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 a las 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

Take My Life and Let It Be

Welcome & Call to Worship
Cheryl Bacon

The Lord My Shepherd Is

Baby Dedication

We Love You with the Love of the Lord

Shepherd's Prayer
Alan Caffey

Be Thou My Vision

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Ella Ice

Children's Church

O, Praise the Lord

Matthew 4:1-11
Today's Message

Break Thou the Bread of Life
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Communion & Offering
Luke 24:28-32
Michael Santiago

My Jesus, I Love Thee

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Benediction

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message

"The Gift of Testing"

Matthew 4:1-11

Bradley Steele

February 22, 2026

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

On Monday, March 9, children four years old through fifth grade are invited to play in the MAC from 10 - 11:45 a.m. If a child younger than four would like to come and play, they must be accompanied by a parent.

On Tuesday, March 10, children kindergarten through fifth grade can be dropped off at Nelson Park from 10 - 11: 30 a.m. for a time of fun. If a child younger than kindergarten would like to come, they must be accompanied by a parent.

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School will be on May 28-30. Vacation Bible School is for children four years old through fifth grade.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

The Youth Group will meet tonight from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Youth Center. Dinner will be provided.

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

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.

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

Elder Nominations — Members are encouraged to pick up an Elder Nomination Ballot in the Welcome Center or Church Office beginning today. Ballots will need to be returned to the Church Office or the ballot box in the Welcome Center by tomorrow, February 23. We look forward to ordaining our new Elders on March 29.

Ladies' Bible Class — Ladies' Bible Class meets on Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Family Room. Linda Ezzell will lead a getting-to-know-you interview with June Estes.

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

Missions' Special Collection — Our annual special collection for Missions will take place during worship on Sunday, March 1. Please be in prayer for this collection and those whom it will benefit.

Shepherds

Mac Ice
macice27@gmail.com

Jason Morris
morrisj@acu.edu

Ted Presley
ted_presley@eli360.com

Chris Shupe
cwshupe68@gmail.com

Kris Southward
kris@abilenecpas.net

James Thompson
thompsonja@acu.edu

2026 Elder Chair

Alan Caffey
alanrcaffey@att.net
(325) 513-5785

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
- **Wednesday Recharge** - MAC 502 – Currently watching videos by Ray Sander Laan on the book of Exodus.
- **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 233

Daily Readings

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

Monday, February 23
Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18

Tuesday, February 24
Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Wednesday, February 25
Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14

Thursday, February 26
Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7;

Friday, February 27
Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31

Saturday, February 28
Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10

Lift Up In Prayer

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

Prayer Prompts

Pray for courage to say, "Here am I; send me". Isa. 6:8

Pray for trust in God's enduring purposes. Ps. 138:7-8

Pray for faith in the gospel that saves. 1 Cr. 15:1-4

Pray for trust in Jesus' cal beyond our doubts. Lk. 5:4-5

"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*