

Sunday, June 21, 2026
FATHER'S DAY
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**)

When we feel abandoned and alone, unable to find a way out of the wilderness that surrounds us, we cry out to God...

And God listens to us.

When we feel discouraged and defeated, unsure we will ever really be able to make ends meet and worried that no matter how hard we work, it will never be enough, we cry out to God...

And God listens to us.

When we feel lost and forgotten, unable to find the words for the grief, isolation, and despair that we feel, our hearts cry out to God...

And God pays attention to us.

As we gather in this place and time, remember: You are not alone. God knows where you are, and God listens to the cries of our hearts.

May we also listen to one another as God guides us toward the cool, refreshing waters we need to continue on our journey as the family of God.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

FAMILY TIME (children of all ages are invited to come forward)**PRAYER FOR FATHER'S DAY****SPECIAL MUSIC***It Is Well With My Soul*Piano 4 Hands
Angie Hoerner & Anna Gugler**SCRIPTURE READING****Genesis 21:8-21**

⁸ The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.^[a] ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' ¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. ¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' ¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. ¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Matthew 10:24-39

²⁴ 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶ 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^[a] ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³² 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. Not Peace, but a Sword ³⁴ 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household. ³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

In the Season of the Desert

Courtney Fowler

North Central District Lay Leader

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

UMH 95

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: Hear our prayer. There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations. Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. 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***I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

FWS 2129

THE BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE****PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY**

What is Peace with Justice Sunday? Peace with Justice Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. On this day, we come together to support ministries that work for peace and fairness around the world. It's a day when the church speaks out against violence and inequality and renews its commitment to be peacemakers—just as Jesus taught. Why Does It Matter? The world is full of conflict, division, and injustice. Peace with Justice Sunday reminds us that the church has a role to play in making things right. United Methodists believe that working for peace means addressing the deeper causes of conflict—like poverty, racism, and oppression. It's not just about ending war, but about building a world where everyone is treated with dignity.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer concerns will be listed in the bulletin for 4 weeks unless the church office is notified otherwise.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Lisa Ricker (the loss of her mother)

Keith Emig (broke his LH leg, prayers of healing)

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:

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, 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

We have a handful of folks who would love to see us in person on Sunday morning, but are unable to drive themselves. If you feel this is something you could help with from time to time, please let the office know. What a wonderful opportunity to help others.

LETTERS FOR LIAM

Liam Brown is going to be at camp in Maine for the next seven weeks. If you would like to send him a card or note, he would love that! The camp doesn't use 'snailmail', instead they have a digital link that his mom can use to scan everything and then the camp will print it out and give it to Liam. Send any letters to Stacia at stacia@tyware.com or text to 972-841-3600.

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.

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 - \$ 3835.00
June EFT \$ 2785.00

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, JUNE 22 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

5:30 p.m. Core Group

6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, JUNE 23 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Diane Wyatt!

10:00 a.m. Exercise Group - Narthex

7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 OFFICE HOURS 8-11:30

3:00-5:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School- Peatling

THURSDAY, JUNE 25 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Happy Birthday Michael Linenberger!

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Happy Birthday Jennie Lipson!

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: Ray Wyatt & Velda Becker

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Steve Schwarting

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Heather Heger & Judy Jones

10:30: Chuck & Sandy Zernickow

FIRST UMC STAFF

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus