



wait for it...
A Gospel Journey Through Advent



December 10, 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

162 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Welcome/Family News/Graduate Blessing
Kyle Bowen

Great Are You Lord

Salvation Belongs to Our God

287 There Is a Redeemer

Communion David Swearingen

Isaiah 40:1-11

Bread

And Can It Be?

Cup

And Can It Be?

Offering

Children's Church

533 I Am a Sheep

Mark 1:1-8 Rosario Gibbs

Suffering Stranger: Mark's Secret Sin
Brent Isbell

Mighty to Save

Farewell Blessing Mark Hamilton

Responsive Benediction Andrew Huddleston

Worship Leader Jacob Groves

If you would like to have someone pray with you, or for you, please make your way to Room 101 at the end of service where there are UCC members waiting just for you.

Our Sunday morning service is broadcast live at www.uccabilene.org.

REFLECTIONS

Brent Isbell, Preaching Minister
brent@uccabilene.org

Welcome! If you are visiting University Church today, thank you for being us. Please take a minute to fill out a **Connections Card** (found in the seats). Use your card to share contact information, request prayers or maybe let us know you want to be a UCC member. Drop it in the offering plate or submit it online at uccabilene.org/card.

Today we continue our short season series called **Wait for It: A Gospel Journey Through Advent**. Each Sunday-right up to Christmas Eve-we are looking at the first arrival (or advent) of Jesus in the world through the eyes of the four Gospels. We're also thinking about his next advent (second coming) in the future. Today we light the second (Love) candle of Advent with a stop in the Gospel of Mark who, interestingly, doesn't even have a Christmas story! Today: **Suffering Stranger: Secret Son**. Our worship leader today is **Jacob Groves**.

Adult Education Minute: Today our adult classes continued with Week Three of our series **Christ's Coming and Promised Return**. Thanks to **Chris Willerton** for preparing our curriculum. Each week we are looking at various texts about the coming of Jesus. We invite each of you to join us next Sunday at 9 a.m. for Week Three (read ahead in 2 Sam 7:1-11,16; Ps 89:1-4,19-26; Rom 16:25-27; and Lk 1:26-38).

Mid-week classes! This week we continue our Family Room class series with **Mac Ice** called **We Are What We Sing: Forming Faith in 20th Century Churches of Christ**. Our Conversations class (MAC 501) continues a series with **Andie Wearden** and **Jarrod King** talking about **An Inclusive Church: Disabilities in Faith Communities**.

Flapjacks and Flannel! Tonight is our big annual **UCC Christmas Party**. Join us at 5 p.m. in the MAC for pancakes, sausage, and lots of sweet treats-not to mention great entertainment and maybe a North Pole visitor. These are always plenty of fun, so don't miss it!

Candles and Carols. On Sunday night, December 24 at 6 p.m., we will host a simple Christmas Eve worship service in our Chapel. We will sing carols, read Scripture, share Communion and light the final candles of the season together. Bring family, friends and neighbors. Join us for this special shared experience.

Calendar Notes:

- **UCC Christmas Party** - Sunday, Dec. 10, 5 p.m.
- **UCC Office Closed** - December 22, 25; January 1
- **We Are What We Sing #3** - Wednesday, Dec. 13 (Family Room)
- **An Inclusive Church #3** - Wednesday, Dec. 13 (MAC 501)
- **No 9 a.m. classes/10 a.m. worship only** - Sunday, Dec. 24
- **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** - Sunday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m.
- **No Wednesday PM classes or activities** - Wednesday, Dec. 27
- **No 9 a.m. classes/10 a.m. worship only** - Sunday, Dec. 31

CLASS TIMES:

Sunday - 9 a.m.
Wednesday - 7 p.m.

WORSHIP TIMES:

Sunday - 10 a.m., 5 p.m.

NURSERY FACILITIES

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

ATTENDANCE:

Worship - 373	Northern Oaks - 33
Bilingual - X	Chisholm Place - 8
Coronado - 79	Silver Springs - N/A

OFFERING:

December 3 \$47,199.62

CONTACT INFORMATION:

733 E. N. 16th Street
Abilene, TX 79601

PHONE: (325) 673-6497
www.uccabilene.org

YEAR-END GIVING

As we approach the close of 2017, the elders would like to sincerely thank you for your support of all of the various works and ministries that UCC undertakes each year. Your financial support allows UCC to be the largest monthly supporter of the **Christian Service Center**, allows people like **Hal Howell** to work in our local prisons where *over 600 men* have been baptized this year, and supports the teaching of our children, youth and college students, just to name a few.

As is typical with UCC, and many non-profits, we rely on year-end giving to help balance our annual budget. At the end of November, our expenses exceeded our giving by about \$80,000 for 2017. It is not unusual for us to be this far behind at this time of the year, yet this year has been very unusual with the one-time oil revenue that came in earlier in the year. As you may recall, those funds were earmarked for out-of-budget items like funding our mission works in Russia/Costa Rica/Cuba for three more years, setting aside a large amount for local benevolence, the hiring of a full-time bilingual minister, improvements to our property, and a portion was put into our reserve account. The elders felt that this one-time revenue gift should be used for non-budgeted items and that our weekly giving should sustain our weekly operations.

We would respectfully ask that if you have been blessed financially this year and have opportunity, to consider making a year-end contribution to help us in balancing our budget. If you have missed a few Sundays and would like to make those up, then now would be an excellent time.

Besides gifts by check or cash, we do accept payments by credit/debit cards, Pay Pal, gifts of stock/mutual funds/property, and gifts through direct transfers from retirement accounts. **Jill Bailey Hoebelheinrich** in the church office can help with these requests (673-6497, jill@uccabilene.org).

Once again, we greatly appreciate you and we pray God's blessings on each of you. If we can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Blessings,
Kris Southward
513-6784

**A list of UCC elders can be found on page four*

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

The **NEW UCC Church Directory** is now available to be picked up at the Welcome Center. Please take one copy per family, and place it in your existing directory binder. If you don't have a binder from the 2014 edition, let us know. There are some of the old binders in the Welcome Center. If something or someone is missing, or we need to add someone, don't worry, we'll do an update page soon for new members as well as current member updates.



UCC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Flapjacks and Flannel: The 2017 UCC Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 10 in the MAC from 5-6:30 p.m. There will be several forms of entertainment and a visit from a special guest from up north. Make plans to attend, wear your flannel and come enjoy a country Christmas with pancakes, toppings, sausage and a hot chocolate bar. You don't have to bring a thing but yourself.



The Giving Tree

Take one of the items off the tree and bless someone the Lord puts in your path.

The tree will be in the southwest foyer during the month of December.

This year, the **Giving Tree** will be different. We want **YOU** to take something *off* the tree and find someone to bless. A scripture card will be attached to the items, so find someone who needs the item(s) you take and spread the love of Jesus.

MINISTRY NEEDS

Would you like to be involved in worship without being at the podium? Would you like to help run the sound board, the slides or the live video on Sunday mornings? Are you a teenager or adult who enjoys technology? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, we have a place for you on the **UCC Media Team**. For more info, or to volunteer, see **Joey Roberts**.

The **UCC Security Team** needs some more volunteers to help walk around the building and help report anything suspicious. You would serve one Sunday a month, you don't have to be armed, but you do need to be willing to work as a team to keep our building and members safe. Contact **Jim Holmans** if you are interested in helping with this ministry at holmansj@acu.edu or call 674-4974.

TRANSITIONS

Joey Roberts, Communications Minister
joey@uccabilene.org

Tonight we will join the rest of the congregation for the **UCC Christmas Party** at 5 p.m. in the MAC.

Small Groups: We will not have small groups next Sunday. Instead, we will join the children's ministry in their Christmas Fun event (see page four for details).

Make sure to check out the **Facebook** group for more information on small groups, events, etc.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

UCC Christmas Party Tonight: We will not have an activity tonight outside of our church-wide Christmas party from 5-6:30 p.m. in the MAC. We need a handful of teens helping greet and guide people as they arrive and offer help to others who might need help getting plates to their tables.

Youth Christmas Party Next Sunday Night: Our UYM Christmas party will be next Sunday from 5-8 p.m. We will have food, games and a "Pilfer the Scotsman" gift exchange. I made this up a few years back, but it is a gift exchange where everyone wraps and brings an item they currently own and that they actually like and would be useful to others. Then we will exchange these gifts in the typical gift exchange manner, where there will be lots of pilfering. We will start off with some fun Christmas group games and then have dinner together. Students are asked to bring a potluck dish for our meal, so please take a look and signup for something at tinyurl.com/UYMChristmasParty2017. We all finish with our gift exchange and maybe some holiday movie clips. So, make plans to invite a friend and join us!

Huddles: Huddles continue this Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. The HS Huddle will meet at the Scudders (658 E.N. 22). The MS Huddle meets in the Youth Center. Invite friends to join us for sharing, prayer, study, fun and snacks.

Christmas Event Schedules: Get them to me so we try our hardest to be at your concerts, ballet, etc.

Winterfest: Winterfest is January 12-14. The cost is \$60 for everything. The deadline for payment is Sunday, Jan. 7. We will leave on Friday and return Sunday. The cost is for transportation, hotel and conference registration.

UCC NEWS

We express our sympathy to the family of **Tony Ash** who passed away on Wednesday. The service will be at noon tomorrow, Dec. 11 in the Chapel on the Hill at ACU.

Short-Term Missions Interest Meeting: Anyone interested in participating in short-term missions in 2018 needs to attend an interest meeting immediately after worship this Sunday, Dec. 10 in the Chapel. If you have any questions, see **Tim Archer**.

LTC: A Leadership Training for Christ interest meeting for parents of children in third through fifth grade will take place directly after service on Sunday, Dec. 10 in the Family Room. For more information, come to the meeting or see **Eric Lemmons**.

Join **Jack Boyd** for an evening of beautiful Gospel Singing on Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 6-6:45 p.m. at Chisholm Place (1450 E.N. 10th). Refreshments will be served.

GIVING CHEERFULLY

Perhaps you miss a few Sundays each year, and you need to make up your contribution. Maybe you would like to set up your contribution to be **withdrawn on a regular basis** so, if you are gone or forget your checkbook, your contribution to God's work here at UCC is not forgotten. If so, fill out this form and put it in the collection plate or mail it to the church office.

I authorize University Church of Christ to withdraw funds as checked below:

Regular contribution \$ _____ per week or month. *(Please circle one.)*

Special contribution \$ _____ (one time).

Please choose automatic withdraw from a bank account or payment by credit card.

Bank account No. _____ Bank routing No. _____

Credit Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Children's Church Helpers: Darby I., Keegan C., Valeria Z., Lizzie B.

The Giving Tree: This year the "Giving Tree" located in the foyer will be a little different. Please take items from the tree each week and give to individuals the Lord puts in your path.

Christmas Fun: Next Sunday evening, Dec. 17, children will serve Christmas cookies and hot chocolate following the evening chapel service. Children will need to meet in the Family Room at 4:30 to help set up for our guests. We will attend service together and then serve the treats following service. Children can be picked up at 5:45. Parents are encouraged to attend and join in on this time of fellowship. If your child is in kindergarten or younger please plan to attend with your child.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Kyle Bowen, Campus Ministry Leader
campus@uccabilene.org

Welcome: We want to extend a warm welcome to any college student visiting today. Most of the group is on retreat today, but we hope you will come back to visit soon. Instead of Dwelling Place tonight, we will be participating in the church-wide Christmas party from 5-6:30 p.m. in the MAC. Afterwards, we will go to the Christmas Vespers concert at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

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

Community Groups will not meet this week because of finals.

GATHERINGS

Bradley Steele, Young Adults Minister
bradley@uccabilene.org

Tonight we will join the congregation for the annual UCC Christmas Party at 5 p.m. in the MAC.

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

Don't forget to join us for class on **Sunday mornings** at 9 a.m. in MAC 504

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - Dec. 10-Jan. 3

DEC. 10	8:30 a.m. - Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. - Bible Classes 10 a.m. - Worship, Brent Isbell - speaker, Jacob Groves - worship leader 5 p.m. - UCC Christmas Party, MAC 8 p.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
DEC. 13	7 p.m. - Bible Classes
DEC. 14	noon - Ask. Seek. Knock. (weekly open prayer time), Chapel
DEC. 17	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 8 p.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
DEC. 20	7 p.m. - Bible Classes
DEC. 21	noon - Ask. Seek. Knock. (weekly open prayer time), Chapel
DEC. 22	Office Closed
DEC. 24	10 a.m. - Worship, Brent Isbell - speaker, Steve Austin - worship leader
DEC. 25	Office Closed
DEC. 27	No Activities this Week
DEC. 31	10 a.m. - Worship, Brent Isbell - speaker, Eric Lemmons - worship leader
JAN. 1	Office Closed
JAN. 3	7 p.m. - Bible Classes

PRAYER LIST

UCC ELDERS

Steve Austin
Richard Cox
Mark Hamilton
Eddie Mahanay
Paul Rotenberry
Kris Southward, chair
Mark Tate
James Thompson
Gustavo Villanueva

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