

Sunday, September 6, 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**)

People of God, remember what Jesus taught us: the birds of the air neither sow
nor reap

Still, God our Creator feeds them.

The lilies of the field neither toil nor spin,

Still, God our Creator clothes them in beauty.

If God cares for the birds and the flowers, then God will care for us.

Let us Seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness.

God will provide the rest.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

GATHERING HYMN

This is My Father's World

UMH 144

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

8:15 Anna Gugler Piano Solo

10:30 Farther Along/I'll Fly Away - Anna Gugler

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:24-34 (The Message)

²⁴ “You can’t worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you’ll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can’t worship God and Money both.

²⁵⁻²⁶ “If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

²⁷⁻²⁹ “Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

³⁰⁻³³ “If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can respond to God’s *giving*. People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

³⁴ “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Pastor Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN

His Eye is On the Sparrow

FWS 2146

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of abundant love, sprinkle the tears we have sown with your mercy and hope, that we may reap a harvest of joy; replace our selfish dreams of wealth and prestige, with gratitude for what we have, that we may find contentment in life. Turn our dreams to you, O Lord, and remind us of the abundance you offer, for you have done great things for us, turning our tears to shouts of joy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Come, Emmanuel (vs1)

WS 3130

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

My Life is in You

FWS 2032

***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:

Steve Crump prayers of healing, 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), Race Proffitt (BIL Will & Molly Burton (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:

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 in loving memory of Diedre Dunham.

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.

JOINT WORSHIP AND CONVERSATION - PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

On Sunday, September 13 we will have **one worship service at 9:30 am**. This will include brunch starting at 9 am, worship at 9:30 am, and conversation following worship. Our conversation will focus on who we are and what is important to our future as a congregation discerning God's will for us. Bring a gift you have received for the altar as we focus on gifts.

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.

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.

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

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

United Women in Faith Retreat sign up deadline

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY

Happy Birthday Cheryl Stull!

5:30 p.m. Core Group

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

10:00 a.m. Exercise Group - Narthex

11:00 a.m. Retired Teachers Luncheon - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 OFFICE HOURS 8-11:30

Happy Birthday Betty Eckman!

3:30 p.m. Power & Light starts

5:00 p.m. Missions & Outreach Committee - Narthex

5:15 p.m. Bell Choir- Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Youth Group Starts

6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Amanda Cormack!

9:30 a.m. EOTT Guild Hospice Committee - Peatling Hall

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 OFFICE CLOSED

Happy Birthday Barb Funston!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:00 a.m. Brunch starts for in Person Worship - Wright Hall

9:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service, Brunch, & Conversation - Wright Hall

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: Amanda Cormack

Song Leader: Anna Gugler

Liturgists: Michael Linenberger & Steve Schwarting

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Leslie Hoffman

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Ellen Jones & Mary Jane Oard

10:30: Diane and Kent Wyatt

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus