



Dec. 11, 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

997 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Welcome/Family News Bradley Steele
Call To Worship

Let Us Be Faithful

Prayer Blake Williams

560 *Living By Faith*

469 *Faith Is the Victory*

Still

Communion Derek Bowman

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Bread

478 *Nearer, Still Nearer*

Cup

478 *Nearer, Still Nearer*

Offering

Magnificat

Mary, Did You Know? Bicky Tolar

Christmas Road Trip: Nazareth Brent Isbell

539 *Higher Ground*

Be Thou My Vision

Worship Leader Eric Lemmons

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.

REFLECTIONS

Brent Isbell, Preaching Minister
brent@uccabilene.org

Welcome to UCC! If you are visiting today, we certainly hope you find a warm, friendly sense of hospitality here. Please do us a favor: Take a minute to fill out a **Connections Card** (white cards on the seat backs). You may use these cards to provide contact information, request prayers, or tell us you want to be a UCC member. Then drop your Connections Card in the offering plate. You can also do this online at uccabilene.org/card. If you need a new church home, we invite you to come back again very soon!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. We are in the middle of a short series called **Christmas Road Trip**. Each week, we are looking at the amazing story of God's entering a broken world through Jesus, and we are doing this by thinking about travel. The original Christmas included all kinds of travel—Joseph, Mary, wise men, shepherds, angels, and more. God's Incarnation in his Son Jesus Christ is a long and winding road trip through history, and we will be thinking about some of these road stops each Sunday. Today we pull over in the tiny Galilean village of Nazareth and listen in as a very young girl gets a very startling message from a now-familiar angel: **Road to Nazareth**. Our worship leader today is **Eric Lemmons**.

This Wednesday night in the Family Room, we will continue watching a series of videos we previewed a few weeks back called **Who is This Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus**. The speaker is popular Christian teacher-author **John Ortberg**. We did a teaser earlier with the first video, and this week we will plan to watch the first one again (for those who weren't with us)—**The Man Who Won't Go Away**. We will also view the second video: **A Revolution of Humanity**. These videos are short and easy to watch, but they are totally devoted to reflecting on Jesus. During this season of the year especially, this series seems like a good fit! Join us at 7 p.m. in the Family Room!

Calendar Notes:

- **Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas Party** (TODAY, 5 p.m. in the MAC)
 - A-R last names bring salads, vegetables
 - S-Z last names bring desserts
- **John Ortberg Videos: Who is This Man?** (Family Room, 7 p.m.)
 - December 14, 21, 28 and January 4
- **UCC Office Closed** (Dec. 23, 26; Jan. 2)
- **No 9 a.m. classes/10 a.m. worship only** (December 25)
- **No 9 a.m. classes/10 a.m. worship only** (January 1)

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 4, 2016

Worship - 364	Northern Oaks - 14
Bilingual - 57	Chisholm Place - 17
Coronado - 76	Silver Springs - 48

OFFERING:
December 4 **\$23,049.75**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Silver Spring Visit: This morning, children first through fifth grade will go to Silver Spring to sing and join them in their time of worship. If your child would like to go, please have them in the portico foyer at 9:55 a.m. We will load the UCC bus at 10 a.m. and return to the building by 11:15 a.m. If you would like to go with your child, you are welcome to follow us in your car or ride the bus if there is enough room.

Holiday Visit: Please be sure and stop by the portico foyer to pick up a gift bag and share the love of family with some of our UCC members. Each bag will have the name, address and phone number of a member. Please pick up a bag and make arrangements for your family to take this gift, and wish them a Merry Christmas! This is a wonderful opportunity to focus our mind and heart on the true meaning of Christmas. Bags will be available through Dec. 21.

Elf Surprise: Children third grade through fifth grade are invited to come Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to the Family Room for dinner and "elf magic." Please plan to bring your supper in a sack, and we will enjoy dinner together before the fun begins.

Wednesday Night Caroling: On Wednesday night, Dec. 14, our children kindergarten through fifth grade will go caroling. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend and enjoy this special time. We will divide up and go to some homes where I have made arrangements to visit. If your child needs to be in a car seat, please plan to drive them in your vehicle.

TRANSITIONS

Joey Roberts, Communications Minister
joey@uccabilene.org

We won't have small group this week because of the **UCC Christmas Party**. Join us in the MAC at 5 p.m. for some food and fun.

Caroling: Join the children's ministry for caroling this Wednesday. See above.

Next Week: The green small group will meet at the Sprotts' (834 Elmwood), and the maroon group will meet at a place to be determined.

Check out **Facebook** for more activities and info. like men's lunches, women's lunches, Bible class information and more.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Kyle Bowen, Campus Ministry leader
campus@uccabilene.org

Limited Schedule: Because of Christmas break, we will be on a limited schedule. We will meet each Sunday morning for class in MAC 503 at 9 a.m., but we will not have Dwelling Place or Community Groups during Christmas break.

Christmas Party: Tonight is the UCC Christmas Party at 5 p.m., so if you're still in town, join us in the MAC.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Jason Craddock, Youth Minister
jason.craddock@uccabilene.org

UCC Christmas Party Tonight: Make plans to join us tonight for our annual UCC Christmas Party in the MAC at 5 p.m. There will be lots of good food and fun. We will not have any other activities besides that today.

Six Flags Holiday in the Park: This 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 **TODAY** 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. If either you or a friend will not be accompanied by a parent, then you will need to have a permission form and a medical release completed and given to Jason. Those forms are available on the Youth Center desk and have been emailed. We will leave at 9 a.m. from the Youth Center parking lot and return at 10 p.m. You will need to bring money for a fast food dinner on the way home and any food you may want inside the park.

Wednesday Night: We will continue our separate Huddles for all guys and girls starting off in the Youth Center for both groups. These studies have given us a chance to grow closer, pray over each other, and talk about issues that relate specifically to guys and girls. So take this opportunity to get plugged in and make it a time that we can all bring our friends to be a part of this with us. The **Girls Study** is being led by **Carla Copher-Robinson, Laura Ice** and **Karla Craddock**. The **Guys Study** is being led by **Jason Craddock** and **Rusty Towell**.

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

GATHERINGS

Bradley Steele, Young Adults Minister
bradley@uccabilene.org

Tonight, we will not have small group. Please join us for the UCC Christmas Party at 5 p.m.

Our last **Small Group** of the year will be next Sunday, Dec. 17.

Check out our **Facebook** page (search *UCC Gatherings*) for more events and info.

NEWS AND NOTES

Holly Jolly Christmas Party: Join us tonight for the Holly Jolly Christmas Party at 5 p.m. in the MAC. The BBQ meat will be provided, so 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.

No 5 p.m. Chapel Service today because of the UCC Christmas Party.

Ministry of MOMs will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of **Sandra Milholland** (2026 Westminster Drive). Please respond to the invite if you plan to attend.

PRAYER LIST

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 11
9 a.m. - Bible Class
10 a.m. - Worship
5 p.m. - Christmas Party

Tuesday, Dec. 13
5:30 p.m. - Elf Fun
6:30 p.m. - MOMs

Wednesday, Dec. 14
7 p.m. - Bible Classes
7 p.m. - Caroling

Submit your bulletin items to Joey Roberts before noon on Wednesday.