

Sunday, June 14, 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**)

God meets us in surprising yet ordinary places—under a tree, in the smile of a stranger, in a refreshing breeze that comes at just the right time.

God, open our hearts to notice your presence all around us.

God speaks to us in surprising yet ordinary ways—in a well-placed word from a friend, in a prayer that comes at just the right time, in a song that resonates through our entire being.

God, open our minds to recognize your voice all around us.

God fulfills God's promises in surprising yet ordinary ways—in an unexpected act of kindness, in providing just what we need at just the right time, in sending someone to listen when we feel alone.

God, open our hands to receive your blessings all around us.

Beloved, in the surprising and ordinary ways that God shows up among us, may we meet God and our neighbors with open hearts, minds, and hands, ready to encounter God's miraculous work.

God, open our lives to receive your blessings, that we may share together in the joy, wonder, and laughter of God's miraculous works all around us.

*PASSING THE PEACE

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

GATHERING HYMN

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise

FWS 2031

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

(8:15) *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Piano Solo, Anna Gugler

(10:30) *It Is Well with My Soul/How Great Thou Art* Piano Solo, Magdalena Meneley

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

18 The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' ¹⁰ Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

21 The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. ² Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Now Sarah said, 'God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.' ⁷ And she said, 'Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.'

Matthew 9:35-10:23

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

10 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

¹⁶ 'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²² and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

The Future Beyond Belief

Courtney Fowler

North Central District Lay Leader

RESPONSIVE HYMN*God, Whose Love is Reigning O'er Us*

UMH 100

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**OFFERTORY*****THE DOXOLOGY***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 95

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives and asked them to dream the impossible dream— that you would transform what appears to have been a barren and lifeless situation into one overflowing with promise and hope— and, through faith in you, they believed your promises.

Forgive us, O God, if we never get beyond thinking of your call on our lives as an impossible dream or even as an unwelcome interruption.

Faithful God, the apostle Paul emphasises Abraham's complete trust and faith in your promises and how he grew ever stronger in faith, fully convinced of your ability to fulfil what had been promised.

Forgive us, O God, when we find it hard even to hear your promises above commercial assurances of transformation— promises tempting us to trust the newest and trendiest product to realise our dreams.

Merciful God, Jesus revealed the great depth of your love in his determination to defeat evil even when this meant giving up his own life.

Forgive us, O God, when we allow the power of evil to flourish because we fear that taking up one's cross would be just too costly an exercise.

Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you;

Have mercy on us and forgive us.

Help us when we hesitate,

and strengthen us when we are weak

Breathe your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds—our lives— so that we have the courage to follow Jesus wherever he takes us.

Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER**THE LORD'S PRAYER****PRAYER RESPONSE***There's a Spirit of Love in This Place*

vs. 1 WS 3148

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SENDING HYMN

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

UMH 569

*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:

Bruce Pauley (husband of Kathy, needs prayers for his sight to be returned in his eye)

Susie Smith (daughter of Eunice Gay, had surgery on May 21, prayers for healing)

Michael Haight

The Family of Paul Lehman

Pastor Libby Themis

The Family of Marilyn Jordan

Gisela Pauley (mother of Kathy, prayers of healing)

Pam Jackson (prayers of strength & comfort)

Connie YBarra (Friend Wendy R., multiple amputations)

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

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

Steven & Mary Cairns (prayers for decisions with Steven's health)

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

Scot Budden (Pastor Libby's brother)

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:

The Family of Mark Minter, The Family of James Bottorff, Betty Cox, McKenna McGivney, 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, 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, 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 IS OUT OF THE OFFICE

Please phone the office or reach out to a member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee if you have any questions or are in need of pastoral care.

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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

June continues our collection of items for the 2026 Operation Christmas Child Boxes! This month is small bags or purses, hair accessories, hats, watches or jewelry, flashlight, clothes or undergarments, flip-flops, and sunglasses. No liquids

COMMUNITY MEAL

The May 11 Community Meal served 330 people. Our next time to host is August 10. 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.

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 - \$3909.00

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 Flag Day

- 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
- 5:00-7:00 p.m. Paul Lehman Visitation - FUMC Narthex

MONDAY, JUNE 15 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Paul Lehman Funeral - FUMC Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Core Group
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, JUNE 16 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Ann Manning!

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 OFFICE HOURS 8-11:30

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Office
- 12:45 p.m. United Women in Faith Meeting - 200
- 3:00-5:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School- Peatling

THURSDAY, JUNE 18 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Happy Birthday Heather Adams!

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 Father's Day

Happy Birthday Danny Robinson!

- 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

Liturgists: Jason Vinduska & Grace Friesen

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Heather Heger & Luke and Alex Hunter

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Keith & Barb Emig

10:30: Dwight & Leslie Hoffman

FIRST UMC STAFF

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus