

Sunday, February 22, 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.

PRELUDE (10:30) *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* Bell Choir

HYMN *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* FWS 2112

OPENING PRAYER

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

We wonder—who is God?

We wonder—where is God?

We wonder—how do we reach God? How do we learn about God?

We wonder—are the answers in loving?

UNISON PRAYER

We seek, we wonder, we ponder the mystery that is you, God.

We would like some clarity to cling to!

**But instead of the certainty we seek, your answer is an invitation:
the invitation to love. Amen.**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* UMH 384

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

SPECIAL MUSIC (8:15)*Above All*

Piano Duet

Angie Hoerner & Clark Williamson

(10:30)

Through All of It

Clark Williamson

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:7-19 (NRSVA)

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON*Who is God?*

Rev. Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN*Lamb of God*

FWS 2113

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Compassionate God, in your unfailing love, you sent us your Son as the savior of the world so that we might live through him. And you have invited us to love one another as you first loved us. We confess that we have failed to accept your invitation. Too often, our fears over our personal safety,

financial security, and social status prevent us from truly loving those around us. Forgive us, O Lord, for our meekness. Give us the boldness to receive and abide in your perfect love which casts out our fears. By your strength, may we embody your loving presence out in the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***THE DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE *Canticle of Prayer* vs 2 UMH 406

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN** *O How He Loves You and Me* FWS 2108

*THE BENEDICTION

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

We will live with God's love in our hearts.

Beloved, let us abide in Christ's love, for he is the vine and we are the branches.

We will grow as Christ's disciples in the world.

Beloved, let us care for one another, for the Spirit unites us together in compassion.

We will share God's peace with one another.

*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 Ron Bell (Perth, Australia, uncle of Clark Williamson), Cecilia Clemence (knee replacement 2/13), Loren Gugler, Helen & Linus Linenberger (Michael's parents, transitioning to nursing home, Helen fell and fractured her back), The Family of Dennis Berven, The families of Dennis Schwarz and Terry Schwarz of Carlton, nephews of the Lehman's, The family of Jonna Rider (niece of Janice Hoffman and Dwight & Leslie Hoffman) Steve Leyerzapf (Son of Jim L.) Sean Zernickow (Son of Chuck & Sandy, prayers for medical testing and impending surgery) Jim Barlow (gallbladder surgery) Luke Hunter (in a skiing accident in Colorado), Al Jones, Jim Leyerzapf, Myckie Spencer, Pam Jackson, Carl Hansen (has moved to a nursing home in Junction City), Carl & Barb Funston, Scot Budden (Pastor Libby's brother), Delores Schmidt (Mother of Velda B.)

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:

Mike Jantz, Angie L'homme, had a stroke, Bob Dishman, Rachel Prichard, Tom Litke, Kathy Ducker, Barbara Webster-Haynes, Nathan Robbins, Deb Daniel, Jamye Comp, Kim Decker, 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, Tanner Harwood

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

TODAY'S RADIO BROADCAST IS SPONSORED BY

Betty Eckman in Loving Memory of Verl Eckman.

LENTEN LUNCH & LEARN

Lunch and Learn begins this Thursday, February 26 from noon to one in room 200. Each week we will discuss questions related to the previous Sunday's question. So this week we will look more in depth at the question, "Who is God?" "Study Guides are available on the entry table in the Narthex for your own use or if you plan to join us for the study. I hope you can join in this study offering during the Lenten Season. Pastor Libby

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Do you have something to add to the newsletter or an idea for us to include? Let the office know by Monday February 23 to be included in the March issue of The Disciple.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Be sure to spring forward on Sunday, March 8, 2026.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships for high school and post secondary students are available on the church website. abilenefirstumc.org This application must be completed in full and submitted to the church office by 12 Noon or the AHS Counselors' office by 5 p.m., Monday, April 13, 2026, to be eligible for consideration.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The Community Meal is served the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, at 5:00 p.m., Sterl Hall, 619 N. Rogers. March 9 will be the next time Abilene FUMC helps with the meal. Please contact Jacque Saffell, 785-342-6223 or Toni Schwarting, 785-479-6353 with questions or to volunteer.

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.

COOKIES FOR SUNDAY MORNING

We are again in need of cookie/treat donations for Sunday mornings. Please bring donations to the office on Sunday mornings or during office hours M-Th 8-12. Thank you for your generosity!

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 - \$8012.15
February EFT - \$2935.00

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 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, FEBRUARY 24 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group - Narthex
- 7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 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, FEBRUARY 26 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Linda Bankes & Larry Dive!

- 12:00 p.m. Lenten Lunch & Learn - 200

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 OFFICE CLOSED

Happy Birthday Dave Cook!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Happy Birthday Debbie Lytle!

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- 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

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: Heather Heger & Amanda Cormack

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Molly Burton

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Kevin & Ann Bailey

10:30: Will & Molly Burton

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus