



Dec. 18, 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

282 *Oh, Praise the Lord*

Welcome/Family News Prayer Jason Craddock

Here I Am to Worship

227 *On Zion's Glorious Summit*

766 *Open Our Eyes, Lord/You Are the Light*

Communion Mac Ice

Scripture: Colossians 1:15-20

Bread

288 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Cup

288 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Offering

Children's Church

999 *The First Noel*

Christmas Road Trip: Egypt Brent Isbell

272 *Aspiration Medley*

215 *O Lord, Our Lord*

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.

REFLECTIONS

Brent Isbell, Preaching Minister
brent@uccabilene.org

Welcome to UCC! If you are visiting with us this morning, we certainly hope you find a warm greeting and leave with a blessing. Please do us a favor: Fill out one of those **Connections Cards** (white cards on the seat backs). You may use your card to provide contact information, request prayers, or even tell us you want to be a UCC member! Then simply drop your Connections Card in the offering plate later in the service. **You can also submit a card online at uccabilene.org/card.** If you need a new church home, we invite you to come back again very soon!

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. One week to Christmas! We are nearing the end of a short series I've called **Christmas Road Trip**. Each week, we are looking at the Incarnation, God entering a broken world in the flesh, and we are doing this by thinking about travel. The original Christmas story was full of travelers—Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, shepherds, angels and more. God's coming to us in his Son was a long and winding journey through history, and we have been thinking about some of these stop-overs. Today we come to Matthew 2 and pick up in the distant East with strange travelers following an unusual object in the sky. Their journey will take a young couple with a newborn all the way south to the land of the pyramids. Today: **Road to Egypt**. Our worship leader will be **David Allen Sprott**.

This Wednesday night in the Family Room, we will continue watching a series of videos called **Who is This Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus**. The speaker is popular Christian teacher-author **John Ortberg**. This week we will watch and briefly discuss the third installment—**The Power of Forgiveness**. These videos are short and easy to watch, but they are totally devoted to reflecting on Jesus. During this season when so many people's minds turn to Jesus, this series is a good fit! Join us at 7 p.m. in the Family Room!

Calendar Notes:

- **Wednesday Videos: Who is This Man?** (Family Room, 7 p.m.)
- December 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)
- **Normal Sunday Schedule Resumes** (January 8)

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:

Worship -	356	Northern Oaks -	N/A
Bilingual -	57	Chisholm Place -	15
Coronado -	77	Silver Springs -	18

OFFERING:

December 11 \$18,019.21

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

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.

Wednesday Night, Dec. 21: Classes will be combining on this night. Preschool classes will meet in the bear class in the Early Childhood Center; four, five and kindergarten will meet in their normal classroom; and first through fifth will meet upstairs in Room 233.

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'"

- 2 Cor. 12:9

TRANSITIONS

Joey Roberts, Communications Minister
joey@uccabilene.org

Small group this week: The green group will meet at the Sprotts' (834 Elmwood), and the maroon group will meet at 5 p.m. in the Chapel Service for singing night, and then we will go grab a bite to eat together.

Conversations Class: We will not have Conversations Class this week. Join the video series in the Family Room at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Next Week: We will not have small group on Sunday, Dec. 25 or Sunday, Jan. 1. Enjoy time with your family and have a great holiday!

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 not meet for class next Sunday morning, Dec. 25 or on Sunday, Jan. 1. Class will resume on Sunday, Jan. 8 in MAC 503.

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

GATHERINGS

Bradley Steele, Young Adults Minister
bradley@uccabilene.org

Tonight, we will be meeting for small group at the Steeles' house (1451 Yeomans) for dinner and fellowship at 5 p.m.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

REEL Faith Today: Today at 4 p.m., we will be watching *It's a Wonderful Life* in the Youth Center and then talking about it afterwards. It's a wonderful movie that is a must see for all ages, with a great deal of meaning about the significance each person can have in the world. Whether you have seen it before or not, make plans to join us for this Christmas classic that I used to watch multiple times a year when I was a kid. I'll provide drinks and popcorn. Families are welcome and encouraged to join us. We will finish at 7 p.m.

Wednesday Night: We will conclude our Guys/Girls Huddles for the fall in the Youth Center on Wednesday at 7 p.m. 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. This has been an 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. So join us as we conclude our time together for the year.

Wintefest - January 13-15: This will be our fifth year to attend Winterfest, which has become one of our most attended activities. Winterfest is a huge youth conference that happens in January each year, with thousands of teens attending. We will leave on Friday afternoon (1/13) 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 Wednesday, Jan. 4 (hard deadline). Paperwork is available on the desk in the Youth Center.

CHRISTMAS PARTY THANK YOU

The **Holly Jolly Christmas Party** was a success, in large part because of the many people who helped put on the event. Thank you to the table hostesses, the cooks, the kitchen help, the entertainment, Santa and everyone who came. A holly, jolly time was shared by all!

NEWS AND NOTES

Singing Night: We will have Singing Night tonight at 5 p.m. in the Chapel.

Next Sunday, Dec. 25, we will only meet for our regular 10 a.m. worship time. We will not meet for donuts and coffee, Bible classes or 5 p.m. Chapel Service. The same schedule will be in effect for New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan. 1.

Service Opportunity: Fifty students from Harding University will be here for a Christian College choral clinic on January 6-7. Please consider keeping two, three or four students on Friday and Saturday night. You will pick students up each night at 9 p.m., feed them breakfast the next morning and then return them to campus. Please email or call Liz Rotenberry (669-9115 or rotenberryl@acu.edu) to let her know how many students you can bless.

Card Ministry: Don't forget you can pick up cards in the Welcome Center and send some love.

PRAYER LIST

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 18
9 a.m. - Bible Class
10 a.m. - Worship
5 p.m. - Singing Night

Wednesday, Dec. 21
7 p.m. - Bible Classes

Sunday, Dec. 25
10 a.m. - Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 21
7 p.m. - Bible Classes

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