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
Janae Wallace

A Shield About Me

Shepherd's Prayer
James Thompson

God of Grace and God of Glory

1 Peter 2:19-25
Celine Adiro

Children's Church

Behold Our God

Acts 2:42-47
Today's Message

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Christ, We Do All Adore Thee

Communion & Offering
Mark 14:22-25
Josh Allaire

How Beautiful

College Senior Recognition

Light the Fire

Benediction

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message
"Together with Gladness and Sincerity of Heart"
Acts 2:42-47
Jack Thompson

April 26, 2026

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

VBS Camp Chaos Registration: Registration is open for VBS for children four years old through fifth grade. Register at uccabilene.org/vbs. VBS will be held May 28 and 29 from 6-8 p.m. and May 30 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Save the Date: This summer, children first - fifth grade are invited to join "Terrific Tuesday" in the MAC. During this time we will enjoy games, crafts, and activities. Lunch will be provided. UCC children must RSVP by the Sunday before each Tuesday activity. There will be family time this summer at Stevenson Park as we continue our presence in the park with our neighbors. Please add these dates to your summer calendar.

Terrific Tuesday: June 16 & 23 and July 14 & 28 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Stevenson Park Family Nights: June 30 - Hot Dogs & Games 6:30 - 8 p.m., July 14 - Pizza & Bingo 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

The Youth Group will be doing a service project from 4-5:30 p.m. tonight. Meet at the Youth Center at 3:45 p.m.

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

Ladies' Bible Class — Ladies' Bible Class meets at 10 a.m. on Wednesday in the Family Room for a brunch. Please bring a dish to share. This will be the final Ladies' Bible Class of the semester.

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

Baby Showers— This afternoon 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.

Campus Ministry Senior Sunday — During worship today we will be recognizing our college graduates. You can leave them a note of encouragement by placing a card in their box located in the Welcome Center. This semester's graduates are: Presten Baumer, Jessi Boaz, Gabby Bustillo, Gray Hagood, and Wes Orr.

Shepherds

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2026 Elder Chair

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Ministers

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Children's Minister
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Michael Santiago
Youth Minister
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Jason Craddock
Campus Minister
jason@uccabilene.org

Online Giving

uccabilene.org/give

High School Senior Sunday — High school Senior Sunday will be on May 3! In the weeks leading up, there will be hampers for each of the graduates in the Welcome Center for you to drop off notes of encouragement or gifts you have for them. From 8:15-9 a.m. on May 3 there will be a come-and-go breakfast in the MAC. There will also be booths set up in the MAC where you can learn more about the graduates. This year's graduates are: Romina Cooper, Kaila Craddock, Aiden Estrada, Josh Garza, Levi Huddleston, Kaiden Lindley, Kate Tolar, and Claire Trammell.

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 27
Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:17-23; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, April 28
Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:23-31; Hebrews 13:20-21

Wednesday, April 29
Psalm 100; Jeremiah 23:1-8; Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday, April 30
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 6:8-15

Friday, May 1
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Exodus 3:1-12; Acts 7:1-16

Saturday, May 2
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Jeremiah 26:20-24; John 8:48-59

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 compassion in action. Acts 9:36-43

Pray for trust in the Lord's care. Ps. 23

Pray for hearts that follow Christ. Jn. 10:22-30

Pray for assurance in God's care. Jn. 10:22-30

"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*