
THE DISCIPLE

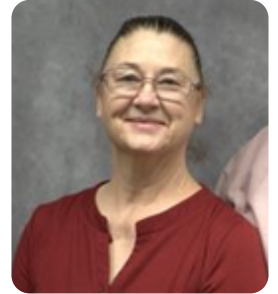
Abilene First United Methodist Church 601 N. Cedar Abilene, KS 67410

(785) 263-2623

office@abilenefirstumc.org

ABILENEFIRSTUMC.ORG

Get to Know Cecilia Clemence Treasurer



Cecilia grew up in Salina, the 4th of 5 girls. She graduated from Sacred Heart High School, where she was part of the first place State volleyball team her senior year, that came after a disappointing 2-16 season the year before. She attended Wichita State University, Marymount College and graduated from Salina Vo Tech.

She married Jon in 1997 here at FUMC, officiated by Rick Saylor and Father Mattis. They have three children, Samantha, Joshua, & Joy and three grandchildren.

Cecilia was secretary here in 95-97, but left after moving to Lindsborg. She worked at American Family Insurance, the Lindsborg Methodist Church, and was the grocery store night shift manager until they moved to Solomon in 2016 when Joy started school in Abilene. She subbed in the church office for Julie Mayden & Pam Simpson from time to time, becoming treasurer in 2020. She agreed to be the “temporary” secretary when Pam retired, that lasted until January of 2024.

All of this while being the Executive Director of Child Development & Farm Management of Clemence Farms. Cecilia says she loves doing the farm and church books. It was very hard when she first started working for the farm to not receive a paycheck every 2 weeks. She says it is difficult to see how hard farmers work all while not knowing what their budget will be until the crops come in.

As Treasurer she is responsible for payroll, W2's, 1099's, all payables which include not only monthly bills but church insurance and other quarterly items, balances the checkbook, creates the financial reports for all the necessary meetings, tracks our investments, provides financial information for all the conference reports, helps with the year end audit, organizes the funeral dinners as needed and so many other things! She is also the Treasurer for the United Women in Faith group at FUMC.

When I asked her about her hobbies, we both laughed! She is a busy person and said if she had more time she would like to do cross-stitch and spend more time with her grandkids. They are almost done building their dream house and Joy is graduating on May 16 from KSU and getting married on May 23 to Branden Adams. Maybe she will have time to take a breath in June.

She has gotten the chance to travel over the years. She and Jon went on a sailboat cruise in the Virgin Islands, has been to Cancun Mexico, the Bahamas, and traveled to many countries in Europe. Her dream trip is to go to Australia.

What is something people would be surprised to know about you? I was a dental assistant for 13 years until I ruptured a disc in my back.

A Word From Pastor Libby



Friends,

I'm so happy that May Day is just around the corner. As a child, this was one of my favorite times of the year. My mom worked at a furniture store that sold wallpaper, and she would bring home old wallpaper books. We went through the books and chose from several designs for our May baskets. We carefully took the pages out, cut off a strip for a handle, rolled up the rest of the paper to make the basket, and attached the handle. We got some penny candy from Ben Franklin's to place in the basket. Finally, we went out to the backyard, where we had a line of lilac bushes with delicate yet sturdy purple flowers and a sweet, sweet smell, and added them for the finishing touch.

Once we had our baskets together, we loaded them all into our panel station wagon and started making the rounds. My older brother would usually drive, and we would ride on the tailgate as we went to each house to deliver them. (I know that is not safe!) Usually, this involved some time spent building up our courage to go up to the door, unsure whether a parent or the person we hoped for would answer. We would hang the basket on the doorknob, ring the bell, or knock loudly and anxiously wait for the door to open, then quickly run away as soon as the person came to the door, trying to catch us. As they chased after us, we would run as fast as we could, and if the race was close, we would run straight to the tailgate and jump on, while our older sister would grab us and pull us to safety. May Day no longer involves baskets or chasing around, but it does encourage me to think about how important it is to think about my friends, family, and congregants and to imagine still dropping off those baskets and watching the joy expressed as love was shared in such a bold way.

As we continue our current worship series, I think this story is important because it brings together all the elements of loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously. Giving May baskets to people you love is a bold gesture because you not only leave a basket, but someone chases after you to respond to your love, like God comes after us, desiring to show our love. Taking the time to put the baskets together is a joyful act of service. Leading courageously requires that we are willing to do what is necessary, even if it scares us. Delivering the baskets took courage because you didn't know how the recipient would respond.

May Day memories remind us that simple acts of kindness can have a lasting impact. By sharing love boldly and openly and serving with joy, we create moments of connection and happiness for others. Let's continue to find bold, joyful ways to care for those around us, knowing that these gestures reflect the best of who we are together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Libby



Wendy Robinson
Director of Children & Youth Ministries



Join Wendy and her crew every **WENDSDAY** in **JUNE** for Vacation Bible School. Grades K-5
June 3, 10, 17, & 24
3:00-5:30 p.m. in Peatling Hall.

THE LAST DAY FOR POWER & LIGHT AND YOUTH GROUP WILL BE MAY 13. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



*The Easter Egg Hunt was a big hit!
Thank You Easter Bunny!*

Graduating Scholarship Recipients



Braden Adams

I will be graduating this May from Kansas State University with a degree in Computer science and a minor in Leadership Studies. Following graduation, I will be starting full time as a Software Engineer 1 at Garmin in Olathe, KS working in the Aviatin Sector.

Graduating from Kansas State University with a Degree in Marketing.



Sam Burton

I am graduating in May from Kansas State University with a dual degree in Accounting and Marketing, minors in German & Management and a Certificate in International Business I will be getting married in May and moving to Kansas City in the fall!



Joy Clemence

“I will be graduating from Southeast Community College with an associate in John Deere Agricultural Technology, Business, and Service and Operations Management. After graduation I plan to return to Abilene and begin my career as a technician at PrairieLand Partners John Deere. In addition, I plan to continue helping out on the family farm.”



Adam Snowball



MUSICALLY SPEAKING

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Our Chancel Choir will be singing anthems through the end of May. Newcomers are always WELCOME TO JOIN. Practices are on Wednesdays at 6:15 in the sanctuary. Anthems are sung at the 10:30 worship service with a short warmup in the Chapel at 10:05.

The AHS Singers are still considering performing a couple choral works at our church before the school year comes to a close. AHS Senior Magda Meneley plans to bless us with some piano solos too. If not in May, then she'll play those pieces for specials during the summer months. Also in the summer, some of the congregational hymns will be enhanced with special handbell descants. Lisa Divel will organize the bell descants and ringers. At some point in the summer, our Adult Bell Choir will have their annual bell polishing and pizza party. The date of that has not been decided yet.

Volunteers are still very much needed to assist in BOTH worship services as Liturgists and Balcony Tech Support. **Please let me know if you are interested in participating in either of these categories.

Hymns to be sung in our current worship series are: Together We Serve; One Bread, One Body; We Are Called; Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus; Without Seeing You; Guide My Feet; Take My Life, and Let It Be; I'm Gonna Live, So God Can Use Me; O Happy Day, that Fixed My Choice.

During the summer months our music groups take a break. That's when we especially rely on Special Music solos, duets, quartets which can be in the form of vocal, instrumental, and keyboard. These musical offerings are not only provided by our church members and regular church attendees. But college students and relatives of our families are more than welcome to share their God-given musical talents.

There are all kinds of ways to praise the Lord!

Prayer Requests

Members:

Those worshipping from home.

Our youth

Our graduates

Family of:

Marilyn Coleman

Friends & Family:

Richard Blanchard
Steve & Mary Cairns
Scot Budden

Armed Forces:

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

Our Government:

Local and across the United States.



THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY



Thank you for another month of amazing support for our Little Free Pantry. Drop off donations Sunday morning or M-Th 8-12 when the office is open. Canned Meat is always in demand! Monetary donations are always welcome so we can purchase the most needed items weekly.



Amazon link for TLFP.

MARCH GIVING

\$ 22,001.84

Expenses

\$ 27,048.41

YTD Giving

\$ 67,336.51

YTD Expenses

\$ 79,003.99

For a list of ways to give, visit our website

www.abilenefirststumc.org

Click on the GIVING tab at the top.



United
Women
in Faith

All women of the church are invited to attend the UWF meetings, the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:45 in room 200.

May 20 meeting

Hostess: Cindy Harwood

Program: Velda Becker

Spiritual Leader: Pastor Libby



We appreciate the gentlemen we reached out to short notice to help move this refrigerator to Wright Hall.

We ❤️ our volunteers!

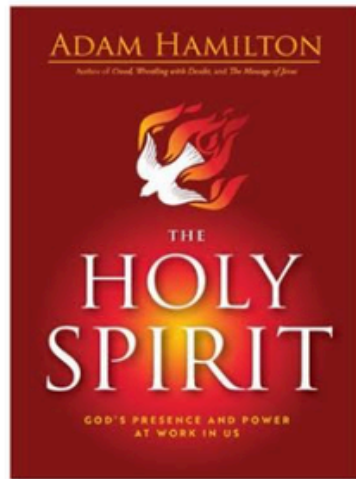
If you have a gift you would like to share, let us know! From stuffing and folding to restocking the pews every few weeks, we might just have the thing for you!



- May 8 Glen Dawson
- May 9 Mary Jane Oard
- May 20 Randy Leckron
- May 26 Libby Themis
- May 28 Anna Gugler

Happy Anniversary

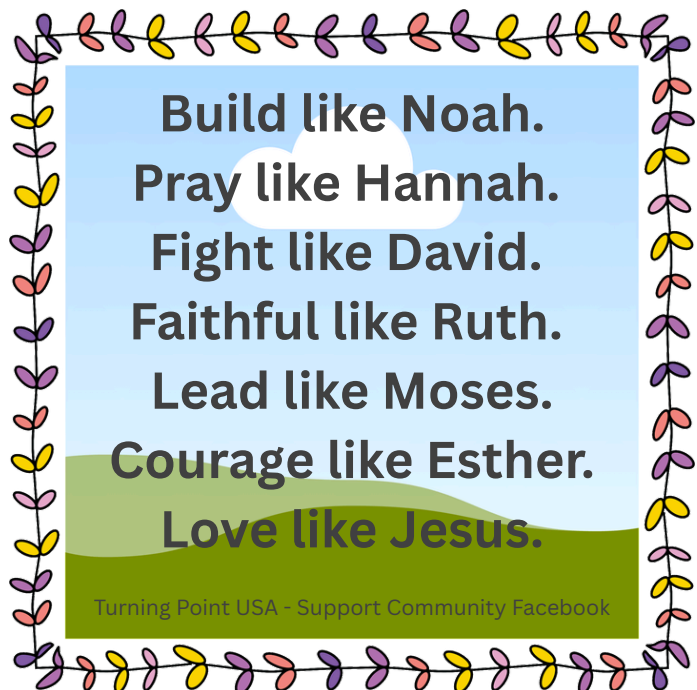
- Keith & Barb Emig
05/01/1971
- Danny & Wendy Robinson
05/11/1996
- Steve & Toni Schwarting
05/23/1969
- Ed & Velda Becker
05/28/1967
- Ray & Joan Wyatt
05/29/1976



Join us on Sunday mornings beginning on May 10 at 9:30 am as we begin this new Adam Hamilton Study.

The Holy Spirit is God's active presence and power at work in the world and in our lives. Through the Spirit, we are transformed, led, empowered, and guided in our faith journey.

*In **The Holy Spirit**, Adam Hamilton explores what Scripture teaches about God's Spirit—from the Hebrew Bible through Jesus' promises in the Gospels, the powerful Pentecost experience in Acts, and the rich teachings found in the New Testament letters. This accessible study helps believers understand and experience the Holy Spirit's presence and power in their daily walk with Christ.*



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Kevin Bailey, David & Pam Haight

In the small red journal book containing early records of our church from 1870 to about 1910 is a copy of a letter from Rev. Samuel J. Kahler (1834-1912) who started the Abilene Methodist Episcopal Church in the summer of 1870. Here is his letter with the text reproduced verbatim - - -

“I came to Abilene in August, 1870 and soon as I could began meeting in the Stone school house south of the R.R. tracks. The first meeting was in August. Meetings were held every two weeks for two or three months when Rev. Eldark, a Baptist preacher, who had been building on a place near Sand Springs returned to Canada for his family and gave us the use of the Baptist Church. We used it half the time until Conference in March, 1871.

I preached at Abilene, Detroit Farmington at Wm. Jackson’s residence in Buckeye Tps. and at the house of Mr. Iliff. I resided in a drab house on Cedar St. next to the Lutheran Church and held several class and Prayer meetings in our house. There was no M.E. S.S. but a Union S.S. in the Baptist Church under E. Wiley as Supt.



I selected the lots just north of the Presbyterian Church as a building spot but as the conditions were that we were to begin building in six months I took no further steps as we were unable to build.

Bro. Phillips took Solomon and west up the valley after August, 1870. There were 13 members at Abilene. I received as salary about \$100 from all sources. It was “the day of small things.”

Note: The Kahlers’ birth and death years were found at findagrave.com. He and his wife, Jennie, b. 1834, d. 1916, are buried in Glendale, California.

Central Kansas Justice Initiative Organization

Sunday, May 3, 2026 At 11:45 following 10:30 am worship at 11:45 Rev. Jeanne Koontz will share with us about how to be part of this new organization in our area. Most congregations struggle with justice ministries - the work of holding powerful institutions accountable for fairness in areas like housing, education, jobs, and healthcare. Justice work is difficult because it cannot be done alone. This is why churches from the North Central Kansas Area are partnering to address justice issues in our communities, in ways similar to those in larger cities. Working with churches from Wamego to Hutchinson to help each community with its needs. We do this work because scripture teaches that justice is not optional - it is central to faithful living. Micah 6:8 and Matthew 23:23 remind us that God requires three things of the faithful: to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.

Do you have an idea for the newsletter? Perhaps someone you think should be featured on the front page? Please contact the office to let us know what you would like to see in The Disciple newsletter. If you know of a birthday or anniversary that may of been missed, please let us know so we can update our system.

Thank you to Patsy Barlow (& friends) for sharing their gift of a green thumbs! Patsy has volunteered to tend to the church's flower pots and flower beds this summer. The knock out roses on the north end of the parking lot are sure to be even more beautiful this year after getting a much needed trim!



MAY AT ABILENE FUMC

Friday, May 1 **Office Closed**

Saturday, May 2

Sunday, May 3 8:15 Worship Service
9:20 Small Groups
10:30 Worship Service.

Monday, May 4 10:00 Card Ministry Group
5:30 Worship Design Mtg.
5:30 Core Meeting
6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.

Tues, May 5 10:00 Exercise Group
11:00 Retired Teachers Luncheon
7:00 What's Next Meeting

Wed, May 6 10:00 Staff Meeting
3:30 Power & Light
5:00 Missions & Outreach Mtg.
6:00 Youth Group
6:15 Chancel Choir Practice

Thurs, May 7 9:30 EOTT Guild Hospice

Friday, May 8 **Office Closed**

Saturday, May 9

Sunday May 10 Mother's Day/Student Sunday
8:15 Worship Service
9:20 Small Groups
10:30 Worship Service

Monday May 11 10:00 Card Ministry Group
5:00 Host Community Meal
5:30 Core Meeting
6:30 Women's AA/NA Meeting

Tues May 12 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed, May 13 9:30 Cancer Support Group
3:30 Power & Light
6:00 Youth Group
6:15 Chancel Choir Practice

Thurs, May 14 4:30 Kids in Crisis Mtg.
5:30 Blockheads Quilters Group

Friday, May 15 **Office Closed**

Saturday, May 16

Sunday, May 17 8:15 Worship Service
9:20 Small Groups
10:30 Worship Service

Monday, May 18 10:00 Card Ministry Group
5:30 Core Meeting
6:30 Church Council Mtg.
6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.

Tues, May 19 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed, May 20 10:00 Staff Meeting
12:45 United Women in Faith
6:15 Chancel Choir Practice

Thurs, May 21

Friday, May 22 **Office Closed**

Saturday, May 23

Sunday, May 24 8:15 Worship Service
9:20 Small Groups
10:30 Worship Service

Monday, May 25 **Memorial Day/Office Closed**
6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.

Tuesday, May 26 10:00 Exercise Group
7:00 EOTT Quilt Guild

Wed, May 27

Thurs, May 28

Friday, May 29 **Office Closed**

Saturday, May 30

Sunday, May 31 8:15 Worship Service
9:20 Small Groups
10:30 Worship Service





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

Abilene 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

Rev. Libby Themis, Pastor

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministry

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

Chris Seets, Administrative Assistant

Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaning the Church

Church office hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM