



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

September 5, 2021 | 15th 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* *All Creatures of Our God and King* On Screen

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 Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 (NRSV)

¹ A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.

² The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all. . . .

⁸ Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

⁹ Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor. . . .

²² Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

²³ for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

HYMN**Holy, Holy, Holy*

UMH-64

Children's Message

Special Music

What a Beautiful Name It Is

Scripture Reading

Mark 7:31-37 (NRSV)

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

HYMN**How Great Thou Art*

On Screen

Scripture Reading

James 2:1-17 (NRSV)

¹ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves,

and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹ For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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 & COMMUNION

The Great 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.**

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer Following Communion

GOING FORTH

HYMN* *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* UMH-581

Dismissal with Blessing*

Postlude*

*So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.
— James 2:17*

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: Donna Smith [8/29], Betty Cox [8/15].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Those impacted by Hurricane Ida, Michael Heger's Aunt Vita [9/5], Steve Taylor [9/5], Jayne Ronchetto's grandson [9/5], those grieving the loss of Kammie Hankins Root (sister-in-law of Gregg Root) [9/5], Judy Herbel (friend of Pam Jackson) [8/29], those grieving the loss of Lorie Flippo [8/22], William Audley (friend of Leslie Hoffman) [8/29]

THOSE THE WORLD OVER: The people of Afghanistan and Haiti.

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 Countryside-Ebenezer United Methodist Church and their pastor, Lillian Flegle.

NEWSLETTER

LITTLE FREE PANTRY COLLECTION

Today, September 5, 2021, we'll be taking up a collection for the Little Free Pantry. You can contribute money or food items. If you choose to bring food, we especially need Energy/Snack/Granola bars, peanut butter and jelly, pancake mix (the kind that only needs water is best), macaroni, canned meat/fish, individual cereal packets, pasta, spaghetti sauce, fruit snacks, snack bars, canned fruit, and self-contained microwaveable meals, personal hygiene products, and water.

HELP THOSE IMPACTED BY HURRICANE IDA

Hurricane Ida's impacts will be felt for a long time along the Gulf Coast. With torrential rains and wind speeds that topped 150 mph, damage ranges from destroyed homes to flooded streets and a crippled power grid.

The storm made landfall Aug. 29, and its slow progression — often only at 8 to 10 mph — meant its high winds and heavy rains stayed over areas for long periods of time while advancing north and east into the continental United States.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is deploying to Louisiana, and Great Plains Conference Early Response Teams are expected to deploy once public safety officials give approval — likely in a week or two. Great Plains personnel are encouraged not to self-deploy but rather to wait until the official call is made to avoid hampering efforts of emergency responders who are still trying to rescue people from flooded areas.

You can make a financial donation today or in the weeks that follow. By check, special offering envelope, or online at <https://abilenefirstumc.org/giving/>.

JOHN WESLEY ON THE VACCINE

by Dr. Hal Knight, Professor of Wesleyan Studies, Saint Paul School of Theology.

The pandemic is far from over. The stories out of places like India and Brazil are horrific. New variants of the virus are emerging. And in America the pace of vaccinations is slowing. To shut down the virus, or at least reduce it to the annual flu level, there has to be enough people vaccinated so that it doesn't continue to spread widely and mutate more. We are not there yet, and the verdict is out as to whether we will get there.

This is an exceptionally deadly virus. In America alone over 580,000 have died from it. There are also huge numbers of COVID-19 “long haulers” who recovered only to find that there were debilitating effects of the disease that may last their lifetimes.

Yet vaccine hesitancy and vaccine rejection are widespread. The reasons are varied. Some do not trust a government sponsored program due to past governmental deception in order to use minority citizens for dangerous medical experiments. Some worry that the vaccines were developed too quickly. Some do not believe medical authorities, distrust experts or believe it is all a conspiracy.

I do not believe John Wesley would be among the vaccine hesitant. He was convinced that God cared deeply for bodies as well as souls. He wrote in his Journal (May 18, 1772) that “God has more than one method of healing either the soul or

the body”—one was through prayer, the other medical science.”

Wesley was an avid reader of the medical journals of his day. Medicine at that time was still in its infancy. Bacteria and viruses had not been discovered; genetics and DNA were unknown. The actual practitioners of medicine often operated out of competing theories of disease (all of which we now know were in error), and most only treated patients who could pay.

Armed with the knowledge he had, Wesley set out to change the situation. For a few years he had free clinics where those who could not afford a doctor could come and receive medical advice from Wesley. Then he decided to compile that advice in a book, the *Primitive Physick*. While many remedies seem strange to us today (tar water, Spanish snuff, low dose electricity) others are still effective, and some were cutting edge. His explaining the technique of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation saved many lives. All of it reflected the medicine of his day.

His goal was to provide remedies that were inexpensive, easily attainable and not dangerous for people without medical training to use. His advice on how to remain healthy—moderate diet, plenty of exercise, avoiding strong drink—is virtually the same as we hear today.

He was impatient with doctors who stuck to their pet theories instead of paying attention to the actual results of their treatments. And this is why I think Wesley would be eager to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

He would be thrilled at how, building upon a century of work in anti-viral drugs, modern science could rapidly produce vaccines in the face of a pandemic. But what would impress him most is the effectiveness of these vaccines. They are

proven to protect persons from COVID-19, and especially from hospitalizations and death, as good or even better than flu vaccines.

If he were here today, I believe Mr. Wesley would not hesitate to roll up his sleeves.

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.

A PRAYER FOR THE CLOSE OF DAY

During the time I spent in retreat, I encountered this prayer from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in *The United Methodist Hymnal* (689). I have updated some archaic language and I plan to use it before going to bed. I wanted to share it with you.

“O Lord my God,
I thank you that you have brought this day to its close.
I thank you that you give rest to body and soul.
Your hand has been over me,
 guarding me and preserving me.
Forgive my feeble faith
 and all the wrong I have done this day,
 and help me to forgive all who wronged me.
Grant that I may sleep in peace beneath your care,
 and defend me from the temptations of darkness.

Into thy hands I commend my loved ones,
I commend this household,
I commend my body and soul.
O God, your holy name be praised. Amen.”

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 at abilenefirstumc.org.

WANT TO TALK TO THE PASTOR?

John's contact information is 620-252-9622 (mobile phone) and john@revcollins.com, 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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Church Office Closed

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
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 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 12

- 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 13

- 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Design - 200

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- 9:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group - 200
- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 12:00 p.m. Retired Teachers' Luncheon - Wright Hall

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- 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 16

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council - 200

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 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 20

- 5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee - 200
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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

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

Angie Hoerner, Piano

Mary Jane Oard and Andrea Purvis, Liturgists

Ward Turnbull and Joy Clemence, Sound

Troy Boyd and Cecilia Clemence, Slides

Braden Adams; Maren and Magda Meneley; and
Jensen and Carson Woodworth, Youth Praise Band

CONTACT INFORMATION

John Collins, Pastor

620-252-9622 (Mobile) — john@revcollins.com

Pam Simpson, Office Administrator

Phone: 785-263-2623 — office@abilenefirstumc.org

Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

wendy@abilenefirstumc.org

Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

clark@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor

parishvisitor@abilenefirstumc.org