



**AN ORDER OF  
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

Third Sunday of Easter | May 1, 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\***

*Gather Us In*

UMH-2236

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Opening Prayer

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading

John 21:1-19 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?"

They answered him, "No."

<sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some."

So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

**HYMN\***      *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*      UMH-344

### Children's Message

Scripture Reading      Acts 9:1-20 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Get

up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

<sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

**HYMN\***

*Be Thou My Vision*

UMH-451

Scripture Reading

Psalms 121 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—

from where will my help come?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

Sermon

**A STATEMENT OF FAITH\***

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\*** [8:15]

*Gloria Patri*

UMH-71

Invitation to Holy Communion

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

**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 heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

Presenting 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

UMH-15,16

## 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

The body of Christ, given for you.  
**Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, given for you.  
**Amen.**

# GOING FORTH

**HYMN\***      *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*      WS-3104

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:** Diedre Dunham [4/3], Carol Fick [3/20], Ellouise Marshall [2/06].

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:** Lucky Seyler, (brother of Rita Everson) [5/1], Clara Thomas (infant granddaughter of Darrol & Diedre Dunham) [4/24], Becky Frederick and Carol Kruse (sisters of Kent Wyatt) [4/17], Rick and Maggie Brockman (son and daughter in law of Pam Jackson) [4/10], Barbara Stultz (sister of Fran Hunt, friend of Judy Jones) [4/3] Kathy Swisher (daughter of Eunice Gay) [3/27].

**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 Haddam United Methodist Church and their pastor David Manyara.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**

This past Sunday (April 24, 2022), we welcomed Jamie and Michael Linenberger into membership at the 8:15 service. Please be sure to take time to personally welcome them the next time you see them.

## **THINGS I WANT YOU TO KNOW AS I LEAVE #3** by John Collins

I probably should have shared this when I came, but I'm sharing it now. I fear that we've missed some opportunities to connect. I don't know that you need or want a pastoral visit unless you let me know. There are two reasons for this.

First, because of HIPAA, I don't have any way of knowing you are in the hospital unless you let me know or have someone else let me know.

Second, being raised in Kansas, I was taught that you don't invite yourself over to other people's homes. Instead, you wait for an invitation. As someone who often wants to be alone when I'm hurting this makes sense to me. If you need or want a visit, I'm more than happy to come but very reluctant to invite myself over.

Third, unless you tell me otherwise, I'll generally assume that you want me to reply in the same manner that you contact me. So, for example, if you text me, I'll take it you prefer that I text you back unless you tell me you want a phone call or an in-person visit.

I'm sharing this even though it's about time for me to leave because every pastor I know faces this challenge. I'm sharing this in the hope that it might be helpful for your relationships with future pastors.

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE CARDS** by John Collins

Once again we have cards to be signed by the entire congregation in the back of the Narthex (the lobby). Please take the time to sign. These cards can be a real encouragement to folks who are sick.

## **THINGS I WANT YOU TO KNOW AS I LEAVE #4** by John Collins

My colleague, Amanda Baker, wrote what follows about funerals. I'm thankful that she gave me permission to share it with you. Hopefully, it helps to explain why I don't believe you need me to come back to officiate at funerals after I move.

"It isn't hard for skilled clergy to preach a funeral for a person we've never met. I know that sounds strange, but it's true. Meeting the family and gathering the stories and tidbits that tell us about a person's life and witness are some of the best things we get to do, and I promise it's enough. When we do know the person, we nearly ALWAYS learn things we hadn't known, and, to tell the truth, we're much more at risk of skewing the service with our own perception of the person."

"We bring an understanding of the grief process, a theology of resurrection, the tradition of the Church, and a willingness to listen. You bring the stories and the love, and together they create the right service for the person you love."

"I know many of you have been to a service where it was wildly evident the officiant didn't know anything about the deceased. But that isn't really the problem. The problem is that they didn't listen to the people who did."

## **2022-2023 CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Scholarship Committee met recently and awarded scholarships to everyone who applied. Recipients were: Braden Adams, Sam Burton, Joy Clemence, Chesney Sprinkle, Rae Schwarting, Sydney Burton, Beth Holmes, Maren Meneley, Claire Weishaar, and Reagan Ditto.

**BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE** — Mary Jane Oard is turning 85! You are invited to help her celebrate at an open house reception on May 7, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Abilene Senior Center, 100 South Elm, Abilene, KS. Hosts are Pam Barrett, [gparrett1997@gmail.com](mailto:gparrett1997@gmail.com), Judy Barten, [judy.barten@gmail.com](mailto:judy.barten@gmail.com), and Jean Phillips, [jeanphillips@moreland.com](mailto:jeanphillips@moreland.com). We request no gifts, just your presence. Please contact any of the above with any questions.

**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 mobile phone number is 620-252-9622 and his email is [john@revcollins.com](mailto:john@revcollins.com).

## **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](http://abilenefirstumc.org).

## **INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?**

Are you interested in joining the Abilene First UMC as a member and making a formal commitment to God, the church, and yourself? If so, please let Pastor John know.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## **SUNDAY, MAY 1**

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

## **MONDAY, MAY 2**

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

## **TUESDAY, MAY 3**

- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 12:00 p.m. Dickinson County Retired School Personnel
- 6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee - 200

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 4**

- 9:30 a.m. Prairie Art Quilters
- 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
- 7:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

## **THURSDAY, MAY 5**

- 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

**SUNDAY, MAY 8** — Confirmation Sunday

- 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, MAY 9**

- 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 - Wright Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Design - 200

**TUESDAY, MAY 10**

- 9:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise - Narthex
- 9:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group - 200

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11**

- 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
- 7:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, MAY 12**

- 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. Quilters

**SUNDAY, MAY 15**

Senior Recognition Day

# 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

Beth Weibert and Joy Clemence, Liturgists

Kaylee Weibert and Jensen Woodworth, Sound

Kaxton Weibert and Carson Woodworth, Slides

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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