



# The Disciple

November 2025

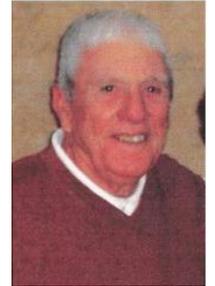
Abilene First United Methodist Church 601 N. Cedar, Abilene, KS 67410 (785) 263-2623

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## VINTAGE SUNDAY HONOREES

Celebrating our long living saints and their years of faithfulness.



Glen Dawson



Kenny Dawson



Betty Eckman



Dale Emig



Eunice Gay



Marge Green



Carl Hansen



Virginia Hoffman



Al Jones



Paul & Dorothy Lehman



Sue Murry



Dorothy Snider



Dorothy Veach



The next issue of

The Disciple will be out in December. Please have all articles to the church office by **November 24**.

Would you like to receive The Disciple by email?

Email Chris at [office@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:office@abilenefirstumc.org)

### COMMUNITY MEAL

A Thanksgiving Meal will be served on Monday, Nov. 24, at 5:00 pm at the Community Church, 1400 N. Cedar. It will be hosted by all the churches that support the community meal. To volunteer please contact the office for information. 785-263-2623

### Calling All Helpers to Fill the Operation Christmas Boxes

On Sunday, November 16, we will be filling the Christmas boxes with all of the items we have collected this year. If you would like to help, come to the narthex between services at 9:30 a.m. and join others in assembling the boxes. This is our first year to do it this way so it will be a first for all of us. I hope that there will be people there from both services. After the boxes are filled, stay for coffee, cookies and fellowship.

## PRAYER LIST

### MEMBERS:

Carl Hansen  
Barb Funston

### FRIENDS:

Bob Dishman  
Leah Blanchard  
Lawanda Markley  
Toby Becker  
Scot Budden  
Delores Schmidt

### COMMUNITY:

Rachel Prichard  
Tom Litke  
Kathy Ducker  
Mike Jantz  
Jacque Havice  
Macie Heller

### ARMED FORCES:

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

### LOCAL COMMUNITY:

We pray for those who are homeless due to circumstances beyond their control. Interracial understanding. We pray for students, teachers, staff and family.

### OUR WORLD COMMUNITY:

We pray for those who are incarcerated and their families, for peace of God to rule in the hearts of our local and national leaders.

*\*Names are included on the prayer list for one month. If the prayer request needs to be on the list for multiple months, please contact the church office. To submit a prayer request please fill out a form in the pew at church or call the church office.*

## A Word from Pastor Libby



Friends,

Last month when I wrote to you it was the first day of fall and now the temperatures are beginning to feel like fall. It is finally time to pull out jackets, sweaters, and sweatshirts. Yay! Last weekend at my granddaughter's softball tournament, I wore a sweatshirt for the first time this season as the temperature dropped into the fifties. I was so thankful I had it with me!

As we head into November the season reminds us to be thankful and there are many invitations to consider at least one thing every day for which you are thankful. There is so much I am thankful for myself particularly for the relationships I have like family, friends, this congregation, this community, and my colleagues in ministry. Not to mention all the physical things that make my life comfortable. More than anything I am thankful for a faithful, ever-present God who walks with me through the good days and the challenging days of my life helping me to remember to seek the peace of Christ. Which reminds me of Philippians 4:6-8, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

When I think of these verses, I am reminded that each day is an opportunity to remember all that God continues to do for me and to be more aware of where I see God active in each day. I look for what I call "God Sightings," the places God is present in for me or that I witness God's presence for another.

I am hopeful that our Vintage Sunday remembrance on All Saints Day, November 2, will get us off to a good start as we give thanks for our members who are ninety plus years old and lift up those who are eighty plus years old. Then on the three Sundays leading up to Advent we will have a short series called "The Days are Surely Coming." This series is an invitation to look to the future envisioning the kingdom Jesus spoke of here, not only on earth but in Abilene, KS. When we do this, we find ourselves celebrating not only who we are, but who we will become.

So let us give thanks to the Lord for he is good! I pray that you are all blessed in the coming month in ways you never imagined and that your hearts would overflow with thanksgiving for all that God has done for you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Libby

Happy Thanksgiving month!

Come 15 minutes early before worship Nov. 30- Dec. 21 at both services to do sing along Christmas Carols with Anna Gugler.

### Church Council October 2025

Friends, we want to thank all of you who participated in the Special Church Conference this month when we voted on the new leadership structure. We anticipate this will help us to be able to respond to needs and request in a timely manner. This will also help us to have some continuity as we plan for our future.

Most of our business for this month was focused on approving items for church conference. We completed the Wesley Mission form about what we are doing and what we hope to focus on in the coming year. With a new focus on planning for our future by having a team work through the "What's Next?" materials provided by our annual conference. We also approved the Clergy Support Compensation and the Nominations and Leadership report. Once everything is voted on at our regular church conference on November 9, we will have packets available for the congregation to see all the work we completed.

Thank you for your ongoing support of all of our leaders in the church.



Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

### "Out of the Mouth of Babes"

Wendy asked the youth questions about why they come to youth group.

#### Why do you come to youth group?

- My family has always came here, supper and fun
- I can connect with God, I have fun and my "friend kind of forced me to come in the beginning"
- My friend made me come but I really enjoy hanging out and talking with everyone that comes
- It makes me a better person
- I was kind of kidnapped to coming by my friends and I was a little bit nervous but I really like to come now, good food
- My family makes me
- I just show up each week
- No reason not to come

#### Why is coming to church and youth group important?

- Connect with God
- Learn more about God and connect with others
- Have a church family
- Learn more about Jesus
- Block out the world for awhile

#### How have you asked more people to come?

- I have annoyed them each week to come and I asked the whole football team
- Told them there is food and its fun
- Told others they will like it and I will be there

#### Why is it important to invite others?

- So they have the opportunity to know God
- We all need a little Jesus

An amazing thing is happening with our youth! The night I interviewed the kids we had 16 youth, four of the youth attend this church. The other youth attend other churches or none at all. The exciting news is the youth are finding our church as a safe space where they can connect with God and each other. The youth are excited to invite more kids each week. We have had 29 youth attend Wednesday nights since September. We do not have the same kids each week but almost all of the kids have returned at least once. Our youth have said they are watching the online 10:30 service on Sunday mornings. The congregation may not be seeing the kids that are finding a home at FUMC but they are finding us!

The Youth Pumpkin Sales will continue in November, it is not too late to pick up your favorite gourd or pumpkin to celebrate the season!

#### College Care Package

There is a basket in the Narthex for donations to the college care packages. Candy, chips, beef jerky, etc. Donations are due by Nov. 19, mailing out Nov.24. Monetary donations are helpful for mailing costs & extra items needed.

This year's Youth Christmas Pageant,

#### **Live From Bethlehem**

Will be videotaped on November 5 and shown during both services on December 7.

#### Sign-Up times for Christmas Aid

Church Women United will again be sponsoring the Christmas Aid Program for families in need.

Sign up will take place at St. Andrew Parish Hall, 311 S. Buckeye, Abilene, KS

#### Sign up Dates & Times

Dec 4: 9-1 & 4-6

Dec 5: 9-1

If you would like to donate to Christmas Aid, make the checks payable to C.W.U Christmas Aid, and mail to:

Ellen Jones, Christmas Aid Chairman,  
1603 N. Wildcat St. Abilene, KS 67410



Power & Light Kids carving pumpkins.



## Helping our Neighbors

Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" in Matthew 25:35. One of the ways we have helped to feed our neighbors is through government programs, including SNAP and WIC. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program will be significantly cut beginning November 1. According to the USDA, SNAP benefits "provide food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health and well-being." According to the USDA, WIC provides "pregnant, recently pregnant, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children under 5 years old are eligible for WIC benefits. Caregivers, including dads, grandparents, and foster parents, may apply for children under five in their care."

The USDA informed states if the shutdown continues, government funding for the SNAP program will dry up. This will begin on November 1 with the continued shut down. As for WIC, the KDHE anticipates food money should last into next month, but many other services it supports are running into tough times. This included education and support for pregnant and new moms.

The Kansas Department of Children and Families manages SNAP benefits for more than 180,000 Kansans each month, not including those affected by WIC. The majority of those receiving these benefits are children and the elderly.

As Jesus has called us to feed the hungry, how can we support our neighbors who will be in greater need in the coming months until funding is reestablished? Keep in mind that, through the Big Beautiful Bill, some cuts will continue indefinitely. Our Mission and Outreach Committee will be working on ways we, as a church, can respond to these increased needs. If you have ideas, you are encouraged to talk with Pastor Libby or someone on the Mission and Outreach Committee to help us discern next steps.

## September Giving

\$16,028.27

Expenses \$21,541.55

## Year to Date Giving

\$176,516.66

Expenses \$ 226,373.87

For a list of ways to give, visit our website

[www.abilenefirstumc.org](http://www.abilenefirstumc.org)

Click on the GIVING tab at the top.



November 30 – Psalm 80: 1-2; 1 Corinthians 1: 4-7; Mark 13: 24-37

December 7 - Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

December 14 - Isaiah 61: 1-4; 10; Psalm 126: 1-3; Luke 1: 41-55

December 21 – Samuel 7:8-9a, Psalm 89:1-4, Luke 1:26-31

December 24 – Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:1-20

December 28 – Isaiah 62:1-3, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40



## The Card Ministry Group

Will have 6 packs of Christmas cards available for purchase, by donation, starting in November.

The cards will be located in the Narthex for you to choose from.

The group meets on Monday at 9:30 in room 208. Everyone is welcome to come and create. Everything you need is provided.

## Mark your calendar:

United Women in Faith

Christmas Party

Saturday, December 6

Wright Hall

Next Meeting is 11/19, 12:45 pm



Sunday, November 23, 3:00 p.m. Please join us prepare the church for the Christmas Season. This requires many volunteers to do.

## Dickinson County Children Angel Tree Info.

Angels will be placed on the Christmas tree at

Lumber House, 1903 N Buckeye, Abilene  
Friday, November 14, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact

Cindy Whittington @ 785-200-5012

**November Music Selections**

Nov 2 Choir Anthem: Bread of the World  
 Hymns: Lord Be Glorified; Blest Be the Tie That Binds; Give Thanks  
 Nov 9 Choir Anthem: By Your Mercy  
 Hymns: Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken; Immortal, Invisible  
 Standing on the Promises  
 Nov 16 Choir Anthem: The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Psalm 23)  
 Hymns: This Is a Day of New Beginnings; Come, Let Us Dream  
 The Trees of the Field  
 Nov 23 Choir Anthem: It Is Good to Give Thanks  
 Vocal Quartet: We Gather Together  
 Hymns (in Recognition of Christ the King Sunday)  
 Jesus Shall Reign; How Firm a Foundation;  
 The Power of the Cross  
 Nov 26 (Wednesday) **\*\*NO Bell Choir or Chancel Choir practices.**  
 Nov 30 First Sunday of Advent  
 Choir Anthem: Our Hope Is in Emmanuel



**\*\*We need to find another volunteer to help one Sunday a month running Slides for the 8:15 worship service. If you can tap the space bar on the 2nd to last sung and spoken word on the slide- - -you'll be fantastic! Second service volunteers may also apply. Please contact me if you are interested. Thanks! Clark Mobile #785-280-3355**



**Angie Hoerner**

**GET TO KNOW... ANGIE HOERNER**

How long have you played for FUMC? Oh my, long time! Started when Marilyn Jordan asked me to accompany the Children's Choir. I would say 17-18 years at least.

What other instruments do you play? None, have tried clarinet and guitar

What is your favorite genre of music? Anything 80's and Hairbands!

What are your interests outside of church? I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. Traveling. Going to concerts, sporting events, comedy shows, and live theater. Love jigsaw puzzles- 1000 piece or more ;). Chasing sunrises and sunsets. Spending time by the ocean-on a beach-which I do not get too but once a year.

What is something people would be surprised to know about you? Probably that I am pretty competitive and I love trivia!

**New Directory Photos**

Pictures will be taken December 14 & 21 before and after both services. This is a great time to be sure that all your information is up to date in the office computer. Even if you do not want to be included in the directory be sure to check your information. We need 2-3 volunteers to help Chris on those Sunday mornings with paperwork.

**In case you missed it on T.V.**



**The Salina Chorale will present "Carols of Christmas"**

Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025, 4 pm,  
 Sacred Heart Cathedral, 118 N 9th  
 St. Salina, KS.

Ticket prices are Adults  
 \$15 Students \$10.

**Anna Gugler** has tickets for sale.

There is also a flyer on the kiosk with information on this event.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Kevin Bailey

By the end of World War I (1918) the congregation was outgrowing the remodeled church of 1906 and planning and fundraising began for a new and larger church building. This building program got underway in October, 1918 and a construction contract was signed on March 3, 1923. The contractor was a firm from Cedar Rapids, Iowa and completion was scheduled for October of 1923. The old church was demolished in February, 1923 and construction began on its replacement.

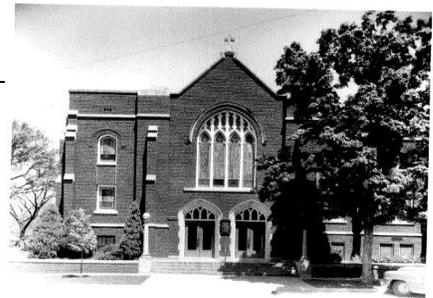
The Rev. C. L. Hovgard was pastor when the third church edifice was built. The new building was dedicated on December 24, 1923, the cost being approximately \$80,000 [@\$1,511,000 if in 2025 dollars]. Bishop E. L. Waldorf preached on the day of dedication and a formal dedication service was held at the evening service with the Bishop in charge. The 1907 pipe organ was installed at the front of the sanctuary and was used for many more years. Once the congregation moved into its new home, Rev. Hovgard expressed thanks to the Abilene School District for allowing the congregation the use of the high school auditorium while the new church was under construction.

From the conclusion of Lester Green's 1970 account of church history . . . "While the Church was organized as the Methodist Episcopal Church, the name was changed to the Methodist Church in 1939, with the uniting of the three main bodies of Methodism. Again in 1968, the name was to change, this time to be called the United Methodist Church at the time of uniting with the former Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted February 1, 1970 for the newest of the United Methodist Church buildings in a series of three since the first in April 1879. It was a new wrinkle in groundbreaking, tying in the history of 1870 to the now of 1970. The present members of the congregation, with the present pastor, Rev. Harold C. Lambert heading up the towrope attached to an antique walking plow, all pulled and the ground was broken for the newest edifice of steel, brick and stained glass, a symbol to the glory of God the Father and his only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Completion date for the newest building, attached to the present building, is called for late in 1970."

Notes: The 1970 addition was dedicated on February 14, 1971 and within the next few years the 1923 building was remodeled into its current configuration for classrooms, a library and a small chapel from part of the original sanctuary.

The church archivists/historians are still trying to learn why the pipe organ was not reinstalled in the new sanctuary.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

11/1	Braden Adams	11/13	Janice Hoffman
11/4	Marilyn Coleman	11/14	Tim Holm
	Rick Jones	11/15	Greg Dutt
11/5	Brenda Holms	11/17	Diana Stout
11/7	Sharolyn Greenough	11/18	Kevin Bailey
	Lynn Peterson	11/21	Karlene Taylor
11/8	Terry Tietjens	11/24	Angie Hoerner
11/9	Vance Riffel	11/26	Carl Hansen
	AnnMarie Schwarting	11/28	Andrew Schwarting
11/10	Mary Duey	11/29	Sandi Dutt
11/11	Kevin Haight		



David & Pam Haight	11/4/1972
Carl & Barb Funston	11/09/1968
Gail & Delores Rodda	11/18/2000
Paul & Dorothy Lehman	11/27/1954

# NOVEMBER AT ABILENE FUMC

<b>Saturday, NOV 1</b>			
<b>Sunday, NOV 2</b>	<b>VINTAGE SUNDAY</b>		
	8:15	Worship Service	
	9:20	Small Group Study	
	10:30	Worship Service	
	6:00	Disciple Fast Track Study	
<b>Monday, NOV 3</b>	10:00	Card Ministry Group	
	5:30	Core Meeting	
	5:15	Memorial Committee Mtg.	
	5:30	Worship Design Mtg.	
	6:00	Women's AA/NA Meeting	
<b>Tuesday, NOV 4</b>	10:00	Parkinson Exercise Group	
<b>Wednesday, NOV 5</b>	10:00	UWF Budget Meeting	
	3:30	Power & Light	
	5:00	Missions & Outreach	
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice	
	6:00	Youth Group	
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice	
<b>Thursday, NOV 6</b>	9:00	EOTT Guild Hospice	
<b>Friday, NOV 7</b>		Office Closed	
<b>Saturday, NOV 8</b>			
<b>Sunday, NOV 9</b>	8:15	Worship Service	
	9:20	Small Group Study	
	10:30	Worship Service	
	4:00	Charge Conference (JC)	
	6:00	Disciple Fast Track Study	
<b>Monday, NOV 10</b>	9:30	Card Ministry Group	
	5:30	Core Meeting	
	6:00	Board of Trustees Mtg.	
	6:00	Women's AA/NA Meeting	
<b>Tuesday, NOV 11</b>	<b>Veterans Day</b>		
	10:00	Parkinson Exercise Group	
<b>Wednesday, NOV 12</b>	9:30	Cancer Support Group	
	10:00	Staff Mtg.	
	3:30	Power & Light	
	5:00	Missions & Outreach	
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice	
	6:00	Youth Group	
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice	
<b>Thursday, NOV 13</b>	5:30	Blockheads Quilters	
	6:00	PEO Meeting	
<b>Friday, NOV 14</b>		Office Closed	
<b>Saturday, NOV 15</b>			
<b>Sunday, NOV 16</b>	8:15	Worship Service	
	9:20	Small Group Study	
	10:30	Worship Service	
	6:00	Disciple Fast Track Study	
<b>Monday, NOV 17</b>	10:00	Card Ministry Group	
	5:30	Core Meeting	
	5:30	Finance Committee	
	6:00	Women's AA/NA Meeting	
	6:30	Church Council Mtg.	
<b>Tuesday, NOV 18</b>	10:00	Parkinson Exercise Group	
<b>Wednesday, NOV 19</b>	12:45	United Women in Faith	
	3:30	Power & Light	
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice	
	6:00	Youth Group	
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice	
<b>Thursday, NOV 20</b>	7:00	SPRC Meeting	
<b>Friday, NOV 21</b>		Office Closed	
<b>Saturday, NOV 22</b>			
<b>Sunday, NOV 23</b>	8:15	Worship Service	
	9:20	Small Group Study	
	10:30	Worship Service	
	6:00	Disciple Fast Track Study	
<b>Monday, NOV 24</b>	9:30	Card Ministry Group	
	5:30	Core Meeting	
	6:00	Women's AA/NA Meeting	
<b>Tuesday, NOV 25</b>	10:00	Parkinson Exercise Group	
<b>Wednesday, NOV 26</b>	10:30	Staff Meeting	
	3:30	Power & Light	
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice	
	6:00	Youth Group	
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice	
<b>Thursday, NOV 27</b>		<b>THANKSGIVING</b> Office Closed	
<b>Friday, NOV 28</b>		Office Closed	
<b>Saturday, NOV 29</b>			
<b>Sunday, NOV 30</b>	8:15	Worship Service	
	9:20	Small Group Study	
	10:30	Worship Service	
	6:00	Disciple Fast Track Study	



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

♥ Join Us in Ringing Hope This Christmas! ♥

We are looking for compassionate volunteers to share a few hours of their time and make a lasting impact in our community. Your smile, your kindness, and your bell can make all the difference this season. If you are interested, please contact:

Cindy Whittington 785-200-5012



**Holiday Service Opportunities!**



**Bell Ringers  
Needed!**

**Church office hours:**

**Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

### **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](mailto:Libbythemis@gmail.com) 785-564-1977

Chris Seets, Administrative Assistant  
[office@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:office@abilenefirstumc.org) 785-263-2623