



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost | August 1, 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*

Sweet Hour of Prayer

UMH-496

CALL TO WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a (CEB)

²⁶When Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷After the time of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her back to his house. She became his wife and bore him a son.

But what David had done was evil in the LORD's eyes.

¹So the LORD sent Nathan to David. When Nathan arrived he said, "There were two men in the same city, one rich, one poor. ²The rich man had a lot of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing—just one small ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised that lamb, and it grew up with him and his children. It would eat from his food and drink from his cup—even sleep in his arms! It was like a daughter to him.

⁴"Now a traveler came to visit the rich man, but he wasn't willing to take anything from his own flock or herd to

prepare for the guest who had arrived. Instead, he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the visitor."

⁵ David got very angry at the man, and he said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the one who did this is demonic! ⁶ He must restore the ewe lamb seven times over because he did this and because he had no compassion."

⁷ "You are that man!" Nathan told David. "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: I anointed you king over Israel and delivered you from Saul's power. ⁸ I gave your master's house to you, and gave his wives into your embrace. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. If that was too little, I would have given even more. ⁹ Why have you despised the LORD's word by doing what is evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and taken his wife as your own. You used the Ammonites to kill him. ¹⁰ Because of that, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite as your own, the sword will never leave your own house.

¹¹ "This is what the LORD says: I am making trouble come against you from inside your own family. Before your very eyes I will take your wives away and give them to your friend, and he will have sex with your wives in broad daylight. ¹² You did what you did secretly, but I will do what I am doing before all Israel in the light of day."

¹³ "I've sinned against the LORD!" David said to Nathan.

HYMN*

All Things Bright and Beautiful

UMH-147

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16 (CEB)

¹ Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. ² Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and

patience. Accept each other with love,³ and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together.⁴ You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope.⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

⁷ God has given his grace to each one of us measured out by the gift that is given by Christ.⁸ That's why scripture says, When he climbed up to the heights, he captured prisoners, and he gave gifts to people.

⁹ What does the phrase "he climbed up" mean if it doesn't mean that he had first gone down into the lower regions, the earth?¹⁰ The one who went down is the same one who climbed up above all the heavens so that he might fill everything.

¹¹ He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.¹² His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ¹³ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ.¹⁴ As a result, we aren't supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others.¹⁵ Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ,¹⁶ who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does their part.

Scripture Reading

John 6:24-35 (NRSV)

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves." ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Sermon

THE APOSTLES' CREED*

I commit myself to God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I set my heart upon Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I place my trust in the Holy Spirit,
the holy church universal,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSE*

Gloria Patri

UMH-71

PRAYER OF CONFESSION — PSALM 51:1-12 (NRSV)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you are justified in your sentence

and blameless when you pass judgment.

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,

a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;

therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,

and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and sustain in me a willing spirit.

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

Words of Assurance

Invitation to the Offering

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

(If you are a guest, please feel no obligation to give.)

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

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

O THE DEPTH OF LOVE DIVINE by Charles Wesley, 1745

1. O the depth of love divine, the unfathomable grace!

**Who shall say how bread and wine,
God into us conveys!**

How the bread his flesh imparts,
how the wine transmits his blood,

**fills his faithful people's hearts
with all the life of God!**

2. Let the wisest mortals show how we the grace receive;

feeble elements bestow a power not theirs to give.

Who explains the wondrous way,
how through these the virtue [power] came?

**These the virtue did convey,
yet still remain the same.**

3. How can spirits heavenward rise, by earthly matter fed,

**drink here with divine supplies
and eat immortal bread?**

Ask the Father's wisdom how:

Christ who did the means ordain;

angels round our altars bow to search it out, in vain.

4. Sure and real is the grace, the manner be unknown;

only meet us in thy ways and perfect us in one.

Let us taste the heavenly powers,

Lord, we ask for nothing more.

Thine to bless, 'tis only ours to wonder and adore.

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.**

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Jesus Christ the bread of heaven.

Amen

Jesus Christ the cup of heaven.

Amen.

GOING FORTH

HYMN*

In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone, Word took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness
scorned by the ones he came to save.
Til on that cross as Jesus died
the cost of sin was satisfied;
for every sin on him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme or plan
can ever pluck me from his hand.
Til he returns / receives me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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: Betty and Verl Eckman [7/4], those grieving the loss of Robert Collins (John Collins' Father) [7/18], those grieving the loss of Walter Hartman [7/11], those grieving the loss of Jani Schwartz (Rita Everson's Sister) [7/25], those grieving the loss of Jackie Brown (Janice Hoffman's Sister) [8/1], those grieving the loss of Sandy Sleichter [8/1].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Teresa Terpening (friend of Pam Jackson) [7/18], 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 Burr Oak First United Methodist Church and their pastor, Les Ellis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A LETTER FROM BISHOP SAENZ —

Sisters and Brothers of the Great Plains Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Redeemer and the Great Physician.

As many of you no doubt have noted, the infection rate from the delta variant of the COVID-19 virus has surged in recent weeks. In response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week issued a new recommendation that all people — including those fully vaccinated — wear masks when indoors in areas where infection rates have soared. This includes the eastern third of Kansas and some areas of Nebraska, including Omaha and Grand Island.

This reversal of previous guidelines reflects the growing caution surrounding the resurgence of the virus, and it requires our collective attention. In this new season of the COVID-19 pandemic, I urge leaders in our local churches to pay close attention to their local health departments. At this point, health officials are not urging the suspension of in-person worship or other in-person activities. But in many cases they are urging residents to wear masks when indoors, even if fully vaccinated.

As I have shared in the past, you must make the decision that makes the most sense for your context for ministry. Some areas in both of our states are among the least impacted in the entire country by the delta variant. But others are among the most at risk.

Please educate your congregations about this risk. Consider wearing masks when inside the church building. Ask those who have declined thus far to prayerfully consider being vaccinated. And, of course, continue to serve the mission fields to which you have been deployed to show the love, grace and hope found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Peace, Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.

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 (7/25/21)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN— The first meeting of UMW will be on Wednesday, September 1, at noon. This will be a covered dish meal.

90TH BIRTHDAY—Verl Eckman will be celebrating his 90th birthday this Wednesday. He would enjoy cards!

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)

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)

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.

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

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

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
- 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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group Swim Party

MONDAY, AUGUST 16

- 5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

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

NOTES

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

Kristy Engle and Angie Hoerner, Piano
Ward Turnbull and John Purvis, Liturgists
Troy Boyd and Mason Cook, Control Booth

CONTACT INFORMATION

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