

THE DISCIPLE

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

(785) 263-2623

office@abilenefirstumc.org

ABILENEFIRSTUMC.ORG

Prayer Requests

Members:

Sue Murry
Eunice Gay
Dorothy Veach
Dorothy Lehman
Pat Cormack

Staff and Students

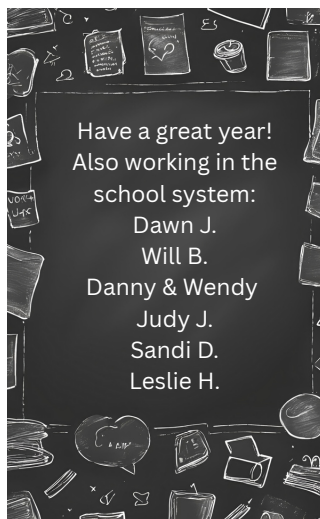
Friends & Family

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.



A Word From Pastor Libby



Friends,

As summer draws to a close and fall begins to make itself known, Labor Day weekend offers many of us a welcome moment to pause. Some may enjoy one last getaway, while others may simply welcome an extra day to rest, reflect, and regain a sense of focus for the months ahead. That kind of pause can be a gift—not only for us as individuals, but also for us as a congregation.

Your Leadership Team has discerned that we, as a church, would benefit from a holy pause—a time to listen for God’s guidance and renew our sense of focus and direction for the months and years ahead. On Sunday, September 13, we invite you to share in worship, brunch provided for you, and meaningful conversation. We will gather for one worship service at 9:30 a.m. in Wright Hall so that we can eat, worship, and listen to one another as a congregation. We hope you will make every effort to join us. Your presence and perspective matter as we celebrate who we are and prayerfully consider where God may be leading us together.

What we hear in this conversation will help guide the Leadership Team as we prepare for 2027. Together, we will shape goals and a budget that support the future we prayerfully envision and the ministries to which God is calling us. These goals will also be shared at our Charge Conference, which will be held on November 29 at 2 p.m. in Manhattan, Kansas.

I am grateful for the ministries and people of this church who live out our calling to be disciples with heart and soul. Each of you brings gifts that bless our congregation and shine light into a world that deeply needs hope. As we enter this season of listening and discernment, may we remember that we do not walk alone: Christ is with us, and God’s grace and love continue to guide us toward a hope-filled future for all.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Libby

*“So, Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer.
Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you.
The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.
While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”*

(John 12:35-36a)



Wendy Robinson
Director of Children & Youth Ministries



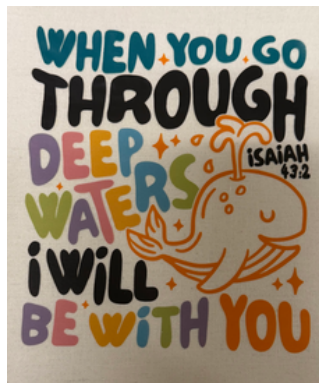
THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH!

As always, our youth were quick to answer the call when a few items needed to be moved for one of our members.



NEW CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS AVAILABLE FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Congratulations to Wendy for the \$200 grant that was awarded through the conference. The money was used to create activity bags for the children to use during worship services to keep them engaged. The canvas bags contain items such as memory games, activity pages, Jesus bingo and other fun items to retain their attention.



just married



Congratulations to Michael & Maya!

They were married on August 12 in Minneapolis, MN. Maya is the daughter of Danny & Wendy Robinson.

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

Aug.31-Labor Day Sept.7

I will be out of my office on vacation.

Sept.6 Second week of Signup Table for Choir, Bell Choir, Liturgists, & volunteers to run worship Slides, Sound, and Live Streaming.

***All previous and new volunteers should fill out a short form.**

So I can get an accurate count of who will be participating.

***New Goal: to schedule 2 volunteers for each 10:30 worship.**

One person to click slides and one to run cameras and sound.

Sept.9 5:15 Bell Choir first practice 6:15 Choir first practice

Sept.13 First Choir Anthem at 9:30 service

Sept.20 Vocal Quartet accompanied by piano & Handbell Duet



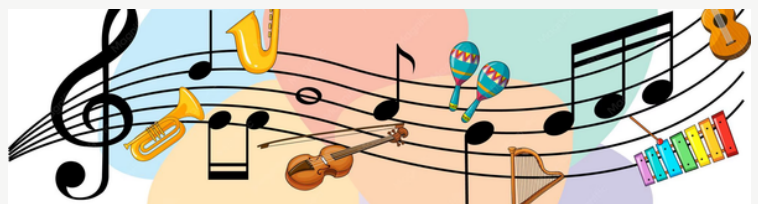
A picture of Fanny Crosby from jesusleadershiptraining.com

Hymnology Moment

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915), was an American mission worker, educator, lyricist, and passionate advocate for the urban poor. Born in Southeast, New York, she lost her sight at just 6 weeks old due to an eye infection and medical negligence. After Fanny Crosby's father died when she was an infant, her devout mother and grandmother raised her and instilled a deep knowledge of the Holy Bible. They encouraged her to memorize large portions of scripture. Fanny Crosby penned the lyrics for more than 8,000 hymns and gospel songs. Including "To God Be the Glory", "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross", & "Blessed Assurance".



L. to R. Lisa, Karlene, Clark, & Anna buffed the handbells on August 12.



THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY



The Little Free Pantry is blessed in so many ways! The amazing people who shop for it and stock it daily are very good stewards of all the gifts that are given. I wanted to include this recent receipt from Wests CountryMart to show what great savings they are able to have buying local. If something is on sale, why not pick an extra one up for the pantry?

The Little Free Pantry

The Little Free Pantry is always in need of donations. Area wide groceries are primarily purchased, but for your convenience, we have set up a wish list on Amazon. This has been especially helpful for individuals that don't live in the Abilene area, but still would like to help. Don't feel you should only buy what's on the list. Thank you so much for your contribution.



We are fortunate to have local options for groceries:
 Wests Country Mart 1900 N. Buckeye Ave.
 Did you know you can order on line or phone to have groceries delivered in the Abilene area from Wests?
<https://www.mycountrymart.com/stores/wests-plaza>
 or Phone: (785) 263-2285
 Dollar General 2101 N. Buckeye Ave. or 409 S. Buckeye Ave.
 Family Dollar 1709 N. Buckeye Ave.
 AC Westside Market 1020 W. 1st St.

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.

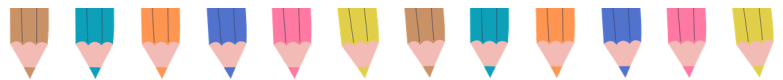
Guest Speakers:

Rev. Billie Blair

**Soleyah Brittain demonstration on stretching, breathing
 techniques, and mindfulness**

Abilene Fire Department a program on falls

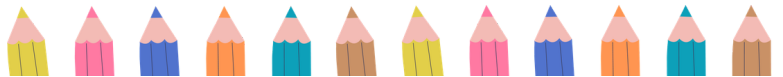
Music Provided by Anna Gugler & Goodie bags for all attendants.



"If you see someone without a smile, give them yours."

"Be Kind. Love people. You never know what
 someone else is carrying."

- Dolly Parton



JULY GIVING

\$ 30,78.39

Expenses

\$ 28,777.88

YTD Giving

\$ 149,899.54

YTD Expenses

\$ 187,703.53

For a list of ways to give, visit our
 website

www.abilenefirstumc.org

Click on the GIVING tab at the top.

Generous: The Beauty in Giving

Every day, we are surrounded by messages about what matters most, what the “good life” looks like, and what we must do—or possess—to attain it. Yet even when we follow those messages, many of us still find ourselves restless, reaching for the next thing and longing for deeper fulfillment. The good news is that God meets us in that longing. God desires for us lives marked by contentment, freedom from worry, and abundant joy, and Jesus lovingly shows us the way. As we learn to rest more fully in God’s care, we begin to discover the beauty and freedom of generosity. Our lives can then bear witness to a deeper truth: the good life is the generous life—a life through which God’s grace flows freely into the world.

September 6 Living With Abundance Matthew 6:24-34

September 13 Finding Our Contentment in God 1 Timothy 6:6-12

September 20 The Flow of Grace Ephesians 3:5-12

September 27 Sharing What You Have John 6:1-14

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS - Sandi Dutt

Our Healthy Congregations team has been working together to finalize the details for our joint project with the Middle School and High School Youth group at FUMC.

We will prepare a crock pot meal for them later in September, and then work with them to prepare a meal for their family to take home and freeze for a later date.

In early October we will prepare our “Rock Around the CROCK” meal for the Core families and then work with them to prepare a meal to take home for another time that they can make in their crock pot.

We have ordered a crock pot for each of the Core Families so they can have a easy way to prepare meals in the future.

We recently learned that we received our grant from Healthy Congregations, so we will be able to fully fund this project with the grant money.

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE SEPTEMBER 13, 9:30 a.m. WRIGHT HALL

For the conversation and brunch on September 13 we will have breakfast casserole, pastries, fruit, cheese and crackers, juice, coffee, and water.

We will start serving brunch at 9:00 am with worship beginning at 9:30 am followed by conversations.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Kevin Bailey, David & Pam Haight



The following is excerpted from the booklet,

“Past, Progress, Future: A Centennial of Progress. 1870-1970”

“In 1895 there was a windstorm which damaged the building badly and it became necessary to remove the [original 85 foot tall] spire from 1879. The building was used in this condition with minor repairs until in 1906 it was deemed wise to completely remodel. Such extensive work was done as to give the appearance of a totally new church building which was completed and dedicated on November 25, 1906.”

Published Monday, Nov 26, 1906) THE ABILENE CHRONICLE
HANDSOME NEW CHURCH

Methodists Dedicate Church Yesterday—— Rev. Dr. Iliff Preached

A great crowd witnessed the dedication of the new Methodist church yesterday morning and at the service last night; although the weather interfered, a large crowd was present at the service. Dr. T. C. Iliff of Philadelphia preached the dedication sermon, and music was rendered by the choir. The church was decorated with plants and cut flowers and this combined with the beautiful lights produced a pretty effect.

About \$9,300 was raised yesterday. The total cost of the church is estimated at \$15,000. Adjoining the pulpit and shut off by sliding doors is the ladies parlor where the regular sessions of the Ladies Aid Society are held. The pulpit is itself beautiful, the color scheme of the decorations being ivory, white and gold. On the ground floor are six memorial windows and two large ones. The gallery is nicely finished and seats about 120 people. North of the gallery are several class rooms separate from the rest of the building. One of the nice features of the church is the perfect dining hall and kitchen. The dining hall seats 100, and is 28 by 30 feet, this is also used as a prayer meeting room. The dining hall will be first used next Thursday night when supper will be served to about 800 teachers. (sic)

The furnishings have not yet all arrived, but everything will be completed by January 1, including the pipe organ of which Mrs. H. L. Humphrey will be organist. When it is finished it will certainly be one of the handsomest structures in the city and worthy of all the time and expense put into it.



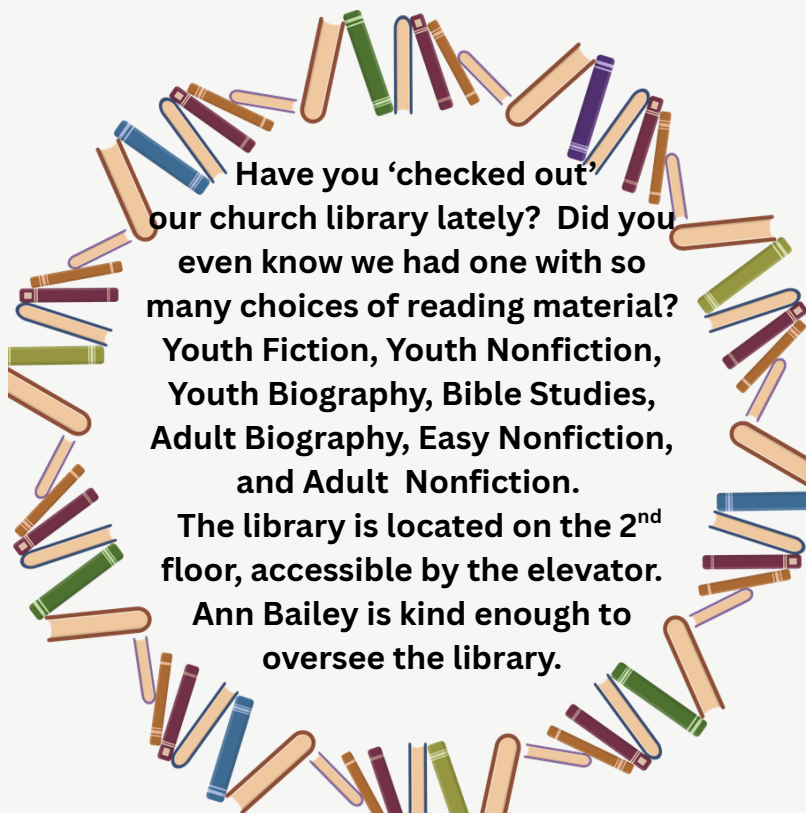
Tuesday Exercise Group Every Tuesday 10-11 in the Narthex

2 videos are shown focusing on stretching, movement, and balance.

This is a FREE activity.

All fitness levels are invited to participate, exercises are done while sitting in a chair.

If you have any questions please contact Kathy Ford.



9/3 Lisa Divel
9/4 Floy Bowers
9/5 Don Rickley
9/6 Cheryl Stull
9/9 Betty Eckman
9/10 Amanda Cormack
9/11 Barb Funston
9/14 Chuck Brussow
9/16 Linda Kolacny
9/18 Sue Murry
Bill Burwell
9/19 Dee Rodda
9/21 Jamie Linenberger
9/23 Dorothy Snider
9/24 Karen Crump
Sandy Kuntz
Jacquelyn Saffell
9/27 Chris Seets
Will Burton
9/29 Sandi Dutt
9/30 Connie Stewart



9/20 Shannon & Dawn James

9/24 Kent & Diane Wyatt

SEPTEMBER AT ABILENE FUMC

Tues, Sep 1	10:00	Exercise Group
	11:00	Retired Teachers Luncheon

Wed, Sep 2	5:00	Mission & Outreach Mtg.
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Thurs, Sep 3 9:30 EOTT Guild Hospice

Friday, Sep 4 **Office Closed**

Saturday, Sep 5

Sunday, Sep 6	8:15	Worship Service
	9:20	Small Groups
	10:30	Worship Service

Monday, Sep 7	LABOR DAY 6:30 Women's AA/NA Meeting
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Tues, Sep 8 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed, Sep 9	10:00	Staff Meeting
	3:30	Power & Light
	5:15	Bell Practice
	6:00	Youth Group
	6:30	Choir Practice

Thurs, Sep 10	4:30 Kids in Crisis Meeting
	6:00 PEO Meeting

Friday, Sep 11 **Office Closed**

Sat, Sep 12	TBD EOTT Quilt Guild Gathering
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Sunday, Sep 13	9:30 Worship Service, brunch, and conversation
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Monday, Sep 14 10:00	Card Ministry Group
5:30	Core Meeting
6:30	Women's AA/NA Mtg.

Tues, Sep 15 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed, Sep 16 12:45 United Women in Faith
 3:30 Power & Light
 5:15 Bell Practice
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:30 Choir Practice

Thurs, Sep 17

Friday, Sep 18 **Office Closed**

Saturday, Sep 19 UWF Selfcare Retreat

Sunday, Sep 20 8:15 Worship Service
 9:20 Small Groups
 10:30 Worship Service

Monday, Sep 21 10:00 Card Ministry Group
5:30 Core Meeting
6:30 Church Council Mtg.
6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.

Tues, Sep 22	10:00	Exercise Group
	7:00	EOTT Quilt Guild

Wed, Sep 23	10:00	Staff Meeting
	3:30	Power & Light
	5:15	Bell Practice
	6:00	Youth Group
	6:30	Choir Practice

Thurs, Sep 24

Friday, Sep 25 **Office Closed**

Saturday, Sep 26 10:00 DCOM Training

Sunday, Sep 27 8:15 Worship Service
 9:20 Small Groups
 10:30 Worship Service

Monday, Sep 28 10:00 Card Ministry Group
5:30 Core Meeting
6:30 Women's AA/NA Meeting

Tues, Sep 29 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed, Sep 30 3:30 Power & Light
 5:15 Bell Practice
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:30 Choir Practice



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

Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaning the Church

Church office hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM