

Sunday, August 2, 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**)

This day, may worship introduce us to the God who is not only Shepherd and Rock,
but is also Gardener, Artist, Sculptor, Musician.

Amid the fullness of our lives, God invites us to play—

joining in places of creativity and laughter.

In this time together, we are met by the One who extends a hand and asks:

'Shall we dance?'

*PASSING THE PEACE

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

GATHERING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

UMH 89

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Build a Boat

Clark Williamson, Vocal Solo

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 126:1-3 (NRSV)

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

²Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
'The LORD has done great things for them.'

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Zephaniah 3:17 (NRSV)

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Play and the Gift of God's Delight

Pastor Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN

Give Thanks (2X)

FWS 2036

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Loving God, sometimes we wander around like we lost the map. Even after all these years, we still forget to follow your bright and joyful way. We miss your messengers, and we do not always act like we trust your good news. Please forgive us. Open our ears, wake up our hearts, and help us sparkle with your light so we can share it with the world. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Come Away with Me

vs.2 FWS 2202

HOLY COMMUNION

UMH 13

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

Tradin' My Sorrows

WS 3108

***THE BENEDICTION**

May the God of peace make you whole. May Christ, our hope, wrap you in God's love and goodness. May the Holy Spirit bring you joy and turn your tears into laughter. May God keep your spirit, soul, and body strong and ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

***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 cousin's son, has osteogenesis Imperfecta, has had 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 (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 IS SPONSORED BY

The Diedre Dunham Memorial Fund.

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.

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.

MUSIC MINISTRIES & WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS SIGN-UP

It's time to sign up for Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Liturgists, & Slides-Sound-Streaming Tech for the coming year. There will be a table set up in the Narthex 8/30 & 9/6 or visit with Clark if you would like more information.

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.

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.

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 - \$ 727.00
Noisy Offering - \$ 111.29

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 3 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Heather Heger!

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Michael Haight!

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 OFFICE HOURS 8-11:30

- 10:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Office
- 5:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting - 200

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Linda Chase!

Happy Birthday Eunice Gay!

- 9:30 a.m. EOTT Guild-Hospice Committee - Peatling Hall
- 6:30 p.m. SPRC Meeting - 200

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 Blessing of the Backpacks

- 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: Kevin Bailey & Toni Schwarting

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Leslie Hoffman

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: TBD

10:30: Janice Hoffman & Bette Engelhaupt

FIRST UMC STAFF

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus