



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

August 8, 2021 | Eleventh 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*

How Great Thou Art

UMH-77

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, children of God.

Come and find refuge and strength.

Our souls wait for the Lord.

Come, heirs with Christ.

Come find forgiveness and joy.

Our souls wait for the Lord.

Come, people of faith.

Come to the one who is attentive to our pleas.

Our souls wait for the Lord.

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Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Psalm 130 (NRSV)

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.
⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

HYMN*

You Are My King

WS-3102

Children's Message

Bell Quintet

If You Are with Me

(10:30)

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (NRSV)

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all

malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

^{5:1} Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

HYMN* *Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast*, vs 1, 3-5 UMH-339

Scripture Reading

John 6:35, 41-51 (NRSV)

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. ...

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" ⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

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

(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

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*

Step By Step

WS-3004

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 Robert Collins (John Collins' Father) [7/18], 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: Those grieving the loss of 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 Cawker City and Glen Elder First United Methodist Churches and their pastor, Earl Haggard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSTALLATION OF KAREN RICE RATZLAFF — Karen Rice Ratzlaff will be formally installed as the new District Superintendent of the Hutchinson and Salina Districts on August 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at First UMC in Salina. Bishop Saenz will be there and all United Methodists in the two Districts (including all of you) are invited to attend. (J. Collins, 8/8/21)

THE ROSE ON THE ALTAR — Commemorates the birth of Herbert "Harry" Wallace-Andrew Romme was born July 9, 2021 to Malorie Unruh and Jacob Romme of Atwood, Kansas. His grandparents are Kevin and Heather Unruh. Great-grandmothers are Margie Miller and Phyllis Welton. (Staff, 8/8/21)

VOICES: BENEDICT OF NURSIA — In my preparatory work, I found a prayer attributed to Benedict of Nursia (c. 480–547). I didn't have room for a place for it in today's service, but I wanted to share it with you nonetheless:

O gracious and holy God,
give us diligence to seek you,
wisdom to perceive you,
and patience to wait for you.

Grant us, O God,
a mind to meditate on you,
eyes to behold you,
ears to listen for your Word,
a heart to love you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

— Benedict of Nursia
(John Collins, 8/8/21)

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS — Sunday, August 15, we will be having a special time of blessing of the backpacks for school age children. Students bring your backpack to church that day to receive this blessing. It will take place in both services.

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

A LETTER FROM BISHOP SAENZ — The Covid-19 policy and the signs on the doors of the church remain unchanged. But I (John) wanted to share this letter from the Bishop with you:

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.

(John Collins, 8/1/21)

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.

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 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
- 6:30 p.m. Mission and Outreach Committee

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

- 9:00 a.m. Preschool Screenings

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

- Blessing of Backpacks for School Children
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting - 200

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

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

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

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

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).

CLOSING CREDITS

Anna Gugler and Angie Hoerner, Piano
Anita Larson and Heather Unruh, Liturgists
Harper Larson, Acolyte
Kaxton Weibert and Elizabeth Collins, Slides
Kaylee Weiber and Elizabeth Collins, Sound
Braden Adams, Drums
Lisa Divel, Anna Gugler, Elizabeth Collins,
Joanne Hettenbach, and Larry Divel, Bell Quintet

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