*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

*Doxology*

**Welcome & Call to Worship**
Jennifer Huddleston

*Ancient of Days*

**Shepherd's Prayer**
Blake Williams

*I Love to Tell the Story*

**1 Peter 1:3-9**
Aquilla Edward

*Only a Holy God*

**Acts 2:22-32**
**Today's Message**

*Our God, He Is Alive*

*Be Still and Know*

**Communion & Offering**
**Luke 22:14-20**
Neil Tatom

*Jesus Let Us Come to Know You*
*I Love You, Lord*

*Firm Foundation*

**Benediction**

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message
**"Witnesses"**
Acts 2:22-32
Bradley Steele

April 12, 2026

## Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

**Youth VBS Training Meeting:** Youth planning to help with VBS need to attend a training this evening from 4:15-5 p.m. in the Youth Center. If you attended the first training, you do not need to come this evening.

**Family Fishing Fun:** Families are invited to fish as Paul Jensen's tank on Saturday from 8:30-9:45 a.m. If you don't have fishing supplies, Jennifer Welch will have extras to share. Some of our UCC men who regularly fish will be available to guide those needing a few fishing tips.

## 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)

Our College Lunch this week will be off campus at the Rhodes home (4350 La Hacienda Dr) at 12 p.m. This is our annual (belated) Easter lunch followed by an Easter egg hunt. We will take a van shortly after worship if you want a ride.

College Senior Sunday is April 26. If you will be graduating this semester, we'd love to celebrate you as a church. Reach out to Jason so we can get all of your relevant information.

## 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

**LIFT Puzzle Night**— Ladies, join the LIFT ministry on Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. in the Family Room for a puzzle party. Bring a puzzle to share or bring one to trade!

**Ladies' Bible Class** — Ladies' Bible Class meets at 10 a.m. on Wednesday in the Family Room. Alan Caffey will be teaching this week on "God's Wonderful Wonderer".

**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.

**Conversations Class Series** — Join us for a three-week conversation beginning on April 15 led by Arisoa Randrianasolo about AI, what exactly it is, and how it intersects our lives as we live as people of faith.

## Shepherds

**Jeff Childers**
childersj@acu.edu

**Mac Ice**
macice27@gmail.com

**KB Massingill**
ucckb@proton.me

**Jason Morris**
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**Ted Presley**
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**Robert Rhodes**
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**Chris Shupe**
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**Kris Southward**
kris@abilenecpas.net

**James Thompson**
thompsonja@acu.edu

**Blake Williams**
blakelee75@yahoo.com

### 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

**Bridal Shower** — Next Sunday there will be a bridal shower honoring Ella Ice, bride elect of Elijah Tolar. The shower will be held from 2-3:30 p.m. at the home of Sara Trammell (758 Sayles Blvd). The couple is registered on Target and The Knot.

**Baby Showers**— Next Sunday there will be a baby shower honoring Rebecca and Jacob Keahey-Trujillo on Sunday, April 19, at 1 p.m. in the Family Room. The couple is registered on Babylist. Rebecca is the daughter of Rolando and Luisa Trujillo.

On Sunday, April 26, there will be a baby shower at 2:30 p.m. in the Family Room for Sarai and Tomas Chaparro. The couple is registered on Babylist.

## Wednesday Bible Class Offerings

*All classes begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

**Conversations** - MAC 501 - Navigating Faith in the Age of AI
**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** - 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, April 13**
*Psalm 114; Judges 6:36-40; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20*

**Tuesday, April 14**
*Psalm 114; Jonah 1:1-17; 1 Corinthians 15:19-28*

**Wednesday, April 15**
*Psalm 114; Jonah 2:1-10; Matthew 12:38-42*

**Thursday, April 16**
*Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:1-5; 1 Peter 1:8b-12*

**Friday, April 17**
*Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 26:1-4; 1 Peter 1:13-16*

**Saturday, April 18**
*Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:6-9; Luke 14:12-14*

## 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 courage to obey God. Acts 5:29

Pray that all would praise the Lord. Ps. 150:1-2

Pray for hope in his reign. Rev. 1:7-8

Pray for believing faith. Jn. 20:27-29

*"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*