



**AN ORDER OF  
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany | February 20, 2022

**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\***

*Mighty to Save*

WS-3038

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 37:39-40 (NRSV)

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;

**he is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

The LORD helps them and rescues them;

he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,

**because they take refuge in him.**

Opening Prayer

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**HYMN\***

*Cristo Vive*

UMH-313

Children's Message

Special Music

*Without Seeing You*

Scripture Reading

Luke 6:27-38 (NRSV)

<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to

everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

## **HYMN\***

*Christ Is Risen*

UMH-307

## Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-54 (NRSV)

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup> Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup> There are both heavenly bodies and

earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. <sup>41</sup> There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

<sup>54</sup> When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

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;  
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.)

#### **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** (Ecumenical Version)

UMH 894

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## GOING FORTH

**HYMN\***

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

UMH-140

Dismissal with Blessing\*

Postlude\*

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\*\*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:** Velda Becker [2/20], Ellouise Marshall [2/06], those grieving the loss of Sara Burwell [2/06].

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:** Those grieving the loss of Christopher Griffith (son of Christine Hoffman) [2/20], Judy Schroeder (friend of Leslie Hoffman) [2/20], Mike Jantz [2/06]

**THOSE WORSHIPING FROM HOME:** Gary Donley, Evelyn York, Velma Becker, Joe and Joanna 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, 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 Concordia First United Methodist Church and their pastor Kibum Kim.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **A Few Thoughts on Baptism** by John Collins

There's been a story in the news about a clergy person in another denomination who baptized people with the wrong pronoun ("we" instead of "I"). I don't know enough about that other denomination to weigh in according to their theology, but in the United Methodist Church this would be a non-issue. Below are a few of the reasons.

1. I may have baptized you, but God did the heavy lifting. And for this I am thankful, it would be really hard for me to screw up a baptism because God's doing the majority of the work. To think I could do so by using the wrong pronoun would be to take too much credit for what is primarily an act of God.
2. I do follow the traditional rubric of "Name, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost". But this is not a spell from the fictional world of Harry Potter that won't work unless it is said in just the right way. This is a sacrament, the grace of God is at work and the Holy Spirit will not be turned aside by a simple mistake on the part of the pastor. Furthermore Jesus said to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)— but he never gave us an exact wording with the proper pronouns.
3. What happens if more than one person does the baptism? Jenny and I have done a lot of them together. I don't remember ever saying we, but it certainly would have been appropriate. I've got more, but I'm going to stop there.

**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](http://revcollins.com) by simply checking your email inbox. You can sign up at [tinyletter.com/jcollins11](http://tinyletter.com/jcollins11).

## **AN INSPIRING STORY ABOUT THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY**

Here's a story from Lisa Divel about how important this ministry is:

“Every time that we have been at the Little Free Pantry and someone in need was there, they have all commented about how thankful they were for the Little Free Pantry. The story that I love most is of a woman who stopped at the church, and I helped her put food items in the Little Free Pantry (she was donating). I told her, ‘thank you,’ and she said, ‘no, thank you. There have been times when I needed the Little Free Pantry, or we were not going to eat, and I’m paying it back.’ ”

## **JOHN (AND JENNY AND LIZ) ARE MOVING**

In last November's Appointive Recommendation, The Staff Parish Relations Committee indicated to the Bishop and his cabinet that: “Our [Abilene First UMC's] mission can be met with our current pastor, but we would also be open to a new pastor who has gifts/skills in the area(s) of [a] fresh perspective to re-invigorate and help the church grow.” I agreed with this assessment wholeheartedly. For the same reason, I indicated that I was ready for a move on my own appointive recommendation.

After a process of careful discernment, the Bishop is appointing me to Manhattan College Avenue UMC effective July 1, 2022. The Bishop and Cabinet will work hard to discern the pastor who will take my place and make that announcement as soon as possible, but I will continue to serve as your pastor until the end of June.

**WANT TO TALK TO THE PASTOR?** — John's mobile number is 620-252-9622 and his email is [john@revcollins.com](mailto:john@revcollins.com), or you can write a note on the back of the attendance insert.

**VOICES: THICK SKIN, TENDER HEART** by John Collins  
Words of wisdom from Rachel Held Evan's final book,  
*Wholehearted Faith*:

"Thick skin, tender heart."

You never want to toughen up so much that you lose your tender heart, the part of you that experiences and processes pain and compassion and love. . . . Sometimes you have to remind yourself that it is okay, and not just okay but normal and right and good, to feel hurt when someone calls you names or questions your faith.

I'm just as uncomfortable with uncertainty and emotional exposure as the next person, but I also know that just about every sociological study on the subject shows that meaningful connection requires risk and vulnerability, and you can't argue with that data.

"Thick skin, tender heart." I'm taking that advice to heart in hopes of becoming more Christlike and fully human.

**COOKIES NEEDED FOR COFFEE TIME** — We are looking for donations of cookies to be shared during coffee time each week. If you could share, please leave cookies in the kitchen. You don't need to be available to serve them.

**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.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

- 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, FEBRUARY 21**

- 5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee Meeting - 200
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

## **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild - Wright Hall

## **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 5:15 p.m. Bible Discussion Group
- 6:00 p.m. Communion (in-person and Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

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

## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

- 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, FEBRUARY 28**

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 1**

- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 12:00 p.m. Retired School Personnel - Wright Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 - ASH WEDNESDAY**

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Prairie Arts Quilters - 208
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 5:15 p.m. Bible Discussion Group
- 6:00 p.m. Communion (in-person and Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

## **THURSDAY, MARCH 3**

- 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 Board
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

# 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

Angie Hoerner, Piano

Violin Solo, Clark Williamson

Anita Larson and Jensen Woodworth, Liturgists

Kristy Engle and Jackson Green, Sound

Kristy Engle and Tyler Green, Slides

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

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