

---

# AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sunday, December 27, 2020

First United Methodist Church | Great Plains Annual Conference

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410 | 785-263-2623 | [www.AbileneFirstUMC.org](http://www.AbileneFirstUMC.org)

A Church of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

---

## Welcome

Rev. John Collins, Abilene First United Methodist Church

## Prelude

“Rise Up Shepherds, and Follow”

Rev. Daekyung Kim, Burlington, Kansas

## Prayer of Entering In

Urban Abbey Crew, Omaha, Nebraska

## Children’s Time

Rev. Melissa Gepford, Fremont, Nebraska

## Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Rev. Zach Anderson, Goodland, Kansas

## Special Music

“This Little Light of Mine (Let it Shine on Jesus’ Birth)”

First UMC Children’s Choir, Lawrence, Kansas

## Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Rev. Tony Serbousek, St. Francis, Kansas

## Special Music

“Still, Still, Still”

St. Paul’s Virtual Choir, Papillion, Nebraska

## Stewardship Moment

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm, Seward, Nebraska

## Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Rev. Daekyung Kim, Burlington, Kansas

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Rodgers Chishiba, Osmond, Nebraska  
Rev. Alice Shomari, Newman Grove, Nebraska

**Carol**

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Rev. Daekyung Kim, Burlington, Kansas

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:8-16

Rev. Lacey Wheeler, Marquette, Kansas

**Carols**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” & “Away in a Manger”

Rev. Daekyung Kim, Burlington, Kansas

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2:1-11

Pastor Trever and Allison Rook  
Lincoln, Nebraska

**Carol**

“We Three Kings”

Rev. Daekyung Kim, Burlington, Kansas

**Scripture Reading**

John 1:1-14

Pastor Venedith Vargas, Elm Creek, Nebraska

**Christmas Meditation**

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr., Kansas and Nebraska

**Carol**

“Joy to the World”

Rev. Daekyung Kim, Burlington, Kansas

**Benediction**

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr., Kansas and Nebraska

**Postlude**

“Masters in This Hall”

Rev. Daekyung Kim, Burlington, Kansas

# The Newsletter

December 27, 2020

First United Methodist Church, Abilene, Kansas

The mission of First United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ as we work together toward our vision of a church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

---

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please note: prayer concerns will be listed in the bulletin for four (4) weeks unless the church office is notified otherwise.

**MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:** Mike Engle [12/27], Virginia Hoffman [12/6], Lillian Hoffman [12/20], Betty Cox [12/20], Bob Murnahan [12/20], Steve Crump [12/20], and those grieving the loss of Judy Hilton [12/20].

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:** Ethan Gustin [12/6], Aubrey Evans (friend of Rachel Gugler) [12/6], Kim Goodman [7/15/2018], doctors, nurses and other health care workers; students, teachers, administrators, school nurses, and other employees of local schools; restaurant and retail employees, postal workers and other delivery personnel; and all others working in essential industries, Employees and Owners of Small Businesses [12/20]

**THOSE WORSHIPING FROM HOME:** Gary Donley, Evelyn York, Velma Becker, Joe Clemence, Steve Crump, Walt Hartman, Ray Power, Marla Rutz, Bob Murnahan, Donna Smith, Martha Zutavern, Donna Richards, Dorothy Veach, Darlene Sexton, Melvin Leckron, Dorothy Snider, Linda Chase, Barb Hawk, Verl Eckman and many of us!

**THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:** Greg Austin, Tim Barns, Kayla Berven, Billy Brockman, Matthew Brinker, Ross Covington, Jessica and James Green, Christopher Griffith, Gavin Hanna, Cameron Hoskins, David Hoskins, Ryan Kriesch, Colby Miller, Samuel Miller, and James L. Wise, Jr.

**THOSE IN AUTHORITY:** The President, the Governor, the Mayor, the County Health Officer, County Commissioners, the County Attorney, and other elected officials and the judiciary (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

**DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR:** Today we pray for the Hope United Methodist Church and their pastor, Timothy Clevenger.

---

# GENERAL NEWS

**END OF YEAR GIVING** — In order for your giving to be credited to your statement for 2020, we must receive your check in the church office by Monday, December 28, 2020. If you are mailing in a check, please send it as soon as possible for it to be delivered in time. Thank you and Happy New Year!

—Staff, 12/24/20

**WORSHIP WITH THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE** — I'm excited to announce that, since most United Methodists in Kansas and Nebraska are participating in worship services online at the moment, the Great Plains Annual Conference has put together a worship service featuring people from different congregations that we can stream, and broadcast, and watch in the sanctuary for December 27, 2020.

—Staff, 12/24/20

**CHRISMON TREE HISTORY** — The Christmas tree in the Sanctuary has a unique history. The decorations on the tree are called Chrismons, from "Monogram of Christ". In 1957, the Chrismons were first developed by Frances Spencer and the women of The Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA.

The Chrismons on our tree were hand made by Dorothy Snider, a long time member of our congregation. Dorothy was a member of the United Methodist Women and she served as a District Officer for 11 years. In Kansas City, Dorothy saw Chrismons on a tree that were made of styrofoam. She asked for a pattern and in 2008, she went to Ben Franklin, in Abilene, and bought white felt and white beads. She began to make the Chrismons you see on our tree today. There are numerous Chrismons such as stars, crosses, fish, crowns, mangers, the Alpha and Omega, sheep, doves, Angels, and various symbols of Christ. The Chrismons are the focus of the decorated tree along with white lights.

Take the time to look carefully at the beautiful gift of art Dorothy created for our church. She currently resides at Countryside Home, north of Abilene.

—Pam Jackson, 12/20/20

**CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS IN ONLINE WORSHIP** — We continue to improve the quality of our online and radio worship services. The quilts on the pews have cut down on the echos in a mostly empty sanctuary. This week (thanks to a special donation) we're adding an additional Mevo video camera to allow those watching online a better view of the liturgist. Stick with us, it's going to keep getting better.

—John Collins, 11/29/20

**I ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORSHIP FROM HOME** — I urge everyone who can watch online or listen on the radio instead of coming in-person to do so. I know that worship is important to many of you—it's really important to me too. I understand that the experience of in-person worship is far superior to "virtual" worship. But, because of the increasing spread of COVID-19, Dr. Holmes, Bishop Saenz, and I all urge you to refrain from in-person worship for now. That said, we will have services at 10:30 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, we have plenty of extra masks, and I do not intend to turn anyone away.\* In our present situation, you are the person best able to weigh your spiritual needs against the risks of in-person attendance. All I know is that the potential danger of attending in-person is both real and dire.

\* To comply with #DK11-01, I will reluctantly turn people away in the unlikely event that we have more than 30 people show up.

—John Collins, 12/18/20

**RESTARTING THE PRAYER VIGIL** — We're restarting the Prayer Vigil in virtual form from our homes. It's a full day of prayer every Thursday from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. We have the following two slots that remain open: 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please email John or call the church office if you are interested in participating

— John Collins, 9/27/20, updated 11/15/20

**WORSHIP ON AUDIO CD** — Are you having trouble streaming online or listening on the radio? We're delivering audio CDs with the same service that is broadcast on the radio. Contact John Collins or call the church office if you would like one.

— Staff

**WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNION** — We have a Zoom meeting scheduled for the Wednesday Evening Communion Service at 6:00 p.m. Here are the details:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/38bf9qZ>

Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388

Password: 67410

Manually Dial In With a Touch-Tone Phone

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388

Password: 67410

— Staff

**EMAIL UPDATES** — John uses a service called TinyLetter to send out blog posts by email every day or so. This way, you can keep up with their blog at [revcollins.com](http://revcollins.com) by simply checking your email inbox. You can also reply with an email of your own and let us know what you think. You can sign up at [tinyletter.com/jcollins11](http://tinyletter.com/jcollins11)

— Staff

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 — CHRISTMAS DAY — OFFICES CLOSED**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27**

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Via KABI 1560 AM / Facebook and Vimeo ([abilenefirstumc.org/onlineworship/](http://abilenefirstumc.org/onlineworship/))

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30**

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting Via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Communion Via Zoom

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31**

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil Begins @ Homes

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021 — NEW YEAR'S DAY — OFFICES CLOSED**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2**

10:30 a.m. Recording the Online Service/In-Person Worship Service

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3**

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Via KABI 1560 AM / Facebook and Vimeo ([abilenefirstumc.org/onlineworship/](http://abilenefirstumc.org/onlineworship/))

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 4**

7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting Via Zoom

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 5**

10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6**

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting Via Zoom

3:30 p.m. Power & Light

6:00 p.m. Communion Via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 7**

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins @ Homes

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 8**

12:00 p.m. Offices Close

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 9**

10:30 a.m. Recording the Online Service/In-Person Worship Service

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 10**

10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Via KABI 1560 AM / Facebook and Vimeo ([abilenefirstumc.org/onlineworship/](http://abilenefirstumc.org/onlineworship/))

## **STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

John Collins, Pastor — Mobile Phone: 620-252-9622 / Email: [john@revcollins.com](mailto:john@revcollins.com)

Pam Simpson, Office Administrator — Email: [office@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:office@abilenefirstumc.org)

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries — Email: [wendy@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:wendy@abilenefirstumc.org)

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries — Email: [clark@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:clark@abilenefirstumc.org)

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor — Email: [parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org](mailto:parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org)