



AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

First Sunday in Lent | March 6, 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

GATHERING

Gathering of the Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

HYMN* *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* UMH 269

CALL TO WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

Psalm 91 (NRSV)

- ¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
 who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
² will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;
 my God, in whom I trust."
³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
 and from the deadly pestilence;
⁴ he will cover you with his pinions,
 and under his wings you will find refuge;
 his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night,
 or the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
 or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
 ten thousand at your right hand,
 but it will not come near you.

- ⁸You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
- ⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,
¹⁰no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
- ¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
¹²On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
- ¹³You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent
you will trample under foot.
- ¹⁴Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
¹⁵When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
- ¹⁶With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

HYMN* *O God, Our Help In Ages Past*, Vss 1, 3, 4, 6 UMH-117

Children's Message

Choral Anthem [10:30]

Let Me Be

Scripture Reading

Romans 10:8b-13 (NRSV)

^{8b}"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart"
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you
confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your
heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and

one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

HYMN*

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

UMH-133

Scripture Reading

Luke 4:1-13 (NRSV)

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹ and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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.)

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*

Take Time to Be Holy

UMH-395

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: Velda Becker [2/20], Ellouise Marshall [2/06], and those grieving the loss of Verl Eckman [3/06],

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

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.

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 Courtland United Methodist Church and their pastor Sandra Jellison-Knock.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENERAL CONFERENCE POSTPONED by John Collins

The Commission on General Conference has decided to postpone the August 2022 worldwide gathering of United Methodist delegates until the regularly scheduled one in 2024. A video message and letter from Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. can be found below. In response to this news, the Global Methodist Church, a traditionalist Methodist denomination has announced that it will launch in May 2022.

A copy of the bishop's letter can be picked up from the church office or found online at <https://bit.ly/35Pyhhe>.

This will not be an easy time for our denomination, but my hope is that since Abilene First has always been staunchly United Methodist it will not negatively affect us on the local church level. The UMC is not perfect, but no church is (and, until Jesus returns, no church will be). We do a great deal of good together. (For example, today we're supporting relief in Ukraine through the United Methodist Committee on Relief.)

I love the United Methodist Church because of our Wesleyan focus on God's love and God's grace. These two themes run throughout scripture and were fully embodied in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. When we talk about inclusion and belonging for all people, we are not being hopelessly optimistic or politically correct. Instead, we tapping into the New Testament's vision of the church. I love being part of a denomination that advocates for Spirit empowered holiness on both the personal and social level. I've spoken to many of you who feel the same way. We're not going anywhere and God has promised to be with us through every storm.

VERL ECKMAN'S FUNERAL

Verl Eckman died on February 27, 2022. The funeral will be in the Sanctuary at ~~10:30~~ 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. Graveside services will follow at 2:30 p.m. at the Beverly Cemetery, Beverly, Kansas. The obituary can be found at <https://bit.ly/3MkKBqs>. Please pray for Betty and the rest of the family.

There will be a funeral dinner for the family following the 10:00 a.m. service, Cecilia Clemence, our Funeral Dinner Coordinator, is looking for people to make salads and pies. Please contact her (the number is in the directory) if you can help.

DICKINSON COUNTY DONATE DAY

The annual donate for matching funds day by the Community Foundation of Dickinson County will be on March 18, 2022. Whatever you give to the First United Methodist Church in care of the Foundation will be matched up to \$5,000. Checks should be dropped off at the Foundation at 418 NW 3rd from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

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 sign up at tinyletter.com/jcollins11.

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.

YOUR NEW PASTOR — Last Sunday, at both worship services, Jill Lang, the chair of the SPRC, shared the following letter from Bishop Reuben Saenz:

Dear Friends,

The cabinet and I are pleased to announce that Mik King will be appointed as your pastoral leader beginning July 1, 2022. This appointment concludes a thorough process during which the staff parish committee of your church has been consulted along with Mik. We have prayed asking for God’s wisdom about the best available leadership for your church and this is our decision.

As with all appointments, this one will be fixed during the annual conference closing session on June 11, 2022.

I extend my best wishes and prayers to you all during this transition of pastoral leadership for your congregation.

Grace and peace,

Ruben Saenz, Jr.

As I told the congregation at both services, Mik is both a colleague and a friend. And not only a friend but also one of my best friends.* I believe she is an excellent fit for this congregation.

*If you dread another pastor like me—fear not; she’s my friend, not my clone. For example, she’s a little bit shorter and a whole lot nicer.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

- 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, MARCH 7

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

- 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, MARCH 10

- 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. Small Group Quilters
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

- 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, MARCH 14

- 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees - 200
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling
- 7:00 p.m. Sand Spring Rustlers 4-H Club
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Design - 200

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

- 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, MARCH 17

- 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. Small Group Quilters
- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

NOTES

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

Shauni Larson and Will Burton, Liturgists

Kaylee Weibert and Olivia Crist, Sound

Kaxton Weibert and Jill Lang, Slides

CONTACT INFORMATION

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