

Sunday, October 4, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

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 and see that Jesus is with us.

Wherever two or three are gathered, his presence abides.

What we see, as the disciples did, was Jesus serving others.

And he asks us to do the same.

Even, and perhaps especially, in times of distress, Jesus invites us to move toward others, not away.

We are called to see those around us as Jesus sees them.

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**

Jesu, Jesu

UMH 432

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

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13: 1-4a;34-35

It was before the Feast of Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect his love was. The Devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. hands, and that he had come from God as was returning to God—rose from the table, to So during supper, Jesus—knowing that God had put all things into his own ok off his clothes, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He then poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the towel that was around his waist...

I give you a new commandment: "Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

*In Remembrance of Me
At the Table of the Lord*

Clark W. soloist 8:15 a.m.
Chancel Choir 10:30 a.m.

SERMON

Pastor Libby Themis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

HOLY COMMUNION

The Mandate: Love in Action

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN**

What Feast of Love

WS 3170

***THE BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**



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

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Colston (great-grandson of Ed and Velda Becker), Family of Joanne Barthels, Thomas Lovett (Grace Lovett's grandpa, cancer), Dalton Bunch (cancer), Family of Dale Emig, Bette Englehaupt, Myckie Spencer, Steve Crump prayers of healing, Eunice Gay, 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), 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 Diedre Dunham.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday. It raises awareness and highlights the importance of education. Donations on this Sunday provide scholarships for United Methodist students pursuing both graduate and undergraduate degrees.

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.

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

October kicks off our collection of items for the 2026 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! This month, we're focusing on toys such as balls, Frisbees, blocks, fingerpuppets, slinkies, yo-yos, magnets, kaleidoscopes, and other fun toys for children. Please note: no liquids (bubbles), please.

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. 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.

CARD OF ENCOURAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

DALE EMIG'S FAMILY

Dale Emig's family is planning a private service to celebrate his life. If you would like to send a card to his family, you can use the addresses below.

Mark and Annie Emig
6111 Chicago Street
Omaha, NE 68132

Cindy and Craig Penzler
4821 Normandy Park
Lawrence, KS 66049

OFFERING Needed each Sunday - \$ 5,870.81 Last Sunday - \$ 1,999.00
Noisy Offering for the Little Free Pantry - \$123.00

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

Abilene First United Methodist Church
601 N Cedar
Abilene, KS 67410
Wright Hall
Brought to you by
United Women of Faith

First UMC Needs You!

We are looking for volunteers to serve as greeters at the 8:15 a.m. worship service once a month. Greeting worshipers with a warm smile is a simple but meaningful way to help create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone who walks through our doors. If you are willing to help, please contact Kat at office@abilenefirstumc.org.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

- 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, OCTOBER 5 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 1:00 p.m. Card Ministry Group - 208
- 5:30 p.m. Core Group
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Design Team
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday, Leslie Hoffman!

- 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group - Narthex
- 5:15 p.m. Lisa's Handbell Group - Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Nominations & Leadership

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Budget Committee
- 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, OCTOBER 8 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday, Ethan Gonzales!

Happy Birthday, Dorothy Lehman!

- 4:30 p.m. Kids in Crisis
- 5:30 p.m. Blockheads Quilters Group
- 6:00 p.m. PEO meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 OFFICE CLOSED

Happy Birthday, Sherri Hohensee!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Happy Birthday, Kari Bowers!

Happy Birthday, Marge Green!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Happy Birthday, Dwight Hoffman!

- 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: Amanda Cormack & Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: Rick Williamson & Grace Friesen

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Linda Kolacny & Molly Burton

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: TBD

10:30: Kent & Diane Wyatt

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

Phone: 785-564-1977 libbythemis@gmail.com

Kat McKee, Administrative Assistant

Phone: 785-263-2623 — office@abilenefirstumc.org

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

wendy@abilenefirstumc.org

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

clark@abilenefirstumc.org

Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus