



THORNS

FINDING GOD IN PAIN

March 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

718 *We Shall Assemble*

Welcome, Family News and Call to Worship Brent Isbell

4 *To God Be the Glory*

Prayer Tom Milholland

221 *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

222 *There's Something About That Name*

Before the Throne of God Above

Communion David Swearingen

Matthew 26:26-29

Bread

Cup

922 *Jesus Paid It All*

Offering

Missions Moment Video

Children's Church

324 *Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed?*

John 19:8-16 Melinda Isbell

Who to Blame? Brent Isbell

287 *There is a Redeemer*

Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:13

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 to UCC! If you are visiting today, you are an honored guest. Please fill out a **Connections Card** (found in the seats). Use those cards to share information, ask for prayers, or let us know you want to be a UCC member. Simply drop your card in the offering plate later, or fill it out online at uccabilene.org/card. Please come back soon!

We continue our sermon series **Thorns: Finding God in Pain**. Today, only two weeks from Easter, we listen in on a private conversation between Jesus and Pontius Pilate (John 19:8-11). The Governor thinks Jesus is innocent, but he's not sure what to do. The crowd won't cut him any slack. Neither will Caesar. In the end, the only grace Pilate receives is from, of all people, the man he condemns to death. Today: **Who to Blame?** 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 Galatians. If you want to read ahead, next week we will study **Romans**.

Lou Seckler will speak and **Art Rosenquist** will lead songs at our **5 p.m. evening chapel service today**. All are welcome.

Wednesdays: This week, two new mid-week series begin! **Lou Seckler** will teach four weeks in the Family Room on **The Holy Spirit: God's Living Presence in the Church Today**. In Conversations (MAC 501), **Lisa Merchant** will spend four weeks on **Struggling with Addiction**.

Special Collection for Missions is next Sunday, March 25. Plan and pray for a generous offering for a variety of projects around the world!

Easter is Sunday, April 1. We will have our usual special schedule in place: **Sunrise Service** in the courtyard at 8 a.m., **Easter Breakfast** in the MAC at 9 a.m., **Worship** at 10 a.m., and **Egg Hunt** for the children outside about 11:15 a.m.

Easter Sunrise includes a **Time of Remembrance** for family and friends we have lost to death since last Easter. If you have names of special people you would like us to recognize that morning, send them to me or the church office between now and March 28.

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 - **303**
Chapel PM - **N/A**
Bilingual - **67**
Coronado - **48**

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Northern Oaks - **14**
Chisholm Place - **N/A**
Silver Springs - **34**

OFFERING:

March 11 **\$14,228.09**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Children's Church Schedule:

March 18 – Marisol & Jacob G., Maggie T.
March 25 – Nathan B., Bridgette W., Ella I.
April 1 – No children's church

Children's Worship: This time of year is an exciting time as we turn our hearts and minds to focus on the resurrection of Jesus. Today, our children will begin creating an Easter story wreath they can take home for Easter.

Summer Bible Classes: It will not be long before summer is here and it will be time for new teachers in the classroom. Please be in prayer for our children's ministry as we fill the teaching roles for this summer.

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world." John 1:9

TRANSITIONS

Andrew Huddleston
huddleston_andrew@yahoo.com

Tonight, both groups will be combined. Check Facebook for location and food signups.

Next Sunday, join us for the 5 p.m. Chapel Service as we enjoy an LTC showcase put on by the children who will be traveling to Dallas on Easter weekend. Afterwards, we will eat dinner at Rosa's.

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 an All-Church Devotional in the Family Room.

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

Check out our **Facebook** page (search *UCC Gatherings*) for more events and info.

BILINGUAL MINISTRY

Vini Montesdeoca, Bilingual Minister
vini@uccabilene.org

Resurrection Sunday Family Event: The Bilingual Group will be having an event at Nelson Park Festival Gardens, April 1 at 4:30 p.m., for games, food and fellowship. It is a space for everyone in the family to come and enjoy.

Women's Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Men's Prayer Group: Saturdays at 7 a.m.

Vini's Mini Message: Acts 2:41-47 demonstrates that we can experience a truly Christian life of the highest level, where faith in God is over every part of life and where one's love for a neighbor is lived out. So, let's live with conviction, with faith and in ways that we show that "the LORD is my Shepard, I do not lack anything".

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

MAC Attack Tonight: Today from 5-7:30 p.m. we will meet in the MAC for food, fun and a devo. While we could have had a REEL Faith for the latest version of *Macbeth* starring McKellen, McGregor and MacDowell, we will instead be eating Mid-Mac Burgers in the MAC served with tater tots, volleyball and basketball. So, invite a friend and join us! Bring \$3 for food.

Huddles Resume Wednesday: Our small-group Huddles resume on Wednesday from 7-8 p.m.. **HS Huddle** meets at the Scudder home (658 E N 22nd), and the **MS** meets in the Youth Center.

Spring Retreat: Last week I accidentally wrote the wrong month for our Spring Retreat. The retreat will actually be **April 28-30** at the Camp Butman. The cost will be \$40 per person (\$35 if there are two or more attendees in your family). We are offering the special price of \$25 for any friends you bring who are not regular attendees. It will be a ton of fun and spiritually meaningful so make plans to join us! As always, we will need adult volunteers so please let Jason know if you are interested.

REEL Faith – Sunday, March 25 – *The Natural* (PG)

CAMPUS MINISTRY

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

We extend a warm welcome to any college students with us today! We are glad you're here!

Our **Sunday Morning Class** meets at 9 a.m. each week in our Ministry Activity Center, Rm. 503.

Dwelling Place is a time of fellowship, discussion and worship that meets each Sunday at 6 p.m. in MAC 503.

Community Groups, our small groups, meet Wednesday and Thursday nights at 7 p.m.

NEWS AND NOTES

Sanctuary continues tonight at 8 p.m. in the Chapel so come join us if you are able.

You are invited to a **Sip-and-See Baby Shower** honoring **Ben and Lyric Bailey** and their baby, James, on Sunday, March 25, from 2-3:30 p.m. in the Family Room. The proud parents are only requesting diapers, wipes and gift cards.

Nursery Update: The nursery in the back of the auditorium will be going through a few changes as we make it more baby and nursing-mother friendly. This area will be specifically for nursing moms and fussy infants who need a quiet place to rock. If you have a toddler (three-years or under) that is restless, please feel free to take them to an attended nursery in the Early Childhood Center where you can leave them or sit with them there to allow them to play.

Ladies' Bible Class continues Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Family Room. Free baby-sitting is offered to those in attendance Wednesday with small children.

Wednesday Night Supper will resume with Mexican food this week at 5:45 p.m. in the MAC.

PRAYER LIST

Immediate Health Concerns

Bette Harris
Julio Marines

Health Concerns

Mable Bailey
Cheryl Ballard
Gay Barton
Vicki Blair
Carl Brecheen
Marion Bush
Jack Callan
Cathy Chisholm
Evie Clovis
Phyllis Gilbreth
Myra Holmans
Exa Fay Hooten
Hal Howell
Michael Jimenez
Shirley Kellar
Yuneva Kirk
Mary Leija
Jeannette Lipford
Imogene McAnulty
Clyde Morgan
Martha Morris
Eddie Pierson
Marilyn Reyes
Shelly Roggendorf
Yvonne Sinclair
Bill Teague
Tula Wearden
James White

Homebound

Mary Barthelemy
Brenda Whitsett

UCC ELDERS

Tim Archer
Steve Austin
Richard Cox
Mark Hamilton
Eddie Mahanay
Ted Presley
Paul Rotenberry
Kris Southward
David Swearingen
Mark Tate
James Thompson
Rusty Towell
Gustavo Villanueva, chair

Submit your bulletin items to Jason Craddock before noon on Wednesday.