

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
Keith Emig
Dorothy Lehman
Al Jones
Heger Family

Friends & Family

Dalton Bunch
Sue Murry Family
Richard Blanchard
Ann Wyatt
Addicus and Family
June Nold Family

Armed Forces:

We pray for those
who are serving in
the armed forces
and for their
families.

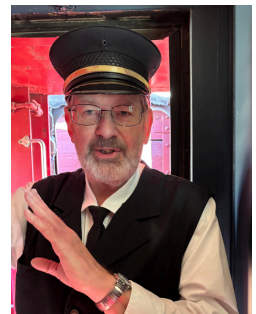
Our Government:

Local and across
the United States.
For fair elections.



Get to Know Kevin Bailey

Kevin has been a member of Abilene First United Methodist Church since 2009. Originally from Marion County, he grew up in Florence, rural Roxbury, and Ramona. His favorite Bible verse is Genesis 1:1, and he credits his mother, whose emphasis on education was one of the most important influences in his life.



After earning a degree in history from Emporia State University, Kevin taught American and World History, worked in museums and historical organizations, and eventually served as an archivist at the Eisenhower Presidential Library. He and his wife, Ann, have shared 38 years of marriage and have lived in several communities before settling in Abilene in 2008.

Retirement has kept Kevin busy. He is involved with the church archive project, volunteers with the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad, and helps with collections cataloging at the Dickinson County Heritage Center. He also enjoys reading, taking naps, and taking day trips to nearby destinations.

A lifelong rail enthusiast, Kevin's favorite hobby is model railroading, inspired in part by receiving his first electric train set as a child. One item on his bucket list is taking a train trip across Canada. He also enjoys cherry pie, considers fall his favorite season, and would love to visit the United Kingdom someday.

Kevin describes himself as a bit of a "nerd," and friends would likely agree. He enjoys Star Trek: The Voyage Home, laughs at episodes of The Red Green Show, and even made a brief appearance in a Japanese television documentary. We are grateful for Kevin's faithful presence and service and are blessed to have him as part of our church family.

A Word From Pastor Libby



Friends,

As November draws near, I'm grateful for this community of Christians who live out their faith and show others what it means to abide with Jesus Christ as he abides with us. That spirit of faithful community is especially meaningful as Thanksgiving Day approaches—a time not only to give thanks, but also to gather and break bread with family, friends, and neighbors. In our house, it is also one of the only times we enjoy what we call “Party in Your Mouth Salad”—our cranberry Jell-O salad.

I think November will pass quickly. We begin the month with Vintage Sunday, when we celebrate the oldest members of our congregation, and end it on the first Sunday of Advent. On Vintage Sunday, we will conclude our “Love One Another” series. We will then begin a three-week series called “Heroes of the Faith,” highlighting three renowned women of faith: Deborah, Lydia, and Esther. Each of these women trusted God in distinct circumstances, and each reminds us that faithfulness can take the form of courage, hospitality, wisdom, patience, and hope.

Vintage Sunday gives us an opportunity to recognize people whose lives have helped shape our church's life. Their stories carry lessons we cannot learn quickly. Through years of worship, service, prayer, celebration, and loss, they have shown what it means to remain rooted in Christ. As we honor them, we also remember that faith is handed from one generation to the next through ordinary acts of love: a word of encouragement, a meal shared, a prayer offered, a child welcomed, or a quiet commitment to keep showing up.

After these weeks of celebration and reflection, we enter Advent, a season of waiting for the arrival of the Christ Child on Christmas Day. Advent teaches us to wait with expectation rather than hurry past the mystery. During this season, we love to sing traditional Christmas carols and remember Jesus' birth. Our Advent series this year, “Carols for the Coming Christ,” is based on Adam Tice's devotional book of the same name, which connects a carol with each day's devotion. The words and melodies will help us listen again for the promise of Christ's coming.

Through worship, remembrance, fellowship, and song, November invites us to give thanks for those who have shaped our faith and to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Whatever this month holds, may we notice the grace that surrounds us, share it generously, and trust God's presence in every circumstance. As we enter this full and meaningful season, may these words guide us:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Grace and Peace, Pastor Libby Themis



Wendy Robinson
Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Power and Light

We enjoyed a special treat this week, snacks prepared by Jonielle F., and had fun working on their Coat of Many Colors art project. Thank you to everyone who helps make Power & Light such a meaningful experience!

Volunteer Needed: We need a volunteer on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. to meet the bus and walk the children to the church for Power & Light. Please let Wendy know if you can help.



Youth Group

Our youth enjoyed a hands-on activity making crosses and expressing their creativity. We also want to thank Healthy Congregations for teaching the crockpot meal class and providing a fun, practical learning experience for everyone involved.

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

- 11-1** "Build Your Kingdom Here" Vocal Solo sung by Clark
- 11-8** "More Love to Thee" Choir Anthem
- 11-15** "Beautiful Savior" Choir Anthem directed by Anna
- 11-22** "It Is Good to Give Thanks" Choir Anthem directed by Anna
- 11-22** Clark Williamson will be taking this Sunday off.
- 11-25** *No Bell Choir or Chancel Choir practices this Wednesday.
- 11-29** First Sunday of Advent: Who Shall Appear Choir Anthem
(More special music is in the making, especially for the 8:15 service.)



The holiday season is upon us, bringing its memorable music. Both our Bell Choir and Chancel Choir have just barely started preparations on these pieces. We have an opening in the Bell Choir now, and I would I'd like to fill it soon. That would free me up, free my hands up, so I can direct and not ring bells at the same time. If you have Wednesday nights open from 5:15-6:15, our handbell ringers would love for you to join us. A sense of timing and rhythm is very important. Reading music isn't mandatory; your notes can be color-coded. Then, at 6:15 on Wednesdays, our Chancel Choir practices. We welcome all singers, all vocal parts; auditions aren't required to participate. Just come and "make a joyful noise" (Psalm 100). I know I sound like a broken record, but our worship ministries need more volunteers. Especially balcony tech for our 8:15 and 10:30 worship services. Two of our volunteers have dropped out of the rotation group. Thank you for considering these opportunities to serve.

Hymnology Moment Background on **"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"**

Lyrics (1844) by Henry Alford, an Anglican clergyman & Greek scholar. He served as a curate/vicar in Leicestershire, England. The original title was "After Harvest" with 7 verses. Alford later reduced it to four stanzas in 1865.

Music: The lyrics are combined with the tune "St. George's Windsor", composed by George Job Elvey in 1858. Verse 1 (The Harvest), Verse 2 (Spiritual Growth), Verse 3 (Final Judgment): A closing plea for Christ's return. UMH #694





United Women in Faith

The Abilene WIF recently hosted Safe Seniors, a National Fire Safety Council program presented by the Abilene Fire Dept. Asst. Chief Jeremy Stuck. The program focused on fire safety awareness for older adults and also included information on the causes of falls and ways to prevent them. Nineteen people attended and received practical tips to help them stay safe and independent at home and in their communities.

Please join us:

We will be packing Operation Christmas Child Boxes between worship services on November 15th. We would love to have your help.

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.

ADVENT



Carols for the coming Christ – Advent Series

Like notes on a music staff, we are called to join together to sing songs that proclaim the renewed creation of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. This year throughout the Advent and Christmas season, we will encounter familiar Carols for the Coming Christ and pause to consider their messages in fresh ways. As a popular quote attributed to Hans Christian Anderson says, "Where words fail, music speaks." Song poets have long helped us "speak" when our own words fail in the face of our human struggle. The promise of the Coming Christ is that our hearts can hold the world and that the songs in our hearts can heal our weariness.

Advent begins

November 29 Carols for Coming Hope
Isaiah 11:6-9; Isaiah 11:1-5

December 6 Carols for Coming Peace
Luke 3:2b-6; Luke 4:16-21

December 13 Carols for Coming Joy
Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:46-55

December 20 Carols for Coming Love
Isaiah 6:1-3; Matthew 25:37-40

December 17 Carols for Comfort
Isaiah 64:1-4; Matthew 2:11-12

December 24 Carols for the Coming Christ
Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-2

December 27 Carols for Coming Justice
Luke 2:8-9; Matthew 2:13-16

January 3 Carols for Coming Light
John 1:9-14; Luke 2:15-20





SEPTEMBER GIVING

\$13,610.04

Expenses

\$22,785.47

YTD Giving

\$206,245.86

YTD Expenses

\$233,464.25

For a list of ways to give, visit our
website

www.abilenefirstumc.org

Click on the GIVING tab at the top.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Kevin Bailey, David & Pam Haight

In early 1923 replacement of the outgrown 1907-1908 church was underway. The minutes of a Board of Trustees special meeting of February 27, 1923 provides the answer in terms of saving and storing items from the old church.

The following is excerpted from those minutes.

. . . “The following record was made of Church property stored in various locations in the city.

C. R. Danford’s barn (loft)

218 folding chairs;

a lot of church pews

Wm. Wright’s barn (loft)

A lot of Church pews:

Tables;

One (1) Organ stool;

Rugs and Carpet

Perry Gross Basement

Chairs from Quayle Class room;

Tables

Joe Blake’s House

Two rooms full of chairs (some over 100).

Clarke’s cellar

Pipe Organ

2 Organs

One Stool

Mrs. Dyer’s Garage

2 Tables

Altar railing;

Finish lumber;

Rubber carpets. . . .”

Once the new church was ready at the end of 1923 some of the above items would be reused and others sold. Mention is made of appointing Ladies Aid Society members “to take charge of everything to be sold at auction.” [details of auction items not provided]

About a year later, now that the new church is in use, Rev. Hovgard, in February, 1924, was asked to dispose of some old material stored in church to best advantage.” [items such as doors and electrical fixtures are mentioned.]

The trustees also discussed the need for repairs to the stored pipe organ from the old church before installation in the new sanctuary. There is reference to flood damage needing the manufacturer’s attention. A check of old newspaper articles at the Dickinson County Heritage Center revealed a heavy rain just before July 4, 1923 resulted in a brief flood that filled basements and cellars across town. Since the pipe organ was stored in “Clarke’s cellar” it is possible that it became a flood victim and in need of drying out and fixing.

The saga of repairs to the pipe organ and all that entailed will appear in another newsletter article yet to come.



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.



Walk & Talk Group

Looking for a simple way to stay active and connect with others? Join our Walk & Talk Group! We meet each weekday in the church parking lot for a 45-minute walk filled with friendly conversation, encouragement, and fellowship. Whether you're an experienced walker or just looking to get moving, everyone is welcome. Come enjoy fresh air, exercise, and meaningful connections as we walk together. We'd love to have you join us!



11/1	Braeden Adams
11/4	Rick Jones
11/5	Brenda Holm
11/7	Sharolyn Greenough
11/8	Terry Tietjens
11/9	Lisa Ricker
11/9	Vance Riffel
11/9	AnnMarie Schwarting
11/10	Mary Duey
11/11	Kevin Haight
11/13	Janice Hoffman
11/14	Tim Holm
11/15	Greg Dutt
11/17	Diana Stout
11/18	Kevin Bailey
11/21	Karlene Taylor
11/24	Angie Hoerner
11/28	Andrew Schwarting



11/4/72	David & Pam Haight
11/9/68	Carl & Barb Funston
11/18/00	Gail & Dee Rodda

NOVEMBER AT ABILENE FUMC

Sun., Nov. 1 Vintage Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Ends
8:15 Worship Service
9:20 Small Groups
10:30 Worship Service

Mon., Nov 2 1:00 Card Ministry Group
5:30 Core Meeting
5:30 Worship Design Team
6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.

Tue., Nov. 3 7:00 - 7:00 **VOTE**
10:00 Exercise Group

Wed., Nov. 4 10:00 Staff Meeting
3:30 Power & Light
5:00 Missions & Outreach
5:15 Bell Practice
6:00 Youth Group
6:15 Choir Practice

Thu., Nov. 5 9:30 EOTT Guilf

Fri., Nov. 6 Office Closed

Sat., Nov. 7

Sun., Nov. 8 8:15 Worship Service
9:20 Small Groups
10:30 Worship Service

Mon., Nov. 9 5:30 Core Meeting
6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg

Tue., Nov. 10 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed., Nov. 11 **VETERANS DAY**
9:30 Cancer Support
3:30 Power & Light
5:15 Bell Practice
6:00 Youth Group
6:15 Choir Practice

Thu., Nov. 12 4:30 Kids in Crisis
6:00 PEO Meeting

Fri., Nov. 13 Office Closed

Sat., Nov. 14

Sun., Nov. 15 8:15 Worship Service
9:20 Small Groups
9:30 OCC box packing
10:30 Worship Service

Mon., Nov. 16 1:00 Card Ministry Group
5:30 Core Meeting
6:30 Church Council Mtg.
6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.

Tue., Nov. 17 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed., Nov. 18 10:00 Staff Meeting
12:45 Women of Faith
3:30 Power & Light
5:15 Bell Practice
6:00 Youth Group
6:15 Choir Practice

Thu., Nov. 19 6:30 SPRC

Fri., Nov. 20 Office Closed

Sat., Nov. 21

Sun., Nov. 22 8:15 Worship Service
9:20 Small Groups
10:30 Worship Service

Mon., Nov. 23 1:00 Card Ministry Group
5:30 Core Meeting
6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.

Tue., Nov. 24 10:00 Exercise Group

Wed. Nov. 25 3:30 Power & Light
5:15 Bell Practice
6:00 Youth Group
6:15 Choir Practice

Thu., Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day
Office Closed

Fri., Nov.27 Office Closed

Sat., Nov. 28

Sun., Nov. 29 8:15 Worship Service
9:20 Small Groups
10:30 Worship Service
2:00 Charge Conference

Mon., Nov. 30 1:00 Card Ministry Group
5:30 Core Meeting
6:30 Women's AA/NA Mtg.



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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