

# in focus

## NEW LOGO

Our new logo reflects our new vision for our congregation; a vision that is not new but instead reaffirms the core commitments of the Christian faith. "The University Church of Christ body should be growing in three dimensions: growing upward towards God, growing inward towards one another, and growing outward towards our community."

The cornerstone of this faith community is the core of the Gospel message: "Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor 2:2). And so, it is to the cross that we all come when we gather together as believers. For the cross not only reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice, revealing God's radical and inescapable love for humanity, but it also always and necessarily points to what lies beyond it: resurrection. As Christians, we are the ones who worship a crucified and risen Savior, in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

This living, moving, and being is reflected here with the open pathways of the cross formed by the arrows leading to it. The arrows that create the image of the cross thus always point us back to the Church's center: the cross of Jesus Christ, through which God reconciled himself to humanity, thereby enabling us to reach upward to Him. But the cross not only accomplishes vertical reconciliation, its effects are also horizontal, reconciling humanity to each other. It is through confession of a crucified and risen Savior in baptism, that we are formed into a new people, the Church, in which we are continually reaching inward in love towards one another as Christ's Body. Finally, it is this internal love, this unity as the Body of Christ, that serves as a witness to the world that God has sent Jesus and has loved us even as He loved His Son (John 17:20-26). It is, therefore, the cross and the community it forms that leads us to reach outward, bearing witness to the One who calls all people to Himself (John 12:32).

## upcoming events

**February 28-March 1** will be our UCC Family Retreat at **HEB Camp** near Leakey, TX. It's sure to be another wonderful weekend of worship, fellowship, and rest.

The celebration of the life of **Sheila Austin** will be on **Saturday, January 11, at 2 p.m.** in the **University Church of Christ Auditorium**. It will be followed by a reception for friends and family. Her family is grateful to everyone for all of the expressions of kindness and love during this time, and during the last several years of her life. She felt very blessed and loved by this church.

## sermon notes

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**UNIVERSITY**  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

December 29, 2019

## WELCOME

**Bradley Steele**, Lead Minister  
bradley@uccabilene.org

**Good morning and Merry Christmas!** Welcome to UCC! Our text for today is from **Hebrews 2:10-18**. On Wednesday we celebrated the coming of Jesus at Christmas. This morning, we'll celebrate what Christ's arrival means for us. Our worship leader today is **Mark Tate**.

Please mark your calendars for the **UCC 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

*Joy To The World*

**Welcome** Marnie Fangio  
**Call to Worship** Psalm 89:1-4

*To God be the Glory*  
*Hallelujah Praise Jehovah*

**Prayer** Paul Rotenberry

*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*  
*Salvation Belongs to Our God*

**Communion** David Ballard  
**Bread**  
**Cup**  
*Surround us Lord*  
**Offering**

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Hebrews 2:10-18  
**On Pioneers** Bradley Steele

*Days of Elijah*

**Worship Leader:** Mark Tate

**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.

**Count Your Blessings:** As I look back over 2019, I am very thankful for the children here at UCC. Each child is special in their own unique way and each child has a special place in my heart. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to work here at UCC and enjoy the friendship of you and your children. I continue to pray for guidance as I teach and spend time with each child here and I pray for those that God will bring to our church. May 2020 be a year full of God's favor and blessing and may each child continue to grow in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man. In Jesus name, Amen.

## 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

**UCC Family,** I want to thank you and the others who helped with the lovely luncheon at the Country Club. I appreciated very much getting to be there. I know the work that goes into preparing for something like that so just wanted you to know I am grateful to those who put in the time and effort.

**Christian love, Stella Rideout**

**UCC Staff,** You all certainly celebrated the tradition of Young at Heart wonderfully! Thank you all *so much*. It is nice to be appreciated, but more important we appreciate *all* you do!

**Blessings!** Martha Roberson

**Dear Friends,** Thank you so much for the generous support to feed our hungry neighbors. We have received more contributions and they will help so much in providing food for our pantry.

**Sincerely,** Jim Clark Director

**ESL Ministry needs volunteers to teach classes on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. If you would like to help this ministry, please contact Paulette Haught at 325-660-7285. You do not need to speak a second language to participate.**

## 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 22, 2019

### ATTENDANCE

Worship – 291

Bilingual – 16

Online Viewers – 161

Northern Oaks – 20

Silver Springs – 30

Coronado – 67

Chisholm Place – 17

Bright Pointe – 28

### OFFERING

\$21,955.08

## 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

**Ezell & McCaleb** Linda Ezzell — [lindaezzell@hotmail.com](mailto:lindaezzell@hotmail.com)  
**Rotenberry's** Liz Rotenberry — [rotenberryl@acu.edu](mailto:rotenberryl@acu.edu)  
**20s & 30s** Bradley Steele — [bradley@uccabilene.org](mailto:bradley@uccabilene.org)  
**Southward's** Kris Southward — [msscpas@suddenlink.net](mailto:msscpas@suddenlink.net)  
**Green's** Bo Green — [bo.e.green@gmail.com](mailto:bo.e.green@gmail.com)  
**Young Families** Rusty Towell — [rxt01a@acu.edu](mailto:rxt01a@acu.edu)  
**S.A.L.T** Sandra Morrow — [smor1944@gmail.com](mailto:smor1944@gmail.com)  
**Presley's** Ellen Presley — [ellen\\_presley@eli360.com](mailto:ellen_presley@eli360.com)  
**Transitions** 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

June Estes  
Teresa Seckler  
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