

Sunday, July 12, 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**)

We gather today in the midst of busy lives and hectic schedules that mirror the chaotic pace of the world around us.

We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

We gather as people inundated with constant information, fast-moving news cycles, and ever-present alerts vying for our attention.

We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

We gather as people seeking to anchor ourselves in the faith as the world around us is blown to and fro by waves of fear, scarcity, and reactivity.

We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

Beloved, come. Come to find rest, grounding, and guidance in the Spirit who dwells in you.

We come to set our minds on the Spirit who guides us and draws us together toward life, peace, and flourishing. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

GATHERING HYMNS

Spirit of the Living God

UMH 393

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

For A Moment

Vocal Quartet

Anna Gugler, Velda Becker, Clark Williamson, & Steve Lang

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:1-11 (CEB)

So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. ⁴He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. ⁵People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. ⁶The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. ⁷So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. ⁸People who are self-centered aren't able to please God. ⁹But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. ¹⁰If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. ¹¹If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Pastor Libby Themis

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

O God who loves us, hear our prayer. So often we come to you at a loss – at a loss for the right words, the right deeds, the right feelings. We know all is not right, but we cannot say with certainty what is wrong. There are deep divisions between us and others. There are too many who live in poverty and fear. There are too many horrific stories, and not enough hopeful ones. So we pray to you, our Creator and Redeemer, to make things right, and to make us right with you and each other. Turn us around from that which destroys toward that which heals and brings joy. And hear us again, as we offer you our confession in silence.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, let us proclaim the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Let us go out into the world as people made new by God.

Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

O Breath of Life

vs. 3 WS 3146

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

FWS 2158

***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:

Unnamed prayer

Sue Murry

Jim Barlow

Eli (Tandy B's cousins son, has osteogenesis Imperfecta, has has some setbacks from surgery)

The Family of Linda Terwort (cousin of Anna G. who passed last week)

Marcia Garner for strength and healing (cousin of Anna G.)

Dorothy Lehman (has moved to Village Manor #303)

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)

Gisela Pauley (mother of Kathy, prayers of healing)

Pam Jackson (prayers of strength & comfort)

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:

Harold Oliver, Julie Reid (that her missing dog is found), 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, Dorothy Lehman.

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

PAT CORMACK 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, July 18, 2026, **5-7 p.m.**, Seelye Mansion, 1105 N. Buckeye, Abilene. Please join us for a come & go reception in honor of Pat Cormack's upcoming 90th birthday! Light refreshments and beverages will be provided. Feel free to bring a card to share your birthday wishes, but no gifts, please.

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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

July 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

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.

BREAD MINISTRY

To all who are able to support the Bread Ministry for first time visitors, please bring loaves of homemade bread to the church on Sunday. All types & sizes of bread are appreciated, quick bread, yeast bread, artisan bread. Please wrap in saran wrap &/or baggies. Your willingness to help donations are greatly appreciated.

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.

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 - \$ 4724.59

SUMMER BIBLE TRIVIA

1. What was the Garden Of Eden guarded with to prevent future access to the tree of life?
 - A. A pillar of fire
 - B. A cherubim and a flaming sword
 - C. A giant wall
 - D. Leviathan
2. What is the first city mentioned in the Bible?
 - A. Babylon
 - B. Nineveh
 - C. Enoch
 - D. Sodom
3. What is the name of the city to which Lot escaped at the destruction of Sodom?
 - A. Golon
 - B. Zoar
 - C. Silo
 - D. Cabul

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 12

- 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, JULY 13 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 5:30 p.m. Core Group
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, JULY 14 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 OFFICE HOURS 8-11:30

- 10:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Office

THURSDAY, JULY 16 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 7:00 p.m. EOTT Board Meeting - 200

FRIDAY, JULY 17 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, JULY 18

- 5:00 p.m. Pat Cormack 90th Birthday Open House - Seelye Mansion

SUNDAY, JULY 19

- 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: Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: Michael Linenberger & Bette Engelhaupt

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Cecilia Clemence

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Ellen Jones & Mary Jane Oard

10:30: Janice Hoffman & Bette Engelhaupt

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