

GATHERINGS

Bradley Steele, Young Adults Minister
bradley@uccabilene.org

Tonight, there will be no small group.

Wednesday we will have our First Family Night at the MAC at 7 p.m.

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

Make sure to check our **Facebook** group for more information.

TRANSITIONS

Andrew Huddleston

Tonight, the **blue group** we will meet at the Fangios' house and the **red group** will meet at the Barcrofts'.

Beginning next week, both groups will meet together until Labor Day.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

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

We would like to welcome any college students who are visiting with us today!

Sunday morning class begins at 9 a.m. in MAC 503.

Summer Changes: We will not have Community Groups or Dwelling Place until school starts back in the Fall. Enjoy your summer!

BILINGUAL MINISTRY

Vini Montesdeoca, Bilingual Minister
vini@uccabilene.org

Bilingual Ladies' prayer group meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in a different location each week. If you want to assist, call the office for more information.

Men's prayer group meets every Saturday at 7 a.m. at McDonald's on Judge Ely.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - May 27- June 17

MAY 27	8:30 a.m. - Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. - Bible Classes 10 a.m. - Worship 5 p.m. - Chapel Service, <i>B. Steele - speaker, E. Lemmons- worship leader</i> 8 p.m. - No Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
MAY 30	7 p.m. - Family Night #1 in the MAC (Ice Cream and Desserts)
JUNE 3	8:30 a.m. - Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. - Bible Classes 10 a.m. - Worship 5 p.m. - Chapel Service, <i>R. Towell-Speaker, A. Rosenquist-worship Leader</i> 8 p.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
JUNE 6	7 p.m. - Bible Classes
JUNE 10	7 p.m. - Family Room Class: A Created People - Brent Isbell 8:30 a.m. - Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. - Bible Classes 10 a.m. - Worship (<i>Children's Home Offering</i>) 5 p.m. - No Chapel 8 p.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
JUNE 13	7 p.m. - Bible Classes 7 p.m. - Family Room Class: A Chosen People - Wendell Willis
JUNE 17	8:30 a.m. - Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. - Bible Classes 10 a.m. - Worship 5 p.m. - Chapel Service, <i>T. Archer-Speaker, A. Rosenquist-worship Leader</i> 8 p.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel

UCC ELDERS

Tim Archer
Steve Austin
Mark Hamilton
Ted Presley
Paul Rotenberry
Kris Southward
David Swearingen
Mark Tate (Sabbatical)
James Thompson
Rusty Towell

Chair

Gustavo Villanueva

Please submit your
bulletin items to
Marisol Groves **before
noon on Wednesday.**
marisol@uccabilene.org



WEDNESDAY, MAY 30 • 7 P.M. • MAC
HOMEMADE

Ice Cream

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.

May 27, 2018

WORSHIP

Welcome, Family News and Call to Worship
Romans 8:22-27 Randi Williams

He is Wonderful

860 *There is a Habitation*

Shepherd's Prayer Mark Hamilton

836 *Til My Faith Becomes Sight*

589 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Communion Vini Montesdeoca
John 6:47-57

Bread

422 *Spirit of the Living God*

Cup

422 *Spirit of the Living God*

Offering

Children's Home Video

Children's Church

Higher Ground

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Responsive Reading

Can These Bones Live? Bradley Steele

Days of Elijah

Benediction

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 to UCC! If you are visiting us this Memorial Day weekend, please fill out one of our **Connections Cards** (on the seat backs). Drop your card in the offering plate or fill it out online at uccabilene.org/card. Come back soon!

On Tuesday, **Melinda** and I will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. Wow, a whole quarter of a century! Melinda is on the fast-track for sainthood, I am pretty certain. We thank God for each other and our family. We are taking some getaway time this holiday weekend.

Bradley Steele, UCC's Associate Minister, is preaching this morning. You will be blessed. Our worship leader is **Eric Lemmons**.

Adult Education Minute: Today our 9 a.m. adult classes concluded our **New Testament Speaks** series, looking at Revelation. Special thanks to **James Thompson** for writing all seventeen weeks of this excellent curriculum. Next week, all our classes begin new separate studies, each group choosing its own study materials and teachers.

This Wednesday is the first of four **Family Nights** we will host this summer. Let's celebrate the end of school (AISD dismisses Thursday!) with **homemade ice cream and desserts!** Bring a freezer of your favorite flavor (ex: mint chocolate chip). We will award prizes for various chilly categories. You are also welcome to bring a pan of brownies or cookies or something else sweet. Invite friends and neighbors and join us in the MAC at 7 p.m. Family Nights are fun and delicious!

Coming Soon..

- UCC Office Closed** - Memorial Day Monday, May 28
- Family Night #1 (Ice Cream)** - Wed., May 30, 7 p.m.
- VBS: #theGospel** - Mon.-Wed., June 4-6, 6:00-8:15 p.m.
- Summer Series: People of God #1** - Wed., June 6, 7 p.m.
- Children's Homes Special Offering** - Sun., June 10
- Father's Day** - Sun., June 17

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 **PHONE:** (325) 673-6497
Abilene, TX 79601 www.uccabilene.org

NURSERY FACILITIES

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

ATTENDANCE: May 20, 2018

Worship - 354	Northern Oaks - 19
Bilingual - 52	Silver Springs - 30
Coronado - 61	Chisholm Place - 12
Chapel - 30	

OFFERING:

May 20 \$10,098.60

FROM THE ELDERS

Gustavo Villanueva, 2018 elder chair

The UCC elders held their **monthly meeting** with ministry staff on May 20, 2018. There were a number of items discussed and prayed over this month, among them:

1. Prayed, by name, for those who are in the hospital/skilled nursing, for those battling cancer and dementia, for families who have recently lost loved ones, and for those who have visited UCC and those who have placed membership with us;
2. Greatly encouraged by the attendance of **98 in the bilingual service** on May 13th. We believe that is the largest attendance figure ever for this vibrant area of our UCC family!
3. Grateful that **Dave Swearingen** will be the Secretary of the Elders, succeeding Richard Cox;
4. **Jim Holmans** gave us an in-depth report on the state of security at UCC and made recommendations for improvement. We sincerely appreciate Jim's group of men and women who watch over us while we worship!
5. Discussed the needs to replace the **Chair in the Missions Committee** (currently Tim Archer) and the **Chair of the Committee Chairs** (currently Dave Swearingen) as these men have taken on new roles as elders;
6. Enthusiastically accepted a proposal from **Jarrold King**, and **Andie/Michael Wearden** to begin a new children's class called **BUOY**, (Blessed Unique Original You!), that will focus on teaching the gospel and lessons of the Bible in a setting utilizing sensory supports and visual cues for more individualized attention. This is geared to reach out to our precious UCC children, and a ministry to those outside UCC, who thrive in this form of learning environment;
7. Accepted a proposal from the **Communication Committee**, to contract with an individual/company/college intern for about 5 hours per week to help with graphic design, video production, etc. for various projects/ministries our staff needs;
8. Accepted a proposal from **Mark Hamilton** and the **Campus Ministry** to ask **Andrea Archer and Pablo Sanabria** to continue their role as campus ministry interns for the Fall, and that we put together a task force to look at the long-term goals of this important ministry;

Due to summer travels we have not set the date for the June elders/staff meeting.

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 elder's meeting, or on any other UCC/spiritual matter, please contact me, I would appreciate the opportunity to visit with you.

For the elders,

Gustavo Villanueva, 2018 Elder Chairman

ELDER CORNER

by Steve Austin

I appreciated Brent's series on Job this month. It's a complex book, and the topic of how to reconcile a good, all-powerful, all-loving God with evil and suffering is the primary reason many people reject belief in God or have trouble with him.

When we lived in Argentina, there was a family in church who had a 3 year-old girl, Julieta, that contracted throat cancer. We all suffered the ups and downs of that terrible time with the family, and about two years afterward she died. We went to the hospital, and I remember walking into the hospital room where they had laid the body of poor Julieta on a bed. Her mother Noemi was sitting on one side of the bed, weeping and crying out, and I was on the other. I took Noemi's hand and looked at her and Julieta, and tears came to my eyes too, and I couldn't think of a single thing to say that wasn't trite, untrue, or hurtful. So I just sat there with her.

A couple of years later, this same family lost a small baby after some complications. Then about 15 years later, they lost their oldest son and his wife to a freak train accident. I called the father Angel just to talk with him, again with no words. He said, "Why is God mad at us?" I didn't need to answer; he knows the truths about God as well as I do, but at that moment he couldn't comprehend the why. It is so difficult.

I also was struck Sunday by Brent's comment, "I wasn't worried if I would be able to preach again after my accident, but I was worried about what I would have to say about God."

It does make you wonder what the aftermath of the Job story was like (and everyone's aftermath of suffering may differ). The Bible tells us that he had many more children afterwards (though God didn't resurrect the original children), and he received larger animal flocks and herds.

Here are some of the questions I have for Job in heaven someday (this would be a great short story writing assignment...):

- What were the first conversations with your wife like, after you were healed? How was her relationship with God changed?
- What was the hardest part for her during your trials?
- What did you tell your children born later, about this episode?
- Are you still friends with Bildad, Eliphaz, and Zophar? Do you still invite them for dinner? (We'll leave Elihu off the invitation list).
- Did you four ever speak again of that time, and what was that like?
- Were any of those men, or Elihu, ever struck with misfortune or disease after this episode? Did you go to visit them? How did that conversation go?
- Did God ever tell you about his conversations with Satan before that trial? If so, how did you react?
- How did your relationship with God change after this time? Better or worse?
- What advice would you have for people who are going through similar trials? How can we/they remain faithful to God?



YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

Sixth-Grade Orientation Next Sunday Night: We are doing something different this year with our sixth-grade promotion and it's gonna be great! Sixth-grade promotion, will be Sunday evening, **June 3 from 5-7:30 p.m.** in the Youth Center. We will have the teens arrive early and ready to greet our newest sixth-graders! We will introduce everyone to each other; enjoy dinner (around tables) together; give you a tour of the Youth Center to demonstrate how everything works; talk about our Summer events; and explain how our favorite Waffle Mania game works. Parents are encouraged to join us for this time, if you are able, you may also drop your teen (we call them all teens) off and come back at 7:30 p.m. There will be no cost for food on this evening. Hope to see you all there.

Camp Travel Plans: Summertime is here and that means traveling to camp for many of us. As far as our group is concerned, we have two camp groups traveling. The **Camp Blue Haven** group will leave on **Sat., June 9, at 9 a.m.**, so we will meet at 8:30 to load our luggage. The **Encounter group** will leave on **Sun., June 11 at 10 a.m.** Instead of class as usual, we will have a worship time together and offer communion. Parents are welcome to join us for this worship time and see your kids off before going to worship. Afterwards, we will change clothes and leave as close to 10 a.m. as possible.

HS Mission Trip will be **July 14-21** in Beaumont and will be \$40 per person. We will be working with the Westgate Church of Christ and a couple of other youth ministries at a work camp, as the region continues to recover from last year's hurricane. We will be painting, landscaping and perhaps doing finish-work in houses. Make plans to join us! We need adult volunteers, so please let Jason know if you can go with us.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Youth Helpers for Children's Church

May 20: D. Ice, V. Zuniga, L. Bryce
May 27: A. Britten, K. Awbrey, L. Zuniga, A. Garza
June 3: M. & J. Groves, M. Trammell
June 10: N. Bryce, B. West, E. Ice

Register, Register, Register: Vacation Bible School will be **June 4-6** from 6 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. each evening for children four years old through fifth grade. Please be sure and go online to uccabilene.org to register or sign up at the welcome desk.

Sunday Morning Bible Class: Our children's summer schedule for Bible class will begin **Sunday, June 3**. Due to traveling and summer schedules, different age groups will be combined for the summer.

Fishing Fun: Fathers, sons, granddads, and men make plans to enjoy some fishing fun at Nelson Pond on Monday evening, **June 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.** If you do not have a fishing pole, don't worry, we'll have extras. If you have an extra rod, please bring it to share. **Worms will be provided.** (I bet you don't read that in many church bulletins.)

NEWS AND NOTES

Join **Ted and Ellen Presley** on their **50th Anniversary Celebration** in the UCC Family Room on Saturday, June 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It's a come and go reception hosted by their children and grandchildren.

In today's **5 p.m. Chapel Service**, we will have **Bradley Steele** as our speaker and **Eric Lemmons** will be leading worship. There will be no **Sanctuary** tonight.

Dear UCC family, I wanted to thank those who visited me in the hospital, brought me cut flowers and sent me lovely words of encouragement. And of course, please know how much I appreciated your prayers. My back is beginning to feel better and I now can tell I'm on the mend. Thank you for blessing me, **Catherine Rall**

If you would be willing to **volunteer in the nursery** one or two times this summer for Bible class or Worship please contact **Jennifer Welch**.

All UCC Ladies Summer Lunches, each Wednesday from June 6 through August 1.

All UCC ladies are invited to have lunch together in the Family Room from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. (or 1:30 p.m. if you can stay longer). Each lady should bring any dish. Or don't if you're coming from work and don't have time. We'll bring enough for you! We'll have a delicious potluck! **This is a time for summer visiting. No program. Just encouragement!**

Child care will be provided! If you need child care, please notify Liz by **Tuesday** of each week and bring your children with lunches to eat and play! . **See you on June 6!**

Mission Trips

Please pray for the spiritual preparation and development of our mission teams, as they get ready to go around the world to spread the gospel.

Buenos Aires, Argentina (June 1-17)

Martin & Paulette Haught, Sarah Dillinger

Matanzas, Cuba (July 27 - August 6)

Tim & Andrea Archer, Ted & Ellen Presley, Gabriel & Ivan Zuniga, Madison Pamplin, Pablo Sanabria

Haiti (June 21 - 26)

Roger, Josh & Jennifer Welch

Tegucigalpa, Honduras (June 18 - 29)

Cecily, Ensley, Travis & Rusty Towell

El Paso del Guayabal, Mexico (June 29 - July 8)

Gustavo, Micaela, Cristian & Jocelyn Villanueva, Lydia Zuniga, Alma & Gerry Lara, Roberta Brown, Zeire Guzman.

Uganda (May 16 to July 17)

Alyssa Cox, she is part of our campus ministry but is not using UCC funds.

Zambia

John (July 5 -22), Angela (June 27- July 22) and James Estes (May 28-August 10)