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
Staci Shupe

Come Let Us Sing
Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Shepherd's Prayer
Ted Presley

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

John 4:4-14
Wendell Willis

Children's Church

Rock of Ages

Exodus 17:1-7
Today's Message

10,000 Reasons
God of Grace and God of Glory

Communion & Offering
Luke 22:14-20
KB Massingill

Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer

They'll Know We Are Christians

Benediction

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message

"Is the Lord Among Us or Not?"

Exodus 17:1-7

Bradley Steele

March 8, 2026

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

On Monday children four years old-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 children kindergarten-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 with a parent.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

The Youth Group will not meet tonight.

Huddles will not meet this week. The Youth Group will attend the Sanctuary service on Wednesday in the Chapel.

Campus Ministry (Students & Non-Students)

We will not have lunch this Sunday due to Spring Break.

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 — Ladies' Bible Class will not meet this week.

Wednesday Night Supper — We will not have Wednesday Supper this week.

Sanctuary — Join us this Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Chapel for sanctuary, a devotional service. All adult, youth, and children's classes will attend.

Easter Needs — If there is someone you have lost in the past year that you would like to be remembered in our Easter service, please contact the Church Office at 325-673-6497 or karli@uccabilene.org by March 27. We will also need filled eggs for our egg hunt. Filled eggs can be dropped off in the baskets throughout our campus.

LIFT Bunco Night— Ladies, join the LIFT Ministry on Tuesday, March 17, for Bunco from 6-8 p.m. in the Family Room. Bring a friend!

Audio/Visual Team Volunteers Needed — We are expanding our AV Team and invite those high school age and older to serve. No experience necessary and training provided. Please see Jason Craddock for more information.

Shepherds

Mac Ice
macice27@gmail.com

Jason Morris
morrisj@acu.edu

Ted Presley
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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.

- **Conversations** - MAC 501 - Prayer at Home
- **Wednesday Recharge** - MAC 502 – Currently watching videos by Ray Vander Laan on the book of Exodus.
- **Campus Ministry** - MAC 503 (starts at 6:30)
- **The Bridge** - MAC 504
- **20s & 30s** - MAC 501 (for the month of March)
- **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, March 9
Psalm 81; Genesis 24:1-27; 2 John 1:1-13

Tuesday, March 10
Psalm 81; Genesis 29:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Wednesday, March 11
Psalm 81; Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39

Thursday, March 12
Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32

Friday, March 13
Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9

Saturday, March 14
Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:32-34; John 1:1-9

Lift Up In Prayer

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

Prayer Prompts

Pray for covenant faithfulness. Gen. 15:17-18

Pray for confident hope in God. Ps. 27:13-14

Pray to stand firm in the Lord. Phil. 4:1

Pray to rest in Christ's saving love. Lk. 13:34-35

"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*