

Sunday, March 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

Morning Song of Praise

Bell Choir

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

God tells us to forgive others.

We wonder—why should we? Forgiveness is hard to extend when we are hurting.

Teach us, O God, how to forgive and to trust again.

May we be open to the lessons of giving and receiving forgiveness.

***UNISON PRAYER**

Lord, things are broken. Again. The remnants of shattered trust and fractured hope lie in our path. Bring us to the place of forgiveness, your great mystery of healing. Give us back our lives, we pray. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN**

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

UMH 365

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

HYMN SING

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:9-15 (NRSVA)

9 'Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; 15 but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Forgiveness - Letting Go

Rev. Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

UMH 390

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we know that you first model for us everything you seek to lead us into. Even the model of prayer that your son, Jesus Christ, taught his disciples is something he demonstrates for us. Forgive us for not following the example he sets, for we confess that we do not always seek your will to be done in our lives. Instead of graciously receiving our daily bread from you, we take more than we need at the expense of our neighbors. And we do not freely pass on the gift of forgiveness, holding onto our anger and bitterness. Free us from our prisons of hate, O Lord. Help us to truly be Jesus' disciples, learning his way of peace and reconciliation, which leads us into life. In his 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***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 Carl Hansen

Family & Friends of Melva Rector

Myckie Spencer broke her hip, Rehab at Village Manor, #202

Family & Friends of Rhea Jerrell

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 W., treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukemia)

Al Jones

Jim Leyerzapf

Pam Jackson

Scot Budden (Pastor Libby's brother)

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:

Lancie Gantenbein, Steven & Mary Cairns, Mike Jantz, 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, Karen & Steve Crump, Dorothy Veach, Dorothy Snider, Linda Chase, 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, Patrick Senart

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

RADIO BROADCAST

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast, contact Chris in the office. The cost is \$70.00 a Sunday. You can choose who you want in honor or memory of.

INTERFAITH LENTEN REFLECTION

Join us on Friday, March 27, at 6:30 pm at St. Andrews Church for a 30-minute Interfaith Lenten Reflection. Local pastors and churches will be participating, including Pastor Libby. A reception with discussion and a question and answer period follows. Local speaker and church theologian, Joseph Tatner will deliver a reflection on "The Crucifixion Through Mary's Eyes." Fish fry from 5-7 pm.

EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 on Easter Sunday. Children should meet by Wendy's office Rain or Shine!

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. Please contact Jacque Saffell, 785-342-6223 or Toni Schwarting, 785-479-6353 with questions or to volunteer.

EASTER LILIES

There are 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 26 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.

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.

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.

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.

OFFERING Needed each Sunday - \$ 5870.81 Last Sunday - \$ 5011.00
March EFT - \$ 3285.00



CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Happy Birthday Marilyn Jordan!

- 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 23 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Wes Duey & Michael Heger!

- 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group - 208
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Design Meeting - 200
- 5:30 p.m. Core Meeting - 204
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Kyle Adams!

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 26 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 OFFICE CLOSED

Happy Birthday Sophia Duey!

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- 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

Liturgists: Rick Williamson & Grace Lovett

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Steve Schwarting

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Heather Heger & Judy Jones

10:30: Chuck & Sandy Zernickow

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Chris Seets, Administrative Assistant

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Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus