

THE DISCIPLE

Abilene First United Methodist Church 601 N. Cedar Abilene, KS 67410

(785) 263-2623

office@abilenefirstumc.org

ABILENEFIRSTUMC.ORG

Prayer Requests

Members:

Ed & Velda Becker
Bonnie Byers
Al Jones
Jim Leyerzapf
Pam Jackson
Carl Hansen

Friends & Family:

Sean Zernickow
Steve Leyerzapf
Bob Dishman
Rachel Prichard
Tom Litke
Kathy Ducker
Scot Budden
Kim Decker
Mike Jantz
Jacque Havice
Macie Heller

Armed Forces:

We pray for those who are serving in the armed forces and for their families.

Our Government:

Local and across the United States.

Get to Know

Darrol Dunham

Director of Maintaining the Church



Darrol Dunham is the man behind the scenes, making sure everything is clean, in working order, dress right dress, and ready for us to do what we do here at FUMC. He started working here part time in 2006, helping set up and cleaning up after events, while still working full time at ALCO warehouse. Now a days, he takes care of all the grounds work as well as the general cleaning and maintenance of the church.

His early years were spent in Western Kansas with his parents, 2 brothers and a sister. They attended church every Sunday as a family and he was baptized at the Church of the Brethren. He says that he did not apply himself in school; his best subject was goofing off. Really though, he did great in typing and was a member of the football and track teams during Jr. & Sr. High School. He was even a paceman for a teammate in the mile event. He graduated from NCKVS in Beloit as a heavy equipment operator. His class helped with the construction on the Glen Elder Dam and even were paid for that!

He was drafted into the US Army in 1968 at the age of 21. It would take another whole page or two to tell you all about his accomplishments and the places he served. It was at a basketball game in Sterling, Kansas that he first met a young lady name Diedre, who was on a date with his brother. Well, he thought she was fun to be around, so he went ahead and married her in June of 1970. Diedre along with their daughters, Teresa and Cheryl followed him during his army career and they ended up in Enterprise by the time he retired from service in 1991.

They tried several different churches in the area, but came to FUMC because they knew Bob Clemence. They liked it here and became members in 2002.

In his free time, he likes to ride his Harley Trike, works on his lawn, does some gardening and he likes to sit back and relax. What is on his T.V.? It is probably Perry Mason or a good ol' western. His favorite is The Big Country, from 1958, starring Gregory Peck, Jean Simmon, Carrol Baker, Charlton Heston and Charles Bickford. He is an excellent Santa Claus as many of us saw during service this past Christmas season. First Car? 1956 black and chartreuse Chevy Bel Air. Best Pets? A French Britney named Missy and a Siamese cat named Sebastian. He is a member of the American Legion #240 Chapman.

What is something people would be surprised to know about you? "I hate when things do not start on time or when I say we are leaving at 7:30, it means the car is leaving at 7:30, not coats are being put on and moving towards the car. I get that from my dad."

A Word From Pastor Libby



Friends,

We are currently in a season of unknowns. Will I need a coat, shorts, an umbrella, or a snow shovel today? Mother Nature seems to be constantly changing her mind. It seems, Father Time is on the same changing page as Mother Nature, as we again prepare to change our clocks as we spring forward again on March 8.

At first, it may seem strange that we go through all this change in the spring, but spring is the season for new birth and new things. However, it makes perfect sense because we know that with change comes the opportunity to think creatively about something new.

This is why I am so thankful for all of you who were a part of our conversations these past weeks in worship, as you have shared your gifts of head, heart, hands, and spirit, as well as sharing your dreams about who our church will be in five years. It takes courage to be so open about who we are and what we hope for the future as we build on who we are and the gifts we share. I see this as a sign of God coming alongside us, because when we focused on who we are with creativity, we did not know that we would be having these conversations right now. God prepared us!

Now, as our worship focuses on “Questions to God,” I hope we are open to hearing what God reveals to us as we listen. Where is God leading us as we start the task of dreaming about what will come next? What does it look like when we are up to something good? To begin with, we know it is us, as a church family, loving one another and our community as we come together to have an influence in the name of Jesus Christ. We also know it is us joining in the saving love of God for humanity in whatever form that may be.

We are the embodiment of Jesus Christ, drawn together, reaching our community right here and right now, just where we are, just as Jesus reached out to the communities around him. As we allow ourselves to be transformed (changed) by Jesus Christ, we see our neighbors with new eyes, hear with new ears, and offer ourselves in new ways as the body of Christ for a time such as this. We are invited to rise up from the challenges before us and to lighten up the world, acting as resurrected people who have faith in the One who gave his all so we would have life without end. We can do far more together than any one of us can do alone, as Paul reminds us, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Grace and Peace, Pastor Libby



Wendy Robinson, Director of Children & Youth Ministries



ASH WEDNESDAY

The Power and Light kids and Wendy spoke about what Lent means. The Youth Group kids attended the 7:00 Lenten service. Pastor Libby imposed them with ashes.

*There will be NO Power & Light on March 11 or 18

MISSING



Have you seen our basket? The Youth Group had a pair of these baskets that they use throughout the year for different projects. One of them has gone missing. If you happen to know it's whereabouts, please bring it to the office. Thank you.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 3/5 Malorie Romme
- 3/6 Tray Green
- 3/13 Rae Schwarting
- 3/16 Bette Engelhaupt
- 3/20 Joann Hettenbach
- 3/22 Marilyn Jordan
- 3/23 Wes Duey
Michael Heger
- 3/24 Kyle Adams
- 3/27 Sophia Duey



Tim & Brenda Holm
3/13/1982

Jon & Cecilia Clemence
3/22/1997

JANUARY GIVING

\$20,226.74

Expenses
\$ 26,485.53

YTD Giving
\$ 20226.74

YTD Expenses
\$26,485.53

For a list of ways to give, visit our website

www.abilenefirststunc.org
Click on the GIVING tab at the top.

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Hymns, Anthems, & Special Music

3-1 Wonderful Words of Life

Thy Word

Word of God Speak

In Christ Alone Chancel Choir

3-8 We Are the Church

Church of God United

Bind Us Together

Church, Take Me Back Clark & Chancel Choir

3-15 His Eye is On the Sparrow

O Sacred Head

It Is Well with My Soul

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus Chancel Choir

3-22 Grace Greater Than Our Sin

Forgive Our Sins

Jesus Paid it All

Hymn Sing at 8:15 service

Request Your Favorites

3-29 Palm/Passion Sunday

Hosanna, Laud Hosanna

Blessed Be Your Name

Chancel Choir will be singing at both services.

Anthems: And Can it Be

(lyrics by Charles Wesley)

Were We There

At the time of this deadline, invitations for other Special Music have been extended to one of our college students and an instrumental duet @AMS.



CARE PORTAL

This past year, our Church Council agreed to serve as a sponsoring church for the Care Portal here in Abilene. Care Portal is a program designed to help families because they understand that every child belongs in a healthy, loving family. No other environment has proven to be better suited to provide the safety, stability, and care so vital to a child's well-being. As part of the Care Portal, churches, banks, and other organizations provide funds or items to help families set up homes. The biggest need is for beds, though requests often come in for items such as pots and pans, sheets and bedding, a couch, dressers, etc.

How does it work?

1. A child or family in need requires help from a child-serving professional
2. The child-serving professional vets and types of needs into CarePortal
3. CarePortal alerts nearby churches and community members to needs
4. Churches and community members partner to ensure that the child and family is helped.

Our church has set up a designated fund to respond financially and we will try to use other forms of communication to let you know specific requests. You can support the Care Portal by designating a gift given to the church to the Care Portal, and as requests come in, we will respond on behalf of the church. You can learn more and sign up to help individually at careportal.org.

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.

THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Thank You! to the New Bern Wideawake 4-H club's generosity for the little free pantry. Leaders are Amanda Cornell and Kelli Marston.

-Lisa



Amazon link for TLFP.



Justice Initiative Bible Study

Saturday, March 28, 2026 9 am – 12 pm, Wright Hall

Biblical Inspiration for Doing Justice

Scripture teaches that justice is not optional - it is central to faithful living. Micah 6:8 and Matthew 23:23 remind us that God requires three things of the faithful: to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. Most congregations struggle with justice ministries - the work of holding powerful institutions accountable for fairness in areas like housing, education, jobs, and healthcare. Justice work is difficult because it cannot be done alone. This is why churches from the North Central Kansas Area are partnering to address justice issues in our communities, in ways similar to those in larger cities. Working with churches from Wamego to Hutchinson to help each community with its needs.

Join us as we Journey with Jesus

- March 29 Palm Sunday, Services at 8:15 and 10:30 am.
- April 2 Maundy Thursday, Service at 7:00 pm.
- April 3 Good Friday, Service at 7:00 pm.
- April 5 Easter Sunday,
Services at 8:15 and 10:30 am.



Lenten Lunch + Learn

Thursdays, February 26—April 2

Noon to 1 pm

We focus use the "Questions to God" small group resources that follow our Lenten worship series.

Bring your lunch and learn together.





**Laity Summit 2026 –
Serve Joyfully
March 23, 24 and 26, 2026
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Central
(5:30 pm to 7:30 pm) Mountain.**

The Great Plains Conference Laity Summit is a virtual gathering where we come together to hear about ministry opportunities and collaborations with United Methodists across Nebraska and Kansas. Whether you're a long-time leader or wanting to get more involved in your church community, you'll find something at Laity Summit. It's specifically designed for people in the local church who are sitting there in meetings wondering what new ideas they can come up with to enhance programs, see what resources are available, or just need some inspiration or affirmation. For registration and more information, visit www.greatplainsumc.org or contact your district office.

Healthy Congregations

Healthy Congregations is a sub group of the Missions and Outreach Committee. This is a grant program offered by Great Plains UMC.

We have decided to kick off this health initiative by encouraging each other to participate in the KSU Extension program entitled "Walk Kansas."

A few members of our committee have agreed to serve as Walk Kansas Captains.

Sandi Dutt 785-479-0786 sandidutt11@gmail.com
 Pearl Atchison 785-410-3774 pmfamily1@yahoo.com
 Linda Rist 785-263-5283 lrist05@gmail.com

Abilene First United Methodist Church is encouraged to participate in this program! Feel free to contact one of the captains if you want to find out more about this program and/or join their team.

Walk Kansas is free and easy to participate in as an individual or by joining a team. You can find out more information about this program at www.walkkansas.org.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Kevin Bailey, David & Pam Haight

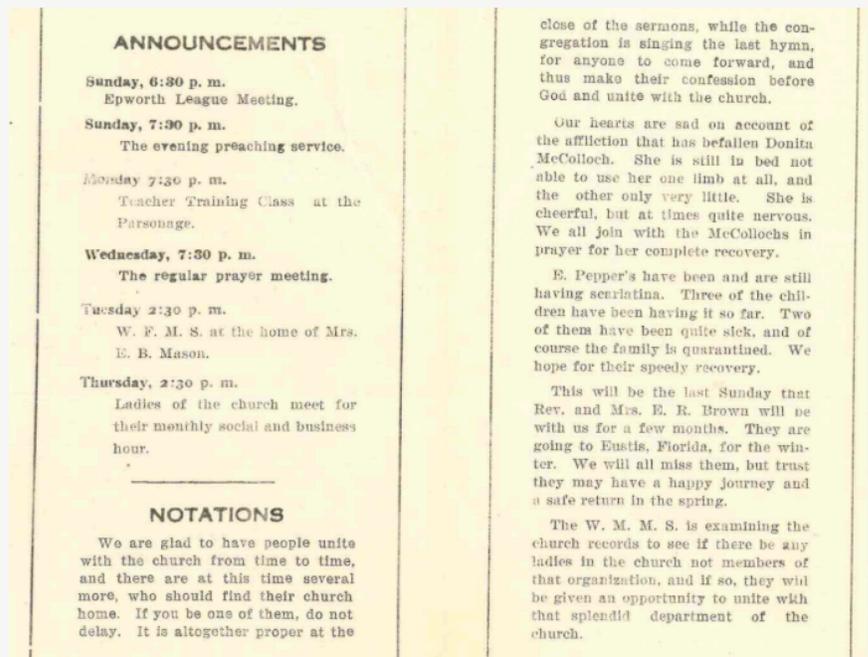
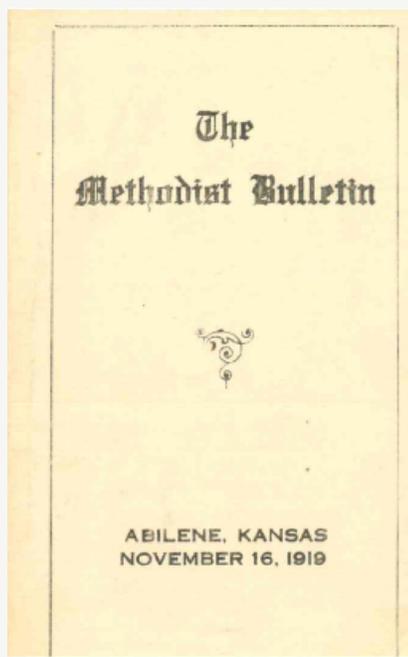
It has been a few months now since Pastor Libby and Administrative Assistant Chris Seets started composing and publishing our monthly church newsletter, “The Disciple”. The congregation looks forward to each new issue to learn about happenings at Abilene FUMC. In addition to the print version, they also effectively supplement it by using electronic media to keep us informed about upcoming and significant events through Facebook postings.

Recently, Chris asked me about what the church archives contain about the names of newsletters over past years, so I went looking. Accompanying this article is a scanned photo of the earliest found in a church history file. From 1919, it is not a newsletter as such nor is it a worship service bulletin despite its title.

The first were from the 1970s and were few and far between, all typewritten, and only some issues in some years. One mentioned, “It has been some time since the last issue.” None were found for the 1980s and ‘90s and whether or not they published one or just didn’t save copies, I could not find.

Monthly issues, beginning in January 2001, were called “The Energizer” but by February 2002, the name changed to “The Blessings” which lasted to July 2012. It then became “Blessings in Abundance” until the fall of 2012. For the rest of 2012 until July, 2013 “Blessings” was added to “Holiday Blessings,” “New Year’s Blessings,” “Blessings for This Month of Love” (February) and so forth.

For the rest of 2013 and into mid-2014 assorted titles were tried, and then no title used until “May Newsletter” and “June Newsletter” were tried, followed by “The Newsletter” until at least December, 2018. Records beyond that date have not yet been fully processed to see if there are additional print issues beyond that date. For the past fifteen years or so our pastors being comfortable with computer and Internet usage made increasingly extensive use of that means of communication with the congregation.





OUR MISSION:

TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AT ANY STAGE OF ADULT LIFE WITH OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THEIR HOUSEHOLD.

The guest speaker at the United Women in Faith meeting on February 18 was Amanda Robinson, Director of Neighbor To Neighbor-Abilene. Many of us have heard of this organization, but I was so surprised by all the ways they are helping in the community. They serve all of Dickinson County with a 24/7 food pantry, a pet pantry, a mobile unit that distributes food and hygiene items to the communities of Hope, Woodbine, Industry, Enterprise, and Solomon, and deliver Community Meals to two of the trailer parks here in Abilene on the 2nd & 4th Monday. They participate in the CARE PORTAL and are on the front lines helping with so many other needs in community. They helped over 800 people with different needs just last month. N2N is funded through grants and donations. I asked Amanda how people can help, she said to pray for them and that there is always a need for volunteers, from helping with fundraising, bagging up toiletry items for the hygiene van and the food pantry, to folding newsletters. They are located at 300 N. Cedar Suite 103, (785) 200-6750, n2nabilene.com

New Worship Series Continues in March

Questions to God Worship Series

Who is God? Why do bad things happen to good people? How can I face the future? Asking questions is a normal part of human life. Having doubts is part of the human experience. We do not have to be ashamed of our doubts or hide our questions before God. In fact, God fully welcomes them and welcomes us. This Lent, we will practice bringing some of our biggest questions and doubts to God. We will practice embracing this deeply human part of ourselves as we move together toward the great and joyous mystery of Easter resurrection.



February 18 Living with Questions and Doubts—Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 6:1-6 (Ash Wednesday)

February 22 Who is God - 1 John 4:7-19

March 1 Is the Bible Reliable - Hebrews 4:12-14

March 8 Why Should I Go to Church? - Psalm 100

March 15 Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? - Psalm 137; John 11:23-35

March 22 How and Why Do I Forgive? - Matthew 6:9-15

March 29 Why is Jesus Special? - Mark 11:1-11 (Palm Sunday)

April 2 Are You Scared of the Future? - John 13:1-7, 31b-35 (Maundy Thursday)

April 3 Why Did Jesus Have to Die? - Colossians 2:13-14 (Good Friday)

April 5 Why Be a Christian? - Mark 16:1-8 (Easter Sunday)

MARCH AT ABILENE FUMC

Sunday, Mar. 1	8:15	Worship Service			
	9:20	Small Groups			
	10:30	Worship Service			
Monday, Mar. 2	10:00	Card Ministry Group			
	5:30	Core Meeting			
	6:30	Women's AA/NA Meeting			
Tuesday, Mar. 3	10:00	Exercise Group			
Wed, Mar. 4	10:00	Staff Meeting			
	3:30	Power & Light			
	5:00	Missions & Outreach			
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice			
	6:00	Youth Group			
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice			
Thursday, Mar. 5	12:00	Lenten Lunch & Learn			
Friday, Mar. 6		Office Closed			
Saturday, Mar. 7					
Sunday, Mar. 8		DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS			
	8:15	Worship Service			
	9:20	Small Groups			
	10:30	Worship Service.			
Monday, Mar. 9	10:00	Card Ministry Group			
	5:00	Host Community Meal			
	5:30	Core Meeting			
	6:30	Women's AA/NA Meeting			
Tuesday, Mar. 10	10:00	Exercise Group			
Wed, Mar. 11	9:30	Cancer Support Group			
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice			
	6:00	Youth Group			
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice			
Thurs, Mar. 12	9:30	EOTT Guild Committee			
	12:00	Lenten Lunch & Learn			
	5:30	Blockheads Quilters Group			
Friday, Mar. 13		Office Closed			
Saturday, Mar. 14		Valentine's Day			
Sunday, Mar. 15	8:15	Worship Service			
	9:20	Small Groups			
	10:30	Worship Service			
Monday, Mar. 16	10:00	Card Ministry Group			
	5:30	Core Meeting			
	6:30	Church Council Meeting			
	6:30	Women's AA/NA Meeting			
Tuesday, Mar. 17	10:00	Exercise Group			
Wed, Mar. 18	10:00	Staff Meeting			
	12:45	United Women in Faith			
	3:30	Power & Light			
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice			
	6:00	Youth Group			
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice			
Thurs, Mar. 19	12:00	Lenten Lunch & Learn			
Friday, Mar. 20		Office Closed			
Saturday, Mar. 21					
Sunday, Mar. 22	8:15	Worship Service			
	9:20	Small Groups			
	10:30	Worship Service			
Monday, Mar. 23	10:00	Card Ministry Group			
	5:30	Worship Design Meeting			
	5:30	Core Meeting			
	6:30	Women's AA/NA Meeting			
Tuesday, Mar. 24	10:00	Exercise Group			
	7:00	EOTT Quilt Guild			
Wed, Mar. 25	3:30	Power & Light			
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice			
	6:00	Youth Group			
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice			
Thurs, Mar. 26	12:00	Lenten Lunch & Learn			
Friday, Mar. 27		Office Closed			
Saturday, Mar. 28					
Sunday, Mar. 29	8:15	Worship Service			
	9:20	Small Groups			
	10:30	Worship Service			
Monday, Mar. 30	10:00	Card Ministry Group			
	5:30	Core Meeting			
	6:30	Women's AA/NA Meeting			
Tuesday, Mar. 31	10:00	Exercise Group			



Abilene First United Methodist Church
601 N. Cedar
Abilene, KS 67410

First UMC

In-Person Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.
In-Person, Radio, Facebook Worship 10:30 a.m.
KABI 1560AM or 95.9FM

Church Staff

The Rev. Libby Themis, Pastor
Libbythemis@gmail.com 785-564-1977

Church office hours:
Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Chris Seets, Administrative Assistant
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