Sunday, November 22, 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.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (congregation response in **bold**)

Doers of Justice,

Come and be encouraged.

Lovers of kindness,

Be still and let God renew your hearts.

Humble God-walkers,

Rest and refreshment awaits.

ALL: Come and lift your voice in praise to the One who encourages, renews, and refreshes!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN** *Amazing Grace* UMH 378

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

CHOIR ANTHEM (10:30) *It Is Good to Give Thanks* Chancel Choir
Directed by Anna Gugler

SCRIPTURE READING **Esther 3:13; 4:13-17**

3:13

13 Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces, giving orders to destroy,
to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, children and women, in one day,
the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to
plunder their goods.

4:13-17

13 Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you
will escape any more than all the other Jews. **14** For if you keep silent at this time,
relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your
father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for
just such a time as this." **15** Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, **16** "Go, gather all
the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor
drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that
I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." **17** Mordecai
then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.
The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

SERMON Pastor Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN *Great is Thy Faithfulness* UMH 140

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY** UMH 95

***UNISON PRAYER**

God of us all, we give thanks that you are ever present with us. In times of joy and difficulty, your Spirit leads us, guides us, and shows us the way. For this, we are filled with gratitude. We humbly ask that you open our eyes to see the places in our world where your people are hurting and in need. Give us the courage to speak out on their behalf, so we might use our position, voice, and skill set to bring about your justice. Raise us up to be your faithful leaders in such a time as this. We pray all of this in the powerful name of Christ. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***PRAYER RESPONSE** *The Family Prayer Song* *vs 1* FWS 2188

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN** *God of Grace and God of Glory* UMH 577

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Our vision is to lead with Open Hearts, embrace new possibilities with Open Minds, and create opportunities through Open Doors. Together, we nurture belonging, encourage growth, and celebrate each person's unique strengths.

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:
Susie Smith (Eunice Gay's daughter), The Family of Joyce Taylor, Barb Emig, Virginia Donley, Ann Wyatt (Mother of Ray Wyatt), Sean Zernickow (son of Chuck & Sandy), Cade Roberts (friend of Jace Friesen) Eunice Gay, Al Jones, Hope Higgins, Family of Joanne Barthels, Thomas Lovett (Grace Lovett's grandpa), Dalton Bunch, Bette Englehaupt, 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 Anonymous.

HANGING OF THE GREENS
Please help today as we decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas Season. We will begin at 3 pm so if you are watching the Chiefs game, you can join us afterward. ;-)

NOISY OFFERING
Please remember to bring your loose coins and bills to put in the noisy offering on Sunday, November 29. This will benefit our Little Food Pantry.

CRAFT MAKE & TAKE
Join us in Wright Hall on December 5 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for a drop-in Christmas craft activity! Create a handmade card, ornament, or gift tag to take home.

ABILENE OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS
Friday, December 4th, the Bell Quartet will be performing at Dickinson County Heritage Center from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Saturday, December 5, Christmas Caroling will be from 5:00 -5:30, with Clark directing and Anna accompanying

COMMUNITY MEAL
*** The November 23, 2026 meal is being served at St. Andrew's Parish Hall**
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. We served 288 meals on September 28, including meals for CORE members. Our turn to prep and serve the meal is November 9th. November 23, churches committed to the Community Meal will join to serve the Thanksgiving meal at St. Andrew's Parish Hall. 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.

BRING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT TO WORSHIP

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's birth, we invite families to help lead our Advent worship by lighting the Advent candles during one Sunday service in Advent.

This special tradition is a meaningful way for families to participate in worship and create a cherished Christmas memory together. Families will be invited to come forward, light the candles, and share a brief Advent reading provided by the church.

If your family is interested in serving in this special way, please sign up for one of the available Sundays. We would love to have families of all ages participate as we journey together through this holy season of hope, peace, joy, and love.

OFFERING Needed each Sunday - $ 5,870.81 Last Sunday - $ 4837.00

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, November 22
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 23 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON
10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group - 208
6:30 p.m. Core Community
6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, November 24 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON
Happy Birthday, Angie Hoerner!
10:00 a.m. Exercise Group - Narthex
5:15 p.m. Lisa's Handbell Group - Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, November 25 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON
3:30 p.m. NO Power & Light
6:00 p.m. NO Youth Group
5:15 & 6:15 NO Bell Choir & NO Chancel Choir



THURSDAY, November 26 OFFICE CLOSED
Happy Thanksgiving!

FRIDAY, November 27 OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, November 28
Happy Birthday, Andrew Schwarting!

SUNDAY, November 29
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
Song Leader: Anna Gugler
Liturgists: Kevin Bailey & Joann Hettenbach
Slides/Sound/Livestream: Jamie Linenberger & Tray Green
Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: Kevin & Ann Bailey
10:30: Will & Molly Burton

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor
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Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer
treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus