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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Welcome & Call to Worship
Randi Williams

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Shepherd's Prayer
Jason Morris

Angels We Have Heard on High

Isaiah 11:1-10
KB Massingill

Children's Church

My Eyes Are Dry

Matthew 3:1-12
Today's Message

I Know Whom I Have Believed
All Creatures of Our God and King

Communion & Offering
Mark 14:22-25
Dodd Roberts

In Memory of the Savior's Love
Go Tell It on the Mountain

Senior Blessing

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Benediction

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message

"From These Stones"

Matthew 3:1-12

Bradley Steele

December 7, 2025

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

On Wednesday night, December 17, children will go caroling. This is for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Families with children who are younger than kindergarten, and would like to attend, may drive their children and join us. Parents with children kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join the fun.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

The Youth Group will have a Christmas party tonight in the Youth Center from 5:30-8 p.m. Dinner and snacks provided! See you there!

Huddles continue this Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. in the Youth Center.

Campus Ministry (Students & Non-Students)

Join us for a Dead Day Dinner on Monday from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Youth Center. Take it to go, or stay for awhile.

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

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

Ladies' Bible Class Luncheon — The Ladies' Bible Class will have a Christmas lunch on Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Family Room. Bring a dish to share!

UCC Christmas Party — Next Sunday we will have our church-wide Christmas party from 5:30-7 p.m. in the MAC. Join us for dinner and a time of merry fellowship.

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.

Carols and Candles — Join us for Carols and Candles on Wednesday, December 24, at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

December Worship Times — On Sunday, December 21 & 28, we will only have worship at 10 a.m. On Wednesday, December 24 & 31, we will not have Wednesday Night Bible Classes.

Shepherds

Alan Caffey
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Mac Ice
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Ted Presley
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Kris Southward
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James Thompson
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2025 Elder Chair

Chris Shupe
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(903) 556-1138

Ministers

Bradley Steele
Lead Minister
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Jennifer Welch
Children's Minister
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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
- **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, December 8
Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Tuesday, December 9
Psalm 21; Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21

Wednesday, December 10
Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37

Thursday, December 11
Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10

Friday, December 12
Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18

Saturday, December 13
Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18

Lift Up In Prayer

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

Prayer Prompts

Pray for Christ's peace to renew creation. Is. 11:1-10

Pray for god's glory to fill the earth. Ps. 72:1-7

Pray for encouragement and steadfast hope. Rm. 15:4-13

Pray for true repentance that bears good fruit. Mt. 3:1-12

Pray for readiness to receive the Lord's coming. Mt. 3:1-12

"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*