



AN ORDER OF **CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost | July 25, 2021

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors
that seeks to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410

785-263-2623 — www.abilenefirstumc.org

GATHERING

Gathering of the Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

HYMN*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

UMH-110

CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you!

The risen Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21 (CEB)

¹⁴This is why I kneel before the Father. ¹⁵Every ethnic group in heaven or on earth is recognized by him. ¹⁶I ask that he will strengthen you in your inner selves from the riches of his glory through the Spirit. ¹⁷I ask that Christ will live in your hearts through faith. As a result of having strong roots in love, ¹⁸I ask that you'll have the power to grasp love's width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. ¹⁹I ask that you'll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God.

²⁰Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; ²¹glory

to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations,
forever and always. Amen.

HYMN* *How Firm a Foundation, vss 1-3, 5* UMH-529

Children's Message

Scripture Reading Amos 5:21-24 (NRSV)

²¹ I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings
and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

HYMN* *Good Good Father* On Screen

Scripture Reading Matthew 22:34-40 (NRSV)

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Sermon

A STATEMENT OF FAITH

(UMH 883)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE*

Gloria Patri

UMH-71

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

before you our hearts are open,

and from you no secrets are hidden.

We bring to you now

our shame and sorrow for our sins.

We have forgotten

that our life is from you and unto you.

We have neither sought nor done your will.

We have not been truthful in our hearts,

in our speech, in our lives.

We have not loved as we ought to love.

**Help us and heal us,
raise us from our sins into a better life,
that we may end our days in peace,
trusting in your kindness unto the end.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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Silent Prayers of Confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The river of God's mercy runs deeper
and wider than our sin.
God forgives our sins and removes the stains.
Beloved in the risen Christ, we are forgiven.
Amen.

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Invitation to the Offering

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

(If you are a guest, please feel no obligation to give, this is simply one of the ways we worship God.)

RESPONSE* *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH-95

THANKSGIVING

Prayer of Thanksgiving

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us,
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

HYMN* *Lead On, O Cloud of Presence* FWS-2234

Dismissal with Blessing*

Postlude*

**Meaning: *Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.*

TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.
- Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastors, musicians, and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
- If you need or want some time to yourself, there is a nursery available during each service. It is located in Room 205 at the south end of the church. Our ushers and greeters will be happy to direct you.

TO THE LARGER CONGREGATION

- Remember that the presence of children is a gift of hope for the future.
- Remember that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they think about the church, Christianity, and even God.
- Let children know that they are at home in God's house.
- A smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children.

FEEL FREE TO REMAIN SEATED

If, for any reason (health, comfort, personal preference, etc.), you need/prefer to remain seated throughout the service, please do so. Don't give into peer pressure. You be you!

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: Sandy Sleichter [7/4], Betty and Verl Eckman [7/4], Ray Wyatt [7/4] those grieving the loss of Robert Collins (John Collins' Father) [7/18], those grieving the loss of Walter Hartman [7/11], and those grieving the loss of Jani Schwartz (Rita Everson's Sister) [7/25].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Teresa Terpening (friend of Pam Jackson) [7/18], Steve Taylor (Janet Taylor's Husband) [7/4], Michael Schwarting (Steve Schwarting's Brother) [7/4], Klayton Davignon [6/20], Kim Goodman [7/15/2018].

THOSE WORSHIPING FROM HOME: Gary Donley, Evelyn York, Velma Becker, Joe Clemence, Steve Crump, Margie Miller, Ray Power, Marla Rutz, Donna Smith, Martha Zutavern, Donna Richards, Dorothy Veach, Darlene Sexton, Melvin Leckron, Dorothy Snider, Linda Chase, Verl Eckman.

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, 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 Brookville First United Methodist Church and their pastor, Bill Gies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU — My thanks to all of you for your support and care in response to the loss of my father, Bob Collins. Your texts, emails, cards, and presence at the visitation and the Service of Death and Resurrection have all been very much appreciated. — John Collins

QUESTORS SUNDAY SCHOOL — class is starting to meet! It will be good to be part of a group again to study God's word and support one another. Our lessons will vary from videos with discussions following, to short devotionals or current affairs discussions. We are a relaxed group and would love to have you join us. If you are interested, we meet in Room 200 around 9:20 on Sunday mornings. If you have questions call Everett or Rita Everson at 263-1256. (Staff, 7/4/21)

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Children and youth will begin meeting on Sundays at 9:20 a.m. for Sunday School. Welcome back. Bring a friend. (Staff, 6/27/21)

BULLETINS BY MAIL — We are so happy to see many familiar faces returning to worship in person. If you have begun to attend on a regular basis, and are receiving the bulletin in the mail also, we would like to know if you want to continue receiving the bulletin in the mail. Call the office at 785-263-2623 or email office@abilenefirstumc.org to let us know. (Staff, 6/27/21)

WANT TO TALK TO THE PASTOR? — John's contact information is on the back page of this bulletin, or you can write a note on the back of the attendance insert.

HYMNALS AND SONGBOOKS AVAILABLE — Beginning this month we'll no longer be printing the lyrics to hymns in the bulletin. If you worship from home, we would be more than happy to bring you a copy of The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, and Worship and Song. Please call 785-263-2623 or drop an email to office@abilenefirstumc.org. (John Collins, 7/4/21)

THURSDAY PRAYER VIGIL — The Chapel has been reopened for those who participate in the Thursday Prayer Vigil. We also have several spots open for people who would like to participate. You can spend the hour in prayer, the study of scripture, or other devotional activities. Please let me (John) know if you are interested in participating. (John Collins, 6/27/21)

WANT TO TALK TO THE PASTOR? — John's contact information is on the back page of this bulletin, or you can write a note on the back of the attendance insert.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP? — Are you interested in joining the First United Methodist Church as a member and making a formal commitment to God, the church, and yourself? If so, please communicate with the pastor in person or by using the contact information found on the back of the bulletin.

NURSERY — A nursery is provided for children during each service. It is located in Room 205 near the south entrance to the church. If you need assistance locating the nursery, our ushers and greeters will be happy to direct you, but please note our "to those with young children" section.

WE'RE ON THE RADIO AND STREAMING ONLINE — If you can't make it to church, but would like to listen to one of our services live, simply tune into KABI 1560 AM at 10:30 a.m. You can also stream the worship service on our Vimeo channel.

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 the blog at 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.

2021 CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS

These results were posted earlier in July, but I'm putting them here again in case anyone missed them.

QUESTION 8. What was your SATISFACTION with the worship service you primarily attended before COVID-19?

Very Satisfied —73

Some Satisfied — 37

Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied—5

Somewhat Dissatisfied —7

Very Dissatisfied—2

Why?: Loved the singing, good sermons, great people. • Translates the Bible to today's world. • The worship, the fellowship, the sermon, the music. • I learn and grow. • I like music with harmony. • Satisfied my worship needs. • Because it is close to [the] traditional [service] I'm used to. • Minister trys to make sermons too humorous. • Not getting what I need out of the sermon, minister not personable. • Open hearts, open minds sermons. • John and Jenny both deliver excellent sermons. • Was just getting back to attending church. • I always got something new out of each sermon. • Fellowship. •

Lack of inspiring service. • Preaching to the times is important. • It was a full worship service. • I feel at home. • It was what I needed to hear at the time. • I could understand the content. • Friends, comfort of sanctuary, music. • No inspirations, cold, impersonal sermon. • No people, no ability to see or talk to people. Terrible songs. I have no idea how other service times [are] different. I only go to Sunday late service. Please go back to the beautiful old hymns. Can you not tell that no one sings those new age songs with no tune and whose words don't fit the tune? They are especially bad when one listens on the radio. • Sermon and sense of community. • Sermon. • Everyone has room to improve and grow.

A copy of the full survey results is available in the church office.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 25

8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / Online Streaming
9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM
6:00 p.m. Youth Group Movie/Snack Night

TUESDAY, JULY 27

10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom

THURSDAY, JULY 29

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins
- 9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group
- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / Online Streaming
- 9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

- 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting - 200

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee - 200

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins
- 9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group
- 9:30 a.m. EOTT Quilt Group - Peatling
- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / Online Streaming
- 9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Movie/Snack Night

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees - 200

7:00 p.m. Worship Design

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

9:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group - 200

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins

9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group

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

5:30 p.m. Quilt Group

NOTES AND DOODLES

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.

CLOSING CREDITS

Anna Gugler, Piano

Rick Williamson and Will Burton, Liturgists

Ward Turnbull and Cecilia Clemence, Slides

Ward Turnbull and Joy Clemence, Sound

CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor

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Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor

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