

Sunday, April 26, 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, who are you?

We are disciples formed in the image of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Family of God, how does Jesus form you?

By loving us and showing us how to love.

Family of God, how does the Holy Spirit empower you?

By loving us and inspiring us to love others as Christ loves us.

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

We come to worship God, who shows us how to love and calls us to boldly love God and neighbor, that we may be 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

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

SPECIAL MUSIC (8:15)

Holy Forever

Magda Meneley, Piano Solo

(10:30)

Reckless Love

Clark Williamson, Solo

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:28-34 (NRSVA)

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' ²⁹ Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." ³¹ The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' ³² Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; ³³ and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

John 13:34-35 (NRSVA)

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Amanda Cormack

RESPONSIVE HYMN

What Wondrous Love is This

UMH 292

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

With hope for God's mercy and trust in God's love, let us admit the truth of our lives, first in silent prayer.

(Silent prayer)

There are times, O God, when our greatest sin is not what we do but what we fail to do. For those times when we have not spoken up; for those times when we have not acted; for those times when we have not responded: forgive us. Give us courage to name what is wrong when we see it. Give us confidence to do what is hard. Give us grace to reach out when that is frightening or uncomfortable. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

New every morning is God's love for us, and so we are bold to proclaim the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

The Jesus in Me

UMH 3151

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

FWS 2223

***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

PASTOR LIBBY OUT OF OFFICE APRIL 26 - MAY 2.

NOISY OFFERING

Today is the day for our Noisy Offering to benefit our Little Food Pantry. Please have your change ready at children's time.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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.

CENTRAL KANSAS INTERFAITH JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

On Sunday, May 5 following our 10:30 am worship we will have Rev. Jeanne Koontz here with us to talk about the Central Kansas Interfaith Justice Organization and how we can work together ecumenically to stand for justice in our region. Please mark your calendars and invite others in the community who may be interested.

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.

OFFERING Needed each Sunday - \$ 5870.81 Last Sunday - \$ 4428.00

ALTAR ITEMS

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

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, APRIL 27 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 28 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Dennis Warren!

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Sandy Zernickow!

- 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 30 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

FRIDAY, MAY 1 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, MAY 2

SUNDAY, MAY 3

- 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 & Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: Michael Linenberger & Larry Divel

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Linda Kolacny & Leslie Hoffman

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Heather Heger & Judy Jones

10:30: Paul Lehman & Barb Leckron

FIRST UMC STAFF

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus

