

Sunday, April 19, 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, when we feel afraid and pressed in on every side...

The Spirit protects and advocates for us.

When the world's problems seem too big to solve, and we don't know how to do
the next right thing...

The Spirit comforts and strengthens us.

When we need wisdom to know what is ours to do and the courage to act...

The Spirit counsels and empowers us.

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

**Today, we call once again on the Holy Spirit to empower us to live as disciples
of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

GATHERING HYMN

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

UMH 402

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Piano Duet

Anna Gugler
Angie Hoerner

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 2:6-10 (NRSVA)

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, **7** rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. **8** See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. **9** For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, **10** and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

John 10:10 (NRSVA)

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Empowered Disciples

Rev. Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN

In Christ Alone

WS 3105

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

God of gentle rains and warm sun, God who encourages growth,

We are creatures who sometimes grow quickly, and sometimes get stuck.

God of freedom, of liberation, of binding ropes being cut,

We are bound in ways we don't always understand or recognize.

God of exodus and exile and homecoming, God who calls us to leave where we are and come home,

help us to have the courage to make the journey and to trust in the path.

God of health and healing, God, who wants us to be made whole,

We come as people who are wounded in body and in spirit, people who seek healing.

God, who has laid out a way for us to live, who has given us rules for living in community,

We come as people who sometimes go astray, people who stretch the rules.

God of Grace, we come as people who live through that Grace.

And so, we praise you for the growth, we rejoice in being set free, we dance along the path that leads us home, we give thanks for the healing we have received, we relax in the knowledge that we are forgiven, and we live as people of Grace. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

The Jesus in Me

WS 3151

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

UMH 133

***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 Marilyn Coleman

Connie Stewart knee surgery 4/15

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:

Betty Cox, 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 WORSHIPING 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:

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

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH!

The members of the quilt guilds from the church would like to thank our youth for all the help moving equipment last week for the quilt show. Your willingness to help when called upon is greatly appreciated. You all make us proud.

ALTAR ITEMS

We encourage you to bring items from other countries you have visited to place on the altar during this worship series as we consider the needs of our neighbors around the world.

ABILENE FOOD PANTRY MONTH

It is our month to support the Abilene Food Pantry. Brown bags are located along the sides of the sanctuary with a list of needed items. Please take a bag, fill it with what you are able to donate and return it to the church. All donations will be delivered at the end of the month.

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 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 - \$ 8167.00
April EFT - \$3285.00

NEXT SUNDAY NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES, SUNDAY APRIL 26

Native American Ministries Sunday (NAMS) is one of six churchwide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire UMC. On this day, we come together to honor and support Indigenous peoples and communities. It's a day to recognize the rich gifts, cultures, and contributions of Native Americans to both society and the Church. **Why Does It Matter?** Many people—both in society and within the Church—lack understanding of Native American life, culture, and spirituality. Native American Ministries Sunday helps bridge this gap by celebrating Indigenous heritage and empowering Native voices in ministry. NAMS matters because it addresses the critical shortage of Native American pastors and trained leaders, helping ensure that Indigenous communities have strong representation and leadership within the Church.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, APRIL 20 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Judy Jones & Sam Burton!

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Virginia Hoffman & Steve Seets!

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Evelyn Carter!

- 9:00 a.m. Healthy Congregations Mtg. - 200
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Office
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light - Peatling Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Peatling Hall
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 8:00 a.m. DCOM Interviews

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 OFFICE CLOSED

Happy Birthday Robbie Reese & Claire Cormack!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Happy Birthday Molly Burton & Jared Vinduska!

- 10:00 a.m. Marilyn Coleman Funeral

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Happy Birthday Cheryl Dunham!

- 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: Angie Hoerner

Song Leader: Anna Gugler

Liturgists: Tim & Brenda Holm and Amanda Cormack

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Heather Heger

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Kevin & Ann Bailey

10:30: Janice Hoffman & Bette Engelhaupt

FIRST UMC STAFF

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Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus

