



# West Texas Christmas

## UCC Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 13 • 5-6:30 p.m. • MAC



December 13, 2015

University Church of Christ exists by the grace of God to be a loving fellowship praising God by living and telling the good news of Jesus.

### WORSHIP

#### UCC Family News Video

282 *Oh, Praise the Lord*

#### Welcome/Congregational Prayer

Mark Hamilton

*Here I Am to Worship*

227 *On Zion's Glorious Summit*

318 *O Sacred Head*

#### Communion

Eric Hardegree

#### Scripture: Isaiah 53:1-6

##### Bread

337 *Hallelujah! What a Savior (1,2)*

##### Cup

337 *Hallelujah! What a Savior (3,4)*

##### Offering

#### Children's Church (3s-Fifth Grade)

1001 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

#### Scripture: Hebrews 2:9-18

Keegan Copher

#### *Pleased as Man with Men to Dwell*

Brent Isbell

543 *Wonderful Words of Life*

1002 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

#### Worship Leader

David Allen Sprott

*If you would like to pray with someone today, you are invited to pray with elders Eddie Mahanay and James Thompson in Room 101 at the close of our service.*

*Our Sunday morning service is broadcast live at [www.uccabilene.org](http://www.uccabilene.org).*

### REFLECTIONS

Brent Isbell, Preaching Minister

[brent@uccabilene.org](mailto:brent@uccabilene.org)

**Welcome!** If you are a visitor today, thank you for blessing us with your presence. Please fill out one of the **guest registry cards** (they are located on the seat backs), then simply drop your card into the offering plate later. If you are new to Abilene or looking for a church home, please come back soon. We would appreciate the chance to know you and welcome you into the University Church family.

**Project Emmanuel: Unwrapping God's Gift to Planet Earth.** Let's continue our short series preparing our hearts for Christmas. Our next stop is the book of Hebrews, where the unknown preacher of an ancient sermon says some amazing things about Jesus... He was made a little lower than the angels. He tasted death for everyone. He shared in our humanity in order to destroy the devil's death-lock on us. He was made like us (his brothers and sisters) in every way. He is not ashamed to call us family... This is some rich preaching! Today: ***Pleased as Man with Men to Dwell***. Our worship leader is **David Allen Sprott**.

**Our annual UCC Christmas Party** is tonight in the MAC, 5-6:30 p.m. Y'all come join us for ***A West Texas Christmas!***

**Wednesday: Wendell Willis** concludes his series ***Three Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity, & Islam***. 7 p.m. in the Family Room. The following week-December 23-there will be no mid-week activities at UCC.

#### When I think about the **BEST** of University Church, I think about...

- **Bob and Shirley Hunter.** Bob has an effervescent way with people. He's a smiling, caring, Christ-like force of nature! Bob and Shirley are people of irrepressible hospitality and outreach. Their life-long dedication to community service is part of the best of UCC.
- **Children.** This very morning, our youngest boys and girls will be practicing songs and drama for our party tonight. I love the Sundays they join me for Children's Time. I love our baby dedications. These little ones represent our future, and they are part of the best of UCC.

If you can think of some similar outstanding examples of UCC's best, let me know, and I will share them here: [brent@uccabilene.org](mailto:brent@uccabilene.org).

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for a ***West Texas Christmas TONIGHT*** from 5-6:30 p.m. in the MAC. We will have chili, beans and cornbread. If you signed up to bring food, don't forget. If you didn't, you need to bring a delightful, delectable dessert.

See y'all tonight, and be ready to have a good time y'all!

#### CLASS TIMES:

Sunday - 9 a.m.  
Wednesday - 7 p.m.

#### WORSHIP TIMES:

Sunday - 10 a.m., 5 p.m.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

733 E. N. 16th Street  
Abilene, TX 79601

**PHONE:** (325) 673-6497  
[www.uccabilene.org](http://www.uccabilene.org)

#### NURSERY FACILITIES

For your convenience, nursery facilities are available during worship in the Early Childhood Center.

#### ATTENDANCE:

Worship - <b>384</b>	December 6, 2015
Bilingual - <b>56</b>	Northern Oaks - <b>25</b>
Coronado - <b>88</b>	Chisholm Place - <b>16</b>
C. Village - <b>6</b>	Silver Spring - <b>49</b>

#### OFFERING:

Dec. 6 **\$28,053.10**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Jennifer Welch**, Children's Minister  
[jenniferw@uccabilene.org](mailto:jenniferw@uccabilene.org)

**Christmas Party:** Be sure and join us this evening from 5-6:30 p.m. for our annual Christmas party. Our UCC children three years old through fourth grade will sing tonight, while our fifth graders perform a Christmas skit. Children will need to wear pants or a skirt with a white shirt and a red or green bandana.

**Christmas Caroling:** Our children did a great job Wednesday evening at University Place.

**Children's Worship:** Please make a note that Children's Worship will not meet on December 27 or January 3.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

**Kyle Bowen**, Campus Ministry leader  
[campus@uccabilene.org](mailto:campus@uccabilene.org)

**Welcome:** If you are a visiting college student, we are glad you visited with us, and we would love to get to know you and connect with you.

**Special Schedule:** During the holidays, we will be on a special schedule. We will not meet as a college ministry on Wednesday nights or Sunday nights, but only on Sunday mornings in MAC 503. We hope you will join with the rest of the church in meeting at the normal gathering times.

## YEAR-END GIVING

At UCC, it is very typical to be behind, cash-flow wise, at this time of the year, and yet with your generosity by the time the year is over we have more than made up the deficit, or come very close to it. With just a few weeks left in 2015, the Elders would like to respectfully ask for your help in making up our deficit, which was approximately \$75,000 at the end of November. Meeting our cash-flow needs allows us to fully fund the various ministries at UCC without having to dip into our reserves, and it allows us to be on secure financial footing starting in 2016.

While the vast majority of the gifts made to UCC are done during the Sunday morning offering, there are other ways to make a gift to the church, such as donating an investment (like stock or a mutual fund) or by utilizing PayPal. **Jill Hoebelhenrich**, in the church office (673-6497), would be more than happy to help you with this.

The Finance Committee, chaired by **David Allen Sprott**, is busy working on the 2016 budget, and when it is finalized we will have that available to anyone who would like a copy.

We would like you to know that UCC has a healthy reserve fund for unforeseen events, like drainage issues surrounding the Early Childhood Center that we just addressed, paying deductibles for roof work done after the 2014 hail storm, helping members who are in need and other items that are outside of our budget. By meeting our 2015 cash flow needs, we can keep this reserve in a secure state.

The Elders would like to thank you for your generosity in 2015, and we pray for God's wisdom in using these resources wisely.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Jason Craddock**, Youth Minister  
[jason.craddock@uccabilene.org](mailto:jason.craddock@uccabilene.org)  
[facebook.com/groups/uymteens](https://facebook.com/groups/uymteens)

**No Activity Tonight:** We will not have an activity tonight because of our UCC Christmas Party. Come join us for that instead!

**HS Christmas Party:** Our HS Christmas party will be Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Towell home (2910 Shirley Road). This will also be the last Huddle until January. We will have food, games and a gift exchange. Everyone is encouraged to invite a friend to join you. We will provide transportation if needed from the Youth Center parking lot. HS students are asked to bring a potluck dish for our meal. Signups are online, so please take a look and signup for something: <http://tinyurl.com/uymchristmasparty>

**MS Christmas Party:** The MS party will be Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 7-8 p.m. in the Youth Center. There will also be snacks, games and Dollar Store mystery gifts. You don't have to bring anything. We will provide everything. Friends are welcome and you are strongly encouraged to invite them.

**Christmas Concert Week:** There are a plethora of Christmas concerts this week; a virtual smorgasbord of Christmas merriment! So, if you are not participating in one of these concerts, your assignment is to attend one of those concerts for a fellow youth groupers. We'll talk about it in class.

**Winterfest will be January 15-17, 2016:** This will be our fourth year to attend Winterfest, which has become one of our largest activities. Winterfest is a huge youth conference that happens in January each year with thousands of teens attending. We will leave on Friday afternoon (1/15) and drive straight to the convention center. We will stay in a hotel on Friday and Saturday night. The cost of the conference, which includes transportation, hotel, and conference registration is only \$50, so save your Christmas money. The deadline for payment is Sunday, Jan. 4 (hard deadline). Paperwork is available on the youth center desk and sent via email.

## TRANSITIONS

**Joey Roberts**, Communications Minister  
[joey@uccabilene.org](mailto:joey@uccabilene.org)

**Tonight**, we will join the **UCC Christmas Party** in the MAC from 5-6:30 p.m. If you didn't sign up in class a couple of weeks ago to bring food, then you are supposed to bring a dessert. See y'all there!

Our last small group of the year will be on **Sunday, Dec. 20** at the **Sprotts'** house (834 Elmwood Drive).

The **Conversations Class** has concluded for the semester and will return on Wednesday, Jan. 6.

Check out the **Facebook** page for more events and information pertaining to Transitions such as men's lunch, women's lunch, Bible class topics and more.

## PRAYER LIST

### BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS:

If you have a submission for the weekly bulletin, please submit to Joey by noon on Wednesdays. You may call him at 673-6497 or email [joey@uccabilene.org](mailto:joey@uccabilene.org).