



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

September 19, 2021 | 17th 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*

Holy Spirit

Video

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

Psalm 1 (NRSV)

¹ Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

² but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees

planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

HYMN*

I Need Thee Every Hour

UMH-397

Children's Message

Special Music

Here I Am, Lord

Scripture Reading

Mark 9:30-37 (NRSV)

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

HYMN*

Abide With Me

UMH-700

¹³Are any of you wise and understanding? Show that your actions are good with a humble lifestyle that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴However, if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, then stop bragging and living in ways that deny the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above. Instead, it is from the earth, natural and demonic. ¹⁶Wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and everything that is evil. ¹⁷What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. ¹⁸Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts.

¹What is the source of conflict among you? What is the source of your disputes? Don't they come from your cravings that are at war in your own lives? ²You long for something you don't have, so you commit murder. You are jealous for something you can't get, so you struggle and fight. You don't have because you don't ask. ³You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings.

⁴You unfaithful people! Don't you know that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? ⁵Or do you suppose that scripture is meaningless? Doesn't God long for our faithfulness in the life he has given to us? ⁶But he gives us more grace. This is why it says, God stands against the proud, but favors the humble. ⁷Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. ^{8a}Come near to God, and he will come near to you.

A STATEMENT OF FAITH*

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

(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* *They'll Know We Are Christians* FWS-2223

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

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Phyllis Garrett [9/19], Joetta Nagely [9/19], Arthur Sprouse [9/12], Robin Motl (friend Angie Hoerner) [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], 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, Jackson Ranles, 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 Enterprise United Methodist Church and their pastor, Arnie Boyd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEALING WITH ANGER AND TAMING THE TONGUE — After my sermons on James 1:19-27 (dealing with anger) and James 3:1-12 (taming the tongue) I had requests for the lists I gave. Here they are. They were put together with gleanings from Christian teachers and theologians, and advice from all of you.

10 Suggestions for Dealing with Anger

1. Pray. If you feel you cannot pray, try anyway. Speak your anger to God and ask for help finding love in the midst of that which vexes you. If you need an example, search the Psalms—which often contain open and honest reflections on anger. And when you calm down keep praying, pray to remember that God loves you and that your personal worth is grounded in that love.
2. Remember that God loves the person you are angry with no less than God loves you. Avoid contempt. Contempt often leads to anger, but contempt can only arise when we deny the value of a person whom God loves.
3. Remember that you are loved, but don't take yourself too seriously. Not everything bad that happens to you is an injustice on a cosmic scale.
4. Try to see it from the other person's point of view. Walk a mile in their shoes. "Be curious, not angry."
5. Remember a time when you have done something wrong and hurt someone and use that memory to find patience and understanding.

6. Give yourself permission to express other emotions. If you don't, emotions like grief and sadness will often present themselves in an eruption of anger.
7. When you find yourself unexpectedly set off by something, it may be worth digging into why it set you off. Are there issues that need to be further explored, resolutions that need to be sought? Ask yourself what hurt or fear was triggered.
8. Remember that God's justice will come in the end, and that your anger will not speed it up.
9. Calm down before confronting the person who made you angry—give your human brain time to reassert control over your lizard brain. If you have to scream, go someplace where no one can hear you—or at least let those around you know that you're not angry at them. Then take a deep breath, count to ten, exercise, talk it out with a friend, knead bread, or whatever else brings you peace. As we discussed earlier, expressions of anger in response to anger often just provoke further anger.
10. Do not repress or deny anger, but don't cling to it either.

12 Tips for Taming the Tongue

1. WWJD — though Jesus always kept his tongue in check, he still said what needed to be said (often in quite memorable ways, and sometimes quite bluntly). He was not rude or hateful, but he did say what needed to be said. In this, as in all things, we should strive to follow his example. We seek to tame our tongues because we want to accomplish things with the words we say.
2. Apologize. You can't unspeak your words, but you can apologize. It may help you control yourself the next time.

3. A rude response to someone's facebook post is like putting a rude sign up in their front yard. Just keep scrolling. If they consistently say things that offend you—snooze or unfollow them. Facebook spats seldom change anyone's mind.

4. When provoked, follow Abe Lincoln's example and write out a letter and then wait to send it—you may decide you really don't need to. This works for both analog and digital. Write emails without putting in an email address, that way you can't accidentally hit send.

5. Don't feel the need to respond to people you don't agree with. If necessary, confide your feelings to someone you trust. "Venting" doesn't necessarily help us deal with our anger, but it may help us contain our anger until we can address it rather than expressing it in a way that would be detrimental.

6. Remember that very seldom are people obligated to listen to you. Even less often are people compelled to heed what you say. And you cannot force anyone to respect you. Biting words discourage people from confiding in you, talking to you, or even listening to you.

7. Even the truth should only be spoken if you can answer yes to at least one of these three three questions: Is it kind? Is it helpful? Is it necessary?

8. Make your criticism constructive—but remember that it still requires some maturity among the person receiving the criticism in order to be received. The ability to listen to constructive criticism is a skill that we should seek to develop in ourselves.

9. Don't respond immediately. Pause. Wise words from Rev. Terry Koehn: "I forget who it was that said, what makes us human is our ability to put a pause between stimulus and response. That pause is where battle with the tongue is fought,

and the outcome of that battle is what can sometimes start a war or win the peace” Discern the right time to address the issue.

10. “Be curious, not combative.” Remember that the person letting you have it may very well be mad about something else and just taking it out on you.

11. In person conversations can help avoid conflict—we can see facial expressions, we can hear the tone in someone’s voice. Written communications can allow us to carefully word what we want to say and give the other person time to think before they respond. Try to discern which approach is best for any given situation.

12. Prepare yourself for difficult conversations. Prayer can work wonders.

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’ve set up a standard zoom meeting for almost everything we do. The information is 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 — Below is what will hopefully be a permanent link for watching our 8:15 worship service live: <https://vimeo.com/event/1266906>.

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 had their first rehearsal on 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. All voice type ranges are needed. No audition is necessary....we are all one big family who praises God through music.

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 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, OCTOBER 3

- 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, OCTOBER 4

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling
- 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting - 200/Zoom

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

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 Amanda Cormack, Piano
Jason Vinduska and Steve Schwarting, Liturgists
Kaylee Weibert and Joy Clemence, Sound
Kaxton Weibert and Cecilia Clemence, Slides
Shelley Carroll, Flute Solo

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