

The UCC elders held their monthly meeting with ministry staff on Sunday afternoon, December 1, 2019. There were a number of items discussed and prayed over this month, among them:

1. Prayed for by name those who are in the hospital/skilled nursing, hospice care, for those battling cancer and dementia, for those facing upcoming surgeries, for the families of those who have lost dear loved ones (for the Ballard family on the passing of Cheryl, and for the family of Marion Bush), and for many others;
2. Approved the minutes from our previous meeting and from our November retreat;
3. Read monthly ministry reports from our ministers;
4. Received a report that the Rainbow Bible School Board changed their bylaws as to how new board members would be selected as per our recommendation. Since RBS was first formed as a separate entity in 2000 all new board members had to be approved by UCC elders. The elders feel that action, while very important after RBS became its own entity, is no longer warranted and the RBS Board agreed;
5. Received a verbal report from Lance Tolar, co-chair of the Youth Minister Search Committee, that they are making good progress and hope to bring in prospective candidates in the near future with a target start date of June 1, 2020;
6. Received, and approved, proposed "Missions Guidelines" from the Missions Committee that replaces guidelines set decades ago, to more accurately reflect UCC's current mission efforts locally, short-term and long-term international missions;
7. Discussed end-of-year employee evaluations;
8. Expressed appreciation to Mark Hamilton for leading us in 2019 and appreciation to James Thompson who will be Chairman of the Elders for 2020;
9. Meeting date for January has not been set.

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

## upcoming events

**Dec. 22 and Dec. 29:** There will be no Bible classes for any age.

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Service, **Carols and Candles**, will be held in the **Chapel** from **6-7 p.m**

**LTC Registration:** Registration for Leadership Training for Christ is now open. LTC is open for anyone from 3rd grade through 12th grade. The registration link has been posted to the UCC Transitions Facebook page. If you have any questions, or need a link to the registration page, please email Eric Lemmons at [eric.lemmons@acu.edu](mailto:eric.lemmons@acu.edu).

## WELCOME

**Bradley Steele**, Lead Minister  
[bradley@uccabilene.org](mailto:bradley@uccabilene.org)

**Good morning!** Welcome to UCC! Today we'll conclude our short walk through the Gospel of Matthew as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's coming at Christmas; our text is from **Matthew 1:18-25**. Today, we see both the grace of God's initiative and the necessity of a human response to that grace. This morning, we'll discuss how those two things, grace and obedience, necessarily go together. Our worship leader today is **Eric Lemmons**.

Make sure and join us **this Tuesday** for our annual **Christmas Eve Service, Carols & Candles**, on **December 24** in the **Chapel** from **6-7 p.m.**

Please mark your calendars for the **UCC Family Retreat** on **February 28-March 1** at **HEB Camp** near Leakey, TX. It's sure to be another wonderful weekend of worship, fellowship, and rest.

Our **5 O'Clock Service** will resume in January.

## WORSHIP

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

**Welcome** Carole Mahanay  
**Call to Worship** *Isaiah 9:2-7*

*Magnificat*  
*Highest Place*

**Shepherd's Prayer** Gustavo Villanueva

*Tell Me the Story of Jesus*  
*In Christ Alone*

**Communion** James Scudder  
*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

**Bread**  
*What Child Is This?*

**Cup**  
*What Child Is This?*

**Offering**  
*What Child Is This?*

*O Holy Night*

Matthew 1:18-25

**God With Us** Bradley Steele

*Emmanuel*

*Worship Leader:* Eric Lemmons

## CLASS TIMES

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

## WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday - 10 a.m.  
5 p.m. in the Chapel

## SMALL GROUPS

meet each Sunday night.  
Check the bulletin for times and locations.

We also have a Spanish-English **Bilingual Service** that meets in the Chapel at 10 a.m.

## NURSERY FACILITIES

are available during worship in the Early Childhood Center for your convenience.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (Birth–5th Grade)

Jennifer Welch, Children's Minister — [jenniferw@uccabilene.org](mailto:jenniferw@uccabilene.org)

**Holiday Schedule:** Children, Nursery and Adult Bible classes will not meet on Sunday, Dec. 22 or Sunday, Dec. 29. Also, During this holiday break, Children's church will not meet. We will resume, Sunday, January 5.

### *The Lord's Light Within by M.S. Lowndes*

*Lord, we reflect with Thankful hearts*

*On the wonder of your birth*

*The love you expressed when you left*

*Your glory to come to earth.*

*For your life was like a beacon, Lord*

*Shining brightly in the night*

*Filling the world with the radiance of*

*The Father's glorious light.*

*And we, too, long to have inside*

*Your light for others to see*

*The beautiful reflection of your grace*

*And the wonder of your majesty*

*For as your life indwells our hearts,*

*We can shine wherever we are*

*And arise to take hold of each new day*

*With our light ablaze in our hearts*

*So rekindle the flame within us, Lord*

*So it will not flicker nor dim*

*Ignite us with the light of your love,*

*So you will shine brightly within.*

## YOUTH MINISTRY (6th–12th Grade)

Jason Craddock, Youth Minister — [jason.craddock@uccabilene.org](mailto:jason.craddock@uccabilene.org)

**No Sunday Evening Activity:** Because of the Christmas holiday, we will not have a Sunday evening activity until January 5.

**Huddles Schedule:** Since Christmas and New Year are both on Wednesdays this year, we will not meet again until our combined HS/MS Huddle on January 8 in the Youth Center. Our regular Huddles will resume Wednesday, January 15 at their normal locations.

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Carl Brecheen** passed away early Thursday morning. Arrangements are pending. Please be in prayer for Smitty and their family.

**To Our UCC Family,** Carl and I wish to thank all who have ministered to us in so many ways over the years. Especially as Carl moved to Lyndale MC. Your love and encouragement, prayers, and friendship are so precious to us both. We take each act as an inspiration of God's love passed on by you.

**Our forever love,** *Carl and Smitty Brecheen*

### UCC Family,

Thank you to each and everyone that made the "Young at Heart" Christmas Party a wonderful event! The food, the entertainment, and fellowship of church family was great!

**Thank you again!** *Tim Watson*

## SHEPHERDS

Tim Archer  
(325) 668-9327

Steve Austin  
(281) 787-3721

Ted Presley  
(325) 370-8638

Paul Rotenberry  
(325) 673-2600

Kris Southward  
(325) 513-6784

David Swearingen  
(908) 803-6811

James Thompson  
(325) 660-8882

Rusty Towell  
(325) 320-0831

Gustavo Villanueva  
(325) 338-7827

### 2019 Elder Chairman

Mark Hamilton  
(325) 721-4256

[elders@uccabilene.org](mailto:elders@uccabilene.org)

## NUMBERS

December 1, 2019

### ATTENDANCE

Worship – 289

Bilingual – 33

Online Viewers – 177

Northern Oaks – 20

Silver Springs – 30

Coronado – 67

Chisholm Place –

Bright Pointe – 28

### OFFERING

\$32,882.36

## CAMPUS MINISTRY (Young Adults)

Jason Craddock — [jason.craddock@uccabilene.org](mailto:jason.craddock@uccabilene.org)

Morgan DeBoer — [morgan@uccabilene.org](mailto:morgan@uccabilene.org)

**Sunday AM:** We invite all university students to come join us for our weekly Sunday morning Bible class at 9 a.m. in MAC (Gym) Room 503. We'll even have donuts and K-cups ready! So set an alarm (or two) and come join us!

**The Peak Continues Wednesday Night:** Our Wednesday night Campus Ministry program is called The Peak and is open to all college students or those around that age. It will be a relaxed time of sharing, prayer and faith discussions right after Wednesday Night Supper from 7-8 p.m. in the MAC (Gym) in room 503.

If you ever have any questions, don't hesitate to email the campus ministry or find Jason Craddock at the front after morning worship!

**Campus Ministry** classes will be on hiatus during Winter Break. We will resume all Sunday and Wednesday meetings beginning January 12.

## GATHERINGS (20's & 30's)

Bradley Steele — [bradley@uccabilene.org](mailto:bradley@uccabilene.org)

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

**Wednesday,** join us for Bible study, coffee and dessert at 7 p.m. in room 504.

## TRANSITIONS (Young Families)

Andrew Huddleston — [transitions@uccabilene.org](mailto:transitions@uccabilene.org)

Due to the holidays there will be no small group the next two Sundays.

**Hosts are still needed for the month of January.** The calendar for spring small groups has been posted on our Facebook page. If you would like to host, you can sign up there or let Christine Bowman know the date.

## BILINGUAL MINISTRY (Spanish-English Group)

Vini Montesdeoca, Bilingual Minister — [vini@uccabilene.org](mailto:vini@uccabilene.org)

**Ladies Bilingual Bible Class** gathers every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. The location changes every week; please call the church for more details.

**Men's Prayer Group** every Saturday at 7 a.m. at McDonald's on Judge Ely.

## SMALL GROUPS

**Ezzell & McCaleb  
Rotenberry's  
20s & 30s**

**Southward's  
Green's**

**Young Families**

**S.A.L.T**

**Presley's**

**Transitions**

Linda Ezzell — [lindaezzell@hotmail.com](mailto:lindaezzell@hotmail.com)

Liz Rotenberry — [rotenberryl@acu.edu](mailto:rotenberryl@acu.edu)

Bradley Steele — [bradley@uccabilene.org](mailto:bradley@uccabilene.org)

Kris Southward — [msscpas@suddenlink.net](mailto:msscpas@suddenlink.net)

Bo Green — [bo.e.green@gmail.com](mailto:bo.e.green@gmail.com)

Rusty Towell — [rxt01a@acu.edu](mailto:rxt01a@acu.edu)

Sandra Morrow — [smor1944@gmail.com](mailto:smor1944@gmail.com)

Ellen Presley — [ellen\\_presley@eli360.com](mailto:ellen_presley@eli360.com)

Andrew Huddleston — [aph97a@acu.edu](mailto:aph97a@acu.edu)

## LIFTING UP IN PRAYER

### Immediate Concerns

Lucy Hatch

Jere Welch

Carol Alford

Carl Brecheen

Cathy Chisholm

Milton Evitt

Ian Williams

Ina Green

### Health Concerns

Marianna Rasco

Ellis Anderson

Roma Lee Aberegg

Gay Barton

Vicki Blair

Phyllis Gilbreth

Myra Holmans

Exa Fay Hooten

Ann Hulett

Bob Hunter

Shirley Hunter

Marshal Kellar

Shirley Kellar

Mary Leija

Jeannette Lipford

Dale McAnulty

Imogene McAnulty

Martha Morris

Virginia Mosier

Norma Franklin

June Presley

Carlos Reyes

Marilyn Reyes

Kay Robbins

Gina Sadler

Michael Sadler

Alex Shead

Bettye Shipp

Yvonne Sinclair

Micaela Villanueva

Nancy Witt

Harry Rowland

Zach Ice

Salem Mickley