



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

September 26, 2021 | 18th 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*

My Life Flows On

FWS-2212

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

Psalms 124 (NRSV)

¹ If it had not been the LORD who was on our side
—let Israel now say—

² if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,

³ then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴ then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵ then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

⁶ Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

⁷We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

⁸Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

HYMN*

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

UMH-127

Children's Message

Choral Anthem [10:30]

Step By Step

Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-21 (NRSV)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There

is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

HYMN*

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH-384

Scripture Reading

Mark 9:38-50 (CEB)

³⁸ John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone throwing demons out in your name, and we tried to stop him because he wasn't following us."

³⁹ Jesus replied, "Don't stop him. No one who does powerful acts in my name can quickly turn around and curse me. ⁴⁰ Whoever isn't against us is for us. ⁴¹ I assure you that whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will certainly be rewarded.

⁴² "As for whoever causes these little ones who believe in me to trip and fall into sin, it would be better for them to have a huge stone hung around their necks and to be thrown into the lake. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to fall into sin, chop it off. It's better for you to enter into life crippled than to go away with two hands into the fire of hell, which can't be put out. ⁴⁵ If your foot causes you to fall into sin, chop it off. It's better for you to enter life lame than to be thrown into hell with two feet. ⁴⁷ If your eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out. It's better for you to enter God's kingdom with one eye than to be thrown into hell with two. ⁴⁸ That's a place where worms don't die and the fire never goes out.

⁴⁹ Everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? Maintain salt among yourselves and keep peace with each other.”

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*

Reckless Love

On Screen

Dismissal with Blessing and 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: Mike Clemence [9/12]

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Phyllis Garrett [9/19], Joetta Nagely [9/19], Arthur Sprouse [9/12], Robyn Motl (friend of 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].

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 Hunter Grace-Barnard United Methodist Church and their pastor, Jeff Metzler.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY —On Oct. 3, United Methodists will join Christians around the globe to recognize oneness in Christ and celebrate World Communion Sunday. In The United Methodist Church, donations to the World Communion Special Sunday support scholarships to equip U.S. students of color and international students to transform the church and their communities as both laity and clergy. Special envelopes will be available next week.

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 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

<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 three practices. 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. The Choir sings their first anthem today.

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 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
- Youth Day at Lake

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-WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

- 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

- 6:00 p.m. Nominations Committee - 200/Zoom

- 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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 12:00 p.m. UMW Potluck Luncheon
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, OCTOBER 7

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

Quilt Sewing for Service Day

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

Youth Service Project Day

- 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

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 Angie Hoerner, Piano
Shauni Larson and Linda Rist, Liturgists
Ward Turnbull and Jackson Green, Sound
Ward Turnbull and Tyler Green, Slides

CONTACT INFORMATION

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