



# The Disciple

October 2025

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

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Dorothy was baptized and grew up in this church. She married Lyle Snider on June 4, 1949 in the original sanctuary, now the current chapel at FUMC. They raised four children: Janice, Cynthia, Ray, and Glen on the farm north of town that Lyle was born on. I asked Ray what he admired about his mom the most. He said, “She was a hard worker, she must have dirt in her blood, because she loved the farm so much.” When Lyle passed away in 1970, she stayed on the farm and raised her children.

Dorothy’s family hosted an open house on Sunday, September 21 in Wright Hall to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 23. It was evident how many people care for her by the size of the crowd that attended. She sat and greeted them all with a smile on her face. She had family come from as close as north of town to as far away as Italy.

I had the chance to talk to Vivian Funk, Dorothy’s younger sister. She described Dorothy as “kind and thoughtful” and reminisced about traveling to Wyoming, Canada, New Orleans, and many other places together over the years.

Her grandson Luke spoke about her love of K-State family and how Dorothy taught him “We’re there for each other through the good and bad times.”

Anna, Luke’s wife, remembered the first time she met Dorothy at Brown’s Memorial Home 12 years ago. Immediately after being introduced, Dorothy proceeded to give a very in-depth tour of the home. Anna called her “a wealth of knowledge and she loves to share that with others.”



Dorothy was featured in an episode of Hatteberg’s People, when they visited the Seelye Mansion. You can watch the clip on YouTube “Old Kansas Mansions- Hatteberg’s People TV”



The next issue of The Disciple will be out in November. Please have all articles to the church office by **October 20**.

Would you like to receive The Disciple by email?

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

## PRAYER LIST

### MEMBERS:

The Family of Diedre Dunham  
Al Jones

### FRIENDS:

Toby Becker  
Wayne Parris  
Scot Budden  
Delores Schmidt

### COMMUNITY:

People with kidney disease  
The Family of Melissa & Mark  
Hortman  
Brent Potter  
The Family of Charlie Kirk  
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*

## A Word from Pastor Libby

Friends,

Today is the first day of fall, Yea! The season includes activities such as enjoying pumpkin spice, visiting corn mazes, and attending pumpkin patches. However, my favorite part does not even require me to leave home. I love the crisp morning air, the changing of the leaves, the falling of the leaves and watching them get caught in a little whirlwind and spinning around. I will have to figure out the leaf clean up this year, anybody want to rake? :\_)



Fall is also an important season in the life of the church as we begin preparations for our yearly church conference. We have lots of work to do as we plan and vision for the future and set goals for 2026. So do not be surprised if you get a call from our Nominations and Leadership Team about opportunities to help us fulfill our mission. This also means that we will be working on a budget for next year, so I hope you have picked up your commitment card and plan to bring it back for worship on October 5. Your commitment is about your relationship with God and the congregation and how you want to support the ministries of our congregation as we live into the calling God has placed on us here at Abilene First UMC. Please know that we will not bill you for your commitment, it is for you to pay in the manner that works best for you. Also, if things change and you cannot make your commitment we will understand.

I also want to ask you to mark your calendars for our Special Church Conference to be held on Sunday, October 5 at 11:30 am following the late service. The purpose of this church conference will be to vote on a new church structure called the Single Board Governing model. A model meant to maximize our resources including time and talents to be more effective for church ministry. I am excited about the many opportunities that are ahead for us as we step into the future with faith, trusting God to lead us and sustain us in our ministries. As Paul says in the letter to the Romans (8:28), "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Let us go forth in love to serve and make God's love known to the world.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Libby

## THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Lisa Divel

The new season is upon us! Love fall with its crisp leaves and even crispier air. Dickinson county kids and family depend on the little pantry for daily needs; whether it is stopping before school for breakfast of pop tarts and small-boxed cereal, to a single mom working three jobs stopping by to see what TLFP can do to help with dinner that night. We see the needs and hear the woes of others and with your help, the daily grind of poverty will be eased. If you are not sure how you can help, remember this-by giving something, anything, have made someone's life's load a little lighter. Are they better because of you? ABSOLUTELY. So, let us all celebrate this new season. And do not forget- if you give a little-a lot gets done.

**A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO JONIELLE FRAZIER!** During school, she has been at the church at 7am making sure, when the kids get on the bus before school that they have a pop tart, little box of cereal or a snack to help them be ready for learning.



# Youth

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Wendy asked the kids at Power & Light

## WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE FOR HALLOWEEN?

**Jared:** Spider-Man because he's Cool

**Easton:** Black Panther, he's Super cool & has really long claws

**Hudson:** 5 Star General because they get to carry guns and get to boss everyone around (Kind of scary)

**Mason:** Jason from Friday the 13th because he looks cool

**Lilly:** Unicorn princess because she loves unicorns and princesses

**Ben:** Cowboy because he LOVES Cowboys

And in case you were wondering,

**Wendy:** Winnie the Pooh and my dog has a bee costume



Pumpkin Sales will continue through October!



**Congratulations** to Andrew and Halli (Henry) Schwarting on their recent marriage.



**Best wishes to soon to wed couples**

Olivia Crist and Gus Bryant  
Brenna Riffel and Ryan Wilson

**May you all have a lifetime of joy and love!**



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AMAZING YOUTH!

Claire Cormack and Piper Immelmann:  
In Great Plains Theater production of  
Finding Nemo

Anna Holt: for the AMS Volleyball team

Emily and Cora Vinduska:  
Being awesome cheerleaders for the High school and  
Middle school Football games

Braden Short: for Cross Country

Eyler and Anna Holt:  
For all of their 4H accomplishments

Luke Hunter, Cale Casteel, Kaxton Weibert, Luke  
Watson, and Sean Melleny  
For being on the AHS Football team

If you have a chance go and support our youth in their activities or give them a quick chat to encourage them this semester.



The Youth will be making College Care Packages in November for the College kids during finals. If you have leftover candy or treats from Halloween there will be a basket you can place them in the Narthex after Halloween and we will add them in the care packages.

**The Children and Youth will be working on a couple special service projects the next few months. Look for a basket located in the narthex where the congregation can contribute snacks, Chap Stick, gum, or candy.**

## Church Council News

Our Church Council met on Monday, September 15 with the primary purpose of discussing the possibility of moving to the Single Board Governance Model of leadership for our church. The United Methodist Book of Discipline allows churches to use an alternate structure if it is of benefit to the ministry of the church. The reason we want to move to this model is to focus on visioning for the church with everyone having a seat at the table as we work together to build up the ministries of our church while looking to the future. Our expectation will be to function more efficiently and to reduce the number of people who need to chair committees as currently finding committee chairs has been problematic.

In this model we will combine into one team the Church Council, Finance Committee, and the Board of Trustees along with their sub-committees, like memorials and scholarships. We will continue with our other committees, Children and Youth Ministry Team, The Committee on Nominations, Mission and Outreach, Staff Pastor Parish Relations, and Worship Design. All committees will have representation on the Single Board. After much discussion, the Church Council approved this. We will be providing more information prior to our planned Special Church Conference on Sunday, October 5 at 11:30 following worship.

Pastor Libby also distributed a packet called "What's Next?" for the council to review and make recommendation on who might be able to be a part of starting us on a visioning process, something we will look at more in depth at our next meeting.

## Community Meal

The Community Meal is now being served on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. It takes 15 volunteers from our church for each meal.

The next meal for Methodist/Trinity Lutheran will be October 13.

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



Community Church

1400 N. Cedar, Abilene

## Operation Christmas Child

In addition to items to fill the boxes, we will also need monetary donations to help ship the boxes. It costs \$10.00 per box and at this time, we do not know how many boxes we will fill. If we receive extra donations, we will use the money to buy some specialty items for the boxes. Thank you to all of you who have been bringing items all year. You have done a wonderful job. Please designate on the envelope or the check that it is for Operation Christmas Child.



## How can we pray for you?

Send your prayer requests the following ways:

- Call or text Pastor Libby at 785-564-1977
- Email Pastor Libby at [libbythemis@gmail.com](mailto:libbythemis@gmail.com)
- Email the church office at [office@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:office@abilenefirstumc.org)
- Call the church office at 785-263-2623
- Write on the back of your attendance sheet Sunday



If you have not picked up your 2026 commitment card, there are some located on the table in the Narthex or stop by the office to pick one up during regular office hours. Please return them by Sunday, October 5.

## August Giving

\$19,987.51

Expenses \$20,475.76

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.

## We love our volunteers!

There are many opportunities to highlight your gifts throughout the church.

From helping usher, balcony AV, being a Hospitality Greeter, or helping with communion, we are happy to have new people step up and thankful for the ones who have done it for years!

## Musically Speaking

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Our **Chancel Choir** sings an anthem most every week at the 10:30 service. They practice on Wednesdays at 6:15 in the sanctuary with a warmup on Sundays at 10:05. There are no auditions. All singers are welcome who can carry a tune. Some of the Choir members have been with the group for many years, and others are newbies. We all come with a diverse amount of choral experience. We follow the Bible's instruction from Psalm 100 to "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord". However, with this commitment to provide a weekly special choir anthem, we often have choir members absent. So in this month's newsletter, I would especially like to **INVITE NEW SINGERS** to join our Chancel Choir. All voice range parts are welcome but tenors and basses are strongly encouraged to lend their voices right now. Our Chancel Choir is like a family within the church family. Please consider singing with us.

In September's newsletter, I gave a lengthy report about our hand bell refurbishing project that took place this summer. Our **Bell Choir** loves the sound, the look, and the balance of each bell now. It was way past due to have the in-depth maintenance, fine-tuning, and polishing take place. Currently our Bell Choir is only ringing 2 ½ octaves. This summer we decided to extend the "refurbishing" to include the fourth octave; for their longevity too. We really **need three more ringers** in order to play the deeper sounding lower pitch hand bells, and adding more players would help one of our prime ringers to focus on one part instead of two. The Bell Choir practices on Wednesdays at 5:15-6:00 in the sanctuary. They perform a Prelude about every 6 weeks depending on everybody's availability to be present. The ability to read music comes in handy, but notes on the page can be color-coded too. Please contact me if you are interested.



### GET TO KNOW... ANNA GUGLER

**How long have you played for FUMC?** I have been one of the pianists at FUMC for 15 years. It has been my honor to play for services, weddings and funerals.

**What other instruments do you play?** I was inspired to learn to play the Autoharp at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield by an artist named Bryan Bowers who blew me away with his rendition of "Battle Hymn of the Republic". I studied recorder in college and taught students to play when I taught 4th grade, much to their parent's delight.

**What is your favorite genre of music?** This is like asking which your favorite child is. I am fond of piano music, orchestral music and bluegrass and there is music from every era that I enjoy and appreciate.

**What are your interests outside of church?** My family is my heart. My husband and I raised two daughters who are intelligent and successful women, and I am blessed to have three grandchildren here in town. I love spending time with them.

I have worked for the Eisenhower Foundation as an IKEducator for nine years, sharing Ike's legacy with children all over the world. The more I learn about Ike, the more I appreciate his wisdom, humility, and leadership.

My favorite hobby is quilting. I am chair of the End of the Trail Quilters Guild Community Service Committee. We provide supplies for quilters to make comfort quilts for every patient that enters the Hospice program of Home Health and Hospice of Dickinson County. I enjoy my sewing room at home and going to Quilt Camps with quilter friends.

**What is something people would be surprised to know about you?** I was a USO showgirl in college. Fort Hays Singers toured Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Okinawa and Hawaii for two months. It was a life changing experience.

An umbrella cannot stop the rain but it allows us to stand in the rain.

Faith in God may not remove our trials but it gives us strength to overcome them.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

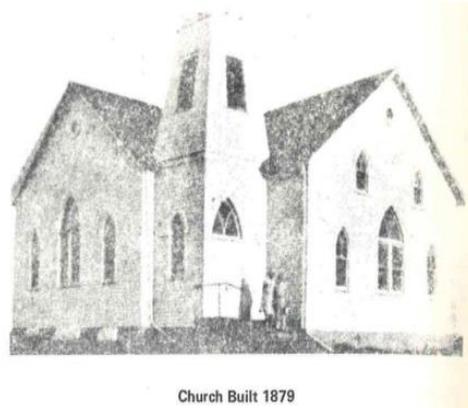
Kevin Bailey

The following comes from the 1970 Centennial Directory and an article in it, "A Brief History of Our Church" by Lester A. Green.

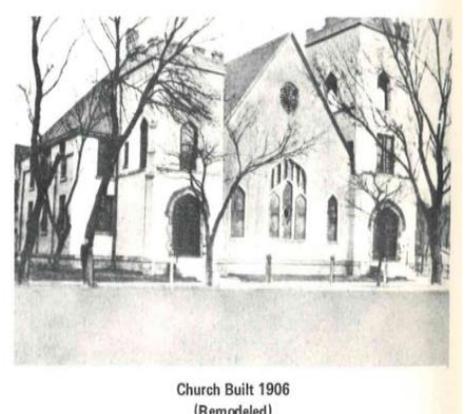
"The Rev. James Lawrence was probably the first Methodist minister in Abilene, coming in 1861. The first organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Abilene, Kansas was effected in 1870 by the Rev. S. J. Kahler. In 1872 the first Sunday School was organized. In 1876 this became a Union Sunday School. In 1879 a Methodist Episcopal Sunday School was again organized. The school has had a continued existence since that time.

The first church building was built in 1879, at the cost of \$4,200 (about \$136,000 in 2025 dollars). All claims were paid before the dedication service in April of that year. The building was completely remodeled in 1906, ostensibly becoming a second new church, during the pastorate of the Rev. Samuel E. Betts at a cost of \$15,000" (about \$538,000 in 2025 dollars).

The congregation was outgrowing the 1879 structure and it had suffered damage in an 1895 windstorm that necessitated removal of the steeple and thus the decision to remodel in 1906.



Church Built 1879



Church Built 1906  
(Remodeled)



10/1	Virginia Donley Heather Unruh
10/6	Leslie Hoffman
10/8	Dorothy Lehman Ethan Gonzales
10/9	Sherri Hohensee
10/10	Marge Green Kari Bowers
10/11	Dwight Hoffman Derek Lipson

10/14	John Schwarting Emily Vinduska
10/18	Kent Wyatt Angela Holt
10/19	Carl Funston
10/23	Anna Holt
10/28	Tanner Wyatt
10/31	Kenny Dawson

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Michael and Heather Heger      October 14, 2023

### PUMPKIN DIP

Submitted by  
Linda Rist

4 oz. cream cheese  
 ½ c pumpkin puree  
 1 c powdered sugar  
 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice  
 ½ tsp. vanilla extract  
 ½ c. heavy whipping cream

Graham crackers,  
 pretzels, sliced  
 apples & pears to

#### Directions

In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a whisk attachment, beat the cream cheese, pumpkin puree, powdered sugar, pumpkin pie spice, and vanilla on medium speed until smooth and creamy, 2-3 min.

With the mixer on medium low speed, gradually pour in the heavy cream. Increase the speed to medium high and beat until mixture is light and fluffy, about 30 seconds.

Serve the pumpkin dip with graham crackers, pretzels, apple and pear slices or by the spoonful.

# OCTOBER AT ABILENE FUMC

<b>Wednesday, Oct. 1</b>	3:30	Power & Light
	5:00	Missions & Outreach
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice
	6:00	Youth Group
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice
<b>Thursday, Oct. 2</b>	9:30	EOTT Guild Hospice
<b>Friday, Oct. 3</b>		Office Closed
<b>Saturday, Oct. 4</b>		
<b>Sunday, Oct. 5</b>		<b>WORLD COMMUNION DAY</b>
	8:15	Worship Service
	9:20	Small Group Study
	10:30	Worship Service
	11:30	Special Church Conf.
	6:00	Disciple Fast Track Study
<b>Monday, Oct. 6</b>	10:00	Card Ministry Group
	5:30	Core Meeting
	5:15	Memorial Committee Mtg.
	5:30	Worship Design Mtg.
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 7</b>	6:30	Adult Membership Mtg.
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 8</b>	9:30	Cancer Support Group
	3:30	Power & Light
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice
	6:00	Youth Group
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice
<b>Thursday, Oct. 9</b>	5:30	Blockheads Quilt Guild
<b>Friday, Oct. 10</b>		Office Closed
<b>Saturday, Oct. 11</b>	9:00	DCOM Training
<b>Sunday, Oct. 12</b>		<b>PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY</b>
	8:15	Worship Service
	9:20	Small Group Study
	10:30	Worship Service
	5:00	Sand Springs Rustlers 4H
	6:00	Disciple Fast Track Study
<b>Monday, Oct. 13</b>		<b>COLUMBUS DAY</b>
	9:30	Card Ministry Group
	5:30	Core Graduation
	6:00	Board of Trustees Mtg.
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 14</b>		
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 15</b>	10:30	Staff Mtg.
	12:45	UWF 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, Oct. 16</b>	7:00	SPRC Meeting
<b>Friday, Oct. 17</b>		Office Closed
<b>Saturday, Oct. 18</b>	11:00	Melanie Herring Funeral
<b>Sunday, Oct. 19</b>	8:15	Worship Service
	9:20	Small Group Study
	10:30	Worship Service
	6:00	Disciple Fast Track Study
<b>Monday, Oct. 20</b>	10:00	Card Ministry Group
	5:30	Core Meeting
	5:30	Finance Committee
	6:30	Church Council Mtg.
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 21</b>	7:00	EOTT Quilt Guild
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 22</b>	3:30	Power & Light
	5:15	Bell Choir Practice
	6:00	Youth Group
	6:15	Chancel Choir Practice
<b>Thursday, Oct. 23</b>		
<b>Friday, Oct. 24</b>		Office Closed
<b>Saturday, Oct. 25</b>		
<b>Sunday, Oct. 26</b>	8:15	Worship Service
	9:20	Small Group Study
	10:30	Worship Service
		Hand Bells Choir Playing
	6:00	Disciple Fast Track Study
<b>Monday, Oct. 27</b>	9:30	Card Ministry Group
	5:30	Core Meeting
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 28</b>	7:00	EOTT Quilt Guild
<b>Wednesday, Oct 29</b>	10:30	Staff Mtg.
	12:45	UWF 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, Oct 30</b>		
<b>Friday, Oct 31</b>		<b>HALLOWEEN Office Closed</b>





**Abilene First United Methodist Church**

**601 N. Cedar**

**Abilene, KS 67410**

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

