



# SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

SPECIAL COLLECTION - TODAY

March 26, 2017

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

528 *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

### Video Welcome/Family News

Congregational Prayer      Joey Roberts

250 *The Great Redeemer*

Missions Moment      Luis Guzman,  
Micaela Villanueva, Lynette Austin (Mexico)

*Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

Communion      Andrew Huddleston

### Bread

*In Christ Alone*

### Cup

*In Christ Alone*

### Offering

474 *Thank You Lord*

Missions Special Collection      Tim Archer

652 *We Have Heard the Joyful Sound*

### Children's Church

624 *Seeking the Lost*

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10      Blake Williams

Case of the Uninvited Guest      Brent Isbell

810 *Listen to Our Hearts*

290 *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

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 an elder.*

*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 University Church!** If you are visiting today, we thank you for joining our worship hour. Please do one thing for us: Fill out a **Connections Card** (white cards on the seat backs). You can use that little card to share contact information, update family news, request prayers, or perhaps even let us know that you have decided to be a member here at UCC! Then simply drop your card into the offering plate. You can also complete this process on your phone or tablet at [uccabilene.org/card](http://uccabilene.org/card). Looking for a church home? Come back soon!

**A Place for Everyone.** We've been focusing on stories in Luke about Jesus eating with folks. Next stop is Luke 19 where, strangely, Jesus invites himself to dinner! Even more strange, he invites himself into the home of a notorious local named Zacchaeus. Why? Because he came to seek and save the lost, Jesus says. Today's message: **Case of the Uninvited Host.** Our worship leader this morning is **Eric Lemmons.**

Today is our **Missions Special Collection!** Our goal is to raise **\$56,000.** Please be ready for our second offering today to help fund all our short-term mission projects. Each week we've had a brief **Missions Moment** to learn about these exciting trips. Today's last group of representatives will be **Luis Guzman, Lynette Austin** and **Micaela Villanueva (Mexico),** and **Nathan Gibbs** will conduct that interview. What a blessing to be part of a church that digs deep to take Jesus' good news to the ends of the earth!

**This Wednesday** we continue our new class with guest teacher **Dr. Cliff Barbarick,** assistant professor of New Testament at ACU. This is week two. Cliff will be with us through May 3, sharing with us a well-received series he taught last year at his home congregation (Hillcrest): **Tackling a Taboo: Homosexuality and the Church.** This is solid material, and Cliff is a good teacher and scholar. Join us at 7 p.m. in the Family Room to study together a sensitive and important subject.

### 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 - 313  
Bilingual - 54  
Coronado - 78

### March 19, 2017

Northern Oaks - 29  
Chisholm Place - N/A  
Silver Springs - 39

### OFFERING:

March 19      \$11,098.22

## FROM THE ELDER'S

- by Kris Southward, 2017 elder chairman

The UCC elders held their monthly meeting with ministry staff on March 19, 2017. Numerous items were discussed and prayed over, among them:

- Prayer, by name, for those who were in the hospital/skilled nursing, for **Juanita Avinger** who was recently placed in hospice care, for **Sandra Morrow** and the **Mary Catalina** and **Jik Hill** families who have recently lost loved ones, for those dealing with dementia and cancer, and for many others;

- Recognized, thanked, and prayed over our prison ministry staff/volunteers: **Hal Howell**, **Brent Ballard**, **Don Faver**, **Lou Seckler** and **Steve Austin**. We are also grateful for UCC member, and Middleton Unit Chaplain, **Stan Baldwin**, for his service at Middleton, and for men like **Les Hammond** who minister out at the Roberson Unit. Annually, almost 1,000 men are baptized each year at Middleton and we are grateful to God for the hours of service these men put into this valued ministry. Also thankful to **Barry Young** for pulling together supplies needed to rebuild the baptistery at Middleton;

- We were grateful to learn that **Gene Linder** has agreed to be the chairman of the Caring/Benevolence Committee;

- Report was made of an excellent March 9 meeting with members of the UCC eldership, UCC staff and the UCC bilingual congregation, with Abilene Police Department Chief **Stan Standridge**, in regards to issues at the national level involving immigration, and what that means for Abilene;

- Began discussions on potential uses of the oil lease money. A basic outline for the uses was proposed and will be prayed over for the next month, and will be discussed in more detail at the April 23 elders' meeting.

As always, the UCC elders are grateful for each of you and covet your continued prayers, just as we remember you in our prayers.

## DIRECTORY PICS

Did you miss your opportunity to take your UCC Directory picture? Perhaps you were out of town or sick or just forgot. Here's your chance.

**NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 2**, we will take pictures before Bible class and after worship. Thank you for your help in making this a successful, updated directory.

## EASTER SUNDAY

Easter is coming on Sunday, April 16. Make plans now to invite a friend to our Sunrise Service, Pancake Breakfast, Worship Service and Easter Egg Hunt. More details coming soon!



**NEW DIRECTORY PHOTOS  
LAST CHANCE!**

**NEXT SUNDAY  
APRIL 2  
ROOM 107**

**BEFORE/DURING  
BIBLE CLASS  
OR AFTER WORSHIP**

## NEWS AND NOTES

Ladies, you are invited to a baby shower honoring **Andie Wearden** TODAY, March 26 in the Family Room from 2-3:30 p.m. Selections are at Amazon and Target.

Tonight's **5 p.m. Chapel Service** will be **Singing Night**.

We express our deepest sympathy to the family of **Juanita Avinger** who passed away on Thursday. Visitation is scheduled for Monday, March 27 from 4-5:30 p.m. at Piersall Funeral Home. The service will be on Tuesday, March 28 at 1 p.m. at Piersall.

**Ladies' Bible Class** continues this Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Family Room.

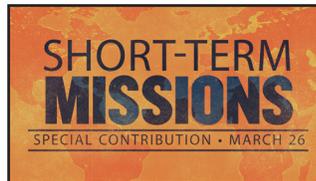
**Wednesday Night Suppers** continues in the MAC from 5:45-6:45 p.m. The meal is free, but if you can pay \$5 per adult plate, that would help fund the meals.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 8** for our UCC Family Dinner. Anyone wanting to host a dinner for 8-10 adults may contact **Karen Southward** or **Liz Rotenberry**. Childcare will be provided, and sign-ups for the meals will start next Sunday. If you didn't sign up to attend one of the meals, you can do so by emailing one of the two ladies listed above.

The **Christian Service Center** is in the middle of moving and setting up the new facility in the old Woodlawn Church of Christ building. The receiving room will open its doors for donations of goods tomorrow, Monday, March 27. The CSC will open to serve neighbors on Monday, April 3 and is scheduled for an Open House on Monday, April 17.

The **Christian Service Center** is in need of hangers for baby clothes. You can take the hangers to the new facility at 3185 North 10th Street.

## MISSIONS SPECIAL COLLECTION - TODAY



Today is our annual Missions Special Collection. Over the last several weeks we have heard from the individuals and groups planning on going on short-term missions. As you know, missions

is a key part of what we do here at UCC. The goal for our Missions Special Collection is \$56,000 to help send these groups around the world to spread the Good News:

- **Ecuador** (Ted and Ellen Presley)
- **Zambia** (Johnny, Angela and James Estes)
- **Honduras** (Rusty, Cecily, Ensley and Travis Towell; Tarrence Price)
- **Costa Rica** (Nathan and Rosario Gibbs; Francisco and Tere Becerra; Bradley and Rebecca Steele; Jacob and Marisol Groves; and Katrina Karnes)
- **Haiti** (Roger and Jennifer Welch)
- **Mexico** (Gustavo and Micaela Villanueva; Luis and Lido Guzman; Roberta Brown; Lynette Austin; and Alma Lara)
- **Cuba** (Tim and Andrea Archer; Daniel Austin; and Madison Pamplin)
- **Thailand** (Sarah Dillinger)
- **Costa Rica** (Shannon Que)

Thank you in advance for helping us reach our goal as we send these UCC members to spread the Gospel.

## TRANSITIONS

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

**Tonight:** We will join the children's ministry for a potluck in the MAC from 5-7 p.m.

**Next Sunday** the blue small group will meet at the Williams' with the gold group meeting at the Sprotts' house.

**Coming Up:** On Sunday, April 9, the blue group still needs a host, and the gold group will meet at the Bowmans' house. We won't have small group on Easter Sunday, April 16.

UCC Family Meal: Make sure you have signed up for the UCC Family Meal on Saturday, April 8.

Check out the **Facebook Group** for more info on get-togethers, small groups, Bible classes and more.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Jason Craddock**, Youth Minister  
[jason.craddock@uccabilene.org](mailto:jason.craddock@uccabilene.org)  
[facebook.com/groups/uymteens](https://facebook.com/groups/uymteens)

**Game Show Night Tonight:** It's time again for Game Show Night, from 5-7:30 in the Youth Center! Last month we played Who Wants to Be A Millionaire and had a great time together as we tied it into a discussion for what we trade for worldly wealth. Tonight, we will be playing Deal or No Deal and continue our discussion on covenant that we began this morning in class. We will have Sloppy Joes for dinner, so bring a couple of bucks to help cover the costs. Invite a friend to join us.

**HS Mission Trip:** Our HS Mission Trip will be July 13-21, and we will be going to McAllen. Our focus will be on helping the Harvey Drive Church of Christ reach out to their community in a variety of ways, through putting on community events and service projects. We will be working over the coming months to shape exactly what that will look like, but it may be similar to many of things we have been trying here at UCC. Part of our prep will be brainstorming for some of our own ideas to offer to them. Some of you may know **Abel Alvarez**, the longtime minister (27 years) at HDCC. In July 2016, Abel had the second kidney transplant of his life. Abel had struggled with health issues affecting his kidneys for many years and his body had rejected his first transplant and tried to reject this most recent one as well. But now Abel is doing much better. We thought it would be helpful to him and to the congregation he serves to offer them a little boost through our own prayers, time, sweat and resources. We will even close our week with a day-trip down to South Padre Island to close out our time there. So, make plans to join us and invite a friend. Adults will also be needed, so if you are interested, please see Jason. Check out more about Abel's story on our UCC Youth Ministry Facebook page.

**Huddles Continue Wednesday:** This semester, we will have a **HS Huddle** that will meet at the home of **James** and **Mandy Scudder** (658 EN 22nd St.). The **MS Huddle** will meet in the Youth Center. Invite a friend to join them for this time of sharing, prayer, study and fun.

**Spring Retreat Paperwork Due Today:** Our Spring Retreat is March 31-April 2 at Camp Butman and all paperwork and payment is due today. This year's theme is ESCAPE. The cost for the weekend is \$40 per person (\$35 per person if there are two or more attendees from one family. We are also offering a guest rate of \$25 for any friends you bring who are not regular attendees. We'll have a ton of fun with big activities, high ropes course, engaging high-production sessions, a movie, free time, some meaningful quiet time, cookout, worship, surprises and more. So make plans to join us and don't let cost be an issue (we can help).

**Sign Up for CRADtalks:** You've all heard of TEDtalks with the tagline, "ideas worth sharing." Well, CRADtalks are "conversations worth having." During these conversations there will not be a lot of small talk (just a little), but we will dive into the spiritual life, offering some coaching, strategies and building each student up. Karla and I meet together with the girls (or minus Jason), and Jason meets with the guys (or plus Karla). So, please let me know when you can get together, and we will set up for some time at Sonic, over coffee or somewhere else.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

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

**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:** 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).

**Retreat:** Our Campus Ministry Retreat will be this Friday-Sunday, March 31-April 2. We will meet in MAC 503 at 5 p.m. on Friday and leave at 5:30 p.m. We will return on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$35, but see Kyle if the cost is going to be prohibitive.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Jennifer Welch**, Children's Minister  
[jenniferw@uccabilene.org](mailto:jenniferw@uccabilene.org)

**Family Potluck Tonight:** This evening, families will gather from 5-7 p.m. in the Family Room for a meal and fellowship. We will discuss our schedule for Wednesday nights during the summer. Families please plan to bring a dish and a side and we will enjoy a buffet of food.

**Painting with a Twist:** Children third through fifth grade reserve your spot for "painting with a twist" on Thursday, April 13, in the family room. The cost of the class will be \$5 each. Please RSVP by Sunday, April 9.

**Children's Worship:** Bridgette W., Gerry L. and college friends.

**Wednesday Night:** This Wednesday night, there will be a sign up sheet in the two-year old Bible class. Parents will need to sign up to teach one or two times during the month of April and May. Thank you!

## GATHERINGS

**Bradley Steele**, Young Adults Minister  
[bradley@uccabilene.org](mailto:bradley@uccabilene.org)

**Tonight:** We will be meeting at the Hamiltons' house for small group (1762 Bent Tree) at 5 p.m. Hope to see you there!

**Wednesday:** We will meet at 7 p.m. for coffee, dessert and Bible study in MAC 504.

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

## STAY CONNECTED

University members and friends can 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.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR – March 26-April 12

- MARCH 26** 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  
2-3:30 p.m. – Baby Shower for Andie Wearden, Family Room  
5 p.m. Chapel Service – Singing Night
- MARCH 29** 10 a.m. – Ladies' Bible Class, Family Room  
5:45 p.m. – Wednesday Night Supper (Hamburgers/Hot Dogs)  
7 p.m. – Bible Classes
- APRIL 2** 8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC  
9 a.m. – Bible Classes  
10 a.m. – Worship, Brent Isbell – speaker, David Allen Sprott – worship leader  
5 p.m. Chapel Service – Brent Isbell – speaker, Eric Lemmons – song leader
- APRIL 5** 10 a.m. – Ladies' Bible Class, Family Room  
5:45 p.m. – Wednesday Night Supper (Chinese food)  
7 p.m. – Bible Classes
- APRIL 9** 8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC  
9 a.m. – Bible Classes  
10 a.m. – Worship, Brent Isbell – speaker, David Allen Sprott – worship leader  
No 5 p.m. Chapel Service – Fellowship Sunday
- APRIL 12** 10 a.m. – Ladies' Bible Class, Family Room  
5:45 p.m. – Wednesday Night Supper (Chicken)  
7 p.m. – Bible Classes

## 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).