

THE DISCIPLE

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

(785) 263-2623

office@abilenefirstumc.org

ABILENEFIRSTUMC.ORG

Prayer Requests

Members:

Bette Englehaupt
Sue Murry
Eunice Gay
Dorothy Veach
Dorothy Lehman
Pat Cormack

Friends & Family

Dalton Bunch
Dale Emig Family
Richard Blanchard
Thomas Lovett
Addicus and 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.



Get to Know Kat McKee

Please join us in welcoming Kat to the church staff!

Kat is a lifelong Kansan and proud Abilene native. She is the daughter of Jim and Jeane Hague and a graduate of Abilene High School. She earned her bachelor's degree from Kansas State University and her Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from Emporia State University.

Kat has spent her career serving others through administrative work, church ministry, libraries, and community organizations. She has a strong connection to Abilene, where she raised her three children. Two of her children still live in the area, and her grandchildren are an especially important part of her life.

Community involvement has always been important to Kat. She enjoys bringing people together, helping others, and doing the behind-the-scenes work that helps an organization thrive. She is excited about this new chapter and looks forward to getting to know church members and supporting the staff and congregation.

A Few Things You May Not Know About Kat

- She taught yoga for eight years.
- She enjoys spending time with her three children and grandchildren.
- She has a pug named Minnie

Please stop by, introduce yourself, and say hello.



A Word From Pastor Libby

Friends,

Temperatures didn't drop as much as many of us hoped this past month, so I am looking forward to next week's forecast of days in the 70s and perhaps some much-needed rain. That promise of change feels fitting as our congregation enters a season of discernment. Several people have asked about last Sunday's congregational conversations, so I would like to share what emerged and how it may guide our next steps.



We had a strong turnout for our combined worship service and holy conversations on Sunday, September 13. I am grateful to everyone who invested time, listened carefully, and spoke honestly. Together, we examined our church's values and non-negotiables. We considered Family (Children and Youth), Stewardship, Stability (Legacy), Friendliness, Outreach, Belonging, Discipleship, and Justice, then identified four priorities: Family, Friendliness, Outreach, and Belonging. Each points toward relationships—with God, within our congregation, and throughout the wider community—and offers a foundation for deciding where to focus our energy.

Our non-negotiables were discipleship, accepting everyone, varied music in worship, and a spirit of welcome. These commitments reinforce our priorities: discipleship deepens our relationships with God and one another; acceptance and welcome make belonging and friendliness tangible; and varied music makes room for different experiences of faith. Together, they ask us to consider not only what programs we offer, but also how people experience our church.

I hope we will continue having honest conversations like these. Speaking about deeply held values can feel vulnerable, yet respectful honesty helps us connect and live into who God has called us to be. As we listen with curiosity and speak with grace, these values can guide real decisions about welcoming newcomers, nurturing children and youth, supporting one another, serving our neighbors, and shaping worship.

October will offer an immediate opportunity to explore these values through a worship series called "Love One Another." We will consider how to move from "othering" to "neighboring" in light of Jesus' commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you" (The Gospel according to John). As we worship, learn, and serve together, I invite us to notice where Family, Friendliness, Outreach, and Belonging are flourishing—and where God calls us to grow. May we become a congregation in which every person encounters sincere welcome, meaningful connection, and the transforming love of Christ.

Thank you all for your commitment to Jesus Christ and the future of our church!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Libby Themis



Power and Light

Peatling Hall is no longer quiet on Wednesday afternoons.

We have a great group of K-4 kids who bring joy, wonder, and energy to this church.

We want to thank Jonielle Frazier, Karlene Taylor, and Claire Cormack for helping and providing a great place for the kids to learn and to build their relationship with God.



Youth Group

Twenty middle school and high school youth attended our first night back for youth group. The kids missed coming for fellowship, friends, and especially the food.

Please pray for them as they continue their journey, searching for God's guidance in their lives. Watch for more pictures and commentary in the upcoming months, in their own words, about why this church is so special to them.

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

ANTHEMS AND SPECIAL MUSIC INFORMATION

**10-4 CHOIR ANTHEM: AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD (WORLD COMMUNION)
IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME - CLARK WILLIAMSON SOLO**

**10-11 CHOIR ANTHEM: MY SHEPHERD KNOWS, DIRECTED BY ANNA GUGLER
I WILL BE AT FUMC FOR THE 8:15 SERVICE.**

10-18 BELL CHOIR PRELUDE: HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION/NO ANTHEM THIS AM.

10-25 CHOIR ANTHEM: ON MY KNEES

**THE ABILENE HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS WILL BE INVITED TO PERFORM AT OUR
WORSHIP SERVICES SOMETIME THIS FALL. THAT DATE IS YET TO BE DETERMINED.**

**WE HAD THE SIGN-UP TABLE SET UP TO REGISTER FOR OUR CHOIR, BELL CHOIR,
LITURGISTS, AND BALCONY TECH WHO RUN THE SLIDES, SOUND, & LIVE STREAM.
BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED IN ANY OF THOSE CATEGORIES. OUR
MUSIC ENSEMBLES PRACTICE ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS. (BELLS @ 5:15, CHOIR @
6:15) PLEASE CORNER ME AT CHURCH ON SUNDAYS OR ANY DAY FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.
CALL OR TEXT ME @ #785-280-3355.**

**HYMNOLOGY MOMENT: FAVORITE HYMNS OF OUR 17TH-28TH PRESIDENTS
FROM "PRESIDENTIAL PRAISE" BY SPANN & WILLIAMS (2008)**

ANDREW JOHNSON:	O FOR A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD
ULYSSES S. GRANT:	GOD IS MY STRONG SALVATION
RUTHERFORD B. HAYES:	ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME
JAMES A. GARFIELD:	HOLY GHOST, WITH LIGHT DIVINE
CHESTER A. ARTHUR:	ABIDE WITH ME
GROVER CLEVELAND:	GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH
BENJAMIN HARRISON:	I LOVE THY KINGDOM, LORD
WILLIAM MCKINLEY:	NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE
THEODORE ROOSEVELT:	HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION
WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT:	DEAL GENTLY, WITH US, LORD
WOODROW WILSON:	IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL





United Women in Faith

The Abilene UWF group celebrated with a salad luncheon and a retreat in September. It was a great time of fellowship and friendship. They assembled soup packets for the Little Free Pantry at the Saturday Retreat



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.



Amazon link for TLFP.



"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." - Jesus (The Gospel according to John)
Jesus gathers at the table with his disciples to break bread and break the news that this is their Last Supper together. Alarming fear, bitter betrayal, and tension-laden uncertainty fill the room. In the midst of this unsettling moment, we hear Jesus' "famous last words." How do we survive, or even thrive, in times like these? We put love into action, replacing "othering" with "neighboring."

October 4 "Love One Another" John 13:1-4a; 34-35

October 11 "Show Us" John 14:8-14

October 18 "Abide in Love" John 15:1-5; 9b-11

October 25 "You are My Friends" John 15:12-17

November 1 "Grieving and Rejoicing" John 16:1, 12-13a. 20-22



AUGUST GIVING

\$ 17,736.28

Expenses

\$ 22,975.25

YTD Giving

\$ 192,635.82

YTD Expenses

\$ 210,678.78

For a list of ways to give, visit our website

www.abilenefirstumc.org

Click on the GIVING tab at the top.



Hands of Hope Mobile Pack Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

Sat., Oct. 24, (9a.m.-5p.m.) & Sun., Oct. 25 (1p.m.-6p.m.)

How you can Help:

Help us pack meals for God's children? Every day, more than 6,200 children die from starvation. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian nonprofit that provides nutritious, volunteer-packed meals to children worldwide. All donations are tax-deductible. \$1 will feed a starving child 3 meals.

Visit give.fmsc.org/salina to volunteer. Registration is now open. Sign up as an individual or with a team using your name and email address. We will send a reminder email before your shift.

We need volunteers & \$30,000 to fund 101,000 meals.



Donate Online at fmsc.org and select menu-Ways to Give-Donate to a MobilePack-Kansas-Salina Hands of Hope MobilePack. Checks may be mailed or delivered to: Salina First United Methodist Church, 122 N 8th St., Salina KS 67401



Wednesday Oct. 21, 1 p.m.

NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL INC.

SAFE SENIORS

LIFESAVING TIPS FOR YOUR ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

- Preventing Falls
- Safe Driving
- Health & First Aid
- Life & Fire Safety
- Burns & Scalds
- Water Safety
- Violent Crimes
- Cons & Scams
- Drugs & Medication
- Accidental Poisoning
- Advice & Helplines

Brought to you by
United Women of Faith



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Kevin Bailey, David & Pam Haight

This one from May 2, 1897 is the oldest example of a Sunday bulletin we have found in the records. The original is somewhat frail and torn in places but was in good enough condition to be scanned.

Note the mention of the meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society with Mrs. Sims, five miles north of town. I especially liked the part about the late 19th Century version of a carpool as in

... "As many as can bring carriages."

M. E Church Bulletin,

Abilene Kansas, May 2, 1897.

SABBATH SERVICES.

Sabbath-School, 9:30 a. m.
Morning Worship, 10:45.
Class-meeting, 12:00 m.
Junior League, 3:45 p. m.
League Devotional, 7:00 p. m.
Evening Worship, 8:00.

WEEK SERVICES.

Last Monday in Month, 8:00 p. m.,
League Business Meeting.
Last Monday in Month, 8:00 p. m.,
Official Board.
Wednesday, 8:30 p. m., Prayer-
meeting.
Wednesday, 9:00 p. m., Teachers'
Meeting.
Last Wednesday in Month, 9:00
p. m., S. S. Board Meeting.

TO-DAY.

Junior League, 3:45 p. m.
Epworth League rally at 7:00 p. m., in the auditorium. Topic, Parable of the Talents. Bring your Bibles. There will be special music. Be on time. Come expecting to take part in the service.
Preaching service, 8:00 p. m.

Strangers Made Welcome to our Services.

FOR THIS WEEK.

Tuesday, 8 p. m., Cottage Prayer-meeting at home of M. Newman, west 5th street.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society will meet with Mrs. Simms, five miles north of town, Wednesday, May 5. Ladies are requested to meet at the church at one o'clock, p. m. As many as can bring carriages.

Wednesday evening, 8:30, Prayer-meeting. W. S. Anderson and Miss Lottie Northcraft will make addresses on Missions in India.

Wednesday evening, 9 o'clock, Teachers' Meeting.

You are kindly invited to attend Sunday-school at 9:30, a. m., May 9. Lesson, Paul preaching to the Jews.—Acts 13:26-39. Teachers and scholars should bring their Bibles. We will have new S. S. singing books next Sabbath.



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.



10/1	Virginia Donley
10/1	Heather Unruh
10/6	Leslie Hoffman
10/8	Ethan Gonzales
10/8	Dorothy Lehman
10/9	Sherri Hohensee
10/10	Kari Bowers
10/10	Marjorie Green
10/11	Dwight Hoffman
10/14	John Schwarting
10/14	Emily Vinduska
10/18	Angela Holt (Owens)
10/18	Kent Wyatt
10/19	Carl Funston
10/23	Anna Holt
10/28	Tanner Wyatt
10/31	Kenrth Dawson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

10/14 Michael & Heather Heger

10/21 Herrman & Christine Hoffman



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
&
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

COME AND HAVE YOUR PET BLESSED
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026
10:00 A.M.
EISENHOWER ROSE GARDEN

PETS MUST BE ON A LEASH OR IN A CRATE

OCTOBER AT ABILENE FUMC

Thu., Oct. 1 9:30 EOTT Guild Hospice
 Fri., Oct. 2 Office Closed
 Sat., Oct. 3 10:00 Blessing of the Animals
 Sun., Oct. 4 8:15 Worship Service
 9:20 Small Groups
 10:30 Worship Service
 Mon., Oct. 5 10:00 Card Ministry Group
 5:30 Core Meeting
 5:30 Worship Design Team
 6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.
 Tue., Oct. 6 10:00 Exercise Group
 Wed., Oct. 7 10:00 Staff Meeting
 3:30 Power & Light
 5:15 Bell Practice
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:15 Choir Practice
 Thu., Oct. 8 4:30 Kids in Crisis Meeting
 5:30 Blockheads Quilters Group
 6:00 PEO Meeting
 Fri., Oct. 9 Office Closed
 Sat., Oct. 10
 Sun., Oct. 11 8:15 Worship Service
 9:20 Small Groups
 10:30 Worship Service
 Mon., Oct. 12 Indigenous Peoples' Day
 5:30 Core Meeting
 6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg
 Tue., Oct. 13 10:00 Exercise Group
 Wed., Oct. 14 3:30 Power & Light
 5:15 Bell Practice
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:15 Choir Practice
 Thu., Oct. 15 6:30 SPRC meeting
 7:00 EOTT Board meeting
 Fri., Oct. 16 Office Closed
 Sat., Oct. 17

Sun., Oct 18 8:15 Worship Service
 9:20 Small Groups
 10:30 Worship Service
 Mon., Oct 19 10:00 Card Ministry Group
 5:30 Core Meeting
 6:30 Church Council Mtg.
 6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.
 Tue., Oct. 20 10:00 Exercise Group
 Wed., Oct. 21 1:00 Safe Seniors
 3:30 Power & Light
 5:15 Bell Practice
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:15 Choir Practice
 Thu., Oct. 22
 Fri., Oct. 23 Office Closed
 Sat., Oct. 24
 Sun., Oct. 25 8:15 Worship Service
 9:20 Small Groups
 10:30 Worship Service
 Mon., Oct. 26 10:00 Card Ministry Group
 5:30 Core Meeting
 6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.
 Tue., Oct 27 10:00 Exercise Group
 7:00 EOTT Quilt Guild
 Wed. 3:30 Power & Light
 5:15 Bell Practice
 6:00 Youth Group
 6:15 Choir Practice
 Thu., Oct 29
 Fri., Oct 30 Office Closed
 Sat., Oct 31 Halloween





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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

Kat McKee, Administrative Assistant

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministry

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Church office hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM