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
Debbie Williams

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Shepherd's Prayer
Mac Ice

Again the Lord of Light and Life

Luke 24:44-53
Dodd Roberts

Spirit of the Living God

Acts 1:6-11
Today's Message

Only a Holy God

We Saw Thee Not

Communion & Offering
Luke 22:14-20
Jason Craddock

We Saw Thee Not

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Benediction

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message

"Be My Witnesses"

Acts 1:6-11

Bradley Steele

May 17, 2026

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

Make plans to attend the End-of-School Bash this Wednesday. Parents please remember that children 5 and under must have an adult watching them on the waterslide.

Teacher Meeting: Sunday morning Bible class summer teachers will meet today in room 101 at 4 p.m.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

Join us in the Youth Center tonight from 5:30-7 p.m. to meet our summer intern!

On May 20, we will have a parent meeting from 5-5:30 in the Youth Center.

On Wednesday, May 27, we will kick-off our summer at the Southward pool from 5:30-7 p.m.

Campus Ministry (Students & Non-Students)

The Campus Ministry slows down during the summer, but we will still have our Sunday morning Bible studies as well as getting together for dinner, games, movies, and maybe even a fun trip.

To find out about any activities we may have, subscribe to our GroupMe Group: bit.ly/CampusGroupMe or text Jason at (325) 668-4457.

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

End-of-School Bash — Join us for our End-of-School Bash on Wednesday from 5:30-7 p.m. in the east MAC parking lot. We will have hamburgers and hotdogs, and waterslides for the kids. Invite a friend and join us as we kick-off summer! We will not have Wednesday night Bible class this week.

Church-wide Singing Night — On Wednesday, May 27, join DJ Bulls for an all-church time of singing in the chapel at 7 p.m. DJ is the worship minister at Glenwood Church of Christ in Tyler, Texas. He will lead us in familiar (and a few new) songs and talk about his Hymns and History Tour of the UK scheduled for Summer 2027. Everyone is invited for a time of singing and fellowship.

Gas Cards Available — The UCC Elders realize that the current increase in gas prices may increase economic strains on some of our church family. In response to that, we have $50 gas gift cards in our church office for those UCC members facing financial pressure when filling up their vehicle to go to/from work, for medical appointments, to check on family members in need, etc. Please come by the church office and we will hand you a card.

Shepherds

Jeff Childers
childersj@acu.edu

Mac Ice
macice27@gmail.com

KB Massingill
ucckb@proton.me

Jason Morris
morrisj@acu.edu

Ted Presley
ted_presley@eli360.com

Robert Rhodes
robert.rhodes@acu.edu

Chris Shupe
cwshupe68@gmail.com

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

Jason Craddock
Campus Minister
jason@uccabilene.org

Online Giving

uccabilene.org/give

Homes for Children Collection — The Homes for Children special collection will take place in worship on Sunday, June 7. Funds raised from this collection will benefit: Arms of Hope, Cherokee Children's Home, Christian Homes and Family Services, and Foster's Home for Children.

Summer Family Nights — Mark your calendars for our summer family nights! These family nights will take place at 7 p.m. in the MAC.
June 3 - Watermelon
June 24 - Ice Cream
July 15 - Appetizers

Youth Ministry Survey — The elders are seeking input from the congregation as we begin the process of selecting a youth minister. This brief survey is an opportunity for all stakeholders and interested members to share their perspective on our current ministry, future direction, and the qualities we should seek in a new minister. Your prayerful input is important and will help guide this process. Please complete the survey by May 25. Scan the QR-code below to take the survey.

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.

Daily Readings

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

Monday, May 18
Psalm 99; Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24; 1 Peter 4:1-6

Tuesday, May 19
Psalm 99; Numbers 16:41-50; 1 Peter 4:7-11

Wednesday, May 20
Psalm 99; 1 Kings 8:54-65; John 3:31-36

Thursday, May 21
Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:1-9a; Acts 2:1-11

Friday, May 22
Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:16-25; Romans 8:14-17

Saturday, May 23
Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 20:1-21; Matthew 5:1-12

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 bold faith in trials.
Acts 16:16-34

Pray for joy in God's reign.
Ps. 97

Pray for thirst for the living water. Rev. 22:12-14

Pray to know God's love.
Jn. 17:20-26

"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*