

Sunday, September 20, 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**)

God has revealed the good news of Jesus Christ to all people.

We have heard the news of the boundless riches of Christ.

God has revealed a hidden mystery: We all have a place in God's plan.

We will offer God our lives with boldness and confidence through faith in Jesus Christ.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

GATHERING HYMN

Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Blessed Spring

Vocal Quartet & Chime Duet

Vocal Quartet: Anna Gugler, Velda Becker, Clark Williamson, Steve Lang

Hand Chimes Duet:

Lisa Divel & Angie Hoerner

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 3:5-12 (Common English Version)

⁵ Earlier generations didn't know this hidden plan that God has now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets through the Spirit. ⁶ This plan is that the Gentiles would be coheirs and parts of the same body, and that they would share with the Jews in the promises of God in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ I became a servant of the gospel because of the grace that God showed me through the exercise of his power.

⁸ God gave his grace to me, the least of all God's people, to preach the good news about the immeasurable riches of Christ to the Gentiles. ⁹ God sent me to reveal the secret plan^[a] that had been hidden since the beginning of time by God, who created everything. ¹⁰ God's purpose is now to show the rulers and powers in the heavens the many different varieties of his wisdom through the church. ¹¹ This was consistent with the plan he had from the beginning of time that he accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him.^[b]

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

Pastor Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN

Grace Alone

FWS 2162

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we ask that we would be able to see the great gift you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to know and recognize that all of creation comes from you. Today as we gather in worship, we give you thanks for your abundant love. In times when we feel hopeless or fearful, may our faith be renewed to trust you more. We ask knowing that all things are possible for those who love you. We humbly declare with our hearts, minds, and souls that we love you. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Come, Emmanuel (vs1)

WS 3130

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SENDING HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

UMH 593

*THE BENEDICTION

Arise, shine, for Christ's light has come.

Christ's light goes with us now.

Arise, go forth, for you are Christ's lights.

May we shine with wisdom and love.

*POSTLUDE

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Family of Dale Emig, Bette Englehaupt, Myckie Spencer, 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)

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 WORSHIPPING 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 on 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 Verl Eckman.

DISASTER RESPONSE OFFERING

Today, Sunday, September 20, we will receive a special offering to support Great Plains Disaster Response. This is how we help our neighbors when tragedy strikes. See the enclosed insert.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WALK & TALK

Starting Monday, September 21st, we are starting a walking group leaving from the church at 8:00 a.m. for an approximately 45-minute walk. We will meet in the parking lot. Days of the week to be determined. Contact Alex Hunter (804) 243-1731 or Karlene Taylor at (316) 516-7755.

MUSIC MINISTRIES & WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS SIGN-UP

There is still time to sign up for Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Liturgists, & Slides-Sound-Streaming Tech for the coming year. Visit with Clark if you would like more information.

POWER & LIGHT AND YOUTH GROUP

Both groups are meeting on Wednesday evenings. Power & Light is for 1st-5th graders at 3:30 p.m. Youth Group is for 6th-12th graders at 6:00 p.m. Both groups 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

September continues our collection of items for the 2026 Operation Christmas Child Boxes! This month we are still 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

September 28 will be the next time we host. We served 321 dinners on August 10. 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 at 785-342-6223 or Toni Schwarting at 785-479-6353 with questions or to volunteer.

BREAD MINISTRY

If you can 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 and/or baggies. We greatly appreciate your willingness to donate.

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, tune in to 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 reach those who are homebound or unable to attend worship in person is through the weekly radio broadcast of our 10:30 worship service. This costs about \$70 each Sunday. We welcome any individual or family willing to sponsor a Sunday Service for \$70. We will recognize you 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.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 4th, 2026. Please stay tuned for more information.

CARD OF ENCOURAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Leslie Hoffman's father has been on the prayer list for some time. He would love cards of encouragement. They can be sent to him at:

Mr. Richard Blanchard
2530 Edward
Salina, KS 67401

OFFERING Needed each Sunday - \$ 5870.81 Last Sunday - \$ 2505.00

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 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, SEPTEMBER 21 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group - 208
- 5:30 p.m. Core Group
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9
- 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting - 200

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group - Narthex
- 5:15 p.m. Lisa's Handbell Group - Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday, Dorothy Snider!

- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 5:15 p.m. Bell Choir- Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday Sandra Kuntz!

Happy Birthday Jacque Saffell!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 10:00 a.m. DCOM Training - Wright Hall

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Happy Birthday Will Burton!

Happy Birthday Chris Seets!

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service
- 9:20 a.m. 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: Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: Jason Vinduska & Larry Divel

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Heather Heger & Molly Burton

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Heather Heger & Judy Jones

10:30: Chuck & Sandy Zernickow

FIRST UMC STAFF

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Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus