

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410

785-263-2623 — [www.abilenefirstumc.org](http://www.abilenefirstumc.org)

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**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**)

We wonder if it is important to come to church.

**We come to be in God's holy presence.**

We wonder if worshiping with others matters. We want to know.

**Let us join together with praise on our lips and joy in our hearts!**

**\*UNISON PRAYER**

**God of community, challenge us, surprise us, stretch us as we come together  
to worship you. May we find that within our shared stories, Your Story is  
revealed. Amen.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

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

**\*GATHERING HYMN**                      We Are the Church                      UMH 558

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC** (8:15)                      *Gratitude*                      Jack Hunter, soloist

(10:30)                      *Church, Take Me Back*                      Clark Williamson, soloist

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 100 (NRSVA)

A Psalm of thanksgiving.

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.
- 3 Know that the LORD is God.  
It is he that made us, and we are his;  
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
- 5 For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures for ever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

**SERMON**

Church - WHY!

Pastor Bob Clemence

## RESPONSIVE HYMN

*O Church of God, United*

UMH 547

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, we know that we are to enter your gates with thanksgiving, joining with all the earth in shouting for joy and worshiping you with gladness. Yet, we confess that too often we forget it is you who brought us into life and you who continue to sustain us with your goodness. Thinking that we have made it all on our own, we stand alone, above and apart from those with whom you call us into community. Forgive us for our foolishness, O Lord. Remind us that we are to be found praising you together with our sisters and brothers as sheep of your pasture. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**OFFERTORY** (10:30)

*Gratitude*

Jack Hunter, soloist

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 95

### LITANY FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

*Canticle of Prayer (vs. 2)*

UMH 406

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*Bind Us Together*

FWS 2226

### \*THE BENEDICTION

Having received grace upon grace, and God's constant love, go forth with songs of praise.

**We will share signs and wonders, of gratitude and generosity, that others will see Christ living through us.**

### \*POSTLUDE

# PRAYER CONCERNS

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

## **MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:**

Family & Friends of Bonnie Byers, Luke (4 year old great grandson of Lehman's) 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), 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:**

Lancie Gantenbein, Steven & Mary Cairns, 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, Jacqu Hance, 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**

Betty Eckman in Loving Memory of her daughter, Merrie Bruns.

## **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**

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

## **COMMUNITY MEAL THIS MONDAY, WE HOST**

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.

## **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Narthex.

## **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**

Our next Lunch and Learn is Thursday, March 12 from noon to one in room 200. Each week we will discuss questions related to the previous Sunday's sermon question. "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 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**

More directories have been printed. Please, one per household. Thank you to everyone for helping with this project. A special thank you to Pam Haight and Diane Wyatt for assembling them.

## **2026 SCHOLARSHIP**

Scholarships for high school and post secondary students are available on the church website. [abilenefirstumc.org](http://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.

## **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/BREAD FOR SUNDAY MORNING**

We are always in need of cookie/treat donations for Sunday mornings and bread for our visitors. 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](http://abilenefirstumc.org).

**OFFERING** Needed each Sunday - \$ 5870.81 Last Sunday - \$2790.50

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 8 Daylight Savings Time Starts**

- 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, MARCH 9 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON**

- 10:00 a.m. Rhea Jerrell Funeral
- 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group - 208
- 5:00 p.m. Community Meal - Sterl Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Core Meeting - 204
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 10 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON**

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

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON**

- 9:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group - Narthex
- 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 12 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON**

- 9:30 a.m. EOTT Guild- Hospice Committee - Peatling Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Lenten Lunch & Learn - 200
- 5:30 p.m. Blockheads Quilters Group - 200

## **FRIDAY, MARCH 13 OFFICE CLOSED**

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 15**

- 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: Anna Gugler & Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: Michael Linenberger & Chris Seets

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Leslie Hoffman

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Keith & Barb Emig

10:30: Barb Leckron & Janice Hoffman

## **FIRST UMC STAFF**

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus