



**AN ORDER OF  
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

September 12, 2021 | Sixteenth 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](http://www.abilenefirstumc.org)

# GATHERING

Gathering of the Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

**HYMN\***

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

UMH-334

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 19 NRSV/CEB

<sup>1</sup> The heavens are telling the glory of God;

**and the sky proclaims his handiwork.**

<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours forth speech,

**and night to night declares knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

**<sup>4</sup> yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,

<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom  
from his wedding canopy,

**and like a strong man runs its course with joy.**

<sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;

**and nothing is hid from its heat.**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

**the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
making wise the simple;**

<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;

**the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;**

<sup>9</sup> Honoring the LORD is pure, enduring forever;

**the judgements of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.**

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,

**even much fine gold;**

sweeter also than honey,

**and drippings of the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup> Moreover by them is your servant warned;

**in keeping them there is great reward.**

<sup>12</sup> But who can detect their errors?

**Clear me from unknown faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from willful sins;

**do not let them have dominion over me.**

Then I shall be blameless,

**and innocent of great wrongdoing.**

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth

and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you,

**O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

Opening Prayer

## **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 1:20-33 (CEB)

<sup>20</sup> Wisdom shouts in the street;

in the public square she raises her voice.

<sup>21</sup> Above the noisy crowd, she calls out.

At the entrances of the city gates, she has her say:

<sup>22</sup> "How long will you clueless people love your naïveté,

mockers hold their mocking dear,

and fools hate knowledge?

<sup>23</sup> You should respond when I correct you.

Look, I'll pour out my spirit on you.

I'll reveal my words to you.

<sup>24</sup> I invited you, but you rejected me;

I stretched out my hand to you,  
but you paid no attention.

<sup>25</sup> You ignored all my advice,  
and you didn't want me to correct you.

<sup>26</sup> So I'll laugh at your disaster;  
I'll make fun of you when dread comes over you,  
<sup>27</sup> when terror hits you like a hurricane,  
and your disaster comes in like a tornado,  
when distress and oppression overcome you.

<sup>28</sup> Then they will call me, but I won't answer;  
they will seek me, but won't find me  
<sup>29</sup> because they hated knowledge  
and didn't choose the fear of the LORD.

<sup>30</sup> They didn't want my advice;  
they rejected all my corrections.

<sup>31</sup> They will eat from the fruit of their way,  
and they'll be full of their own schemes.

<sup>32</sup> The immature will die because they turn away;  
smugness will destroy fools.

<sup>33</sup> Those who obey me will dwell securely,  
untroubled by the dread of harm."

**HYMN\***

*Seek Ye First*

UMH-405

Children's Message

Special Music

Trumpet Duet

Scripture Reading

Mark 8:27-38 (NRSV)

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of  
Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples,  
"Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered him,  
"John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of  
the prophets." <sup>29</sup> He asked them, "But who do you say that I

am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**HYMN\***

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

UMH-297

Scripture Reading

James 3:1-12 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup> My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup> We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. <sup>3</sup> When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

<sup>4</sup> Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever

they want with a little rudder. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

<sup>7</sup> People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. <sup>8</sup> No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup> Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

<sup>11</sup> Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? <sup>12</sup> My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

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**

**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. Amen.**

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Who is in a position to condemn?  
Only Christ, Christ who died for us, who rose for us,  
who reigns at God's right hand and prays for us.  
Thanks be to God who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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-94

## **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\***

*May You Run and Not Be Weary*

FWS-2281

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:** Donna Smith [8/29], Mike Clemence [9/12]

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:** Those impacted by Hurricane Ida, Arthur Sprouse [9/12], Robin Motl [9/12], Chris Hoffman's son [9/12], Mike Burton [9/12], those grieving the loss of Dina Smith Bruce [9/12], 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 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 Courtland-Scandia United Methodist Churches and their pastor, Sandra Jellison.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **ONE ZOOM TO RULE THEM ALL**

In an attempt to make attending Zoom meetings easier, We're trying something new. Instead of a different Zoom Meeting every time we get together, We're setting up a standard zoom meeting for everything we do. The link and the dial in phone numbers are below:

### **Standard Zoom Meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/38bf9qZ>

Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388

Passcode: 67410

Manually Dial In With a Touch-Tone Phone

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 937 0998 7388

Passcode: 67410

## **PERMANENT 8:15 LIVESTREAM LINK**

After several weeks of wrestling with the livestream of our 8:15 worship service, I think I finally have a permanent link:

<https://vimeo.com/event/1266906>.

Let me know if it doesn't work for you.

## **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 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.

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/>.

**CHOIRS STARTING UP AGAIN** by Clark Williamson

Our adult choirs are returning for music ministry at FUMC. The Bell Choir has had their first practice. There are still 3 ringer positions that need to be filled, to cover all vacant spots. The ensemble practices on Wednesday at 7:00 in the sanctuary.. Ability to read music is helpful but not a requirement. Our Bell Choir plays their piece at the 10:30 service, approximately every 5 to 6 weeks. Please call me if you are the least bit interested and would like more information. (785-280-3355).

The Chancel Choir will have their first rehearsal this Wednesday, Sept. 15th at 6:15 downstairs in Wright Hall. We'd love for all former and new singers to participate. Choral music of all styles will be sung. No audition is necessary....we are all one big family who praises God through music. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord".

**A PRAYER FOR THE CLOSE OF DAY** by John Collins

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](http://abilenefirstumc.org).

## **WANT TO TALK TO THE PASTOR?**

John's contact information is 620-252-9622 (mobile phone) and [john@revcollins.com](mailto:john@revcollins.com), or you can write a note on the back of the attendance insert.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## **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**

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting - 200 and Zoom

## **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
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 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 and Zoom

## **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
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

## **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

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

## **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

- 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 23**

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

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

- 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, SEPTEMBER 28**

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

# 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 and Anna Gugler, Piano

Heather James and Heather Unruh, Liturgists

Kristy Engle and Tyler Green, Sound

Kristy Engle and Jackson Green, Slides

Chuck Brussow and David Carlson, Trumpet Duet

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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