

Sunday, July 26, 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**)

Beloved, this is the core of our faith: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

God's never-ending love surrounds us and calls us, assuring us that through God's love, all things will work together for God's good purposes.

Thanks be to God!

God's never-breaking love empowers us in the face of temptation, distress, division, and scarcity to hold onto our faith and work together for the flourishing of all God's good creation.

Thanks be to God!

Come, let us worship God who is Love, trusting that through joy and sorrow, happiness and despair, contentment and pain, Love will carry us through.

Thanks be to God who forms, connects, and guides us through Love. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

GATHERING HYMN

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

UMH 480

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

Noisy Sunday!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Amazing Grace

Handbell Duet

Lisa Divel & Angie Hoerner

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8: 26-39 (NRSV)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered. ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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)

Creator of all things, who rejoiced in your creation at the beginning of the world; forgive us our sins of greed, selfishness, and carelessness by which we daily damage the beauty to which we have become insensitive. By war and violence, we destroy families and their means of livelihood. We cut down great forests that are the homes of people, animals, and birds. We ill-treat our farm animals in the race to outstrip our rivals in food production, yet still leave millions of people starving. We pollute our air and water with the excess of our greed, without thought for the disposal of what we waste. For all this, we ask not only forgiveness, but also the power to turn away from our headlong course of destruction, and instead to share in your constant work of creation in preparation for the time when our kingdom comes to earth as it is in heaven. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who became part of your creation and gave his life for the whole world.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

PASTORAL PRAYER**THE LORD'S PRAYER****PRAYER RESPONSE***Come Away with Me*

vs.1 FWS 2202

ANNOUNCEMENTS***SENDING HYMN***Happy Trails to You*

lyrics on screen

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:

Janice Hoffman and her family as they are facing a few challenges right now. Prayers of comfort, healing, and justice.

Race Proffitt (BIL Will & Molly B. Will have surgery in late July for a brain tumor that has returned)

Unnamed prayer

Sue Murry

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)

The Family of Harold Oliver (Darrol Dunham's granddaughter's father)

The Family of Tom Litke

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:

Family & Friends of Sarah Picking, Bob Dishman, Rachel Prichard, 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

TODAY'S RADIO BROADCAST In loving memory of Paul Lehman.

IT'S NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY!

Today is the day for our Noisy Offering during Children's Time.

SERVICE OF SUFFERING AND HEALING

Please join us for an ecumenical worship service on Suffering and Healing offered at Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 N. Cedar, on Friday, July 31 at 6:30 pm.

YOUTH FIELD TRIP

The Youth will be visiting St. Mark UMC in Wichita for Sunday Service on August 2. This is a great opportunity for them to see how other churches worship and share the word of God.

BLESSING OF THE BACK PACKS

Back to school we go! We invite all the kiddos and educators to bring their backpacks, coffee cup, or water bottle to church on Sunday August 9, when we will have a blessing, at both services, for a safe and prosperous school year.

WHEN CHRISTIANS GET IT WRONG STUDY

Please join us for our new study beginning on Sunday, August 2. Our Sunday School class will spend 6 weeks in this study by Adam Hamilton.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

August continues our collection of items for the 2026 Operation Christmas Child Boxes! This month we are collecting school supplies: pencils and sharpeners, pencil cases, erasers, pens, crayons, markers, glue sticks, scissors, rulers, index cards and small paper notepads, calculators, small adhesive tape, small coloring books. No liquids please.

WELCOME HOME SUNDAY

Sunday, August 30 we are inviting everyone to bring friends and family to either the 8:15 or 10:30 service. It's been a busy summer and now we have a chance to 'come home' and reconnect.

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.

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.

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.

OFFERING Needed each Sunday - \$ 5870.81 Last Sunday - \$ 4625.00
July EFT - \$ 2760.00

**It's Central Kansas Free Fair and Rodeo week!
We pray for good weather, great entertainment,
and safety for everyone involved!**

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 26 Fair Sunday

Happy Birthday Chuck Zernickow!

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 27 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

5:30 p.m. Core Group

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

TUESDAY, JULY 28 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

10:00 a.m. Exercise Group - Narthex

4:00 p.m. CKFF Parade

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29 OFFICE HOURS 8-11:30

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Office

THURSDAY, JULY 30 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

FRIDAY, JULY 31 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Happy Birthday Myckie Spencer!

All Day Brown Family Reunion - Wright Hall

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Class

10:00 a.m. Youth visit St. Mark United Methodist Church - Wichita

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: Ray Wyatt & Jace Friesen

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Heather Heger & Molly Burton

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Heather Heger & Judy Jones

10:30: Will & Molly Burton

FIRST UMC STAFF

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Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus