



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

November 28, 2021 | First Sunday of Advent

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*

People Look East

UMH-202

CALL TO WORSHIP

The days are surely coming, says the LORD,
when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

**Justice and righteousness will fill the land
and all will live in peace and safety.**

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Opening Prayer

Lighting the First Advent Candle

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NRSV)

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be

blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

HYMN* *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* UMH-196

Children's Message

Choral Anthem [10:30] *Our Hope is in Emmanuel*

Scripture Reading Luke 21:34-38 (NRSV)

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

³⁷Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. ³⁸And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

HYMN* *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vss 1-4* UMH-211

Scripture Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSV)

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Sermon

A STATEMENT OF FAITH

UMH 883

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

Invitation to Holy Communion

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;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Hear the good news:
By the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
our sins are forgiven and our guilt is set aside.
Glory to God. 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-95

THANKSGIVING AND 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

Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven.

Amen.

Jesus Christ, the cup of salvation.

Amen.

Prayer following Communion

GOING FORTH

HYMN*

Joy to the World

UMH-246

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: Ellouise Marshall [11/28], those grieving the loss of J.M Frey [11/21] and those grieving the loss of Elinor Haas [11/21].

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS: Kris Heger (brother of Michael Heger) [11/28], Rhoda Frasier [11/21]

THOSE WORSHIPPING 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 Washington-Haddam-Barnes United Methodist Churches and their pastor Daniel Norwood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH ACTIVITIES — During the children's message last Sunday, Wendy Robinson rattled off a list of things the youth had been up to in the past year. I've shared that list below. I'm thankful for all these things our children and youth do.

- Made and delivered fruit baskets
- Praise Band
- Delivered signs and bulletins
- Ran slides and sound
- Raked leaves
- Sent college care packages
- Delivered thanksgiving goodies
- Helped with the Eisenhower Marathon
- VBS (Youth helping, children attending)
- Christmas Pageant
- Drive Thru Trick or Treat
- Putting up Christmas decorations
- Special music
- Zoom meetings
- Bible Study
- Donations to the Little Free Pantry
- Praying for the Congregation
- Helped with the livestream and online worship services

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY — United Methodists have been investing in our students for more than 100 years. United Methodist Student Day invites the church to support United Methodist students in achieving their educational goals. The funds received fund United Methodist scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. Your gifts help young people achieve their educational calling with more financial freedom. Envelopes are included in the bulletin today.

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY HYMNS — Here are the hymns we've scheduled for this Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle: *People Look East; Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus; O Come, O Come Emmanuel; Joy to the World; God Almighty, We Are Waiting; O Come, All Ye Faithful; Infant Holy, Infant Lowly; It Came Upon the Midnight Clear; I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light; There's a Song in the Air; He is Born, the Holy Child; Angels We Have Heard on High; My Soul Gives Glory to My God; Hark! the Herald Angels Sing; Joy to the World; Away in a Manger; Silent Night; The Friendly Beasts; O Little Town of Bethlehem; Go Tell it on the Mountain; Angels From the Realms of Glory; God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen; Good Christian Friends Rejoice; In the Bleak Midwinter; What Child is This; We Three Kings; The First Noel; and Sing We Now of Christmas.*

Is one of your favorites not listed above? Let us know and we'll see what we can do. The plan is to have *O Holy Night* sung as a solo at both the 7 pm and the 11 pm Christmas Eve services.

COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS — In anticipation of the Advent and Christmas seasons the Church Council approved the theme "Coming Home for Christmas." A large banner with that theme, our website, and our regular Sunday Morning and Christmas Eve worship times has been ordered for the church grounds. The banner will be red to match the "Love Kindness" yard signs.

We've also placed another order of 100 "Love Kindness" yard signs for those who want a first one and those who want to replace the one they have.

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING — Singers are needed to go caroling at Heritage Center on Sunday, December 5. Enter through the museum. Please sign the green sheet in the church narthex or contact Clark Williamson (785) 280-3355. Our part in the festivities will take place that evening. Arrive by 5:45 pm. Bring a flashlight. Song sheets will be provided.

NEW BIBLE STUDY GROUP — 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.

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. — John Collins

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.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP? — Are you interested in joining the Abilene 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.

EMAIL UPDATES — John uses a service called TinyLetter to send out blog posts by email every day or so. This way, you can keep up with the blog at revcollins.com by simply checking your email inbox. You can also reply with an email of your own and let us know what you think. You can sign up at tinyletter.com/jcollins11.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- 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. Girls Basketball Dinner - Wright Hall

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 9:30 a.m. Prairie Art Quilters
- 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, DECEMBER 2

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 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
- 5:45 p.m. Caroling at the Heritage Center

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 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 Christmas Party
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins
- 9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group
- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 9:30 a.m. EOTT Guild - Peatling
- 5:30 p.m. AHS Basketball Team Dinner
- 5:30 p.m. Small Group Quilters
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 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, DECEMBER 13

- 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
- 7:00 p.m. Sand Spring Rustlers 4-H Club
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Design

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 9:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group
- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Faith/Hope/Love Circle Meeting - 200
- 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, DECEMBER 16

- 5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil begins
- 9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group
- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 5:30 p.m. AHS Basketball Team Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Peatling

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

Vinduska and Holt Families, Advent Candle Lighting
Kristy Engle and Angie Hoerner, Piano
Shauni Larson and Joy Clemence, Liturgists
Ward Turnbull and M. Cook, Sound and Slides

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