

Sunday, August 23, 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**)

Does a child's chalk-drawn heart on the sidewalk cause you to smile?

Does the sight of two seniors silently playing chess draw your attention?

Yes! Such sights stir something deeper than words.

So it is when we sing and pray and dream together.

May our gathering here be a gift to others:

May we be visible good news to the world,

signs of hope, sounds of grace.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

GATHERING HYMN

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

UMH 334

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Request our Favorite Hymn

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Zechariah 8:4-5 (NRSV)

⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. ⁵ And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.

Acts 2:46-47 (NRSV)

⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home^[a] and ate their food with glad and generous^[b] hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

John 2:1-11 (NRSV)

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴ And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Communal Joy

Pastor Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

WS 3148

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

UNISON PRAYER

O God who invites us to be one family, we come to you from every walk of life, from every background, and every age to celebrate your love. As we bring you thanks and praise today, let it be good practice for the party that will last forever, where the best is always yet to come. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Come Away with Me

vs 5 FWS 2202

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

Standing on the Promises

UMH 374

***THE BENEDICTION**

The streets shall be filled with laughter.

And God will dwell among us.

Go with glad and generous hearts.

That our joy may be good news to the world.

Go and live like guests at God's ongoing feast.

***POSTLUDE**

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer concerns will be listed in the bulletin for 4 weeks unless the church office is notified otherwise.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Eunice Gay, Pat Cormack (prayers of healing, foot surgery), 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), 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 IS SPONSORED BY

Steve & Chris Seets Wishing Ramey Harwood a Happy 33rd Birthday.

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.

NOISY SUNDAY

Next Sunday is our monthly Noisy Sunday Offering that supports The Little Free Pantry. Time to look under those cushions and check the washing machine for all that loose change!

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.

POWER & LIGHT AND YOUTH GROUP STARTING

Both groups will be starting for the school year on Wednesday September 9. Power & Light is designed for 1-5 graders, 3:30 p.m. Youth Group is for 6-12 graders, 6:00 p.m. Both groups will meet in Peatling Hall following the Abilene School calendar. If you know a youth who would like to participate, please see Wendy for more information.

THE DISCIPLE NEWSLETTER

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the September issue, the deadline is Monday, August 24. Let the office know if you have any questions.

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 on the welcome table in the Narthex or by calling the office. This **FREE 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.

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 - \$ 6340.00
August EFT - \$2760.00

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 24 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group - Narthex
- 7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 OFFICE HOURS 8-11:30

- 4:00 p.m. A&O Sister City Meeting - Wright Hall

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 WELCOME HOME SERVICE

- 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

Coming up:

- September 6: United Women in Faith Retreat sign up deadline
- September 7: Labor Day
- September 9: Cancer Support Group
 - Power & Light starts
 - Youth Group starts

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 & Amanda Cormack

Liturgists: Jason Vinduska & Linda Rist

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Tray Green

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Kevin & Ann Bailey

10:30: Will & Molly Burton

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus