Sunday, November 1, 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.

***THRESHOLD MOMENT** (congregation response in **bold**)

We come to the table today to remember the cloud of witnesses.
We are grateful that their lives are part of the fabric of Love Itself.
We bring both joy and grief, just as the disciples felt at the thought of losing Jesus.
All of our feelings are held in the love of God.
One thing is true: no matter how different we may seem, we all grieve those we have loved that are no longer with us.
Help us to live in the compassionate truth that in this we are truly…
as neighbors,
as neighbors.
Not others.
Not others.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN** *How Can We Name a Love* *UMH 111*

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

SCRIPTURE READING John 16: 12-13a; 20-22

"I have told you all this to keep your faith from being shaken… I have much more to tell you, but you can't bear to hear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, she will guide you into all truth… The truth of the matter is, you'll weep and mourn while the world rejoices; you'll grieve for a time, but your grief will turn to joy. When a woman is in labor she cries out, because her time has come. When she has borne her baby she no longer remembers her pain, because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. In the same way, you are now grieving; but I will see you again and then you'll rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

Special Music *Christ Is Risen* Clark Williamson

SERMON Pastor Libby Themis

Celebrating Vintage Sunday Toni Schwarting

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Beloved, Let Us Love One Another by Pepper Choplin*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE OF JESUS CHRIST

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mandate: Love in Action

"You are now grieving; but I will see you again, and then you'll rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

***SENDING HYMN** *Near to the Heart of God* *UMH 472*

***THE BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:
Ann Wyatt (Mother of Ray Wyatt), Sean Zernickow (son of Chuck & Sandy), Cade Roberts (friend of Jace Friesen) Eunice Gay, Al Jones, Hope Higgins, Colston (great-grandson of Ed and Velda Becker), Family of Joanne Barthels, Thomas Lovett (Grace Lovett's grandpa), Dalton Bunch, Bette Englehaupt, Myckie Spencer, Steve Crump, Jamie Linenberger's great nephew Atticus, Dorothy Veach, Marilyn Smalley, Race Proffitt (BIL Will & Molly Burton), Dorothy Lehman, Eli (Tandy B's cousin's son), Keith Emig, Bruce Pauley (husband of Kathy), Gisela Pauley (mother of Kathy), Pam Jackson, Richard Blanchard (Father of Leslie Hoffman), Leonard Schmitz (friend of Kent & Diane Wyatt), Scot Budden (Pastor Libby's brother)

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:
The Family of Kathrine Worthen, Sharon Darling, Rita Everson, 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 Diedre Dunham.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Please join us to celebrate the life of Dale Emig and Sue Murry. Dale Emig's service will be on Monday, Nov. 2nd, at 10:30 a.m. at the church, and Sue Murry's graveside service will be on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, at 11:00 a.m. at Abilene Cemetery.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER
The November copy of The Disciple will be available October 30. It will be emailed to everyone, so be sure to check your spam folder. If you don't receive it please let Kat in the office know so she can get it to you another way. A hard copy is mailed to everyone who receives a weekly bulletin and hard copies will be available on Sunday morning, November 1, in the Narthex.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WALK & TALK
The walking group is leaving from the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Monday-Friday for an approximately 45-minute walk. Contact Alex Hunter at (405) 837-6754 or Karlene Taylor at (316) 516-7755.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Plan to join us on Sunday, November 15 at 9:30 am to fill our boxes.Your monetary donations help cover the cost of mailing our boxes, so please donate if you can.

COMMUNITY MEAL
The Community Meal is served on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in Sterl Hall, 619 N. Rogers. Our last Community Meal served 288 meals. 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 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.

SEEKING FIRST UMC VETERANS
Have you or someone in your family served in the military? Please write your name and the military branch on the back of the yellow attendance sheet and let us know.

AHS Fall Musical
Abilene High School presents its fall musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* on Thursday, November 5th and Saturday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, November 8th at 3:00 p.m. at the high school auditorium. First UMC's own Claire Cormack plays the role of Sally in this production. Tickets will be available for purchase in the AHS office starting Monday, Nov. 2nd, or at the door for each performance. Tickets are $8 for adults and $5 for students. Kids 5 and under are free!

OFFERING Needed each Sunday - $ 5,870.81 Last Sunday - $ 2,110.00
Noisy Offering - $188.00

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, November 1
Vintage Sunday
Happy Birthday, Braden Adams!
8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Class
10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM or 95.9 FM

MONDAY, November 2 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON
1:00 p.m. Card Ministry Group - 208
5:30 p.m. Worship Design
6:30 p.m. Core Graduation
6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, November 3 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

WEDNESDAY, November 4 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON
Happy Birthday, Rick Jones!
3:30 p.m. Power & Light
5:00 p.m. Missions & Outreach
5:15 p.m. Bell Choir- Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Youth Group
6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

THURSDAY, November 5 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON
Happy Birthday, Brenda Holm!
9:30 a.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Hospice Committee

FRIDAY, November 6 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, November 7
Happy Birthday, Sharolyn Greenough!
SUNDAY, November 8
8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service
9:30 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: Michael Heger & Velda Becker
Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Steve Schwarting
Gospeltality Greeters 8:15:
10:30: Janice Hoffman & Bette Englehaupt

FIRST UMC STAFF

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Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer
treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus