

Sunday, August 16, 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 it in the offering plate when it is passed.

OPENING PRAYER

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** (congregation response in **bold**)

Welcome to worship! Are you curious, as I am?

We are, for each day is laced with possibilities!

Our eyes, our hearts, our souls are open,
anticipating the mystery of who is God.

With trust and courage, we wonder:

How will God surprise us today?

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

GATHERING HYMN

Morning Has Broken

UMH 145

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Surrender All

Anna Gugler & Clark Williamson, Piano 4-Hands

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 16:1-5 (NRSV)

16 The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.' ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.' ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.

Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSV)

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' ¹⁷ They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' ¹⁸ And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

RESPONSIVE HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

UMH 127

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

UNISON PRAYER

O God our Provider, even when we complain, you provide enough and more than enough. When we start to give up, remind us that with you there is always more to come. As we thank you for your many gifts, give us the curiosity we need to take our next step forward on our journey with you. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Come Away with Me

vs. 2 FWS 2202

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

Blessed Be Your Name

WS 3002

***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:

Jamie Linenberger's great nephew Atticus, 2 yrs old, has been diagnosed with high risk neuroblastoma - prayers for healing, Dorothy Veach, A prayer for those experiencing problems in life, Marilyn Smalley (Prayers for health & healing after a fall), 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 continued recovery from brain surgery), Sue Murry, Dorothy Lehman, 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.), 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 Tim Strunk, 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 Verl Eckman, Happy Heavenly 95th Birthday August 4.

2026-2027 USD 435 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Molly Burton, science teacher at AHS, has been selected as the Secondary Teacher Of The Year by Abilene Public Schools. Congratulations Molly, we are so proud and thankful for your love and commitment to the youth and their education.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL PICTURES

Please send your first day of school pictures to office@abilenefirstumc.org This goes for teachers, students, and support staff! Smile or act silly, we want to see you! Pictures will be included in the September newsletter.

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.

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.

UWF WOMEN'S RETREAT

Please remember to register to attend the UWF Women's Self-Care retreat on Saturday, September 19 by signing up on the sheet or by calling the office. This retreat is offered for all the women of the church (16+ years) and a guest. Rev. Billie Blair will be the retreat leader, Soleyah Brittain will offer a demonstration on stretching, breathing techniques, and mindfulness, and the Abilene Fire Department will do a program on falls. The registration deadline is September 6.

HERITAGE CENTER OPEN HOUSE-ARCH DAVIS PAINTINGS

The Heritage Center, 412 S. Campbell, Abilene, will have an exhibit featuring paintings from Arch Davis. One of our own paintings from the church will be featured at this event. The exhibit will be on display until Oct 31, 2026. We have another Arch Davis painting on the wall going to the basement from the Narthex. Check it out!!

COMMUNITY MEAL

321 dinners were served on August 10. September 28 will be the next time we host. 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.

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 - \$ 2647.00

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

- 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, AUGUST 17 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 5:30 p.m. Core Group
- 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting - 200
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Pam Haight!

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19 OFFICE HOURS 8-11:30

- 9:00 a.m. Healthy Congregations Meeting - 200
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Office

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Happy Birthday Hope Higgins!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

- 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

Liturgists: Jamie Linenberger & Chris Seets

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Heather Heger & Molly Burton

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Michael & Jamie Linenberger

10:30: Barb Leckron & Chris Seets

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus