

MISSIONS

A team of seven UCC members (Gustavo and Micaela Villanueva, Tony and Margarita Angel, Alma Lara, Teresa Becerra, and María Aguilar) traveled to El Paso de Guayabal, Mexico. This community is located in central Mexico on the border of the state of Mexico and the state of Guerrero. It is the hometown of our own Micaela Villanueva and the location of a partially UCC supported mission. The team sought to encourage and support the evangelistic efforts of the local congregation led by Jertzain Gomez Pita and his family. They have been ministering at this location for several years and are extending their outreach to surrounding communities.

We primarily sought to encourage the church family by worshipping with them and ministering to the local community. The team spent the mornings in Bible studies with interested families and on serving the elderly in the community cleaning their homes, providing them with basic necessities and prayer. The afternoons were filled with activities for the entire family: children's VBS, women's bible study & workshop, youth activities, and men's bible study and workshop. Approximately 75 men, women and children attended daily. The final day we celebrated with a special dinner for all the elderly in the community. They were transported to the venue (many of them are disabled) and served a special meal. We celebrated and worshiped together. This is a very special time for them. Tony Angel had multiple bible studies with several families, and we rejoiced with one individual who was baptized.

upcoming events

Dec. 11 – there will be no **Wednesday Night Supper** this week.

Dec. 8 – **Church Christmas Party at 5 p.m.** Come join us in the **MAC** for a wonderful time of food, friends, and fellowship!

Drake Pamplin and fiancé, **Jessica Lannin** request the pleasure of your company at a come and go reception from **3-6** in the evening following their wedding ceremony on **December 14**. Snacks, drinks, and cake will be provided. The reception will be held at Sabrina Cedars 325 County Road 321.

The **UCC Family Library** will now be open for about 30 minutes after Sunday morning worship! We are also open **Sunday mornings from 8:45-10:00** and **Wednesday nights from 7:45-8:15**. We are located in **Room 108** near the media center. We have several Christmas books and DVDs for children and adults. Come see us!

WELCOME

Bradley Steele, Lead Minister
bradley@uccabilene.org

Good morning! Welcome to UCC! Today we'll continue 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 3:1-12**. Today we are met by a strange man with strange clothes and strange eating habits who calls us, rather forcefully, to repent. In a Christian culture that increasingly preaches God's acceptance of you "just as you are," what are we to do with John the Baptist's emphatic declaration: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!" That dissonance will be our subject this morning. Our worship leader today is **Steve Austin**

Make sure and join us **Tonight** for our annual **UCC Christmas Party at 5:00 PM in the MAC**. Come join us for a wonderful time of food, friends, and fellowship!

Also, mark your calendars for **Carols and Candles**, our annual **Christmas Eve Service**. It will be held in the **Chapel** from **6:00-7:00 PM** on **December 24**.

Due to the **Christmas Party**, there will be no 5 O'Clock service tonight in the chapel.

WORSHIP

What a Mighty God We Serve

Welcome Randi Williams
Call to Worship *Isaiah 11:1-10*

How Majestic is Your Name in all the Earth
We Sing Praises to Your Name
Agnus Dei

Shepherd's Prayer James Thompson

O to Be Like Thee

Communion Adam Matthews
John 13:1-14

Bread

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Cup

When My Love to Christ Grows Weak

Offering

Children's Church

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Matthew 3:1-12

Owning Up Bradley Steele

Joy to the World

Worship Leader: Steve Austin

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

Wednesday Night: This Wednesday night, children kindergarten through fifth grade and parents will meet in the auditorium. We prepared last Wednesday night for an evening of outreach and fellowship. Groups will leave by 7:10 and return to the building at 8 p.m.

Holiday Schedule: Children 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY (6th–12th Grade)

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

Church Christmas Party Tonight: Our church Christmas party is tonight from 5-6:30 in the MAC and will be a lot of fun. So, make plans to join us.

Huddles Continue Wednesday Night from 7-8 p.m. at their usual locations. The **MS Huddle** meet in the Youth Center and be led by Jordan and Sabrina Turney. The **HS Huddle** will meet at the Craddock home (650 Washington Blvd.). Huddles are our Youth Ministry small groups where we meet in the middle of our week for a relaxed time of sharing, prayer, Bible study and growing together. Everyone is encouraged to invite a friend to join us for this time because this is an ideal to opportunity for the group to grow closer together and in size.

Youth Ministry Christmas Party will be next Sunday, Dec. 15 from 5-9 p.m. in the Youth Center. We will have food, games and a Christmas movie so make plans to join us. As usual, we will provide the main course and teens will prepare side dishes and desserts (on their own or with some help). Go to our sign-up and sign up for a dish here: <https://tinyurl.com/uymchristmas2019>.

NEWS AND NOTES

Dear University Church Family: On Sunday, November 24, you gave **47 bags of food and \$13,136** to help us purchase food at the Food Bank and HEB. Thank you so much for enabling us to feed hundreds of Abilene people in poverty in Jesus' Name. Proverbs 19:17 says, "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what **they** have done." May our Lord reward all of you for your kindness to the poor of Abilene! With gratitude in Christ, — **Jim Clark, Director of CSC**

I have been overwhelmed by the many ways Cheryl's church family has expressed your love for her, my wife of 48 years, and your concern for me and our children, Amy and Greg. Elders and a few others sang and prayed over Cheryl in the hour before her call to be with her Savior. I will ever treasure the cards, most with handwritten sentiments, before and after her passing. We were comforted by so many who came to celebrate Cheryl's life, both at the grave and the later memorial service. Everything about the memorial luncheon and reception was wonderful. Our church family's kindnesses have indeed helped us to "not weep as those who have no hope." — **Brent Ballard**

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

NUMBERS

December 1, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Worship – **313**

Bilingual – **40**

Online Viewers – **152**

Northern Oaks – **26**

Silver Springs – **41**

Coronado – **73**

Chisholm Place – **16**

Bright Pointe – **31**

OFFERING

\$15,605.05

CAMPUS MINISTRY (Young Adults)

Jason Craddock — jason.craddock@uccabilene.org

Morgan DeBoer — 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!

GATHERINGS (20's & 30's)

Bradley Steele — 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

Tonight, we will join the church wide Christmas Party.

Next Week: Dec. 15th, we will meet at the Gibbs'. That will be our final small group until January

BILINGUAL MINISTRY (Spanish-English Group)

Vini Montesdeoca, Bilingual Minister — vini@uccabilene.org

Tonight: Join us in the **MAC at 5 p.m.** for the Church wide **Christmas Party**.

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

Liz Rotenberry — rotenberryl@acu.edu

Bradley Steele — bradley@uccabilene.org

Kris Southward — msscpas@suddenlink.net

Bo Green — bo.e.green@gmail.com

Rusty Towell — rxt01a@acu.edu

Sandra Morrow — smor1944@gmail.com

Ellen Presley — ellen_presley@eli360.com

Andrew Huddleston — aph97a@acu.edu

LIFTING UP IN PRAYER

Immediate Concerns

Zach Ice
Salem Mickley
Carol Alford
Carl Brecheen
Cathy Chisholm
Milton Evitt
Ian Williams

Health Concerns

Ellis Anderson
Roma Lee Aberegg
Gay Barton
Vicki Blair
Phyllis Gilbreth
Ina Green
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
Marianna Rasco
Carlos Reyes
Marilyn Reyes
Kay Robbins
Gina Sadler
Michael Sadler
Alex Shead
Bettye Shipp
Yvonne Sinclair
Micaela Villanueva
Nancy Witt
Harry Rowland