** Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Matthew 5:1-12 The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 ‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 ‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

RESPONSIVE HYMNI Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

FWS 2129

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS***THE DOXOLOGY***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Blessed are these offerings: offerings of peace and justice, offerings of love and compassion, offerings of kindness and mercy. Blessed are the givers of these offerings: givers of peace and justice, givers of love and compassion, givers of kindness and mercy. Blessed are we who are entrusted by God to share God's gifts with the world! Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER**THE LORD'S PRAYER****PRAYER RESPONSE***You Are Mine*

vs 1 FWS 2218

HOLY COMMUNION**ANNOUNCEMENTS*****SENDING HYMN***Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

UMH 402

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:

Steve Leyerzapf (Son of Jim L.)

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

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 Oscar Garza, Steve Parker, battle with cancer, 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

It is sponsored this week by Angie Hoerner, In Loving Memory of Mike Piros.
"I love you more."

WEEKLY LEARNING CONVERSATIONS IN WORSHIP

This week we are looking at our gifts of head, heart, hands, and spirit. For next week you are invited to consider, What clubs, groups, or organizations do you belong to? Why?

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY

Today we are celebrating Human Relations Sunday. Human Relations Day is an opportunity for United Methodist congregations to celebrate and support ministries that empower communities and nurture hope. This denomination-wide special offering supports programs like Community Developers, Youth Offender Rehabilitation, and United Methodist Voluntary Services.

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.

PAM JACKSON 80TH BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to celebrate Pam's 80th birthday on Sunday, February 15, 3-5 pm in Wright Hall. If you can't join us and would like to send Pam a card, please mail it to 1102 N. Vine St. #701 Abilene, KS 6710.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE SOUPER-BOWL?

The Youth will be sponsoring the Souper-Bowl again this year. Bring a canned good (soup, chili, tuna, vegetables, fruit) or shelf stable food to support your team. Each item will count as 1 point for that team. But... If you want the other team to lose, bring a paper product (napkins, toilet paper, facial tissues). Each package will count as 1 point AGAINST that team. There will be baskets representing the teams playing in the Narthex beginning Wednesday January 28th. All of the donations will be given to the Little Free Pantry! We hope you support your team and the Little Free Pantry.

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.

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 (1/18) - \$ 5934.93

January EFT - \$3035.00

Upcoming Events:

February 9: Deadline for submissions for the Lenten devotional.

February 15: Mardi Gras Potluck after 10:30 service in Wright Hall

February 18: Ash Wednesday Services 12:00 & 7:00

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 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
- 11:30 a.m. Balcony Tech Training - Sanctuary balcony
- 11:45 a.m. Disciple Fast Track Bible Study - Library

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Eyler Holt!

- 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group - 208
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Design Meeting - 200
- 5:30 p.m. Core Meeting - 204
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Ellen Jones & Barb Emig!

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Office
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light - Peatling Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Missions & Outreach Committee - 200
- 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, FEBRUARY 5 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Jacoby Robinson!

- 9:30 a.m. EOTT Guild - Hospice Committee - Peatling Hall

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 OFFICE CLOSED

Happy Birthday Barb Leckron!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 Happy Birthday Andy Holt!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 Happy Birthday Keith Emig!

- 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
- 11:30 a.m. Balcony Tech Training - Sanctuary balcony
- 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: Michael Linenberger & Bette Engelhaupt

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Steve Schwarting

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Keith & Barb Emig

10:30: Janice Hoffman & Bette Engelhaupt

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