



THORNS

Finding God in Pain

February 11, 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 Bradley Steele
Call to Worship: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13

This Little Light of Mine

Kids Corner (in Chapel) Jennifer Welch

3 Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

828 Instruments of Your Peace

218 Blessed Jesus

Communion Kim Pamplin

Luke 22:14-20

Bread

694 Servant Song

Cup

705 A Common Love

Offering

The Greatest Commands

Romans 12:9-21 Don Faver

Enemies Brent Isbell

719 Love One Another

Benediction: 2 Thessalonians 3:5

Worship Leader Mark Tate

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

Today we continue our sermon series **Thorns: Finding God in Pain and Suffering**. Have you ever had an enemy? Difficult adversary? Mean bully? Most of us have experienced an antagonist at some point in our life. In Romans 12, Paul describes a response to enemies that is just as revolutionary and shocking today as it must have sounded in the first century. As Christians, Paul says, we love our enemies and let God settle injustices. Let's talk about the special pain of dealing with **Enemies**. Our worship leader is **Mark Tate**.

Adult Education Minute: Today our 9 a.m. adult classes continued our **The New Testament Speaks** series, looking at Matthew. If you want to read ahead, next week we study **The Gospel of Luke** and **Acts**.

Wednesday Classes. This week we continue our new mid-week classes. In the Family Room, **James Thompson** is offering a series on **Interpreting the Bible**. In *Conversations* (MAC 501), **Brandon DeLano** is facilitating a series about **Perceptions of Christianity on the Internet**. This is the second week of these four-week classes.

This past week, I traveled to **Mexico City** with **Lou Seckler**. I was blessed to have the opportunity to partner with Lou and others to provide some teaching resources for dozens of Mexican preachers and church leaders at the annual Glenn Owen Seminar. What a joy to see and hear how God's kingdom is on the move all over Mexico. I got to teach, but the truth is that I learned more, breaking bread and sharing fellowship with dozens of God's outstanding servants. Let's never forget to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world!

NEWS AND NOTES

Elder Selection Process: Beginning today, the elders will discuss the list of nominations and talk to potential candidates. On **February 25**, the candidates who have accepted being considered and approved by the elders will be presented to the church. The church will have that week to notify the elders of any possible scriptural objection, and on Sunday, **March 4**, the new elders will be added to the eldership during the morning worship service.

Common Life Group Two will have a luncheon in the Family Room following services. **Common Life Group Four** will have a luncheon in the Youth Center.

Carl and Joyce Cheatham: "We are so appreciative of the prayers for Carl and so very thankful to God for His answers with the successful surgery and negative lymph nodes. And the flowers brightened the room."

CLASS TIMES:

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

WORSHIP TIMES:

Sunday - 10 a.m., 5 p.m.
Sanctuary - 8 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 - **361**
Bilingual - **64**
Coronado - **57**

February 4, 2018

Northern Oaks - **30**
Chisholm Place - **10**
Silver Springs - **N/A**

OFFERING:

February 4 **\$17,912.13**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Children's Church:

Feb. 18: N. Bryce, B. West, E. Ice
Feb. 25: D. Ice, V. Zuniga, L. Bryce

Elder Buck Prize Cart: The Elder Buck Prize Cart is located upstairs in the children's wing the second and fourth Sunday of every month. So it is there today! Children can shop at the cart before Bible class with Ms. Lucy or right after church with Ms. Jennifer.

Babysitting Night: Thank you to the youth and college groups who helped with the free night babysitting for families on Friday night.

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

BILINGUAL MINISTRY

Vini Montesdeoca, Bilingual Minister
vini@uccabilene.org

La Visión de 'University' es que nuestra congregación "existe por la gracia de Dios para ser una comunidad de amor que alaba a Dios por medio de vivir y contar a otros las Buenas Nuevas de Cristo." Sin duda alguna, quienes pertenecemos a ella somos responsables de que tal visión sea una realidad. Hechos 4:23ss es un ejemplo de como la iglesia es un ente espiritual que tiene conexión con, y que busca el favor de, la Divinidad. El ejercicio de la oración es no sólo para peticiones al Creador, es una forma pública de expresar la fe que cultiva quienes la practican, es una forma de mostrar a los demás que ese Ser Supremo es capaz de transformar cualquier situación para que el mensaje de Cristo sea entregado a otros. ¡Gracias al grupo de hermanas que se reúnen semanalmente y que son un ejemplo de fe para todos! Sigamos construyendo una iglesia sana y espiritual.

University's vision is that our congregation "exists by the grace of God to be a loving fellowship praising God by living and telling the good news of Jesus." Without a doubt we, who belong to this church, are responsible for making this vision a reality. Acts 4:23ff is an example of the church as a spiritual entity that has a connection with, and who seeks the favor of, the Divinity. The exercise of prayer is not only to express petitions to the Creator, but it is also a public way of expressing the faith of those who cultivate prayer in their lives. It is a way of demonstrating to others that God is a Supreme being who is capable of transforming any situation so that Christ's message can be delivered to others. I want to express my gratitude to the group of sisters who are joining together weekly to pray, for they are an example of faith to us all! Let's continue building a church that is healthy and spiritual.

LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

Ladies' Bible Class continues Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Family Room. Beginning this week, there will be free babysitting offered to those in attendance with small children.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Devo and Free Time Tonight: Join us tonight from 5-7:30p.m. for a devo followed by dinner and free time. Bring \$3 to help cover the cost of dinner.

Playground Thank You: Thank you to everyone who came out yesterday to help spread the rubber mulch on the playground. Now just a few more finishing touches this week and we will have a grand opening next Sunday after morning worship! So, make plans to stick around for a few minutes to be part of that dedication.

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**.

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 at *djs07a@acu.edu*.

Sign up for a CRADtalk: CRADtalks are our "conversations worth having" with Jason and/or Karla Craddock.

TRANSITIONS

Joey Roberts, Communications Minister
joey@uccabilene.org

Tonight: We start our newly arranged small groups. The red group will be at the Gibbs' house (901 Washington Blvd), and the blue group will be at the Williams' (6350 Summerhill).

Check out **Facebook** for more activities and info, including sign-ups for summer small groups.

GATHERINGS

Bradley Steele, Young Adults Minister
bradley@uccabilene.org

Tonight we will meet at the **Steeles'** house (1725 Lincoln) at 5 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Wednesday we'll 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.

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).

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.