



**AN ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

Confirmation Sunday | Fourth Sunday of Easter | May 8, 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*

Mighty to Save

WS-3038

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

Exodus 3:1-8 (NRSV)

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the

God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

HYMN*

Here I Am Lord

UMH-593

Children's Message

Choral Anthem [10:30]

Days of Elijah

Scripture Reading

Matthew 8:5-13 (NRSV)

⁵When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him ⁶and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." ⁷And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." ⁸The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it."

¹⁰When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:1-9 (NRSV)

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!"

Messages from the 2022 Confirmation Class

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT [10:30]**THE APOSTLES' CREED*** [8:15]

**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

**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.**

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us, 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

(Please feel no obligation to give if you are a guest.)

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*

Step by Step

WS-3004

Dismissal with Blessing and 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: 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] 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 Hope United Methodist Church and their pastor Thomas Blake.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERS OF THIS YEAR'S CONFIRMATION CLASS

Today's our confirmation Sunday. Members of this year's confirmation class were: Shane Bryant, Ethan Gonzales, Jackson Green, Tyler Green, Eyley Holt, Luke Hunter, Emily Vinduska, and Kaylee Weibert.

PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR MAY AND JUNE

May 8	Confirmation Sunday
May 15	John Collins
May 22	John Collins
May 29	Peggy Riley
June 5	Rick Saylor
June 12	Mark Queen
June 19	John Collins
June 26	Amanda Cormack

THINGS I WANT YOU TO KNOW #5

I've heard through the grapevine that a going away party is being planned for me. I'm not entirely sure who all is planning this, so I'm just going to share my preferences here. I would prefer not to have a stand alone party. I would prefer that Jenny be included because we were unable to have a farewell for her due to Covid-19.

We get the keys to the Manhattan townhouse on June 1. The moving truck departs with our stuff on June 15, my last Sunday will be June 19. Jenny and I are looking forward to sharing Holy Communion with you during that service. It would be great to have either our regular spread or some cake and punch-coffee-tea-whatever afterwards as we say goodbye to all of you. That's really all we want or need.

GRADUATION RECEPTION FOR JOY CLEMENCE

Please join us in celebrating Joy Clemence's graduation! We will have a come and go brunch on Saturday, May 21st from 10:30am-1:30pm in Wright Hall at Abilene First United Methodist Church.

FOOD PANTRY MONTH

May is the month First UMC traditionally provides food and funds for the operation of the Abilene Area Food Pantry. The pantry's main needs are:

Baking Supplies: cake and muffin mixes, frosting, oil, flour, and sugar. **Canned Foods:** fruit, vegetables, soup, condiments, and meat substitutes. **Cereal:** hot cereal, cold cereal, and cereal and breakfast bars. **Cleaning Supplies:** laundry soap, dish soap, and hand soap. **Paper Goods:** toilet tissue, paper towels, napkins, and facial tissue. **Pastas:** macaroni, noodles, and spaghetti. **Personal Hygiene Items:** shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, women's feminine products, disposable diapers, men's shaving supplies, hand and body lotions, and creams. **Meats:** any kind of canned meat and fish, especially tuna. **Miscellaneous:** peanut butter, jelly, coffee, tea, ramen noodles, rice, dry beans, crackers, juice, syrup, instant potatoes, hamburger helpers, spices, salt and pepper, jello mixes, and pudding mixes.

Grocery sacks are available in the sanctuary. You're invited to take one home, fill it up, and to return it.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

On 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.

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.

A NOTE FROM BETTY ECKMAN

In the Easter Sunday bulletin Pastor John wrote a note in regards to "Congregation Care Cards", on how important it is for you to sign these cards. Not only for those who are ill, but for those who are grieving. The card we received, with all your signatures, upon Veri's death, was so appreciated. Thank you from Betty and Family.

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.

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.

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 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. 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

- 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 16

- 5:15 p.m. Memorials Committee - 200
- 6:00 p.m. Church Council - 200
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Peatling

TUESDAY, MAY 17

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. UMW Circle
- 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

THURSDAY, MAY 19

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

SATURDAY, MAY 21

- 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Joy Clemence Reception

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

Braden Adams, Drums

Confirmands, Liturgists

Shannon James and Braden Adams, Sound

Kaxton Weibert and Joy Clemence, Slides

CONTACT INFORMATION

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