



March 31, 2019

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
Communal Reading (Psalm 27: John 4:23)
Jason Craddock

96 *I Stand in Awe*

74 *Praise the Lord*

Shepherd's Prayer Kris Southward &
Odell Wilson

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Worthy is the Lamb

Communion Nathan Gibbs

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Bread

924 *Just As I Am*

Cup

924 *Just As I Am*

Offering

Missions Special Collection

Children's Church

528 *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

Mark 14:12-25

Eat Anyway Bradley Steele

Here in This Place

Benediction: Hebrews 13:20-21

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

Good morning! If you are one of our guests today, welcome to UCC. We invite you to fill out one of our guest registry cards and place it in the offering plate. We hope to greet you in person. Please come back soon!

Follow Me: Mark's Path to the Cross is our current series going through Easter Sunday. Today we sit down with Jesus and his disciples to eat, just hours before the cross. He knows we will betray him. He knows we will deny him. He knows we still don't fully comprehend who he is and what's about to happen. But he breaks the bread and passes the cup and invites us to **Eat Anyway**. Our worship leader this morning is **Mark Tate**.

Today is our **Missions Special Collection!** Be ready for our second offering to fund all our mission projects. What a blessing to be part of a church that digs deep to take Good News the ends of the earth!

Adult Education Minute: Today, our adult classes are in Week 11 of our series **Pilgrim Heart: The Way of Jesus in Everyday Life**. Today's lesson is *Discerning*. Next week: *Singing*.

5 p.m. service: Tonight, **Steve Austin** will be speaking and leading songs.

Wednesdays. This week we continue our new mid-week Family Room class: **Wendell Willis** is teaching on **How We [Really] Got the Bible: The Development of Christian Beliefs in the Early Church**.

Also, **Vini Montesdeoca** is teaching in Conversations (MAC 501) on **Being a Diverse, United Church**. The class is a series on unity and diversity. How can UCC be different and united at the same time? We will be talking about present (customs, ethnicity, language, education, perspectives) and how we will be involved in God's spiritual purposes. This week's **Wednesday Night Supper** features chicken.

CALENDAR NOTES

March 31 – Missions Special Collection

April 14 – Unity Service and Potluck with Bilingual

April 21– Easter Sunday

8 a.m. – Sunrise Service in the Courtyard

9 a.m. – Easter Breakfast in the MAC

10 a.m. – Easter Worship

11:15 a.m. – Egg Hunt for Children

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: March 24, 2018

Worship - **284** Bright Pointe - **10**

Bilingual - **60** Coronado - **59**

5 p.m. - **34** Silver Springs - **28**

Chisholm Place - **12**

OFFERING:

March 24 \$10,605.05

MISSIONS SPECIAL COLLECTION - TODAY

Today's the day for our Missions Special Collection. Funding will support upcoming short-term missions in Cuba, Mexico, Honduras, Ecuador, and Zambia. **The goal set for the 2019 special contribution is \$51,000.** Thank you for donating as generously as you are able to help us reach or exceed this goal and continue UCC's long-standing missions tradition.

ELDER MINUTES

The UCC elders held their monthly meeting with ministry staff on Sunday afternoon, **March 17, 2019.** There were a number of items discussed and prayed over this month, among them:

1. Prayed for those who are in the hospital/skilled nursing, for those battling cancer and dementia, prayers of rejoicing on the men baptized in the prison ministry in February, prayers of comfort for Jami Islas on the recent passing of her mother, for the family of Yuneva Kirk who passed away a few weeks back, for Jennifer Welch's family on the passing of her brother-in-law, and for many others;
2. Grateful to Liz Rotenberry and her crew for organizing our first church-wide retreat at the H.E.B. camp! There were close to 150 who attended. A wonderful weekend!
3. Discussed summer teaching/preaching schedule being formulated by James Thompson and Mark Hamilton;
4. Discussed high school and college intern pay rates;
5. Read, discussed, and accepted the reports from our ministers;
6. Spent considerable time discussing the UCC vision plan we have been working for a number of months on, which we pray will help focus us upward towards God, inward towards one another, and outward towards our community. In particular we spent time on a portion of the "inward" section that is focusing on small groups that Bradley has been working on, which we are very excited about;
7. Set the next meeting date for April 28th.

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

Mark Hamilton, 2019 Chairman of the Elders
(325) 721-4256

NEWS AND NOTES

Under Construction! Please be careful, we keep having repairs and construction. Follow the signs and go around the closed off areas, **do not try to cross through them.**

Quilting Day. Join the quilting ladies on April 1st at 9 a.m. in room 208.

You are invited to attend a **Wedding Shower** honoring **Kate Bacon**, bride-elect of Jay Ashby at Sylvia McCaleb's home on April 14 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Selections: Dillard's, Target, Pottery Barn and Amazon.

On April 14, we will have our **UNITY SERVICE**, it's a combined service with Bilingual in the Auditorium, after service, we will have an **ALL CHURCH POTLUCK** in the MAC. The Church will provide the meat so if your last name starts with A-M please bring Salads or Sides and last names starting from N-Z please bring desserts. Hope you can all join us!

Young Women's Ministry: **Tuesday Night Lights**

"What is there to do in Abilene?" A guide to summer fun! At the home of Karen Southward, on **April 9th at 6:30 p.m.**

Contact Jennifer for babysitting: jenniferw@uccabilene.org, 673-6497. **Please RSVP to the evite before April 7.**

Lost and Found. We have set up a table in the Auditorium with all the lost and found we have accumulated. Please take a look at it and, if anything belongs to you please take it. This table will only stay up for one week and unclaimed items will be taken to Christian Service Center. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jennifer Welch, Children's Minister

jenniferw@uccabilene.org

Children's Church: Alyssa Garza, Ashlen Pamplin.

April 7: Families, mark your calendar for Sunday evening, 5-7 in the MAC. This family night will be an introduction for our summer series. You can bring a sack lunch or fast food to eat and then we will visit about our summer series. Children will be supervised while we meet together in a classroom.

Easter Egg Hunt: On Easter Sunday we will have an egg hunt following service. Please bring a dozen filled eggs for each child that will participate. Easter boxes to collect the eggs are located throughout the building. **Please make sure candy is wrapped and the egg taped shut if it does not stay closed.**

Take the Plunge: This will be our VBS theme this year. Our VBS will be for children four years old through fifth grade. **Save the date June 3-5.** This will be a church wide event, so be in prayer for how God will use you. I will begin visiting adult Bible classes this month.

"Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear."

1 Peter 1:17

YOUTH MINISTRY

Jason Craddock, Youth Minister

jason.craddock@uccabilene.org

REEL Faith Tonight: In honor of **Baseball's Opening Day** a couple of days ago, we will have a baseball-themed **REEL Faith today from 4-7:30 p.m.!** This time we will be watching the classic sports-fantasy, **Field of Dreams** (PG but edited for some content). When an Iowa corn farmer hears a voice telling him to build baseball diamond in his corn field, he builds it...and the Chicago Whitesox from 1919 mysteriously show up. It's hard to explain, but the film is a journey of discovery that is a sight to behold! Spiritual themes abound in this classic movie, so we will have a more open-ended discussion. Because this is baseball-themed, we will have hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts, and pickles for dinner and everyone is encouraged to dress up in their favorite baseball gear, bring props, and wear eyeblack. We will also have a fun, baseball pre-show, so come early.

Spring Youth Retreat: Our Spring Youth Retreat is now scheduled for **May 3-5** and our theme is **"Climb."** There is a lot of history behind the idea of a spiritual ascent, climbing throughout our lives to grow closer to God, and this will be the focus of our weekend. As part of that, we will also be enjoying some actual climbing of our own, for those of every age and skill level, from fun and simple to extreme and high. We are still ironing out the details but right now, it will also be camping-based and we will stay in tents as though we are on a trek up a mountain. So yes, we will be roughing it a little, but we still have all (most/many) the amenities we normally have in a retreat. This has been an especially difficult retreat to schedule, with so many personal and school schedules, as well as our own UCC retreat to work around. I recognize this may still not be a good time for you or your teen, so please let me know ASAP if you have a conflict and we will see if we have any flexibility. If you are an adult who would be interested in attending, please let Jason know as soon as you are able too.

HS Mission Trip: Our HS Mission Trip is set for **July 12-20** in Nashville, Tennessee, where we will be working with the Nashville Inner City Ministry for the week. Total trip cost and more details will be coming soon but as usual, the cost will be quite reasonable so that everyone will be able to attend. **If you are an adult who would be interested in attending with us (and maybe even helping drive a van), please let Jason know as soon as possible.**

Wednesday Night Huddles: We will resume our regular small-group Huddles on Wednesday night from 7-8 p.m. The **HS Huddle** will meet at the home of James and Mandy Scudder, just a half-mile down Campus Ct., and the **MS Huddle** will meet in the Youth Center. Think of a friend to invite each week to join you for this time of sharing, prayer, study and fun.

CRADtalk: All of us have things we want to change at the beginning of each new year, so let's start off your new year with a CRADtalk to talk about your's. 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 focus on building students up. Guys will generally just go out with Jason and girls will go out with either Jason and Karla or just Karla. So, please let us know when you can get together and we will set up for some time at Sonic, over coffee, or somewhere else.

Senior Sunday is set for May 19. More details and senior information packets coming soon

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Pablo Sanabria

campus@uccabilene.org

We would like to welcome all college students joining us today!

Class: Join us for a class every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in our regular classroom (MAC 503).

Dwelling Place: A time of dinner, fellowship and worship. We meet Sundays at 6:15 p.m. (MAC 503).

Community Group: Our small group meets every Thursday nights at the Gibbs' house at 7 p.m. Join us for a time of fellowship and growth while we are studying the Sermon on the Mount!

If you are interested in learning more about the college ministry do not hesitate to contact me through the e-mail listed here, or talk to me in person. Have a blessed week!

20's & 30's

Bradley Steele, Associate Minister

bradley@uccabilene.org

Tonight, check Facebook for small group details.

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

Wednesday, we will meet at 7 p.m. for coffee, dessert and Bible study in MAC 504.

TRANSITIONS

Andrew Huddleston

huddleston_andrew@yahoo.com

Tonight, we will meet at the Huddlestons'.

Next week, we will join the Children's Ministry Activity.

BILINGUAL MINISTRY

Vini Montesdeoca, Bilingual Minister

vini@uccabilene.org

Ladies Prayer Group will meet Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Join us for dinner and fellowship. For location, please call the church office.

You are invited to a **Congregational Singing** on April 6 at 2 p.m. at the Graham Street Church of Christ.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – March 31 - April 21

- MAR. 31 MISSIONS SPECIAL COLLECTION**
8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC
9 a.m. – Bible Classes
10 a.m. – Worship
5 p.m. – Chapel Service. Steve Austin - Speaker & Song leader
- APR. 3** 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. **WNS:** Chicken
7 p.m. – Bible Classes
7 p.m. – **Family Room.** *How We (Really) Got the Bible - Wendell Willis*
7 p.m. – **Classroom 501.** *Being a Diverse United Church - Vini M.*
- APR. 7** 8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC
9 a.m. – Bible Classes
10 a.m. – Worship
5 p.m. – Chapel Service. Vini M. - Speaker; Art R. - Song leader
- APR. 10** 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. **WNS:** Pizza
7 p.m. – Bible Classes
7 p.m. – **Family Room.** *How We (Really) Got the Bible - Wendell Willis*
7 p.m. – **Classroom 501.** *Being a Diverse United Church - Vini M.*
- APR. 14 PALM SUNDAY / UNITY SERVICE**
8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC
9 a.m. – Bible Classes
10 a.m. – **UNITY SERVICE** (Combined Bilingual Service)
12 p.m. – All Church Potluck at the MAC
5 p.m. – **LTC Showcase** in the Chapel
- APR. 17** 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. **WNS:** Mexican Food
7 p.m. – **“CONNECT”** Inter generational Night at the MAC
- APR. 21 EASTER SUNDAY**
8 a.m. – Sunrise Service in the Courtyard
9 a.m. – Easter Breakfast in the MAC
10 a.m. – Easter Worship