



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

Second Sunday in Lent | March 13, 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

Piano Prelude

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

Isaiah 55:1-9 (NRSV)

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD,
that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

HYMN* *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* UMH-127

Children's Message

Choral Anthem [10:30] *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Scripture Reading Psalm 63:1-8 (NRSV)

¹ O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
⁵ My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
⁶ when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
⁷ for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
⁸ My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

HYMN*

God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH-577

Scripture Reading

Luke 13:1-9 (NRSV)

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Sermon

HYMN*

Just As I Am

UMH-357

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*

Walk With Me

FWS-2242

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], Jim Belvill (brother of Maria Nuss, friend of Anna Gugler) [3/13]

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 Culver United Methodist Church and their pastor DeMerle Eckart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 on March 18. You can give online on that day at www.donatedickinson.com. If you want to, you can bring your check to the Church Office prior to that day. Make it out to the Community Foundation with Abilene First UMC in memo line. You can also make a donation online at donatedickinson.com.

JOHN'S ON VACATION

Please welcome Amanda Cormack back to the pulpit today. Pastor John's on vacation and will be until next Sunday (March 20, 2022). In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call or text John at 620-252-9622 and he'll do his best to respond.

NO BIBLE STUDY OR COMMUNION THIS WEDNESDAY

Because Pastor John is on vacation there will be no Bible Study or Communion service this Wednesday (March 16, 2022). Both will resume at their normal times of 5:15 and 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UKRAINE THROUGH UMCOR

Last week we received \$1362 in donations for UKRAINE through UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief). If you missed the opportunity (or if you want to contribute again) you can do so by making a check out to First UMC with Ukraine in the memo line or by using an offering envelope and writing "Ukraine" on it.

THE ARTWORK ON THE SCREEN

The artwork on the screens this morning was created by Julia Datta of Kyiv City, Ukraine.

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.

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.

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 one of the pastors 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 sign up at tinyletter.com/jcollins11.

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.

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light
- 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

SUNDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 21

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting - 200
- 7:00 p.m. EOTT Quilt Guild

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 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, MARCH 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, MARCH 28

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling
- 7:00 p.m. SPRC - 200

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

- 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 31

- 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

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 Anna Gugler, Piano
Kevin Bailey and Everett Everson, Liturgists
Joy Clemence and Jensen Woodworth, Sound
Joy Clemence and Carson Woodworth, Slides

CONTACT INFORMATION

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