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

BE OUR guest

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
Staci Shupe

A Mighty Fortress

Shepherd's Prayer
Kris Southward

Worthy Is the Lamb

Colossians 1:9-20
Wendell Willis

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Mark 4:30-34
Today's Message

Let God Arise
There Is a Redeemer

Communion & Offering
Luke 22:14-20
Jim Clark

Jesus, Meek and Gentle

Feed the Hungry Collection

Victory in Jesus

Benediction

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message

"Mustard Seeds"

Mark 4:30-34

Bradley Steele

November 23, 2025

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

Parents please be sure and work with your child on their Christmas skit. Practice times will be Sunday, November 30, from 4:00 - 5:00 in the Sanctuary, and Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 - 7:00. We will have a dress rehearsal and practice on Saturday, December 6, time TBD.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

The Youth Group will not meet tonight or Wednesday night.

Campus Ministry (Students & Non-Students)

There will not be a college lunch this week due to the holiday.

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

Feed the Hungry — Today we will have our annual Feed the Hungry Collection during service. Please use the envelopes on the pew to place your contribution in or put "Feed the Hungry" on the memo line of your check. You are also encouraged to take a sack lunch by the exits to hand out to our neighbors in need. The sacks also have information about the Christian Service Center.

Wednesday Night Bible Classes— We will not have Wednesday Night Bible Class this week due to the holiday.

Church Office Closed— The Church Office will be closed Wednesday-Friday this week.

Missions' Application — The application to apply for funds for mission trips next year is open. The application will close on December 7. Check the Daily News on Monday to fill out the application.

College Senior Sunday — This year we will honor Kathryn (Babb) Camp, in worship, as she graduates from the ACU School of Nursing on December 7. We will have a box in the Welcome Center for you to drop off letters of encouragement as she begins her next chapter.

UCC Christmas Party— Save the date for our church-wide Christmas party on Sunday, December 14, from 5:30-7 p.m. in the MAC.

Table Decorators Needed — We need volunteers to decorate tables and provide party favors for our Christmas party. Volunteers would decorate a table and provide 8 small party favors for their table. Sign-up using the link in the Daily News or by calling the office, 325-673-6497.

Shepherds

Alan Caffey
alanrcaffey@att.net

Mac Ice
macice27@gmail.com

Jason Morris
morrisj@acu.edu

Ted Presley
ted_presley@eli360.com

Kris Southward
kris@abilenecpas.net

James Thompson
thompsonja@acu.edu

2025 Elder Chair

Chris Shupe
cwshupe68@gmail.com
(903) 556-1138

Ministers

Bradley Steele
Lead Minister
bradley@uccabilene.org

Jennifer Welch
Children's Minister
jenniferw@uccabilene.org

Michael Santiago
Youth Minister
michael@uccabilene.org

Jason Craddock
Campus Minister
jason@uccabilene.org

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 - "Holiness in Secular Literature?"
- **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)
- **The Bridge** - MAC 504
- **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.

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

Monday, November 24
Semi-continuous: Psalm 117; Jeremiah 30:1-17; Revelation 21:5-27
Complementary: Psalm 24; Jeremiah 46:18-28; Revelation 21:5-27

Tuesday, November 25
Semi-continuous: Psalm 117; Jeremiah 30:18-24; Revelation 22:8-21
Complementary: Psalm 24; Isaiah 33:17-22; Revelation 22:8-21

Wednesday, November 26
Semi-continuous: Psalm 117; Jeremiah 31:1-6; Luke 1:1-4
Complementary: Psalm 24; Isaiah 60:8-16; Luke 1:1-4

Thursday, November 27
Psalm 122; Daniel 9:15-19; James 4:1-10

Friday, November 28
Psalm 122; Genesis 6:1-10; Hebrews 11:1-7

Saturday, November 29
Psalm 122; Genesis 6:11-22; Matthew 24:1-22

Lift Up In Prayer

Don Baber
Shirley Baber
Lucy Hatch
Marshal Kellar
Eddie Mahanay
Imogene McAnulty
Tom Milholland
Mike Nance
Kelly Roberts

Prayer Prompts

Pray for leaders who shepherd with justice and compassion. Jer. 23:1-6

Pray for grace to walk in the way of peace. Lk. 1:68-79

Pray for reconciliation and into in Christ. Col. 1:11-20

Pray for mercy for all who suffer unjustly. Lk. 23:33-43

Pray for hearts that turn to Christ in hope. Lk. 23:33-43

"When joy is gone and hearts are sick, O God, you give us Christ as our healing balm. He came in human flesh that he might give himself as a ransom for our salvation and anoint us with the Spirit of consolation and joy. Hear the cry of your people, that we may rejoice in the richness of your love and be faithful stewards of your many gifts. Amen."

Reproduced from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*