

THE DISCIPLE

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

(785) 263-2623

office@abilenefirstumc.org

ABILENEFIRSTUMC.ORG

Prayer Requests

Members:

Myckie Spencer
Pam Jackson

Families of:

Bonnie Byer
Carl Hansen
Melva Rector
Wes Duey

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 Chris Seets

Administrative Assistant



I was born in Germany, we moved to Ft. Benning GA in 1973 and then to my mom's home town of Abilene in 1975. My dad retired as a MSG in the US Army after 20 years of service. My mom worked at Duckwall Alco for over 26 years. I graduated from Abilene High School in 1990. I have one big brother, two nieces, and two nephews that I adore. I met my husband Steve on a blind date. We have been married for 21 years and have three children: Kristen, Kevin, & Ramey. We currently have six grandchildren, three in Abilene and three in the DFW area.

I have attended Abilene FUMC on and off my whole life. My earliest memory in church is playing a lamb in the Christmas pageant; I was probably 5-6 years old. I would attend Sunday morning service with the Bowers Family. I loved hearing Swede and Kari singing the hymns, at the time I did not know how to read music, so it was a real mystery to me how they did it! Then in Middle School and High School, I attended Youth Group on a regular bases. Rev. Tal Titsworth baptized me here in January 1993 and FINALLY, I joined as a full member last year on March 23, 2025.

I currently have 43,207 photos on my phone. I have seen Billy Joel in concert 4 times; the most recent was in NYC at Madison Square Garden, which was one of my Bucket List Items for my life. I own a Christmas tree farm that was started in 2016. We have moved 4 times since we have been married, we own a few rental houses, and have flipped a few houses along the way. I have had the opportunity to do many different things for work; I was parts manager for 7 years at Holm Automotive and worked at a few other dealerships too, worked for the government for almost 13 years in several different roles, mainly purchasing, contracting, and warehousing, worked for Great Plains Mfg. in purchasing & scheduling, RHV, and now as the Administrative Assistant at FUMC. There is only one more job that I have on my to do list-lunch lady. I absolutely LOVE to travel, it does not even matter when or where. The next big adventure is out there waiting for me!

Something people would be surprised to know about me-I have a motorcycle license and a forklift operating license.

A Word From Pastor Libby



Friends,

Wow! I can hardly believe that we will be celebrating Holy Week already next week. I anticipate a week filled with conversations, listening, proclamation, prayer, and song, as we hear the stories of Jesus and his disciples and followers. I'm so thankful for all these opportunities that help us to be the church of Jesus Christ for the world today in this place.

I love the story of the resurrection and how we are reminded that God continues to bring new life where life is waning or gone. God takes what seems like the worst thing we can imagine and turns it into loving hope. God continues to seek us, and we know God is seeking even those who do not know God's love and grace and those who have become angry or distant from God.

God continues to call us to this location with a plan for us which is far more than we can imagine. Knowing this, I am so grateful for our church family as we gather to openly discuss our church's future and listen to God. I am so thankful for the level of engagement in our discussion during the previous worship series, which will carry us through as we begin to look at what's next for our church.

We have heard so many inspiring and thoughtful responses to what it means to be the church of Christ. To see your gifts, how you engage in the community, and what you hope for our church in the coming years. Together, we are a church that adapts to the needs of the community, sharing our gifts and our lives while inviting our neighbors to join us on this journey.

A small group of church folks are using a resource from our Annual Conference, "What's Next." This group was chosen by our Leadership Team to begin examining our church and envisioning the future. This group is leading our exploration, yet we want the congregation to stay involved in the process of discovery and visioning. We know a living church is one that is willing to engage in this process and be vulnerable to change as we seek God's will for us in this place.

Which is why we are planning to have a congregational conversation on April 19, following the 10:30 worship service. We are asking that you save the date now and plan to bring something for the potluck. We want and need your voice to help us to live into the calling God has given us in this time and place.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Libby

Youth



Wendy Robinson, Director of Children & Youth Ministries

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APRIL 13!

The 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.

Applications online at abilenefirstume.org



Camp Horizon Information

Information about summer camp is out, please see the flyer below. Scholarships are available through FUMC for camp. Please speak to Wendy or the office if interested.



CAMP HORIZON

2026 SUMMER SCHEDULE





Main Camp & Leaders in Training
\$445*

Session 1: June 8 - 12
Session 2: June 22 - 26
Session 3: July 6 - 10
Session 4: July 20 - 24

Main Camp: 3rd - 8th Grade
LIT Camp: 9th - 11th Grade



Register Here
Week long prices increase \$25 May 1st!

Middle School & High School Camp

MS Camp: June 15-19 \$465*

HS Camp: July 12-17 \$575*

Day Camp: (10-5 pm) \$50
June 9 1st - 3rd Grade
July 7 1st-3rd Grade

Preview Camp: (1 Night) - \$125
June 10-11 2nd -5th Grade
July 8-9 2nd -5th Grade

Mini Camp (2 Nights)- \$235
3rd - 6th Grade
Session 1: June 24-26
Session 2: July 8-10
Session 3: July 22-24

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 3 Addison Duey
- 5 Treena Dunham
Gail Rodda
- 6 Robert Emig
- 7 James Leyerzapf
- 8 Al Jones
- 11 Sydney Burton
- 15 Linda Rist
Clara Thomas
- 20 Sam Burton
Judy Jones
- 21 Virginia Hoffman
Steve Seets
- 22 Evelyn Carter
- 24 Claire Cormack
- 25 Molly Burton
Jared Vinduska
- 26 Cheryl Dunham
- 28 Dennis Warren
- 29 Sandy Zernickow

Happy Anniversary

Robert & Shirley Emig
4/6/1958

Rick & Judy Jones
4/19/1986

Andy & Angela Holt
4/22/2006

Not only can you come to youth group for food, fun, and fellowship, you can also get a haircut!

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

**4-2 Maundy Thursday service: Worship Pianist will be Amanda Cormack.
Special Music from our Vocal Quartet singing “Fear Is Not My Future”.**

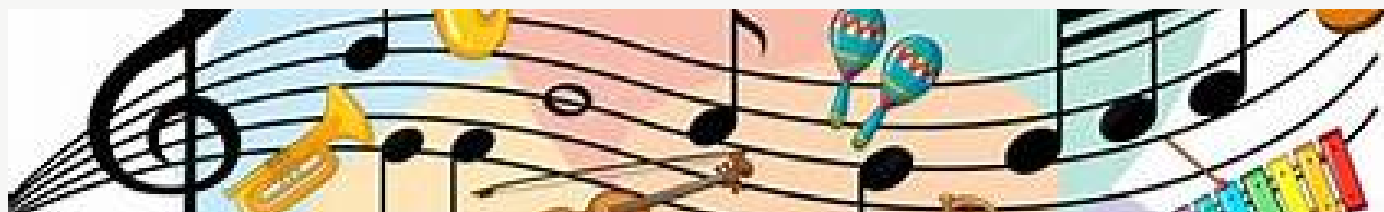
**4-3 Good Friday service: Worship Pianist will be Anna Gugler. Extra readers
needed for the Scripture Passages.**

4-4 Celebration of Life for Carl Hansen, Saturday @ 10 am.

**4-5 Easter Sunday services: 2 Trumpets for the processional hymn. “Above All”
Vocal Solo 8:15 service. Chancel Choir Anthem “House of the Lord” 10:30.
The worship pianist will be Angie Hoerner.**

***Special Invitations to anybody at the 8:15 service. More volunteers are needed to help in the balcony to run the sound board & play the slideshow. And there’s another way to share your God-given musical talents: Join the Chancel Choir starting now and finishing the choir year at the end of May!! All vocal range parts are WELCOME. Also Lisa Divel is still taking more volunteers who are interested in learning the “Basics of Handbell Ringing”. She meets with those ringers at 5:30 on Tuesdays in the sanctuary.

Time out for a HYMNOLOGY MOMENT! On March 22nd, we had another Hymn-Sing, for our attendees to choose their favorite hymns, from our 3 different songbooks. At both services, UMH #377 “It Is Well with My Soul” was requested. I’d like to share some background information on that special hymn. The hymn tune is called VILLE DU HARVE, named after a famous cruise ship. It’s also a port city on France’s west coast. Shortly after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, previously successful attorney Horatio Spafford lost his fortune overnight in that fire. He had invested heavily in real estate along Lake Michigan. Spafford sent his wife and their 4 daughters on a cruise to England from NYC, to take their minds off family financial problems back home in Chicago. There was a major storm at sea which caused the ship to wreck. Mrs. Spafford cabled back to her husband “Saved Alone”. To ease the pain Horatio Spafford quickly booked his ticket on another ship to reunite with his wife. As his ship was passing over the same area of the Atlantic Ocean, where his daughters lives were taken, the devout Presbyterian layman felt so inspired to pen the lyrics to this favorite hymn sung in many denominations.



THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Amazon link for TLFP.



Thank you for the overwhelming support of The Free Little Pantry this last month. The need for this outreach continues to grow. April marks the month that we collect food/hygiene items for the Abilene Food Pantry. Starting Tuesday April 7, brown paper bags will be located on the east and west side of the sanctuary to take and fill for this project. Please return your donations to the Narthex.

FEBRUARY GIVING

\$ 25,107.93

Expenses

\$ 25,470.05

YTD Giving

\$ 45,334.67

YTD Expenses

\$ 51,955.58

For a list of ways to give, visit our website
www.abilenefirstumc.org
 Click on the GIVING tab at the top.

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.



TEAM EFFORT

We are looking for volunteers to help maintain the grounds of the church this spring, summer & fall. Please let the office know if you are able to help mow, weed eat, clean up branches or flower beds. The church does have all the needed equipment on hand to use.

Steve and Chris Seets will take care of the majority of the weekly mowing, but we need a few back ups for when they are out of town. **THANK YOU!**



Abilene Food Pantry

It is again time to remind you that the month of April is the traditional month for your church family to donate food and funds for the operation of the Food Pantry. The months seem to go by so fast-but the needs are still with us.

The churches of Dickinson County are the 'backbone' of our Christian Ministry to the needy by giving their gifts of food.

The following is a list of our immediate needs to the pantry:

BAKING SUPPLIES: cake and muffin mixes, frosting, oil, flour, sugar

CANNED FOODS: fruit, vegetables, soup, condiments, meat substitutes

CEREAL: hot cereal, cold cereal, cereal and breakfast bars

CLEANING SUPPLIES: laundry soap, dish soap, hand soap

PAPER GOODS: toilet tissue, paper towels, napkins, facial tissue

PASTAS: macaroni, noodles, spaghetti

PERSONAL HYGIENE: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, women's feminine products, disposable diapers, men's shaving supplies, hand and body lotions and creams

MEATS: any kind of canned meat and fish, especially tuna

MISCELLANEOUS: peanut butter, jelly, coffee, tea, ramen noodles, rice, dry beans, crackers, juice, syrup, instant potatoes, hamburger helper, spices, salt & pepper, jello and pudding mixes

We are indeed grateful for your continuing support and interest in the operation of the Food Pantry and again we say "Thank you".

In Christian Service,

The Food Pantry Volunteers

409 NW 3rd St, Abilene
(785) 263-1221

Various Hours of Operation



FROM THE ARCHIVES

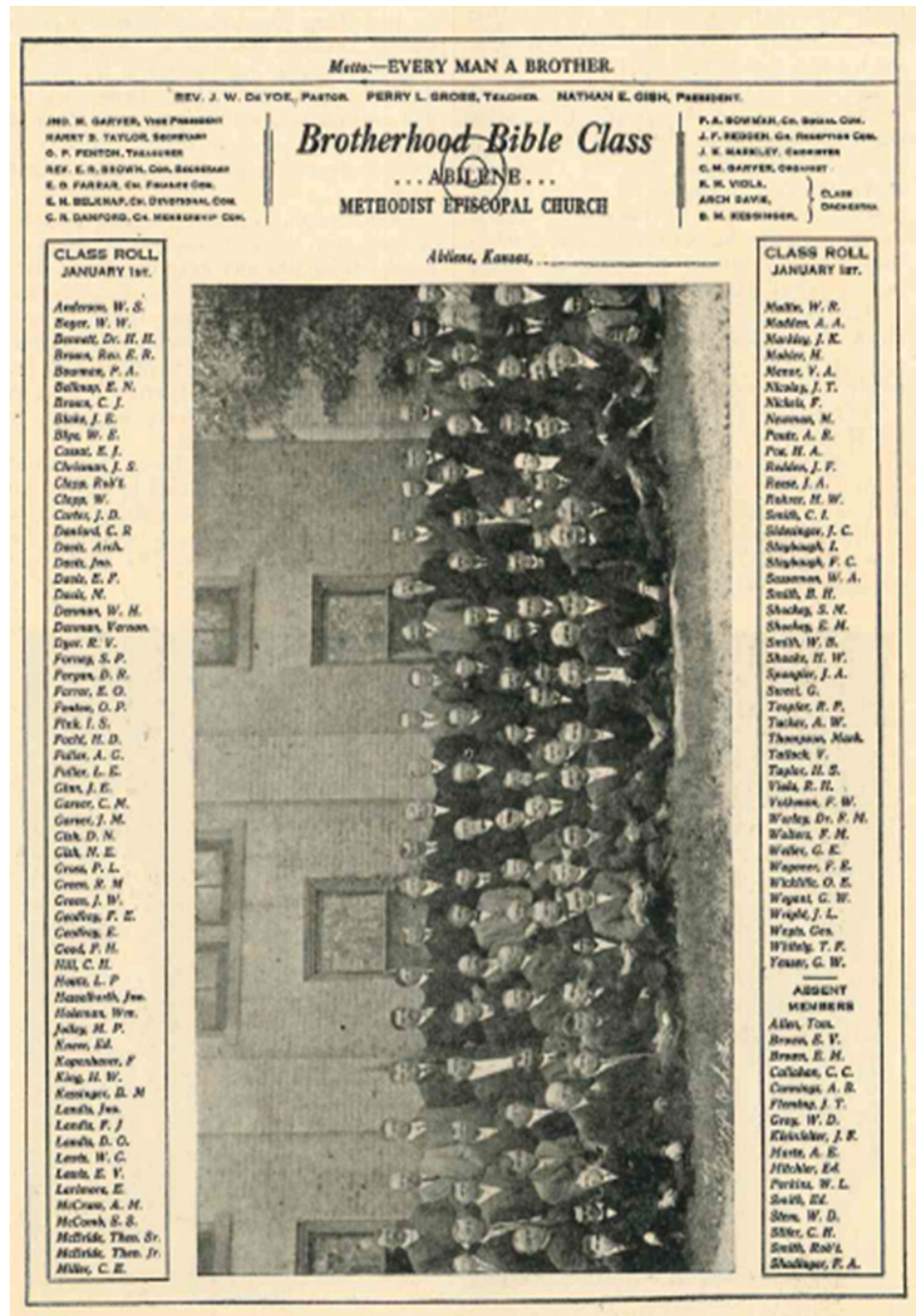
Kevin Bailey, David & Pam Haight

Brotherhood Bible Class

I found the accompanying photograph of the Brotherhood Bible Class of the Abilene Methodist Episcopal Church in the April, 1915 issue of "The Adult Bible Class Monthly". I was curious as to why a copy of a 110 year old magazine had been kept in the church history files. There, on page 209, was this photo dated January 1, 1915. The magazine, itself, contained suggestions on topics for Sunday School classes aimed at Methodist churches.

While looking through our Church Expansion File for something else, my search yielded a pamphlet, from 1985, of the service of the mortgage burning for the 1970 sanctuary project.

Amongst a brief overview of the church's history was the following text. "On October 7, 1909: the men's Brotherhood Bible Class was organized under the leadership of W.D. Stem. It was formed because a number of men saw a large field, "white unto harvest" and they were anxious to find some way to "gather in the sheaves." They felt the need of a closer fellowship in the church in order to sustain their own spiritual life and all felt a need of a more thorough knowledge of the Bible. Six months from its inception, the ranks of the class swelled to 115. Active in all facets of the local church's ministry and life, the class had a visitation team who went out over the entire county for afternoon and evening work in recruiting disciples."



Operation Christmas Child Boxes

AMAZING! We filled **50** Operation Christmas Child Boxes in 2025 thanks to all the generous support of this project. It is time to start collecting for 2026.

April-May : Personal Care Items comb or brush, wash cloth, fun adhesive bandages, nail clippers & file.

NO toothpaste or liquids please.

June-July: Summer items

August-September: School supplies

October-November: Crafts and toys

Central Kansas Justice Initiative Offering

Last month, I shared with you about the new Central Kansas Justice Initiative that is being formed with churches from various denominations in the area between Wamego and Hutchinson. We have Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Mennonites, Baptists, etc., involved in this justice work. As a church, we are asked to support this ministry by organizing our people and giving financially to support its efforts. We are setting up a new designated fund for the Central Kansas Justice Initiative, which we ask you to support in whatever amount you can, so we can impact change for the future, not just respond to everyday needs. You can give to the fund with an offering to the church, noting it is for the Central Kansas Justice Initiative, and it will help us to build up the fund. Thank you for your generous support of justice in our area.

New Worship Series Starting in April

“Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously”

Our new worship series beginning after Easter will be called “Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously,” based on the United Methodist Church’s new vision statement. The new statement is “The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

During this series, we will delve into this new vision statement, and in the end, this series supports the Miracle Sunday Campaign, a global effort to strengthen theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, with a special offering to be received on May 17.

April 12	Ephesians 4:11-16; Luke 5:1-11	Disciples formed by Jesus
April 19	Colossians 2:6-10; John 10:10	Disciples Empowered by the Holy Spirit
April 26	Lev. 19:9-18; John 13:34-35	Love Boldly
May 3	1 Peter 4:8-11; Mark 10:42-45	Serve Joyfully
May 10	Joshua 1:5-9; Ephesians 6:10-18	Lead Courageously
May 17	Psalms 96	Disciples Transform the World

APRIL AT ABILENE FUMC

Wed, Apr. 1 10:00 Staff Meeting
 3:30 Power & Light
 5:00 Missions & Outreach
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:15 Chancel Choir Practice

Thurs, Apr. 2 9:30 EOTT Guild- Hospice
 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Learn
 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, Apr. 3 **Office Closed**
 7:00 Good Friday Service

Sat, Apr. 4 10:00 Carl Hansen Funeral

Sunday, Apr. 5 **EASTER SUNDAY**
 8:15 Worship Service
 9:20 Small Groups
 10:15 Youth Egg Hunt
 10:30 Worship Service.

Monday, Apr. 6 **Office Closed**
 5:30 Core Meeting
 6:30 Women's AA/NA Meeting

Tues, Apr. 7 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed, Apr. 8 9:30 Cancer Support Group
 3:30 Power & Light
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:15 Chancel Choir Practice

Thurs, Apr. 9 5:30 Blockheads Quilters Group

Friday, Apr. 10 **Office Closed**

Sat, Apr. 11 American Legion Family 11th
 District Meeting

Sunday Apr 12 8:15 Worship Service
 9:20 Small Groups
 10:30 Worship Service

Mon Apr. 13 10:00 Card Ministry Group
 5:30 Worship Design Meeting
 5:30 Core Meeting
 6:30 Women's AA/NA Meeting

Tues Apr. 14 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed, Apr. 15 10:00 Staff Meeting
 12:45 United Women in Faith
 3:30 Power & Light
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:15 Chancel Choir Practice

Thurs, Apr. 16 6:30 SPRC Meeting
 7:00 EOTT Board Meeting

Friday, Apr. 17 **Office Closed**

Saturday, Apr. 18

Sunday, Apr. 19 8:15 Worship Service
 9:20 Small Groups
 10:30 Worship Service

Monday, Apr. 20 10:00 Card Ministry Group
 5:30 Core Meeting
 6:30 Church Council Meeting
 6:30 Women's AA/NA Meeting

Tuesday, Apr. 21 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed, Apr. 22 9:00 Healthy Congregations
 3:30 Power & Light
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:15 Chancel Choir Practice

Thurs, Apr. 23 DCOM Interviews

Friday, Apr. 24 **Office Closed**

Saturday, Apr. 25

Sunday, Apr. 26 8:15 Worship Service
 9:20 Small Groups
 10:30 Worship Service

Monday, Apr. 27 10:00 Card Ministry Group
 5:30 Core Meeting
 6:30 Women's AA/NA Meeting

Tuesday, Apr. 28 10:00 Exercise Group
 7:00 EOTT Quilt Guild

Wed, Apr. 29 10:00 Staff Meeting
 3:30 Power & Light
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:15 Chancel Choir Practice

Thurs, Apr. 30





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

Abilene 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

Rev. Libby Themis, Pastor

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministry

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

Chris Seets, Administrative Assistant

Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaning the Church

Church office hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM