



THORNS

Finding God in Pain

February 4, 2018

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

Welcome/Family News Cheryl Bacon

Baby Blessing: Jaziah Redeem Hight-Welch
Brent Isbell, Steve Austin

703 *We Love You With the Love of the Lord*

869 *We're Marching to Zion*

Prayer/Call to Worship Brent Ballard

23 *Our God, He is Alive*

490 *It Is Well With My Soul*

Communion Jason Craddock

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Bread

Open My Heart

Cup

779 *I Love You, Lord*

Offering

Children's Church

669 *Be Still My Soul*

Matthew 11:2-6 Karen Swearingen

Disillusioned Brent Isbell

Cornerstone

Benediction: Romans 15:13

Worship Leader Eric Lemmons

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 joining us. Please fill out one of our **Connections Cards** (found in the seats). Use these to share information, request prayers, or let us know you want to be a UCC member. Drop your card in the offering plate or go online to uccabilene.org/card. Please come back again soon!

Today we continue our new series called **Thorns: Finding God in Pain and Suffering**. In Matthew 11, we find John in prison, filled with doubts and questions about Jesus. Maybe you've been there too? Doubt and disappointment are a kind of pain. Nothing hurts like getting your hopes up only to have them dashed. Let's be honest this morning about what it means to be **Disillusioned**. Our worship leader today is **Eric Lemmons**.

Baby Blessing! Today we will bless and dedicate **Jaziah Redeem**, precious daughter of **Sarah Welch**, granddaughter of **Roger** and **Jennifer Welch**. Praise God for new life!

Adult Education Minute: Today all 9 a.m. adult classes resume as usual in their assigned rooms with their own teachers. Thanks to all our class leaders and teachers for being so accommodating over the past three weeks with our altered programming. We are very excited about our new series **The New Testament Speaks**. Special thanks to **James Thompson** for preparing our curriculum.

Wednesday night. This week, we begin a new block of adult classes. In the Family Room, **James Thompson** is doing a series on **Interpreting the Bible**. In *Conversations* (MAC 501), **Brandon DeLano** will facilitate a series about **Christians on the Internet**.

This week, I will go to **Mexico City** for a few days with **Lou Seckler** and our friend, **Chris Frizzell**. The three of us will provide resources for church leaders at the 33rd annual Glenn Owen Seminar. Pray for our safe travels. Speaking of Lou, he just got back from Guatemala, where churches of Christ and UCC have a rich history. Some of you remember **Jerry Hill**, who went to Guatemala under the College Church's oversight decades ago. Well, the Hills planted powerful seed in Central America. The seminar Lou just attended represented 33 great churches. These Christians are, as Lou put it, "Jerry's children." And, in a way, they are ours too! God's Word never comes back void, does it?

WELCOME

Vini and Rachel Montesdeoca
Lucas (6), Karen (2)

2435 Church Street
Abilene, Texas 79601

Vini: 512-970-7796, vini@uccabilene.org

Rachel: 512-923-4167, rachlou@hotmail.com

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 - **294**
Bilingual - **69**
Coronado - **62**

January 28, 2018

Northern Oaks - **34**
Chisholm Place - **7**
Silver Springs - **31**

OFFERING:

January 28 \$12,520.35

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Elders and the Finance Committee, allow me to express appreciation for your generosity in 2017. Contributions totaled 840,000 for the year, which was shy of our 900,000 budget. Actual expenses for 2017, however, were only \$7,235 less than our income. The 2018 budget has been approved by the elders and copies are available at the Welcome Center and the office. Below is a summary of 2017 actual income and expenses and of the 2018 Budget. Pray that in 2018, God will continue to lead us and use us to bring those in our community who do not know Him and who have not experienced his love, care, and hope. - Gustavo Villanueva

2018 UCC BUDGET

	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
Revenues		
Contributions	839,458	775,000
Rainbow Bible School/Building Use	72,706	72,400
Reserves	58,578	40,000
Total Revenues	970,742	887,400
Expenses		
Ministries (CSC, TIBI, WNS, etc.)	120,086	103,650
Outreach (prison, bilingual, etc.)	29,637	30,573
Children, Youth, University	56,668	63,000
Facilities (buildings, utilities, etc.)	248,538	254,825
Personnel	494,018	405,189
Supplies (office/kitchen/worship/etc.)	29,030	30,163
Total Expenses	977,977	887,400
Excess of Expenses over Revenues	(7,235)	-0-

UCC FAMILY LIBRARY

Check out *Protecting Your Child in an X-rated World* to find out what you need to know to make a difference. Frank York and Jan La Rue discuss how pornography is not just a problem affecting grown men.

In the book *Fearless-The Undaunted Courage and Ultimate Sacrifice of Navy SEAL Team Six Operator Adam Brown*, "be prepared for a full range of emotions as the true adventures of a real American hero demonstrates that 'with God, all things are possible.'"

Also, check out the book *Seven Things Kids Never Forget and How to Make The Most of Them* by Ron Rose. Never underestimate the power of a childhood memory.

In *How to Talk So Kids Can Learn at Home and In School*, Adele Faber and Elanie Mazlish give new skills to help children succeed in school.

Check out these books and more at the **UCC Family Library** located in the main building just down the hallway from the Media Center. The library is open on Sundays and Wednesdays before and after Bible class.

ELDER SELECTION PROCESS

Current UCC members have the chance to nominate men whom they believe would serve effectively as elders. Deadline for nominations is **February 7**. There is a box in the Welcome Center to insert your ballot. The process committee will tally the ballots and give the list of men to the elders by **February 11**. The elders will discuss the list and talk to potential candidates. On **February 25**, the candidates who have accepted being considered will be presented to the church. The church will have that week to notify the elders of any possible scriptural objection. On **March 4**, the new elders will be added during the morning worship service.

NEWS

Ladies' Quilting Ministry will meet tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. in Room 208.

Ladies' Bible Class continues in the Family Room on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Ministry of MOMs will have its annual couples dinner on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at the Christian Service Center (3185 N. 10th Street). Tours of the facility will take place from 6-6:25 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP if you need childcare (you can drop off at the ECC beginning at 5:50 p.m.). The speakers are **Jim Clark** (CSC Director) and **Roberta Brown** (CSC Volunteer Coordinator).

Common Life Two will have a luncheon on Sunday, Feb. 11 in the Family Room after worship. The meat (pork loin) will be provided, but we are asking people to bring food by your last name: A-G (dessert), H-O (salad) and P-Z (vegetable).

Wednesday Night Supper continues this week at 5:45 p.m. The meal is free, but if you can donate \$5 per adult plate, that would be helpful to cover the cost of the ministry.

A short meeting for those planning to **lead a short-term mission trip in 2018** will be held on Sunday, Feb. 11 in the chapel immediately following worship. This is for all who plan to request funding for a trip that will involve other UCC members.

Need a place to volunteer? See **Jim Holmans** (safety team), **Bradley Steele** (Impressions) or **Joey Roberts** (media).

TRANSITIONS

Joey Roberts, Communications Minister
joey@uccabilene.org

Tonight: Both groups will combine for a Super Bowl Party in the MAC at 5 p.m. Kickoff is set for 5:30 p.m., and we will have it on the projector. Bring finger foods, party foods, etc. Drinks (tea, water, lemonade) will be provided.

Small Groups: We will be changing the groups this month, so look on the Facebook page for the new groups (red and blue). We need hosts this month, so sign up on the link via Facebook.

Check out **Facebook** for more activities and info.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Super Bowl Party Tonight: Our annual Super Bowl party will be tonight from 5–9 p.m. (or as soon as the game ends) for some food, games and football. As always, we will have the football game in the theater and games in the other rooms, with the game playing in the background. We will have lots of pizza and snacks, so invite a friend(s) to join us. We will also give out prizes during halftime for the best snacks, so plan to bring something awesome. Please let Jason know what you plan to bring so that we can buy the right amount of *extra* food.

Free Tutoring Available at ACU: James Scudder has made us aware of a great resource for all students in the community regarding free tutoring available at ACU. Abilene-area students can take advantage of a wide variety of tutoring services free of charge during the drop-in hours at the CORE Classroom (room attached to the south side of the library). The hours are Sunday, 5-8 p.m.; Tuesday, 5-9 p.m.; and Wednesday, 5-9 p.m. For more information, contact Debbie Stewart at 325-674-2667 or via email at djs07a@acu.edu.

Huddles Continue Wednesday: Our small-group Huddles will continue Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. The **HS Huddle** will meet at the **Scudder** home (658 E N 22nd St.). The **MS Huddle** will meet in the **Youth Center**.

Camp Blue Haven Registration: Registration for *returning* CBH campers has moved up a couple of weeks this year, with registration needing to be completed by **January 31** to claim your spot. So make sure to go online and register as soon as you can.

Sign up for a CRADtalk: CRADtalks are “conversations worth having” with **Jason** and/or **Karla Craddock**. During these conversations there will be a little small talk, but we want to dive into our students’ spiritual lives, offering some coaching and strategies for spiritual growth and just focus on building students up. Our goal is to leave with a plan for a deeper relationship with God and praying over anything for which you may want prayer. Guys will go out with Jason and girls will go out with Jason and Karla or just Karla. So, let’s get together.

Activity Schedules: If you or your kids have any activities (school or otherwise) coming up, please let Jason know so we can plans to make it out and support them.

BILINGUAL MINISTRY

Vini Montesdeoca, Bilingual Minister
vini@uccabilene.org

I felt God’s calling when I heard about UCC’s bilingual ministry. Since I have been in contact with the congregation, my impression has been one of kindness, courtesy and many others aspects that have demonstrated God’s love. When I arrived with my family, there were many of you surrounding us and helping us with the move; I felt family warmth. During the special ceremony on Sunday, I thought about, not just only how serious it is to work for the Lord, but also about my commitment to this congregation. Later, you delighted us with a welcoming reception and I knew in my heart we were in the right place. I want to say my family and I are very thankful for all of the love we have received. We hope the Lord will guide us in this new spiritual challenge and that His Holy Spirit is always dwelling in us. I am excited to begin working with each of you as we grow together in our service for the Lord and our community.

Yo sentí el llamado de Dios cuando escuché del ministerio bilingüe de UCC. Desde que tengo contacto con la iglesia, mi impresión ha sido de amabilidad, de cortesía, de buen trato, cosas que muestran el amor de Dios. Cuando llegué aquí tuve muchas personas alrededor de mi familia para ayudarnos con nuestra mudanza y sentí el calor familiar. Durante la ceremonia especial el domingo pensé no sólo en lo serio que es trabajar para Dios sino también en el compromiso que tengo para con esta congregación. Nos dieron una recepción de bienvenida y entonces supe que estoy en el lugar correcto. Quiero decir que mi familia y yo estamos muy agradecidos por todo el cariño que hemos recibido. Esperamos que el Señor nos guíe en este nuevo reto espiritual y que su Santo Espíritu esté siempre entre nosotros. Estoy muy animado para empezar a trabajar con cada uno de ustedes mientras crecemos en nuestro servicio hacia Dios y nuestra comunidad.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Children's Church:

Feb. 4: M and J Groves, M. Trammell
Feb. 11: Kids Corner
Feb. 18: N. Bryce, B. West, E. Ice.

Free Babysitting: On Friday, Feb. 9, the children's ministry will host a free night of babysitting from 6-8:30 p.m. Supper will be provided, but if your child does not like pizza or has a food allergy to pizza, please plan to bring their supper. You will need to RSVP by email to jenniferw@uccabilene.org by Monday, Feb. 5 at noon.

Service Project: On Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 4-5 p.m., children second grade through fifth grade can deliver Valentines to some homebound members. Please RSVP your child's spot by Monday, Feb. 12.

VBS Save the Date: Vacation Bible School will be June 4-6.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Andrea Archer, Pablo Sanabria, Michael Kennedy
campus@uccabilene.org

Welcome: We would like to welcome any college students with us today.

Class: Our Sunday morning class will meet in the MAC 503 at 9 a.m. Our Wednesday night class meets at 7 p.m. in MAC 503.

Dwelling Place, a time of fellowship, discussion and worship, meets Sundays at 6 p.m. (MAC 503).

GATHERINGS

Bradley Steele, Young Adults Minister
bradley@uccabilene.org

Tonight we will meet at the **Steeles'** house 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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – February 4-14

- FEB. 4** 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
5 p.m. Chapel Service – Steve Austin – speaker
8 p.m. – Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
- FEB. 5** 9 a.m. – Ladies' Quilting Ministry, Room 208
- FEB. 6** 6 p.m. – Ministry of MOMs Couples Dinner, Christian Service Center
- FEB. 7** **DEADLINE FOR ELDER SELECTION BALLOTS**
10 a.m. – Ladies' Bible Class, Family Room
5:45 p.m. –Wednesday Night Supper, MAC (Mexican food)
7 p.m. – Bible Classes
- FEB. 11** **FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY**
8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, Welcome Center
9 a.m. – Bible Classes (combined adult class in the auditorium)
10 a.m. – Worship, Brent Isbell – speaker, Mark Tate – worship leader
11 a.m. –Short-Term Mission Trip Leaders Meeting, Chapel
11:30 a.m. – Common Life Two Luncheon, Family Room
No 5 p.m. Chapel Service
8 p.m. – Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
- FEB. 14** 10 a.m. – Ladies' Bible Class, Family Room
5:45 p.m. –Wednesday Night Supper, MAC (Hamburgers/Hot Dogs)
7 p.m. – Bible Classes

PRAYER LIST

UCC ELDERS

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

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