

Sunday, May 17, 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 by Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Family of God, why do you gather?

**To worship God who loves us and teaches us to love our neighbors,
ourselves, and all creation.**

Family of God, how do you worship God?

By loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously.

Family of God, receive this good news: in our loving, our serving, and our
leading, we are not alone—God is with us!

**We come to worship God by loving boldly, serving joyfully, and
leading courageously in our community and through our worldwide
connections, 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

Take My Life, and Let It Be

UMH 399

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Love in Any Language

Quartet

Anna Gugler, Velda Becker, Clark Williamson, Steve Lang

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-8 (NRSVA)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSVA)

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Disciples Transforming the World

Rev. Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

FWS 2153

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord, that we may live as disciples who transform the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Silent prayers of confession.

Receive the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

The Jesus in Me

WS 3151

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

O Happy Day, That Fixed My Choice

vs.1-3 UMH 391

***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:

Pam Jackson

Connie YBarra (Friend Wendy R., multiple amputations)

Jim Barlow

Amy Peterson's Family, grandmother isn't doing well

Richard Blanchard (Father of Leslie H., prayers for peace, comfort, & healing)

Steven & Mary Cairns (medical tests, procedures, & consults with new Dr.)

Family & Friends of Marilyn Coleman

Connie Stewart knee surgery 4/15

Leonard Schmitz (friend of Kent & Diane W., treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukemia)

Scot Budden (Pastor Libby's brother)

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:

Betty Cox, McKenna McGivney, Family & Friends of Jean Book, 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, Pam Jackson, Myckie Spencer.

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:

If you have someone to add to this list, please include their name to the back of the 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

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY MAY 25 IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY

CHRIS WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE MAY 25 - JUNE 4

MIRACLE SUNDAY OFFERING TODAY

Please give as you are able to this special offering to help students in Africa, the Phillipines, and Europe to attend school and to gain theological education so they can help lead us in making disciples for Jesus Christ. Please note in the memo of your check or your online offering this is for "Miracle Sunday."

SET OF CHURCH DOOR KEYS FOUND

If you are missing your set of keys for the outside doors of the church, we may have them in the office. Please describe the keyring to claim.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join Wendy and her crew every Wednesday in June for Vacation Bible School!

This summer we invite youth K-5 to take part in the SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE. More information will be available in the coming weeks. If you know a child that would like to participate, please visit with Wendy.

THE DISCIPLE NEWSLETTER

Do you have a unique hobby or collection that you would like to share with the congregation? We are looking for ideas for upcoming issues!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

May continues 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.**

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 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 - \$ 5479.00

SPONSOR OUR RADIO BROADCAST

One way we are able to reach out to those who are homebound or unable to attend worship in person is through our weekly radio broadcast of our 10:30 worship service. To do this costs approximately \$70 every Sunday. We welcome any individual or family who might be willing to sponsor a Sunday Service for \$70. You will be recognized both in the worship bulletin and over the air on the radio for your sponsorship. You may dedicate your sponsorship in honor or memory of a loved one. Please contact the church office to pick a Sunday to sponsor.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 17

- 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, MAY 18 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 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, MAY 19 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 OFFICE HOURS 8-11:30

Happy Birthday Randy Leckron!

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Office
- 12:45 p.m. United Women in Faith Meeting - 200
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Peatling Hall
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

THURSDAY, MAY 21 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 4:30 p.m. Kids in Crisis Meeting - KIC Room
- 5:30 p.m. Blockheads Quilters Group - 200

FRIDAY, MAY 22 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, MAY 23

SUNDAY, MAY 24

- 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, MAY 25 OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY

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

Liturgists: Rick Williamson & Jace Friesen

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Linda Kolacny & Molly Burton

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Michael & Jamie Linenberger

10:30: Paul Lehman & Barb Leckron

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

Phone: 785-564-1977 libbythemis@gmail.com

Chris Seets, Administrative Assistant

Phone: 785-263-2623 — office@abilenefirstumc.org

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

wendy@abilenefirstumc.org

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

clark@abilenefirstumc.org

Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus