



Candles & Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. • Chapel



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.

December 17, 2017

WORSHIP

1018 *Joy to the World*

Welcome/Family News Gustavo Villanueva

Magnificat

Prayer Richard Cox

233 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

273-276 *Aspiration Medley*

Communion Lou Seckler

Galatians 4:4-7

Bread

768 *Jesus, Let Us Come to Know You*

Cup

768 *Jesus, Let Us Come to Know You*

Offering

Kids Corner

1017 *Away in a Manger*

Luke 1:26-38 Carole Mahanay

Lowly Manger: Luke's Savior in the Hay
Brent Isbell

1002 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

202 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

Worship Leader David Allen Sprott

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 today, thank you for being with us. Please fill out a **Connections Card** (found in the seats). Share information, ask for prayers, or maybe let us know you want to be a UCC member. Drop your card in the offering plate or do it online at uccabilene.org/card.

Today we continue our series called **Wait for It: A Gospel Journey Through Advent**. Each Sunday we are looking at the first arrival (or advent) of Jesus through the eyes of the four Gospels. We're also thinking about his future (second) coming. Today we light the third (Joy) candle of Advent with a stop in Bethlehem: **Lowly Manger: Luke's Savior in the Hay**. Our worship leader today is **David Allen Sprott**. Also, **Jennifer Welch** and I will ask our children to join us up front for some **Kids Corner** fun during worship this morning, so be ready!

Candles and Carols. Next 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. Join us for this special shared experience.

Adult Education Minute: Today our adult classes continued with week four of our series **Christ's Coming and Promised Return**. For the next two Sundays—**December 24** and **December 31**—there will be no 9 a.m. classes! We will only meet for 10 a.m. worship on these Sundays. Bible classes will resume on Sunday, January 7.

Mid-week classes! This Wednesday we conclude our Family Room class series **We Are What We Sing**. Our Conversations class (MAC 501) will finish its series on **An Inclusive Church: Disabilities in Faith Communities**. We will have **no Wednesday classes on December 27**. New mid-week classes will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 3.

Calendar Notes:

- **UCC Office Closed** - December 22, 25-26; January 1
- **Candles and Carols Service** - Sunday, Dec. 24, 6-7 p.m. (Chapel)
- **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
- **Normal times/schedule resumes** - January 3 and January 7

WELCOME

Amber Beall
Grayson (7), Maryn (2)
1842 1/2 N. 5th Street
Abilene, Texas 79603
amberbeall711@gmail.com

NURSERY FACILITIES

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

ATTENDANCE: December 10, 2017
 Worship - 352 Northern Oaks - N/A
 Bilingual - N/A Chisholm Place - 7
 Coronado - 63 Silver Springs - 31

OFFERING:
December 10 \$18,712.93

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

Candles & Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. • Chapel



UCC CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Candles and Carols: Join us next **Sunday, Dec. 24** in the Chapel from 6-7 p.m. as we light the final candles of the Advent season.

We will sing carols, read Scripture, share Communion and more as celebrate the Messiah.

Make sure to invite your friends, neighbors and family to this hour-long special shared experience. You don't want to miss this chance to worship with your church family at this Christmas Eve service.

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*

FROM THE ELDERS

- by Kris Southward, 2017 elder chairman

The UCC elders held their monthly meeting with ministry staff on December 10, 2017. Numerous items were discussed and prayed over, among them:

- Prayed, by name, for those who are in the hospital/skilled nursing, for those battling cancer and dementia, for our sweet **Barbara Ash** on the passing of her husband, **Tony**, for the family of longtime UCC member and encourager **Nick Barbato** on his passing, for the **Ben/Lyric Bailey** and **David/Jenna Sprott** families who are expecting babies, for the healthy birth of baby boy, **Zaydyn**, to **Amanda Estrada**, and for many others;
- Reviewed weekly attendance and giving averages for the year, noting that November average attendance was higher than November, 2016, while giving was less than last year;
- Thankful for **Gustavo Villanueva** who will be the Elder Chairman for 2018 (**Mark Hamilton**, is Chair-Elect for 2019);
- Excited that **Vini Montesdeoca** has accepted the position as bilingual minister. Vini, **Rachel** and their two young children will start next month. This salary will be paid for from the oil lease money received, and allocated, earlier in 2017;
- Set next meeting date for **January 21**.

As always, the UCC elders are grateful for each of you and covet your continued prayers, just as we remember you in our prayers. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about what was discussed in this elders' meeting, or on any other UCC/spiritual matter, please contact me (kris@abilenecpas.net/325-513-6784)...we would appreciate the opportunity to visit with you.

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

UCC FAMILY LIBRARY - BOOK REVIEW

There are no shortcuts to successful parenting; no secret formulas to raising kids of strength and character. In Tim Kimmel's book ***Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right***, the author talks about steps to take to prepare your children for the challenges ahead.

Also, check out the book ***How to Talk So Kids Can Learn*** by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish to read how to motivate kids to succeed in school.

TRANSITIONS

Joey Roberts, Communications Minister
joey@uccabilene.org

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

Small Groups: We will take a break from small groups until Sunday, Jan. 7. Check the sign-up page for info.

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

Youth Christmas Party Tonight: Our UYM Christmas party will be tonight 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 sign up 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: The Craddocks love coming to see Christmas concerts, whether for band, ballet, orchestra or choir, so please let us know when yours will be taking place, and we will try our hardest to be there. Most of the activities have already happened, but if you have something that has yet to be, please let Jason know.

Winterfest: Winterfest is a *huge* youth conference that happens in January each year with thousands of teens in attendance. We will leave on Friday afternoon (1/12) and drive straight to the Arlington Convention Center. We will stay in a hotel on Friday and Saturday. The cost of the conference, which includes transportation, hotel and conference registration is \$60, so save your Christmas money. The hard deadline for payment is January 7.

NEWS AND NOTES

Jana Davis: "Love and blessings to the dear people who helped me move into University Place. You are amazing! Thank you."

Ladies Bible Class is finished for the semester. The class will resume after the new year.

Rainbow Bible School is in need of full-time teachers. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in finding out more information, please contact **Courtney Harbin** by calling 325-673-6972.

The **UCC Security Team** needs some more volunteers to help walk around the building and report anything suspicious. You would serve one Sunday month. Contact **Jim Holmans** if you are interested or need more info.

The **UCC Media Team** needs people who want to be involved in the worship service, but maybe don't want to be up front. Help run the sound board, the slides or the live video. See **Joey Roberts** for more info or to volunteer.

GIVING CHEERFULLY

Perhaps you miss a few Sundays each year and 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

Christmas Fun: This 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 p.m. 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 p.m. 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.

Wednesday Night: Are you ready to start the New Year off with an added blessing? The kindergarten class is in need of a teacher. Please visit with Jennifer Welch about serving in this class.

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.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

campus@uccabilene.org

Welcome: We want to extend a warm welcome to any college student visiting today. Most of the group has probably gone home for the winter break. If you are here, welcome. See one of our campus interns to see what is going on during the break.

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

Community Groups The new campus interns starting next semester will be **Andrea Archer, Pablo Sanabria** and **Michael Kennedy**. We are excited to have these three lead our campus community.

GATHERINGS

Bradley Steele, Young Adults Minister
bradley@uccabilene.org

Tonight we will meet at the **Steeles'** house (1451 Yeoman's) at 5 p.m. for small group. Hope to see you there!

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. 17-Jan. 10

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, Eric Lemmons - worship leader 6 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service, Chapel
DEC. 25	Office Closed
DEC. 26	Office Closed
DEC. 27	No Activities this Week
DEC. 31	10 a.m. - Worship, Jason Craddock - speaker, Steve Austin - worship leader
JAN. 1	Office Closed
JAN. 3	7 p.m. - Bible Classes
JAN. 7	8:30 a.m. - Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. - Bible Classes 10 a.m. - Worship, Brent Isbell - speaker, Mark Tate - worship leader 5 p.m. Chapel Service - Bradley Steele - speaker, Gene Linder - song leader 8 p.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
JAN. 10	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.