



February 18, 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 Pablo Sanabria
Call to Worship: Psalm 100

882 *No Tears in Heaven*

Prayer Odell Wilson

749 *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*

762 *Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord*

48 *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

Communion Paul Roggendorff
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Bread

777 *Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer*

Cup

777 *Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer*

Offering

Children's Church

761 *Prince of Peace! Control My Will*

Matthew 16:21-27 Andrea Archer

Pick Up Your Cross Brent Isbell

Shout to the Lord

Benediction: Philippians 4:4-7

Worship Leader Steve Austin

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! Some may be in town for ACU Sing Song this weekend. Whatever brought you here, if you are visiting today, thank you so much for being our honored guest! Please fill out a **Connections Card** (found in the seats). Use it to share information, ask for prayers, or let us know you want to be a UCC member, then simply drop it in the offering plate later, or fill it out at uccabilene.org/card. Please come back soon!

We continue our sermon series **Thorns: Finding God in Pain**. Today we are in Matthew 16. Jesus tells his disciples that things are about to get painful, scary, even bloody, for him—and them too. I think it's easy to forget that Christianity always has been, for most who understand it properly, a hard choice. Jesus still tells his followers: **Pick Up Your Cross**. Let's talk this morning about the thorn promised to those who do that. Our worship leader today is **Steve Austin**.

Adult Education Minute: Today our 9 a.m. adult classes continued our **The New Testament Speaks** series, looking at Luke and Acts. If you want to read ahead, next week we study **1 and 2 Thessalonians**.

Wednesday night. This week, **James Thompson** continues our **Family Room** series on **Interpreting the Bible**. In Conversations (MAC 501), **Brandon DeLano** is facilitating **Perceptions of Christianity on the Internet**. This is the third week of these four-week classes.

UCC Community Playground. Today, following worship, we will gather outside for a brief dedication of our new community playground. This big project has involved much hard work and many months. Thanks to the unexpected financial gifts of past UCC members, we are thrilled to open a welcoming playground for neighborhood families. We are naming it after someone special, the late and much-loved **Patty Cox**. She devoted her life to loving and teaching children, so it only seems right to call our playground **Patty's Place!** Come join us—along with **Richard Cox** and his family—for an official “grand opening” of this gift from UCC to our community. Patty's Place will be a blessing for our neighbors (and our own girls and boys) for generations to come.

In Appreciation. Next **Sunday, Feb. 25**, we will host a brief come-and-go reception for **Joey Roberts** and family after morning worship in the Family Room. This is an opportunity for everyone to express love and gratitude to Joey for his many contributions as our Communications Minister since 2011. Please plan to drop by and say “thank you.”

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 - **338**
Bilingual - **69**
Coronado - **59**

February 11, 2018

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

OFFERING:

February 11 **\$12,976.01**

FROM THE ELDERS

- by *Gustavo Villanueva, 2018 elder chair*

The UCC elders held their monthly meeting with ministry staff on Sunday, February 11, 2018. 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 **Ray Whiteside** on the passing of his dear wife, **Betty**; prayed for **David/Jenna Sprott** who are expecting their next little one very soon, for **Vini Montesdeoca** as his mother is gravely ill in Ecuador, for the many at UCC suffering from the flu, and for many others;
- Prayed over, and thanked, our three college interns: **Andrea Archer, Michael Kennedy, and Pablo Sanabria**. We are grateful for these three wonderful, Christian students;
- Grateful for those who participated in spreading the mulch for the new neighborhood playground, mainly from our youth group under the guidance of **Jason Craddock**, on a very cold Saturday morning! Proposed dedication date is February 18;
- Discussed the goal of **Brent Isbell** and **Bradley Steele** to begin a regular time of fellowship and ministry for UCC men;
- Grateful for the various small groups and classes who are meeting with our brothers and sisters in the **5 p.m. Chapel Service**, establishing new friendships and deepening ones previously made;
- Approved the funding of \$5,000 to assist with the hosting of the **International Women's Conference** in 2019, where 600-plus bilingual women from Central, South and North America will meet in Abilene to be encouraged and equipped for ministry;
- Tabled a discussion on reviewing the goals, and the fulfillment of those goals, of **Common Life Groups** until new elders are installed;
- Accepted the results from **Bo Green** and his committee who were tasked with tabulating the ballots for the elder selection process. There were 128 ballots turned in, and the elders are exceedingly grateful for the time put in by our members and this committee for this very important process. The current elders will begin contacting proposed new elders during the upcoming week, meeting with them and their spouses, with the goal of presenting them to the congregation on Sunday, Feb. 25, and then to be installed on Sunday, March 4, with the week between February 25 and March 4 to be used for any scriptural objections;
- Set next meeting date for **March 18**.

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...we would appreciate the opportunity to visit with you.

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

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND OPENS

The long-awaited, much-anticipated opening of the UCC Community Playground will take place this morning after worship service outside the Youth Center doors. We will have a dedication ceremony and a ribbon cutting, and we will pray over the new part of our campus we hope will bring our neighbors to visit and play.

NEWS AND NOTES

UCC Family Dinners will return on Saturday, March 3 at 6 p.m. We will sign up people for the next two Sundays after church, and people who sign up will be contacted by their host about what dish to bring. Childcare will be provided for preschool through fifth grade.

The **Impressions Ministry** needs more people to help greet members and guests on Sunday morning. If you are willing to greet guests one or two Sundays a month, please see **Bradley Steele** or send him an email at bradley@uccabilene.org or call the church office (673-6497).

Have you missed a past sermon? Did you know you can access past sermons via **uccabilene.org**? Click on "Media" and "Sermon Archive" and you can see past sermons you may have missed. You can also find **bulletins** uploaded on a weekly basis.

The Joe Elrod Family: "Our dad, Joe Elrod, has moved to a new home. His progressive dementia and physical health required that he have shorter halls to walk, and more assistance. He has recently moved to Wisteria Place, 3202 South Willis, Abilene, TX, 79605. After looking at many new home possibilities, we chose Wisteria Place in Abilene. He has a nice size room and bath to himself. His doctors are located in Abilene, as well as many friends. This location is also nearer to his daughter Lisa, and she will be able to drop in more often. His daughter Gloria has been visiting for at least a couple of days each week and will continue to do that. He would love to have mail. We are asking that you send a card or note. We all enjoy hearing from our friends and family!"

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Mission teams and individuals requesting funding from the 2018 Missions Special need to get their requests to the missions committee no later than Sunday, Feb. 25. Those interested should complete the online application form at <https://tinyurl.com/2018UCCRequest>. If you have any questions, please contact **Tim Archer** at 668-9327 or any missions committee member.

TRANSITIONS

Joey Roberts, Communications Minister
joey@uccabilene.org

Tonight both groups will meet at the playground at 5 p.m. to play for a bit, then we will all go to the Bowmans' house (642 Green Valley) for a devotional and dinner. See Facebook for what to bring.

Conversations: We have had two great classes on the *Perceptions of Christianity on the Internet* led by **Brandon DeLano**. Join us this Wednesday at 7 p.m. in MAC 501 for the third of this four-week series.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

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 via email at djs07a@acu.edu.

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

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

BILINGUAL MINISTRY

Vini Montesdeoca, Bilingual Minister
vini@uccabilene.org

Cuando la iglesia ora, el primer resultado es la unidad. Primero porque el grupo completo se presenta en súplica o agradecimiento ante el Padre y segundo porque en un solo sentir, el Espíritu lo eleva a una atmósfera divina; además, el hecho de compartir la oración denota que hay una causa en común que la comunidad completa persigue. Querer orar implica que en la persona está el deseo de hacerlo y a la vez tiene la convicción de que Dios está escuchando, de que tiene el amor, la misericordia y la justicia para mover su poder y hacerlos presente en las vidas de quienes lo buscan. Orar por necesidades en particular llega a ser una forma de fortalecer la fe mientras se busca el bien de los demás; por medio de la oración manifestamos el amor de Dios y recordamos esa esperanza viva que nos mantiene en el camino espiritual. Sigamos adelante con una visión espiritual que incluya en nuestras vidas una oración de fe, de esperanza y de acercarnos a Dios. Quiero personalmente agradecer a cada uno de ustedes por las oraciones que han levantado a Dios en nombre de mi mamá. Gracias por bendecir a mi familia y a mí en estos momentos difíciles.

When the Church prays, the beginning result is unity. We experience unity, first, because the entire group is present in supplication and gratitude before the Father. Secondly, unity comes because we are all expressing our emotions together. The Spirit lifts up into a divine atmosphere; the fact of sharing in prayer indicates that there is a common cause the community seeks together. To want to pray indicates that within the person there is a desire to do it and at the same time there is a conviction that God is listening; that He has love, mercy, and justice to move His power and to be present in the lives of those who seek Him. To pray for needs, in particular, becomes a way of fortifying faith while one is seeking the good of others. Through prayer we manifest God's love and we remember the living hope that continues to keep us on the road of spirituality. Let us live our lives continuing forward with a spiritual vision that includes prayers of faith and hope, which bring us closer to God. I personally want to thank each of you who have been lifting up prayers for my mother. Thank you for blessing my family and me during these difficult moments.

NEWS

We will not have **Sanctuary** tonight at 8 p.m. The special worship service will resume next week.

Ladies Bible Class continues in the Family Room on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Free babysitting is offered for anyone who attends.

You are cordially invited to attend a bridal shower honoring **Angela Darden**, bride-elect to **Adam Tate**, on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the home of **Sylvia McCaleb** (7 Hilliard Circle). Selections are at Pottery Barn and Bed, Bath and Beyond.

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

Playground Dedication: Just a reminder that immediately following worship, we will gather at the new playground and have the dedication ceremony.

VBS Save the Date: Vacation Bible School will be June 4-6. I am excited to share that all of UCC will be involved this year in VBS. The ages for VBS will be four years old through fifth grade. Babysitting will be provided for UCC kids whose parents are helping with VBS.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

- Romans 8:28

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 (1725 Lincoln Drive) 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 - February 18-28

FEB. 18	8:30 a.m. - Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. - Bible Classes 10 a.m. - Worship, Brent Isbell - speaker, Steve Austin - worship leader 11 a.m. - Playground Dedication 5 p.m. Chapel Service - Brent Isbell - speaker, Art Rosenquist - song leader
FEB. 21	10 a.m. - Ladies' Bible Class, Family Room 5:45 p.m. -Wednesday Night Supper, MAC (Chinese) 7 p.m. - Bible Classes
FEB. 25	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 11 a.m. - Appreciation Reception for Roberts Family, Family Room 2 p.m. - Bridal Shower honoring Angela Darden/Adam Tate, 7 Hilliard Circle 5 p.m. Chapel Service - Mark Hamilton - speaker, Gene Linder - song leader 8 p.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
FEB. 28	10 a.m. - Ladies' Bible Class, Family Room 5:45 p.m. -Wednesday Night Supper, MAC (chicken) 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.