



Merry Christmas

December 20, 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

- 659 *I Love to Tell the Story*
- 144 *O Worship the King*
- 143 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

Welcome/Congregational Prayer Mark Tate

- 1018 *Joy to the World*
- 995 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*
- 1008 *Angels From the Realms of Glory*
- 146 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

Communion Ron Hadfield

Bread

996 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Cup

998 *What Child is This?*

Offering

1005 *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

Children's Church (3s-Third Grade)

997 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20 Chris Willerton

O Come, Let Us Adore Him! Brent Isbell

264 *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

1028 *O Holy Night!*

Worship Leader Lanny Mullins

If you would like to pray with someone today, you are invited to pray with elders Paul Rotenberry and Jeff Arrington in Room 101 at the close of our service.

Our Sunday morning service is broadcast live at www.uccabilene.org.

REFLECTIONS

Brent Isbell, Preaching Minister
brent@uccabilene.org

Welcome! If you are a visitor today, thank you for blessing us with your presence. Many of us are traveling and visiting family during this holiday season, so we are always grateful for our guests from other places. Please fill out one of the **registry cards** (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 get to know you and perhaps welcome you and your family into the University Church family.

Project Emmanuel: Unwrapping God's Gift to Planet Earth. For several weeks, we have been unpacking a variety of texts that point to the coming of Christ and God's putting on flesh in the person of Jesus. This is Christmas week, so our last stop in preparing our hearts for the arrival of Jesus will be Luke 2. Here anticipation becomes reality. God enters history and does so in the most unusual, unexpected way—as the helpless newborn of a Middle Eastern peasant family. Today, we join our praise with that of angels and shepherds—**O Come, Let Us Adore Him!** Our worship leader this morning is **Lanny Mullins**.

Wednesday: This week there will be **no mid-week activities at UCC.**

Next Sunday: On **December 27**, there will be **no 9 a.m. Bible classes** and **no evening chapel service or activities.** The only UCC gathering next Sunday will be **10 a.m. worship.**

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

Generosity. This is the season of gifts and giving, and no group of people gives more freely than UCC! Every year, this church gives tens of thousands of dollars to special campaigns for missions, children's homes and food and clothing for UCC family and our Abilene neighbors. We fund ministries and outreach near and far. We share our ministry gifts with each other all year long. And countless service organizations benefit enormously from the time, energy, compassion and leadership of our University Church members. We are a blessed, big-hearted people who love our church, community and world. God has been good to us, and we want to share. Thank you for being fantastic Kingdom givers!

If you can think of some other similar examples of **UCC's Best**, let me know (brent@uccabilene.org). I will share them here with my own.

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

NURSERY FACILITIES

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

ATTENDANCE:	December 13, 2015
Worship - 388	Northern Oaks - N/A
Bilingual - N/A	Chisholm Place - 19
Coronado - 81	Silver Spring - 33

OFFERING:
Dec. 13 **\$24,908.14**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jennifer Welch, Children's Minister
jenniferw@uccabilene.org

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

Bible Class Schedule: No Bible classes on Sunday, Dec. 27. On Sunday, Jan. 3, elementary children will all meet upstairs in Room 219 for a time of combined Bible study. Pre-school classes will remain the same.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Kyle Bowen, Campus Ministry leader
campus@uccabilene.org

Welcome: If you are a visiting college student, we are glad you visited with us. We hope and pray that you will be uplifted by our worship service and our fellowship.

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 its other 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
facebook.com/groups/uymteens

Worst and Best Stories Ever Told Tonight: Tonight at 5 p.m., we will be taking a look at some of the worst Christmas stories ever told. We will have some Riff Tax/MST3K type fun with some terrible Christmas movies before talking about the greatest story ever told that began with the Nativity. We will eat hot dogs and chips for dinner and finish at 7:30 p.m. See you there. Bring a friend because it's going to be a lot of fun!

Holiday Huddle Schedule: We will not have any Huddle or class on 12/23 or 12/30. We will have a combined class on Wed, Jan. 6 in the Youth Center. Regular Huddles will resume Jan. 13.

No Activity Next Sunday: We will not have an activity next Sunday night, Dec. 27.

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

Tonight, we will have our last small group of the year will be at the **Sprotts'** house (834 Elmwood Drive).

From our family to yours, we hope you have a wonderful Christmas filled with love and family! We pray for safe travels and God's richest blessings on you and yours during this holiday season in the new year to come!

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

Keep up-to-date with the **Facebook** page for more events and information.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Dec. 23 - No Activities

Sunday, Dec. 27 - Worship ONLY, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 30 - Devotional, Family Room

Sunday, Jan. 3 - Return to normal schedules

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

December 21-23 - Open Regular Hours

December 24-25 - Office Closed

December 28-30 - Open 9 a.m.-noon; 1-4 p.m.

December 31 - Open 9 a.m.-noon

January 1 - Office Closed

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.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas!