



November 20, 2016

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

123 *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

**Welcome/Encouragement** Paul Rotenberry

*We Gather Together*

**Family News/Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Brent Isbell

745 *Humble Yourself*

*As the Deer Thirsts*

**Communion**

Blake Williams

**Scripture: Luke 24:30-35**

**Bread**

*What the Lord Has Done in Me*

**Cup**

*What the Lord Has Done in Me*

**Offering**

**Pack the Pulpit**

846 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

**God Will Make Us Strong**

Brent Isbell

*Everlasting God*

**Responsive Benediction: Psalm 136**

**Worship Leader**

David Allen Sprott

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

*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 to UCC!** If you are visiting today, we hope you will find University Church to be a warm and welcoming community. Please fill out a **Connections Card** (white cards on the seat backs). You may use these cards to provide or update contact information, request prayers, become a UCC member or share news with us. Simply drop your Connections Card into the offering plate. **You can also fill out and submit a card online at [uccabilene.org/card](http://uccabilene.org/card).** If you are looking for a church home, please come back soon. Thank you for joining us!

**Today is Feed the Hungry!** The Sunday before Thanksgiving always means we help **Jim Clark** and our partners at the Christian Service Center restock the pantry. Later in the service, we will ask our kids of all ages to bring grocery bags up front and help us **Pack the Pulpit!** If you want to give money, envelopes are available to use and put in the collection plate. Or you can simply mark your check "FTH." There will only be **one collection**. Feed the Hungry is a great and long-time UCC tradition that helps many of our neighbors here in Abilene!

This fall, we have shared a series called **Exiled: Living in God's Alien Nation**, using 1 Peter as our resource. Today is our last message in this series. Peter closes his letter in chapter five with a strong reminder to us that we are not alone. We have an enemy who is trying to eat us alive. But we also have each other. And we have spiritual leaders to shepherd us. Above all, we have the God of all grace, who has called us to his eternal glory in Christ, who will himself restore, support, strengthen and establish us. This morning's message: **God Will Make Us Strong** (5:1-11). Our worship leader today is **David Allen Sprott**.

**This is Thanksgiving week**, so there will be no activities at the UCC building this Wednesday night. Enjoy the holiday week with your family! The following week—November 30—is our last installment of **Wednesday Praise!** for 2016.

### Calendar Notes:

- **No classes or activities** (Wednesday, Nov. 23)
- **Christmas Road Trip sermon series begins** (November 27)
- **Wednesday Praise!** (November 30, 7 p.m. in the Family Room)
- **UCC Christmas Party** (December 11, evening)
- **No 9 a.m. classes / 10 a.m. worship only** (December 25, January 1)

## FEED THE HUNGRY

Today is our annual Feed the Hungry drive. After worship, we will need people to help take the sacks from the pulpit to the trucks in the portico. We also need a few people to go to the warehouse and help unload. Thanks to everyone for making Feed the Hungry a success!

### NURSERY FACILITIES

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

<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>November 20, 2016</b>	<b>OFFERING:</b>	
Worship - <b>393</b>	Northern Oaks - <b>30</b>	<b>November 13</b>	<b>\$20,183.43</b>
Bilingual - <b>51</b>	Chisholm Place - <b>10</b>		
Coronado - <b>88</b>	Silver Springs - <b>33</b>		

### 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)

## A NOTE FROM THE ELDERS

Dear UCC Members:

Recently, the elders asked for help with what we called an “appreciative inquiry,” and many of you participated in that process. We came into your classes, small groups and other forums to ask you about your good memories and stories of life in this church family. These gave us many strengths to build on and we thank you!

On November 5 the elders, ministers and ministry leaders met for several hours with Dr. Carson Reed from ACU’s Siburt Institute for Church Leadership. Dr. Reed guided us in summarizing and prioritizing the many pages of feedback you gave us, a copy of which is available at the church office. Here are the three primary strengths you identified at University Church:

- 1. Relationships.** Every group we interviewed gave us wonderful stories about people who helped them into UCC and friends who have played a big part in keeping them here. Our life together as a family of many cultures, languages and life experiences is a major strength and we are very grateful for the relationships we enjoy with each other. The support, love and care we provide one another is at the core of our identity.
- 2. Mission.** Another heartbeat of UCC is our long heritage of supporting and working in the great mission of God. By “mission” we mean everything related to being the bearers of God’s good news—the gospel—to the world: to persons across the oceans and to neighbors across the street. UCC stands proudly in a solid tradition of people who want to live out and obey Jesus’ Great Commission. You told us this in no uncertain terms!
- 3. Openness to God’s Leading.** Finally, you told us that you are thankful to be part of a church in which we try to follow God’s Holy Spirit to new places. We are thankful for our past, but we are not stuck in it, and we are not afraid to ask tough questions that might bring us to unfamiliar destinations. You appreciate leaders who lovingly and boldly guide you to new opportunities for service and to fresh understandings of God’s Word for our time and place in His Kingdom.

As you can see, you have given us much to consider and pray about. As we plan for 2017 and beyond, we commit to continue listening to God and to you. You will be hearing more in coming months about specific ways in which we hope to build on these strengths and, by the grace of God, grow where we need to grow. Thank you again for trusting us with your feedback and for the honor of serving as your leaders.

– The UCC Elders

## GATHERINGS

**Bradley Steele**, Young Adults Minister  
*bradley@uccabilene.org*

**Tonight:** We will not be meeting for small group. Small group will resume next Sunday, Nov. 27.

**Wednesday:** We will not meet this Wednesday for Bible Study.

**Facebook Page:** Make sure to check our Facebook group for more information.

## NEWS AND NOTES

Tonight’s **5 p.m. Chapel Service** will be Singing Night. We are going to sing old songs from the book.

The **UCC Church Office** will be closed this week from Wednesday through Friday (Nov. 23-25) in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The office will reopen with normal hours on Monday, Nov. 28.

We will have no **mid-week activities** this week (Nov. 23) due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Ladies’ Bible Class** will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. in the Family Room.

**Wednesday Night Supper** will have one final week on Wednesday, Nov. 30. The menu will be Mexican food, and the cost will be \$5 for adults and college students and younger are free. The meal begins at 5:45 p.m.

Join us for the final installment of **Wednesday Praise!** for this semester on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Family Room.

**Tom Milholland** will return for the final part of a three-part series on Wednesday, Dec. 7. He has been talking about how we form and cultivate relationships with God, self and our neighbors.

### Change of Address:

Mary Barthelemy  
c/o Silver Spring  
1690 N. Treadway Blvd., Room 602 B  
Abilene, TX 79601  
Phone: 325-701-9975

**Fosters’ Home for Children:** “On behalf of the Sherwood and Myrtie Foster’s Home for Children Board of Directors, staff and most importantly the priceless children that call Foster’s their home and port in the storm, I want to thank you for your donation. We appreciate your support through the years that have made a difference in the lives of many children. May God bless you all.”

## STAY CONNECTED

University members and friends can now stay connected with UCC via Facebook and Twitter. Like the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/UCCAbilene](http://www.facebook.com/UCCAbilene), follow the UCC Twitter feed at [www.twitter.com/UCCAbilene](http://www.twitter.com/UCCAbilene) and also follow us on Instagram @UCCAbilene. You can also follow the UCC Campus Ministry, UCC Children’s Ministry and UCC Youth Ministry on all three platforms as well.

## TRANSITIONS

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

**Tonight's Small Groups:** The Green Group will meet at the Sprotts' (834 Elmwood), and the Maroon Group will meet at the Williams' (6350 Summerhill Road).

**Next Sunday** we will not have small group. Enjoy your time with family.

**Coming up:** We will meet for small group on Sunday, Dec. 4 at the Huddlestons' (Green Group) and the Bowmans' (Maroon Group).

**Christmas Party:** Make sure you mark your calendar for the UCC Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 11. The party will begin at 5 p.m. in the MAC. See the Christmas Party section for more details.

## 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 Today:** Since many of us will have been in Lubbock for Encounter LE this weekend, we will not have an activity tonight.

**Wednesday Night:** Since it is Thanksgiving week, we will not have class or other activities at the building this week.

**Six Flags Holiday in the Park:** The response to our Holiday in the Park survey was quite positive. So, we are making official plans to go on Saturday, Dec. 17 for all youth ministry students and families. The cost will be \$30 per ticket. We will take UCC vans and/or bus, but you may choose to drive your own car as well. I will need payment for your teen, family and friends by Sunday, Dec. 4 so we can get all the transportation lined up and buy tickets. I am excited about this trip, so please let me know who plans to attend.

**Christmas Event Schedules:** It's the most wonderful time of the year as Christmas concert season is upon us! The Craddocks (and maybe others) love coming to see Christmas concerts, whether for band, ballet, orchestra or choir. So please let us know when your concerts will be taking place, and we will try our hardest to be there.

### Upcoming Events:

- Six Flags Holiday in the Park - December 17
- Winterfest - January 13-15

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

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

**Welcome:** We want to welcome all the college students here this morning.

**Class Time:** Our Sunday morning class meets at 9 a.m. in MAC 503.

**Dwelling Place:** On Sundays, we meet at 6 p.m. in MAC 503 for food, fellowship and worship.

**Community Groups:** Usually, we have Community Groups on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. at Judy Siburt's house (1657 Newcastle) and on Thursday night at 8 p.m. at the Arringtons' house (2601 Garfield). However, we will not have Community Groups this week because of Thanksgiving break.

**Coffee:** Want to have coffee with me? Call me at 530-615-8188.



## HAVE A HOLLY, JOLLY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Make plans to join us for the annual **UCC Christmas Party** on **Sunday, Dec. 11** beginning at 5 p.m. in the MAC. This year's theme is **Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas**. The meat will be provided, but we are asking everyone whose last name begins with **A-R** to bring some kind of salad or vegetables. If your last name begins with **S-Z**, we are asking you to bring desserts.

We will be having entertainment, food, fellowship and fun, so please make plans to join us as we celebrate together! Come, have a holly, jolly Christmas...it's the best time of the year!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

**No Children's Church Today:** Since we will be helping to *Pack the Pulpit*, we will not have children's church today.

**No Bible Classes Wednesday:** Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not have any mid-week activities this week.

### Thanksgiving Ideas for Families:

- *Tablecloth of Thanks:* Create a family tradition by having everyone sign the dinner table cloth with their name and something for which they are thankful. Use the same tablecloth every year and have family members add something new every year. Be sure to use fabric markers, so that the ink doesn't come off in the wash.
- *Blessing Book:* Start a blessing book by buying a simple journal and have each family member write down one blessing from the past year. Keep the journal from year to year and have family members add new blessings every year. For those children that are not yet able to write, a simple picture will do.
- *Tree of Thanks:* Take advantage of the fall leaves to build a Tree of Thanks. Send the kids to the back yard for a tree branch and some fallen leaves. Plant the branch in a pot filled with craft sand. As family members arrive for Thanksgiving dinner, let the kids give each person either a real leaf or a cut out leaf from paper and ask the guests to write something on the leaf for which they are thankful. Use either paperclips or Christmas tree ornament hangers to hand the leaves on the branch.  
(Ideas from familywithpurpose.com)

**Save the Date:** Free Babysitting Night in the MAC on Friday, Dec. 2 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

*"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Nov. 20-Dec. 18

<b>NOV. 20</b>	8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. – Bible Classes 10 a.m. – Worship, Brent Isbell – speaker, David Sprott – worship leader 5 p.m. Singing Night, Chapel
<b>NOV. 23</b>	No Mid-Week Activities
<b>NOV. 27</b>	8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. – Bible Classes 10 a.m. – Worship, Brent Isbell – speaker, David Sprott – worship leader 5 p.m. Chapel Service – Brent Isbell – speaker, Brandon DeLano – song leader
<b>NOV. 30</b>	5:45 p.m. – Wednesday Night Supper (Mexican Food) 7 p.m. – <i>Wednesday Praise!</i>
<b>DEC. 4</b>	8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. – Bible Classes 10 a.m. – Worship, Brent Isbell – speaker, Stephen Moore – worship leader 5 p.m. Chapel Service – Brent Isbell – speaker, David Sprott – song leader
<b>DEC. 7</b>	7 p.m. – Bible Classes
<b>DEC. 11</b>	8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. – Bible Classes 10 a.m. – Worship, Brent Isbell – speaker, Eric Lemmons – worship leader 5 p.m. – Holly, Jolly Christmas Party, MAC
<b>DEC. 14</b>	7 p.m. – Bible Classes
<b>DEC. 18</b>	8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. – Bible Classes 10 a.m. – Worship, Brent Isbell – speaker, David Sprott – worship leader 5 p.m. Singing Night, Chapel

## 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.