

Sunday, April 12, 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.

OPENING PRAYER

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

Family of God, like Peter, James, and John, Jesus calls to us from the shorelines and the sidelines of life. Will you leave everything behind and follow?

Yes, we will follow!

Jesus calls us to work together, to build up the Body of Christ as we mature in faith. Will you leave everything behind and follow?

Yes, we will follow!

Jesus calls us to grow, to become disciples formed in the likeness of Christ. Will you leave everything behind and follow?

Yes, we will follow!

Family of God, on this journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!

Today, we choose once again to leave everything behind and follow Christ, who forms us as disciples, that we may live as disciples who transform the world. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

GATHERING HYMN

I Want a Principle Within

UMH 410

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

Blessed Assurance

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NRSVA)

11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. **14** We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. **15** But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Luke 5:1-11 (NRSVA)

5 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, **2** he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. **4** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' **5** Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' **6** When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. **7** So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. **8** But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' **9** For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; **10** and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' **11** When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ

Rev. Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN

As a Fire is Meant for Burning

FWS 2237

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of unity and love, place within each of us a spirit of hope and community. Have mercy upon us when we speak without love or act without humility. Cleanse us with the living water of your grace. Create in us willing hearts to live in patience and gentleness. Raise us up to be your children, growing toward maturity in faith and love. Strengthen this church, that we may be a model of ministry and unity for all the world to see. Silent prayers of confession.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

The Jesus in Me

WS 3151

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

Here I am, Lord

UMH 593

***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 Jolene Hunt

Heather Unruh (hip replacement)

Family & Friends of Wes Duey

Mary Suan Snider Whitney

Family & Friends of Carl Hansen

Family & Friends of Melva Rector

Myckie Spencer

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:

McKenna McGivney, Family & Friends of Jean Book, Lencie 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, Barb and Carl Funston, Al Jones, Glen & Joan Dawson, Don & Mary Rickley, Phyllis Welton, Myckie Spencer.

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

TODAY'S RADIO BROADCAST IS SPONSORED BY

Mary Ann Bond in Loving Memory of her husband, David and Son, David Louis.

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.

OUT OF OFFICE

Clark will be out of the office April 13-19.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION AND POTLUCK

Come to our congregational conversation on April 19, following the 10:30 worship service. We will break bread together and take time to talk about our history as we look at who we have been and who we are as we continue to live out God's calling for our church. We need your input so please plan to attend.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

April begins our collection of items for the 2026 Operation Christmas Child Boxes! This month is Personal Hygiene items: fun bandaids, brushes, combs, toothbrushes, socks, nail clippers, files. Please, no toothpaste or liquids.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Registration for summer camp is open. Scholarships are available for kids from Abilene FUMC. Look for information on the kiosk or ask Wendy Robinson for more information. Don't miss out on this FUN opportunity!

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.

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 so thankful for the HUGE amount of donations over the past week! 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 had a great Easter Service with several guests, and we gave out many loaves of bread to guests! What a blessing it was to many! 🙌🙌🙏🙏 Our visitors are always very appreciative & surprised!

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 - \$ 2221.16

EISENHOWER MARATHON SATURDAY APRIL 18

We are in a current need for volunteers and asking different community groups if they would be interested in volunteering! Thank you for your time! **At this time, we are in great need of volunteers.** If you or anyone you know may be available to help, we would sincerely appreciate it. Our most **urgent** need is for four adults willing to serve as flaggers. Flaggers assist with directing traffic for pilot cars and work in teams of two. Depending on volunteer availability, shifts can be rotated every couple of hours. Unfortunately, our previous volunteers are no longer able to assist, and without filling these positions, the race cannot proceed. **We are also looking for volunteers to help monitor course corners to ensure runners stay on track.** This can be a fun opportunity—you're welcome to bring chairs, music, and signs to cheer on participants! Any help you can provide would mean a great deal to us and help ensure a successful event. Text or call me on my cell at 913-963-1470, Laurel

Overlease.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

- 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, APRIL 13 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 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, APRIL 14 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Clara Thomas & Linda Rist!

- 12:45 p.m. United Women in Faith Meeting - 200
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light - Peatling Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Peatling Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 6:30 p.m. SPRC Meeting - 200
- 7:00 p.m. EOTT Board Meeting - 208

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

- 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
- 11:30 p.m. Congregational Potluck - Wright Hall

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: Amanda Cormack & Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: Jason Vinduska & Amanda Cormack

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Linda Kolacny & Steve Schwarting

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Ellen Jones & Mary Jane Oard

10:30: Kent & Diane Wyatt

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

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