



**AN ORDER OF  
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

Ascension Sunday | May 29, 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\***                      *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*                      UMH-312

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Reading                      Ephesians 1:15-23 (NRSVue)

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things

under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**HYMN\***                      *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*                      FWS-2088

Children's Message

Choral Anthem [10:30]                      *Write Your Blessed Name*

Scripture Reading                      Luke 24:44-53 (NRSVue)

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

**HYMN\***                      *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name, vs 1-4*                      UMH-154

## Scripture Reading

Acts 1:1-11 (NRSVue)

<sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

## Sermon

### **A STATEMENT OF FAITH**

(UMH 883)

**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\***

*Gloria Patri*

UMH-71

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

UMH-890

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
Through the work of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

(A time of silent prayers of confession.)

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen us in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

# **THANKSGIVING**

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-94

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dedication of Memorials:

Ken Brown, Landscaping; Paul Hettenbach, Worship Tech;  
John Zutavern, Music; Carl Miles, Music; Jerry Taylor, Bench;  
and Charlene Brown, Water Fountains.

**HYMN** *For All The Saints*, vs 1-2 UMH 711

New Memorial Funds Established:

Sandy Sleichter, Marsha Weaver, J. M. Frey, Sara Burwell,  
Verl Eckman, and Ivan Lahr.

Prayer

**HYMN** *For All The Saints*, vs 3-4 UMH 711

Naming the Honored Dead:

Walter Hartman, Sandy Sleichter, River Millner, Marsha Weaver, Marion Brown, Elinor Haas, J.M. Frey, Sara Burwell, Ivan Lahr, Verl Eckman, and the family and friends we now name in silence in our hearts.

Prayer

**HYMN**

*For All The Saints, vs 5-6*

UMH 711

**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**

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 <sup>[4/3]</sup>, Ellouise Marshall <sup>[2/06]</sup>.

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:** Michael Heger's aunt Vita <sup>[5/15]</sup>, Mary Collins (mother of John) <sup>[5/15]</sup>, Lucky Seyler, (brother of Rita Everson) <sup>[5/1]</sup>, Kathy Swisher (daughter of Eunice Gay) <sup>[3/27]</sup>, and those grieving the loss of Ken Simpson (Pam Simpson's father in law) <sup>[5/15]</sup>, Paul D. Brown (Janice Hoffman's uncle) <sup>[5/29]</sup>, comfort for a family who lost a premature infant.

**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 Industry United Methodist Church and their pastor Paula Scriptor.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **WEAR RED NEXT SUNDAY**

Rev. Rick Saylor will be filling the pulpit next Sunday, June 5 and suggested that everyone wear something red for Pentecost Sunday.

## **WEEPING FOR CHILDREN** by John Collins

"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."  
— Matthew 2:18 (NRSVue)

There was a horrible slaughter at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas yesterday. There is very little left to be said about the school shootings that plague us, but there is a great deal to be done. Tears are appropriate, thoughts and prayers are good, but action is required. There are many of our representatives from whom action is long overdue.

## **MEMORIAL DAY FRIENDLY REMINDER**

A friendly reminder that the church will be closed on Monday in observance of Memorial Day.

## **SENIOR HIGH GRADUATES OF AHS 2022**

We honored the following graduates on May 15: Braden Adams, Samuel Burton, Joy Clemence, Nick Holmes, and Maren Meneley. Please congratulate them when you see them.

## **THINGS I WANT YOU TO KNOW #6**

Sometimes, I'll ask you "does that make sense?" A tweet from Twitter user @DrAmyPsyD explains what I'm thinking:

"When I say, 'Does that make sense?,' it's not because I don't think you're smart. It's because I think that I am incoherent."

I wish I had seen this nine years ago and been able to share it with you then, but this is exactly what I'm thinking when I ask that question in a sermon.

## **THINGS I WANT YOU TO KNOW #7**

The seventh thing I want you to know is something that I wish I had shared when we first came. I'm not particularly eager to go to places/events by myself. Like most people, I get nervous going to places where I don't know anyone (or even where I know only a few people). Many, if not most, parishioners want their pastor to be active in the community. The best way you can help this along is to extend an invitation to a ball game, a concert, a play, a club meeting, the parade, the fair, etc.

Note: you don't need to pay your pastor's way when you invite them out. What my mother calls "Dutch Treat" is fine, even preferable. We're not looking for a free lunch, just your company.

## **PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR MAY AND JUNE**

May 29	Peggy Riley
June 5	Rick Saylor
June 12	Mark Queen
June 19	John Collins
June 26	Amanda Cormack

**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).

**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.

**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.

**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).

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

**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).

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## **SUNDAY, MAY 29**

- 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 30** — Office Closed - Memorial Day

## **TUESDAY, MAY 31**

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

## **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1**

- 10:30 a.m. Staff meeting
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **THURSDAY, JUNE 2**

- 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, JUNE 5** — 4-H 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, JUNE 6**

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Peatling

## **TUESDAY, JUNE 7**

- 10:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group Exercise

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8**

Great Plains Annual Conference - Omaha

**THURSDAY, JUNE 9**

Great Plains Annual Conference

5:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil Begins

9:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group

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

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10**

Great Plains Annual Conference

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11**

Great Plains Annual Conference

**SUNDAY, JUNE 12**

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, JUNE 13**

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees - 200

7:00 p.m. Worship Design - 200

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

**TUESDAY, JUNE 14**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15**

10:30 a.m. Staff meeting

1:30 p.m. UMW Circle - 200

6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

# 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

Peggy Riley, Pulpit

Anna Gugler and Angie Hoerner, Piano

Kevin Bailey and Heather Unruh, Liturgists

Wendy Robinson and Jenson Woodworth, Sound

Emily Vinduska and Carson Woodworth, Slides

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Wendy Robinson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

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Clark Williamson, Director of Music Ministries

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