If you're new to UCC, or to Churches of Christ, welcome! We want you to feel at home here during worship.

Worship Practices

Why do we sing a cappella? Churches of Christ have a rich tradition of singing without musical instruments. This enables us to focus on the words of the songs and enjoy the harmony of our voices. Some sing various musical parts (as projected on the side screens). If this seems confusing, just follow along with the song leader (words projected in the middle).

Why do we stand when reading scripture? We do this as a sign of respect to distinguish the Word of God from any other words that are spoken during worship. For the Lord's Supper reading, we sit to signify sitting at the table with Jesus.

What is the Lord's Supper, and who takes it? The Lord's Supper (communion) originated when Jesus ate with his disciples before his crucifixion. During that meal, Jesus took bread and broke it for his disciples to eat. He also took cup of wine and shared it with them. Jesus said to them, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the communion trays are passed, you will have the opportunity to eat the bread and drink the wine (grape juice), just as Jesus and his disciples did. We welcome all who wish to remember and celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to participate.

Do I need to give during the offering? The offering is collected from UCC members to support the ministry of the church. Some give when the plates are passed. Many others give online. Anyone is welcome to give, but visitors should feel no obligation to do so.

Guest Information

What is Children's Church? Listening to a sermon can be difficult for young children. Most weeks, we have an optional Children's Church service for children ages 3 through 2nd grade. An announcement will be made when it is time for Jennifer Welch, our Children's Minister, to lead the children to the place they gather for worship. She will return them to the Sanctuary before the end of service.

What if my child is crying or needs to move around? We love the sound of babies! If your baby or toddler becomes restless, we have a toddler's area in the back of the Sanctuary to allow children to move around. A moms-only sitting room in the rear foyer provides a comfortable space for nursing or feeding your baby. A staffed nursery is also available in the Early Childhood Center.

Servicio Bilingüe en la Capilla – Si deseas adorar a Dios en español, te invitamos a unirte a nuestro servicio especial en la capilla at 10 a.m. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

Next Steps

What are the Guest Connection Cards? These cards on the back of the pew in front of you provide a way for us to reach out to you and pray for you if you would find that helpful. Please complete the card and drop it in the collection plate when it is passed.

Who can I talk to if I have a spiritual, physical or emotional need? Our Lead Minister, Bradley Steele, would love to meet with you after service. Or feel free to call the church office if you'd rather come by at another time.

Campus Map
Scan this code for a map of our facilities.
uccabilene.org/map

Connection Card
Scan this code to fill out your connection card online.
uccabilene.org/card

WEEKLY focus

A GUIDE FOR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER

Welcome to UCC!

We're so glad you've joined us for worship this morning. This guide is here to help you engage fully in today's service and to support your spiritual practices throughout the week. Inside, you'll find today's songs, Scripture readings, and the names of those participating in worship.

If you're a guest, the back page explains some of our worship practices—things that might be new or different to you. We hope these notes make you feel more at home as we worship and live life together here at UCC.

In the center pages, you'll discover family news, upcoming events, Bible classes, small group opportunities, and a list of our church family members who need prayer. You'll also find Scripture readings for the week to nurture your spirit, plus contact information for our ministers and shepherds.

We invite you to explore these pages, pray over the sick, rejoice with those celebrating milestones, lift up our ministers, shepherds and staff, and walk with us through the week's daily readings.

May this guide help you connect more deeply with God and with our church family.

Worship Slides
Scan this code with your phone camera for worship slides.

UCC UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship

Doxology

Welcome & Call to Worship
Cheryl Bacon

Again the Lord of Light and Life

Shepherd's Prayer
Alan Caffey

Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Laura McGregor

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Luke 14:25-33
Today's Message

The Battle Belongs to the Lord
Seek Ye First

Communion & Offering
Matthew 26:26-29
Pablo Sanabria

By Christ Redeemed

They'll Know We Are Christians

Benediction

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message

"Counting the Cost"

Luke 14:25-33

Bradley Steele

September 7, 2025

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

Last Sunday, Officer Alex Estrada from the Abilene Police Department visited Children's Church. He shared with us the importance of putting on his uniform every day and explained to us how his uniform protected him. Our kids will be studying Ephesians 6:10-18 for the next few weeks as we learn about the most important uniform we should put on every day. Officer Estrada's children, Leo, Presley, and Allie were very proud of their dad.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

Sunday Night Devotional: Tonight, the youth group will meet from 5:30-7 p.m. for dinner and a time of Bible study. We will be splitting into small groups to discuss Psalm 1 and explore how we can commit to living out its teachings.

Huddles continue this Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. in the Youth Center. Middle schoolers will be taught by Jacob & Marisol Groves. High schoolers will be taught by Michael & Whitney Santiago.

Campus Ministry (Students & Non-Students)

F·R·I·E·N·D·S in High Places Small Group: Join us Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for a relaxed time of Scripture, prayer and discussion.

Bilingual Ministry (Open to All)

The Bilingual Ministry meets at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning for class in room 109, and worship at 10 a.m. in the Chapel.

News & Notes

UCC Ministry Fair immediately following worship today. This is a great opportunity to get plugged in to one of our ministries!

LIFT Bunco Night — All ladies are invited to the LIFT Bunco Night on Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. in the Family Room. We will also be collecting cleaning products for Christian Homes. Check the Daily News for a full list of needs.

Ladies' Bible Class — All ladies are invited to Ladies Bible Class this Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Family Room. Bradley Steele will be this week's teacher.

Wednesday Night Supper — Join us for Wednesday Night Supper at 5:45 p.m. in the MAC. This week we will serve hamburgers and hotdogs.

Birthday Cards Needed —Joe Marshall is turning 100 on September 12. His family would love for UCC members to send him a card to help him celebrate. Their goal is to get 100 cards for Joe. You can mail your birthday card to: Joe Marshall, 1250 EN 10th #203, Abilene, TX 79601.

Shepherds

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Ted Presley
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2025 Elder Chair

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Ministers

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Jennifer Welch
Children's Minister
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Michael Santiago
Youth Minister
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Jason Craddock
Campus Minister
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Online Giving

uccabilene.org/give

Nurseries Available

A nursing room is located in the foyer at the back of the Sanctuary. An attended nursery is available during worship in the Early Childhood Center for your convenience.

Wednesday Bible Class Offerings

All classes begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- **Conversations** - MAC 501 – Six-week series with Myles Werntz: "God's Peace in a Violent World: War, Peace, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer." We'll explore Christian reflection on war and peace from the early church, consider how believers have reasoned about violence, and read Bonhoeffer's "Life Together" to understand the church's role in pursuing peace.
- **Wednesday Recharge** - MAC 502 – Currently watching Season 5 of "The Chosen" as a group. This is open to all.
- **Campus Ministry** - MAC 503 (starts at 6:30)
- **20s & 30s** - Main Building, Room 101
- **Bilingual Ministry** - Main Building, Room 109
- **Youth Ministry** - Main Building, Youth Center
- **3-18 Months** - Early Childhood Center, Room 302
- **18-24 Months** - Early Childhood Center, Room 305
- **Two-Four Year Olds** - Early Childhood Center, Room 309
- **Kindergarten-Fifth Grade** - Main Building, Room 231

Sacred Rhythms for Life

Spiritual disciplines are practices that deepen our relationship with God. Through prayer, Scripture, and worship, we create space to hear His voice and align our wills with His own. These habits are not empty rituals but means of grace that shape us into the image of Christ. By practicing them regularly, we nurture our faith, stay rooted in God's truth, and equip ourselves to live in faithful obedience and serve others with love.

Our Readings for this week from the *Revised Common Lectionary*

Monday, September 8
Semi-continuous: Psalm 2; Jeremiah 18:12-23; 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Complementary: Psalm 101; 2 Kings 17:24-41; 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Tuesday, September 9
Semi-continuous: Psalm 2; Jeremiah 19:1-15; 1 Timothy 4:6-16
Complementary: Psalm 101; 2 Kings 18:9-18; 1 Timothy 4:6-16

Wednesday, September 10
Semi-continuous: Psalm 2; Jeremiah 20:1-18; Luke 18:18-30
Complementary: Psalm 101; 2 Kings 18:19-25; 19:1-7; Luke 18:18-30

Thursday, September 11
Semi-continuous: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 13:20-27; 1 Timothy 1:1-11
Complementary: Psalm 51:1-10; Genesis 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 1:1-11

Friday, September 12
Semi-continuous: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 4:1-10; 2 Peter 2:1-10a
Complementary: Psalm 51:1-10; Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5; 2 Peter 2:1-10a

Saturday, September 13
Semi-continuous: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 4:13-21, 29-31; John 10:11-21
Complementary: Psalm 51:1-10; Genesis 8:20-9:7; John 10:11-21

Lift Up In Prayer

Don Baber
Shirley Baber
Johnny Estes
Troy Franklin
Phyllis Gilbreth
Lucy Hatch
Marshal Kellar
Eddie Mahanay
Imogene McAnulty
Tom Milholland

Prayer Prompts

Pray for willingness to be shaped by God. Jer. 18:1-11

Pray for awareness of God's constant presence. Ps. 139:1-6

Pray for relationships renewed in Christ. Phil. 1-21

Pray for courage to follow Christ fully. Lk. 14:25-33

Pray for strength to carry the cross daily. Lk. 14:25-33

"God of power and justice, like Jeremiah you weep over those who wander from you, turn aside to other gods, and enter into chaos and destruction.

By your tears and through your mercy, teach us your ways and write them on our hearts so that we may follow faithfully the path you show us. Amen."

Reproduced from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*