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

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
Debbie Williams

No Other God

Baby Dedication

Take My Life and Let it Be

Shepherd's Prayer
James Thompson

More Holiness Give Me

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Marcia Straughn

Children's Church

O for a Faith

Acts 1:1-11
Today's Message

What the Lord Has Done in Me
Trust and Obey

Communion & Offering
Luke 24:28-32
Mark Tate

Thou My Everlasting Portion

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Benediction

Worship Leader: Greg Straughn

Today's Message

"Staring Into Heaven"

Acts 1:1-11

Bradley Steele

October 5, 2025

Children's & Youth Ministry (Birth–12th Grade)

The Children's and Youth Ministry will be hosting families in the MAC tonight, from 5:30-7 p.m., Bring a pumpkin for your family to decorate. Pizza will be provided.

Campus Ministry (Students & Non-Students)

Sunday Lunch: Join us right after worship for a free lunch just for college students in the MAC (Gym). Come enjoy good food, connect with friends, and meet some new faces.

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

Ladies' Bible Class — All ladies are invited to Ladies Bible Class this Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Family Room. Rachel Weems will be giving a book review over "The Good Shepherd Trilogy" by Phillip Keller.

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

Wedding Shower — Join us for a wedding shower honoring BriAnna and Bryan Alvarado on Sunday, October 12, from 2-3:30 p.m. in the Family Room. BriAnna is the daughter of Dale and BevAnne McCorkle. The couple is registered on The Knot.

Dr. Ming Wang Testimony — On October 12 at 6 p.m. we will have the opportunity to hear Dr. Ming Wang's testimony in the Sanctuary. Dr. Wang's work in repairing vision has gained him global recognition. His autobiography was reproduced into Angel Studios' movie, "Sight". You can get a link to watch the film for free in the Daily News.

The Bridge — Our new Wednesday class, led by Jonathan Stein, will explore the heart of our faith while helping you build meaningful relationships within our church family. The class will start on October 15.

Baby Shower — There will be a baby shower for Alyssa Aguilar on Sunday, October 19, at 1 p.m. in the Family Room. Alyssa is the daughter of Maria Aguilar and is registered on Amazon and Target.

Fall Festival — Join us for our Fall Festival on Sunday, October 26, from 5-6:30 p.m. in the west MAC parking lot. We will have games, trunk-or-treat stations, and corndogs! We are need of individually wrapped candy. Bring your candy donations to the church office.

LIFT Domino Night — Ladies, join us for a domino night on Tuesday, October 14, from 6-8 p.m. in the Family Room. All ages welcome!

Shepherds

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2025 Elder Chair

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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.

- **Graduate Student Bible Study -** MAC 501 (starts at 5)
- **Conversations** - MAC 501 - "Why Is This Story in the Bible?"
- **Wednesday Recharge** - MAC 502 – Watching Season 5 of "The Chosen"
- **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.

Midday Prayer — Join us Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon in the Chapel for Scripture, prayer, and space to breathe. Together we'll read daily passages, lift up one another's needs in prayer, and be encouraged by timeless Christian prayers.

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

Monday, October 6
Semi-continuous: Psalm 137; Lamentations 1:16-22; James 1:2-11
Complementary: Psalm 3; Habakkuk 1:5-17; James 1:2-11

Tuesday, October 7
Semi-continuous: Psalm 137; Lamentations 2:13-22; 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21
Complementary: Psalm 3; Habakkuk 2:5-11; 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21

Wednesday, October 8
Semi-continuous: Psalm 137; Lamentations 5:1-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24
Complementary: Psalm 3; Habakkuk 2:12-20; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

Thursday, October 9
Semi-continuous: Psalm 66:1-12; Jeremiah 25:1-14; 2 Timothy 1:13-18
Complementary: Psalm 111; Leviticus 14:33-53; 2 Timothy 1:13-18

Friday, October 10
Semi-continuous: Psalm 66:1-12; Jeremiah 27:1-22; 2 Timothy 2:1-7
Complementary: Psalm 111; Numbers 4:34-5:4; 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Saturday, October 11
Semi-continuous: Psalm 66:1-12; Jeremiah 28:1-17; Luke 5:12-16
Complementary: Psalm 111; Numbers 12:1-15; Luke 5:12-16

Lift Up In Prayer

Don Baber
Shirley Baber
Troy Franklin
Lucy Hatch
Marshal Kellar
Eddie Mahanay
Imogene McAnulty
Tom Milholland
Kelly Roberts

Prayer Prompts

Pray for God's compassion to comfort the afflicted and broken. Lam. 1:1-6

Pray for trust that sustains us when our hearts are heavy. Ps. 137

Pray for Spirit-given strength. 2 Tim. 1:1-14

Pray for increased faith, even as small as a mustard seed. Lk 17.

Pray for humility to serve with faithful obedience. Lk. 17

"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*