

THE DISCIPLE

Abilene First United Methodist Church 601 N. Cedar Abilene, KS 67410

(785) 263-2623

office@abilenefirstumc.org

ABILENEFIRSTUMC.ORG

Prayer Requests

Members:

Dorothy Lehman
Sue Murry
Keith Emig

Everyone involved in the parade, fair, rodeo, & derby

Our youth & educators as they return to school

Friends & Family

Armed Forces:

We pray for those
who are serving in
the armed forces
and for their
families.

Our Government:

Local and across
the United States.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Father God, we humbly pray for all
those who are fighting cancer.
Give them the hope and courage
they need each day. Comfort them
in their pain and bless them with
healing. Strengthen their family,
friends, and caregivers.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get to Know Ann Manning

I invite you to think back to how & when you met Ann Manning. For me it was in my teen years, not only was she 'Trevor's Mom' but she was a clown. Yes, a real clown. I thought August, the time that all us locals think of the parade, fair, and rodeo would be the perfect time to talk about my favorite clown. - Chris Seets

Ann was born in Joplin, Mo, she is an only child. Her father was in the Army Red Cross during WWII and her mother was in the Land Army in England, where her father was serving. She was a dance hostess for the Soldiers, that is how they met and married in England. The Family moved to Colorado Springs, CO where her father worked as a glazer. He worked on many buildings in the area, including the church at the Air Force Academy.

One day, while working at the Duckwall store in Colorado Springs, Ann could not help but notice a young man who was walking around the store, staring at her and acting strangely. She claims that she thought he was going to hold up the store. As luck would have it, it was just Ken who worked at a different Duckwall store in the area. He had asked the Assistant Manager if there were any good-looking girls working and came to check them out. He stood her up on their second date, but then waited for Ann to come out of work and got her attention another time. She thought he talked too little, he thought she talked too much, but they were married 3 months later. Apparently bets were taken as to if it would work out and it did, as they are celebrating 57 years of marriage on August 31. They were blessed with their son Trevor in 1970.



Daisy #1



Daisy #2 with
God Child Elizabeth



Ken & Ann
2026 Directory Photo

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A Word From Pastor Libby



Friends in Christ,

Well, friends, we are really in it now, with temperatures soaring above 100 degrees, and we need to be careful and wise about how much time we spend outside. August can be a tiring month. The heat lingers, routines shift, and sometimes our spirits can feel just as worn down as our bodies. Yet even in the middle of long, hot days, God remains near. God meets us with mercy in our weariness, with strength when we feel stretched thin, and with quiet invitations to draw close again.

This month, I want to gently encourage you to make space for one simple practice that helps tend your soul. It does not have to be complicated or time-consuming. Are you familiar with the Upper Room devotional? It offers a brief daily reading and reflection that takes only about five to ten minutes. That small window of time can become a sacred pause: a moment to breathe, to listen, to pray for those who are hurting, to lift up our church family, and to ask God to bring peace to our world. Some days, the prayer may simply be, “Lord, I am here. Help me notice where you are at work today.”

I also want to invite us to keep growing as a community of faith. The life of the church is strengthened not only through worship on Sunday, but through the quiet, faithful ways we care for one another during the week. A phone call, a handwritten note, a shared meal, a porch conversation, or a simple “I’ve been thinking about you” can become a means of grace. If someone comes to mind, perhaps that is the Spirit nudging you to reach out. If you have not seen someone in worship for a while, let your first response be kindness, prayer, and a gentle check-in.

As we move through August together, my prayer is that we will be a people whose faith keeps taking root and whose love keeps reaching outward. May our time with God renew us. May our care for one another strengthen us. May our church continue to be a place where people are seen, welcomed, encouraged, and reminded that they are not alone. Even when the days are hot and long, the Spirit is still at work among us, growing something good through every act of faith working through love.

Galatians 5:6b (CEB) “faith working through love does matter.”

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Libby



Wendy Robinson
Director of Children & Youth Ministries



The Youth Group enjoyed the day at Kenwood Cove in Salina on Wednesday, July 15.



Youth to attend St. Mark UMC

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. In the past the confirmation class has visited them and they requested to go again this year.

Wendy has been busy planning for Power & Light and Youth Group which are both starting on Wednesday, September 9.

Power & Light is designed for K-5 graders, held every Wednesday, following USD 435 school calendar, in Peatling Hall 3:30 - 5:00.

Youth Group is the same day, same schedule but for 6-12 graders 6-8p.m.

Up Coming Events:

- Blessing of the Backpacks
- 2nd Grade Bible presentation
- First Day of School Pictures
- Start of Power & Light and Youth Group
- Youth BBQ
- Community Projects
- Pumpkin Sales



MUSICALLY SPEAKING

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL MUSIC, CHOIR STARTUPS, & OTHER MUSIC ACTIVITIES....

August 2 (both services) “Build a Boat” Recorded by Colton Dixon; Solo by Clark

August 9 (both services) “Variations on Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Barth Amend, Trumpet Solo (from Brethren in Christ)

The rest of the month will include a piano duet, hymn sings, and other specials TBD.

August 12 or 13 “Buff the Bells & Examination” Our Bell Choir will use the gold Shino Cloths to remove smudges, smears on bells & decide if mechanical adjustments are needed. This will take place at 10am on the date most ringers are available.

August 26 on Wednesday @6:15: the First Choir Practice & meeting in the sanctuary.

August 30 on Sunday before and after services: Sign-Up Table in the narthex.

For all previous and new Choir members, Handbell Bell ringers, Liturgists, and Balcony Technicians doing Sound, Slides, & Live Streaming.

August 31 on Monday through and including Labor Day September 7: I will be taking some Vacation Time away from church. Special Music and Song Leading by Anna Gugler on Sunday September 6. Folksong medley acc. on the autoharp!

September 9 on Wednesday: the First Bell Choir Practice @ 5:15 & Choir @ 6:15.

September 13 on Sunday: the First Choir Anthem at 10:30 worship.

***In next month's newsletter, I will include a Hymnology Moment on Fanny Crosby.

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My many THANKS and APPRECIATION for my church family, during my recent MOVE to a new apartment in July!! All the friends were generous with their time who helped me organize, donate boxes, pack boxes, arrange pickups, trailers, & make trips to the recycle plant and city dump. Any move is still a major project, even when it's only 5 blocks away. You are all truly awesome and much loved. - Clark

THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY



Amazon link for TLFP.

This month the Little Free Panty has received 798 individual donated items from Kansas, Nebraska, Arizona, Virginia, Texas, & Missouri from utilizing the Amazon Link above. Items include: canned chicken, Vienna sausage, granola bars, popcorn, canned tuna, tomato soup, chicken ala king, fruit bowl snack, goldfish snacks, snack pack pudding, shelf stable milk, and individual oatmeal packets.

This combined with donations from members and supplies bought locally we have been able to make a HUGE impact on our neighbors in need.

Thank you so much for your support!

JUNE GIVING

\$ 14,711.08

Expenses

\$ 119,748.15

YTD Giving

\$ 123,118.95

YTD Expenses

\$ 159,052.65

For a list of ways to give, visit our website

www.abilenefirstumc.org

Click on the GIVING tab at the top.



New August Worship Series

During August, we offer a worship series called “A Season of Play” as we embrace all that God has gifted us. This series will lead us up to Welcome Sunday on August 30, when we invite the congregation to come to worship and bring a friend, neighbor, or family member, so we can be together to celebrate who we are in ministry together.

“A Season of Play” reminds us that play is not a reward after the “real work.” It’s part of God’s design. Play isn’t a break from faith; it’s a reflection of how joyful God is!

A playful church becomes this living invitation: come on over, join the celebration of God’s delight! Plus... it’s just plain fun!

Series Scriptures are:

August 2 Psalm 126:1-3, Zephaniah 3:17

August 9 Matthew 6:25-27, Mark 10:13-16

August 16 Exodus 16:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

August 23 Zechariah 8:4-5, Acts 2:46-47,

John 2:1-11

August 30 Colossians 3:12-17





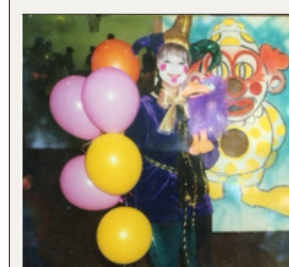
Sammy



Pammy



Daisy #2



Jess



Minori

They moved to Abilene when Ken joined the General Office at Duckwall's as a buyer in 1973. They joined a bowling league and the Duckwall Family. In 1976 they bought their beautiful home on 3rd street and as Ann says, by the 80's she had her hand in everything. She has over the years worked for the Red Cross, sold furniture, and even worked at the Super 8 here in town for time. Has played the Easter Bunny, both Mr. & Mrs. Claus, and has been referred to as 'the hat lady'. She loves to take pictures, and has had two different exhibits of her photos, most recently at the Abilene Public Library in May 2026. She was fondly known as the 'Witch on 3rd street' for 35 years, taking Halloween to a completely new level with her costume and candy. With COVID and a lack of helpers, the tradition was unable to continue. She also modeled for the Historical Society, run by her very good friend Lynda Scheele. She recalled an incredible experience of modeling at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, MI. where she met both President and Mrs. Ford.

She attended FUMC for years, but finally joined in 1996 at the same time as Ruth Dieter, Rick Saylor was the Reverend. She has never regretted joining, as she believes in what the UMC stands for. She taught 2nd grade Sunday School with Nancy Gugler for 13 years and is a member of Ike's Red Hat group started here at FUMC by Eunice Gay and Becki Stredney.

She likes to try new things, and feels she is a clown at heart. She has had many different clown names and costumes over the years. There has been Daisy, Pammy, Minori, Marti, Jess, Sammy, and a no name cowboy clown with a leopard print hat and pants, who was retired for a good reason. She has had no formal training for clowning, it was just fun for her. It took over an hour to put the make up on. One reason she stopped performing was that it was just too hot. She would entertain at the Historical Society, Trail Days Festival, gave programs about how she did her clown make up at the library and various other activities in the community. Her favorite thing about clowning is it makes the kids happy and her too.

She has had numerous 'God Moments' as she calls them in her life. There was a scary incident when the ancient furnace pilot light in her house went out and she went into the basement to light it. There was an explosion, the cat went running with his tail straight up, the front of her robe was singed, there was a hole in her nightgown but she ended up with 3rd degree burns on her arms only. She truly believes that a friend's mother that had passed away was sent by God and wrapped her wings around Ann to protect her that day.

Ann has a quick and warm smile and is always rooting for the underdog. She and her husband Ken own RHV Do It Best in Abilene. She attends the 10:30 service.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Kevin Bailey, David & Pam Haight

The following is from the Abilene Chronicle of April 25, 1879

CHURCH DEDICATION

The Methodists Dedicate a Fine Brick Church

On Sabbath last the dedicatory services of the new Methodist Episcopal Church were had. The church is a fine brick building, well proportioned, substantially built, and handsomely furnished. It is 37x58 feet, 16 feet high at the sides and 35 feet at the gable with stone foundation. On the southwest corner is a tower 11x11 feet surmount with a spire 85 feet high. The interior of the church presents a fine appearance. The walls are white — hard finish — and the ceiling handsomely paneled. The seats are comfortable and look very nicely. Four beautiful fire-burner chandeliers — presented by J. G. Northcraft — light the church. The total cost of the church and its furnishings is nearly five thousand dollars.

The other churches of our city were closed and with true brotherly love the various organizations met and rejoiced with the Methodists in their new House of God. More than five hundred persons were present and many failed to obtain admittance. Rev. Madison

conducted the services, assisted by Revs. Christner, Snyder, Kissell and Simpson. He also preached the dedicatory sermon, which was excellent. The music was very fine being furnished by the Lutheran choir, the opening and closing anthems being deserving of especial mention. As the full amount of the cost of the church had been subscribed or guaranteed, not even a collection was taken up. In the evening Presiding Elder Dearborn preached a very strong sermon, to a full house. The music was beautiful, and was furnished by the choir of the Presbyterian Church.

This now makes four good brick and two frame churches in our city. The brick churches have been constructed in the last four years, and our people have exhibited a degree of generosity seldom found. All are free of debt and the general expenses of the societies are promptly and cheerfully met.



THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SELF-CARE RETREAT

Saturday, September 19, 2026

First United Methodist Church

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All women of FUMC are invited and may bring 1 guest
(age 16+ please)

Sign up deadline is September 6.

**There will be a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex or
phone the office, 785-263-2623 to reserve your spot.**

Catered box lunch and dessert included:

Sandwich, veggie, drink, & dessert

This is a free event, sponsored by UWF.

Guest Speakers:

Rev. Billie Blair

Soleyah Brittain demonstration on stretching, breathing
techniques, and mindfulness

Abilene Fire Department a program on falls

Music Provided by Anna Gugler & Goodie bags for all attendants.

CORRECTION

Cancer Support Group
meets the
2nd Wednesday
of the month
at 0930.

Do you have a unique
collection or hobby that you
would like to share with us?
Do you know of someone
who would be great as the
'Get to Know' Person in a
future issue?
Let Chris know!

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

- 1 Myckie Spencer
- 3 Heather Heger
- 4 Michael Haight
- 6 Linda Chase
- Eunice Gay
- 10 Jennifer Green
- 18 Pam Haight
- 22 Hope Higgins



**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

8/3/1985	8/9/1975
Dwight & Leslie Hoffman	Terry & Karlene Tayor
8/8/1981	8/17/2012
Larry & Lisa Divel	Tray & Jennifer Green
8/8/1998	8/31/1969
Will & Molly Burton	Ken & Ann Manning

AUGUST AT ABILENE FUMC

Saturday, Aug 1 Brown Family Reunion

Sunday Aug 2 8:15 Worship Service

9:20 Small Groups

10:30 Worship Service

Monday Aug 3 5:30 Worship Design Meeting

5:30 Core Meeting

6:30 Women's AA/NA Meeting

Tues, Aug 4 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed, Aug 5 10:00 Staff Meeting

5:00 Mission & Outreach Mtg.

Thurs, Aug 6 9:30 EOTT Guild Hospice

6:30 SPRC Meeting

Friday, Aug 7 **Office Closed**

Saturday, Aug 8

Sunday, Aug 9 **Blessing of the Backpacks**

8:15 Worship Service

9:20 Small Groups

10:30 Worship Service

Monday, Aug 10 5:00 Host Community Meal

5:30 Core Meeting

6:30 Women's AA/NA Meeting

Tues, Aug 11 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed., Aug 12 9:30 Cancer Support Group

Thurs., Aug 13 4:30 Kids in Crisis Meeting

5:30 Blockheads Quilters Group

6:00 PEO Meeting

Friday, Aug 14

Saturday, Aug 15

Sunday, Aug 16 8:15 Worship Service

9:20 Small Groups

10:30 Worship Service

Monday, Aug 17 5:30 Core Meeting

6:30 Church Council Mtg.

6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.

Tues, Aug 18 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed, Aug 19 9:00 Healthy Congregations

10:00 Staff Meeting

Thurs, Aug 20

Friday, Aug 21 **Office Closed**

Saturday, Aug 22

Sunday, Aug 23 8:15 Worship Service

9:20 Small Groups

10:30 Worship Service

Monday, Aug 24 5:30 Core Meeting

6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.

Tuesday, Aug 25 10:00 Exercise Group

7:00 EOTT Quilt Guild

Wed, Aug 26

Thurs, Aug 27

Friday, Aug 28 **Office Closed**

Saturday, Aug 29

Sunday, Aug 30 **Welcome Back Sunday**

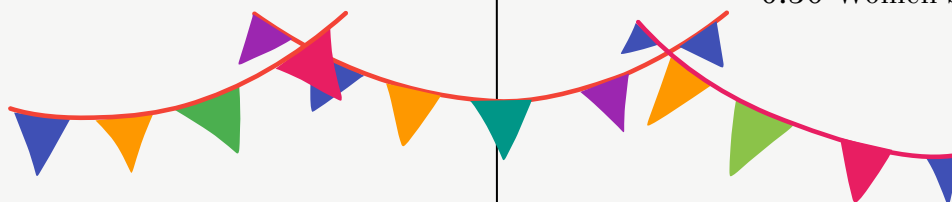
8:15 Worship Service

9:20 Small Groups

10:30 Worship Service

Monday, Aug 31 5:30 Core Meeting

6:30 Women's AA/NA Meeting





Abilene First United Methodist Church
601 N. Cedar
Abilene, KS 67410

Abilene First UMC

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

In-Person, Radio, Facebook Worship 10:30 a.m.

KABI 1560AM or 95.9FM

Church Staff

Rev. Libby Themis, Pastor

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministry

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

Chris Seets, Administrative Assistant

Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaning the Church

Church office hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM