



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

October 31, 2021 | Reformation Sunday

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

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

HYMN*

Mighty to Save

On Screen

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

Mark 12:28-34 (NRSV)

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³²Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Scripture Reading

Ruth 1:1-19 (NRSV)

¹ In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶ Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰ They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I

should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”

¹⁶But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

¹⁷Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem.

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

Merciful God, we confess

that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heeded the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(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*

Pass It On

UMH-572

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: Those grieving the loss of River Millner [10/10] and those grieving the loss of Marsha Weaver [10/17].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Those mourning the death of Margaret McKisick (Anna Gugler's aunt) [10/10]

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 Randles, 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 Salina Grand Avenue United Methodist and their pastor Doug Birdsong.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW BIBLE STUDY GROUP

I'm excited to be starting a new Bible discussion group on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. The plan is to meet every Wednesday from 5:15 to 5:55. Each week we'll begin with a 5-10 minute video from bibleproject.com. We'll be starting with a five-part series on Exodus 34:6-7 that looks at God's compassion, grace, slowness to anger, loyal love, and faithfulness.

You can participate in person in room 200 (the blue room) or online through Zoom. If you want to participate online, please let me know in advance so I can send you a link to the video before the meeting.

My hope is that this will be an easy group for everyone to participate in. You don't need to do any reading in advance; you only need to bring yourself, maybe a Bible and your supper if you want. — John Collins

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

In order to approve the report of the Committee on Nominations and conduct other business before the Cluster Charge Conference, the Church Council will meet on Monday, November 8, 2021. This is the normal meeting time for the Board of Trustees, their meeting will be rescheduled.

CLUSTER CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our annual Church Conference is scheduled for Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at Salina Trinity UMC. We'll be meeting with Salina First UMC, Salina Trinity UMC, Salina Church of the Cross UMC, and Salina University UMC.

VINTAGE YEARS

We're coming up on our annual Vintage Years Celebration. It will be celebrated on Sunday, November, 7. There will be a time of special recognition for those members of our congregation who have reached 90 years or more.

Our list of those being recognized for the first time at this year's celebration includes Julius Frey, Joanna Clemence, Kenneth Dawson, Verl Eckman, Louise Frey, Nadine Griffin, Carl Hansen, and Martha Zutavern.

We'll also be honoring those who turned 90 previously to 2020 and 2021: Joe Clemence, Rose Marie Elliott, Melva Rector, Les and Marie Thornton, Gil Green, Donna Smith, Dorothy Veach, Ray Power, Darlene Sexton, Keith Rogers, Dorothy Snider, Velma Becker, Lois Ledy, Melvin Leckron, Marvin Ledy, Helen Harrold, Virginia Hoffman, Norma Runs, and Evelyn York.

Please let us know if there's someone we've missed.

AUGUSTINE ON RICHES

Some good advice from one Augustine of Hippo (AD 354 – 430):

“Riches . . . are gained with toil and kept with fear. They are enjoyed with danger and lost with grief. It is hard to be saved if we have them; and impossible if we love them; and scarcely can we have them but we shall love them inordinately. Teach us, O Lord, this difficult lesson: to manage conscientiously the goods we possess, and not covetously desire more than you give to us.”

— Augustine of Hippo, Sermon 133

THE PAINTING ON THE COVER OF TODAY'S BULLETIN

The painting on the cover of today's bulletin is titled “Peace! Be Still!” and was done by He Qi. You can find more of his art at <https://www.heqiart.com/>.

BELLS ARE RINGING AGAIN

It's the return of our adult Bell Choir, after a year and a half. We have 10 ringers including 2 new members in the group. Participating in the ensemble are Lisa Divel, Anna Gugler, Jayne Ronchetto, Teresa Weishaar, Andrea Purvis, Pam Simpson, Chuck Brussow, Larry Divel, Karlene Taylor, and Joann Hettenbach. Two of our ringers have requested temporary status and would like to be relieved when replacements are found. The Bell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 7:00-7:45. If you are interested, please talk to director Clark Williamson.

REVISIONS TO THE DIRECTORY

We are in the process of updating the contact information in the directory. You'll have the opportunity to look over your entry and make any additions or corrections you want at the Sunday morning worship services. If you can't be with us in person drop a line to office@abilenefirstumc.org or phone 785-263-2623.

PERMANENT 8:15 LIVESTREAM LINK

Below is what will hopefully be a permanent link for watching our 8:15 worship service live: vimeo.com/event/1266906.

ONE (NEW) ZOOM TO RULE THEM ALL

To make attending Zoom meetings easier, we've set up a standard zoom meeting for almost everything we do. The information is below.

Standard Zoom Meeting

Link: <https://bit.ly/3esFOVk>

Meeting ID: 769 703 4723 — Passcode: 67410

Manually Dial In With a Touch-Tone Phone

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 769 703 4723 — Passcode: 67410

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Drive Thru Trick or Treat

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- 9:30 a.m. Prairie Arts Quilters - 208
- 1:00 p.m. UMW General Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 5:15 p.m. Bible Study Group
- 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, NOVEMBER 4

- 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, NOVEMBER 7

Vintage Years Celebration

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, NOVEMBER 8

6:00 p.m. Church Council - 200

7:00 p.m. Worship Design - 200

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

7:00 p.m. Sand Spring Rustlers 4-H Club

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group - 200

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

3:30 p.m. Power & Light

5:15 p.m. Bible Study Group

6:00 p.m. Communion via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Cookie Baking

6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

7:00 p.m. Bell Choir

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

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. Quilters Small Group

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 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

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).

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

Anita Larson and Kent Wyatt, Liturgists

Ward Turnbull and Carson Woodworth, Sound

Ward Turnbull and Carson Woodworth, Slides

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