



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

August 22, 2021 | Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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*

Maker In Whom We Live

UMH-88

CALL TO WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Psalm 84 (NRSV)

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of hosts!

² My soul longs, indeed it faints

for the courts of the LORD;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy

to the living God.

³ Even the sparrow finds a home,

and the swallow a nest for herself,

where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O LORD of hosts,

my King and my God.

⁴ Happy are those who live in your house,

ever singing your praise.

⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in you,

in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶ As they go through the valley of Baca

they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷ They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸ O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!

⁹ Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰ For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the LORD withhold
from those who walk uprightly.

¹² O LORD of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

HYMN*

Fairest Lord Jesus

UMH-189

Children's Message

Special Music

Scripture Reading Ephesians 6:10-20 (NRSV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to

withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

HYMN*

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

UMH-514

Scripture Reading

John 6:53-69 (NRSV)

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Take heart in the assurance that in Jesus Christ our sins,
though they are many, are forgiven. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

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*

Graves Into Gardens

On Screen

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade,
are never enough.
Then You came along and put me back together.
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love.
Oh, there's nothing better than you.

There's nothing better than you.
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you.
I'm not afraid to show You my weakness.
My failures and flaws,
Lord, You've seen them all and You still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.
There's not a place
your mercy and grace won't find me again.
Oh, there's nothing better than you.
There's nothing better than you.
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You
You turn mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory. You're the only one who can.
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways. You're the only one who can.
Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you.
Oh, there's nothing, nothing is better than you.
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you.
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you.
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can. You're the only one who can.
You're the only one who can.

— Words: Brandon Lake Chris Brown Steven Furtick Tiffany Hudson.
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Dismissal with Blessing*

Postlude*

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: Those grieving the loss of Jackie Brown (Janice Hoffman's Sister) [8/1], those grieving the loss of Sandy Sleichter [8/1], Betty Cox [8/15].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Those grieving the loss of Lorie Flippo [8/22].

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 Clay Center First United Methodist Church and their pastor, Andrea Beyer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOICES: THE SOURCE OF JOY

A keen insight on the nature of joy from Henri J. M. Nouwen:

“Joy does not come from positive predictions about the state of the world. It does not depend on the ups and downs of the circumstances of our lives. Joy is based on the spiritual knowledge that, while the world in which we live is shrouded in darkness, God has overcome the world. Jesus says it loudly and clearly: ‘In the world you will have troubles, but rejoice, I have overcome the world.’”

We can rejoice even during the tough times because we know that in the end, As Nouwen says, “God’s light is more real than all the darkness, that God’s truth is more powerful than all human lies, that God’s love is stronger than death.” I pray that you may find joy.

(John Collins, 8/22/21)

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS — Wendy Robinson and Karlene Taylor again having an exciting year planned for our youth. They will again be hosting a Drive-Thru Trick or Treat, providing a video Christmas program, leading a worship service, taking a trip to the lake, working a community service project or two, preparing care packages for college students and community helpers, making subs for a fundraiser, organizing an Easter Breakfast for the congregation, a marathon lock in and countless other activities.

YOUTH PRAISE BAND — The youth praise band will provide special music and lead some hymns on Sunday, August 29, 2021. Members are Braden Adams, Magda Meneley, Maren Meneley, Carson Woodworth, and Jensen Woodworth.

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

BLOOD DRIVE — A PSA from Molly Burton:

Abilene High School is hosting a blood drive on Sunday, August 29th from 12-6PM. We would love to have you come donate. Your donation will not only help save lives, it will also help two Abilene seniors earn college scholarships. You can use this link to sign up or reply to this email with the time(s) that would work for you. Thanks!

Link: <https://rcblood.org/2XKuw8H>

POSSIBLE MISSION PROJECT — Andrea Purvis brought a possible project to the Mission and Outreach Team: Care Portal. This is a means by which we can help kids in foster care in Dickinson County. You can learn more at www.careportal.org.

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 22

- 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. Power and Light Swim Party @ Taylors

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

- 9:00 a.m. Preschool Screening

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

- 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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- 12:00 p.m. UMW Potluck Luncheon - Wright Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins
- 9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group
- 9:30 a.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Peatling
- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- 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, SEPTEMBER 6

- Labor Day — Offices Closed
- 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting - 200

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Youth 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

Kent Wyatt and Sandi Dutt, Liturgists

Ward Turnbull and Joy Clemence, Sound

Ward Turnbull and Cecelia Clemence, Slides

Carson Woodworth, Special Music

CONTACT INFORMATION

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