



December 27, 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

226 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Welcome/Prayer for the People Brent Isbell

869 *We're Marching to Zion*

922 *Jesus Paid It All*

Communion Steve Austin

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

Bread

574 *Oh, How I Love Jesus (1)*

Cup

574 *Oh, How I Love Jesus (2)*

Offering

UCC Family News Video

854 *When He Comes in Glory By and By*

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52 Blake Williams

About My Father's Business Brent Isbell

882 *No Tears in Heaven*

Benediction: 1 John 4:7-12

Worship Leader Mark Tate

If you would like to pray with someone today, you are invited to pray with elders Kris Southward and Mark Tate 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 visiting us today, thank you for blessing us with your presence. You are an honored guest. It's the holiday time of year, so many of us are traveling and visiting family. Perhaps that's what brought you to us! Whether you have come from far or near, we are glad to share our worship time today with you. Please take just a moment to fill out one of the **registry cards** (located on the seat backs), then simply drop your card into the offering plate later. That's all we ask of you. If you happen to be new to Abilene and looking for a church home, please come back soon. We appreciate the chance to get to know you and perhaps welcome you and your family into the University Church family. This is a great congregation of God's people!

**Project Emmanuel: Unwrapping God's Gift to Planet Earth.** All through December, we looked at texts pointing to the coming of God into the world in the person of Jesus. On this Sunday after Christmas week, let's revisit one of the most unusual stories in the New Testament in Luke 2:41-52. It's the only story about Jesus' childhood. In some ways, most of us can identify. Panicking parents. Lost child. Sounds familiar. Yet, there is something very different here too. As with so many things about Jesus, we should almost expect the unexpected! Today: **About My Father's Business.** Our worship leader this morning is **Mark Tate.**

This week, we will host a **Mid-Week Devotional** in the Family Room, Wednesday at 7 p.m. This will be a simple service of prayers, songs and readings. All are welcome.

**Tonight:** There will be no evening chapel service or activities.

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

• **Eddie and Carole Mahanay.** Perhaps the most humble, servant-hearted couple I've ever known. I wish I was more like them. They inspire me to want to go the extra mile and open myself up more to friends and strangers alike. All they do is love people.

• **Prison Ministry.** Did you know more than 800 Middleton inmates were baptized during 2015? That this important work is carried out weekly and daily by several UCC people? Thanks to **Hal Howell, Don Faver, Lou Seckler, Brent Ballard** and other dedicated servants who carry out this productive outreach. *I was in prison, and you visited me (Matthew 25:36).*

### UCC HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

**Wednesday, Dec. 30** - Devotional, Family Room

**Sunday, Jan. 3** - Return to normal schedules

#### 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 - **359**  
Bilingual - **58**  
Coronado - **81**

#### December 20, 2015

Northern Oaks - **20**  
Chisholm Place - **20**  
Silver Spring - **54**

#### OFFERING:

Dec. 20 **\$24,200.04**

## 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 today or next Sunday.

**Bible Class Schedule:** 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.

## CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

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

**December 31** - Open 9 a.m.-noon

**January 1** - Office Closed

## NEWS

Funeral services for **Lealand Davee** are set for 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 28 at the Stacy-Wilkins Funeral Home in Goldthwaite with burial following in the Goldthwaite cemetery. Visitation will be today from 2-4 p.m. at the funeral home.

## COMMON LIFE INFORMATION

by Steve Austin

We hope that you have been able to be in touch with your Common Life group leaders during the last ten weeks. I know that several groups have had luncheons or activities. Most leaders have been in touch with their groups. The elders appreciate the hard work done by all concerned in launching these groups. Several questions have come up regarding them, so I thought I would try to answer some.

First, the list of Common Life groups and members is available in the church office, and online. If you have a doubt about which group you're in, or who your leaders are, please get a copy of that list to have on hand. We handed them out several weeks ago after services, but you might not have received one.

Second, we are informally designating the second Sunday each month as Fellowship Sunday. Some continue to meet in Care Groups for lunch, which is great. Others may meet for various Common Life activities on that day. Not all the groups have the same frequency or kind of meetings, but this could be a day to do so if you desire.

Third, some have asked how funeral meals and arrangements will be handled now. Angela Estes and the funeral ministry will continue their capable work in organizing the meal for the family the day of the funeral, if the family desires and the meal is at UCC. When someone passes away, please notify the church office, and they will in turn notify the elders, staff and Common Life group leaders of the group of which the person was a member. If other meals are needed, then a good way to handle that would be to check with the leaders of that person's usual Bible class to see who might help; then perhaps ask the Common Life group leaders. And, of course, if other families and friends want to help, that would be great.

Fourth, if you know of other events or news regarding a church member, and perhaps others don't, please notify the church office and/or the Common Life group leaders. The leaders may often be aware of it, but it's always helpful to get a heads up.

Finally, each Common Life group is free to plan any activities they believe can benefit the group, and in any schedule they choose. Our goal is fellowship, getting to know each other, and helping one another in any way we can. All of this is a little bit new, but we appreciate your involvement and good ideas.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Jason Craddock**, Youth Minister  
*jason.craddock@uccabilene.org*  
facebook.com/groups/uymteens

**No Activity Today:** Because of the holidays, we will not have an activity tonight.

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

**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*

We will not have small group tonight or next Sunday, Jan. 6. Our next small group will be at the **Sprotts'** house (834 Elmwood Drive) on Sunday, Jan. 10.

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

## 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).