

Sunday, October 18, 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.

PRELUDE

How Firm a Foundation

Bell Choir 10:30

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

We come to the table to share the abundance in our lives.

We are nurtured by God's love, the Source of our joy.

Jesus shared his mercy and compassion like a never-ending stream.

He invites us to keep that flow alive.

The toxic boot-strapping individualism of our modern life needs pruning,
so that we can build up our communities, together...

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**

Abide With Me

UMH 700 (vs. 3-5)

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

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15: 1–5; 9b-11

"I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You've been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Live on in my love. And you will live on in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I live on in Abba God's love and have kept God's commandments. I tell you all this that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Pastor Libby Themis

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**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mandate: Love in Action

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit...”

***SENDING HYMN**

Joy in the Morning

FWS 2284

***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:

Eunice Gay, Al Jones, Hope Higgins, 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, 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:

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

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.

NOISY OFFERING

This month's noisy offering will be received on October 25. We'll use it to mail Operation Christmas Child boxes, so please give generously with coins, bills, or checks.

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. Your monetary donations help cover the cost of mailing our boxes, so please give if you are able.

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.

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.

OFFERING Needed each Sunday - \$ 5,870.81 Last Sunday - \$ 2,535.00

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



Vintage Sunday

November 1, 2026



First United Methodist Church
601 N Cedar
Abilene, KS 67410



CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Happy Birthday, Angela Holt!

Happy Birthday, Kent Wyatt!

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 19 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

Happy Birthday, Carl Funston!

1:00 p.m. Card Ministry Group - 208

5:30 p.m. Core Group

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

10:00 a.m. Exercise Group - Narthex

5:15 p.m. Lisa's Handbell Group - Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

9:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

12:45 p.m. United Women in Faith - Wright Hall

1:00 p.m. Safe Seniors - Wright Hall

3:30 p.m. **NO** Power & Light

5:15 p.m. Bell Choir- Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 OFFICE CLOSED

Happy Birthday, Anna Holt

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

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: Anna Gugler

Liturgists: Ray Wyatt & Chris Seets

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Heather Heger & Leslie Hoffman

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Kevin & Ann Bailey

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