

Sunday, March 1, 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.

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

God's Word is the Bible.

When we doubt, we can turn to God's word.

When fears take hold of us, we can turn to God's Word.

In times of joy, we turn to God's Word.

Jesus is God's Word manifested in the flesh.

Thanks be to God for the saving Word!

***UNISON PRAYER**

The Words and The Word—

How might we read your precious book we call the Bible?

As a roadmap, a manual, a trail of breadcrumbs?

As a love letter, a symphony, an invitation to a dance?

As we open the book, just what awaits us? Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN**

Wonderful Words

UMH 600

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

CHOIR ANTHEM (10:30)

In Christ Alone

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 4:12-14 (NRSVA)

12 Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. 14 Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Is the Bible Reliable?

Rev. Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN

Thy Word

UMH 601

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Light, we appear naked before you, the secret intentions of our hearts laid bare for you to see. We confess that instead of allowing your Word to actively shape and transform our lives, we manipulate it to suit our own personal agendas. Convict our hearts of our sins, which are rooted in our desire to be masters of our own universe, ruling over others, and possessing all things. Forgive us of our wayward actions and attitudes, O Lord. Free us from our doublemindedness and our efforts to remain in control, so that your holy Word can lead us into life as true disciples of Christ. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***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

HOLY COMMUNION UMH 13-15

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN** *Word of God Speak* WS 3184

***THE BENEDICTION**

Sisters and brothers, siblings, whom will you see this week? What will they need? Will you dare to see their need and love them with the love of Christ? In Christ's name go and be good news!

We are sent in Christ's name! Thanks be to God!

***POSTLUDE**

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Bonnie Byers, Luke (4 year old great grandson of Lehman's fell at school in December injuring neck and must wear a cervical collar for 12 weeks due to a sprain/torn ligament, If does not heal will need surgery) The Family of Delores Schmidt (Mother of Velda B.), Leonard Schmitz (friend of Kent & Diane Wyatt, in KC getting treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukemia) 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, Jim Barlow (gallbladder surgery) Luke Hunter (in a skiing accident in Colorado), Al Jones, Jim Leyerzapf, Myckie Spencer, Pam Jackson, Carl Hansen, Carl & Barb Funston, Scot Budden (Pastor Libby's brother)

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, Janye Comp, Kim Decker, Jacque Havice, Macie Heller.

THOSE WORSHIPPING FROM HOME: Norris Marshall, 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

The Diedre Dunham Memorial Fund

TO OUR FRIENDS IN CHRIST AT ABILENE FUMC

Deepest thanks to each of you for your prayer support all these many months. I know my parents have been on your prayer concerns lists for well over a year. It has been a blessing and a comfort knowing our church family has been praying for us. Thank you, Ed & Velda Becker

EASTER LILIES

There will be a limited number of Easter Lilies, \$8.00 each, available in the office for Easter Sunday. Please call (785) 263-2623, to reserve yours. You are also welcome to bring your own. Please let the office know if you would like to have it be in Honor or Memory of someone. The information needs to be to the church office by Monday, March 30th to be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

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

The newsletter was emailed on Friday, if you didn't receive one, please check with the office to be sure your email address is correct. Paper copies are available on the sign-in table in the Narthex.

PASTOR LIBBY WILL BE ON VACATION

March 5 thru March 11. For pastoral emergencies contact the office and we will reach out to Rev. Rebecca Stredney, who is on call for pastoral emergencies.

THE 2026 MEMBER DIRECTORY IS NOW AVAILABLE

Thank you to everyone for helping with this project. A special thank you to Pam Haight and Diane Wyatt for assembling them this week.

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 - \$ 3934.00

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CHURCH CALENDAR

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
- 11:45 a.m. Bible Study

MONDAY, MARCH 2 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, MARCH 3 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 5 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Malorie Romme!

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 OFFICE CLOSED

Happy Birthday Tray Green!

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 Daylight Savings Time Starts

Happy Birthday Sandie Kueker!

- 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: Amanda Cormack & Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: Kevin Bailey & Bette Engelhaupt

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Linda Kolacny & Steve Schwarting

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Keith & Barb Emig

10:30: Barb Leckron & Janice Hoffman

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus