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
Cheryl Bacon

Restore My Soul

Shepherd's Prayer
Robert Rhodes

Cornerstone

1 Corinthians 13:11-13
Laura Stein

Children's Church

Ring Out the Message

Genesis 1:26-2:3
Today's Message

Build Your Kingdom Here

Blessed Jesus/His Grace Reaches Me

Communion & Offering
Mark 14:22-25
Bill Taylor

O Sacred Head

It Is Well with My Soul

Benediction

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message
"In His Image"
Genesis 1:26-2:3
Bradley Steele

May 31, 2026

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

D6 Summer: Families will meet June 10 and 17 from 7 - 8 p.m. at Nelson Park Pavilion C. We will enjoy singing, a family-inclusive devotional, play and fellowship during this time. Deuteronomy 6:5-9 reminds us to, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

The Youth Group will not meet tonight.

On Tuesday we will have a boys and girls devotional from 7-8 p.m. in the Youth Center.

All youth girls are invited to the Ladies' Summer Lunch on Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Girls will help set up the lunch and enjoy the lunch with our UCC ladies.

BLAST: Join us for our first BLAST on Thursday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. This week we will serve at the Christian Service Center! Please meet at the Youth Center at 9 a.m.

SHINE (Sisters Having Inspiring New Experiences): The Youth Committee is searching for women to help lead our youth girls in fun activities this summer. This is a great opportunity for our women to get to know and mentor our teens! If you're interested in hosting an activity or would like more details, visit the link in the Daily News.

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

Ladies' Summer Lunches — Ladies' Summer Lunches will begin on Wednesday, at noon in the Family Room. All ladies are invited to attend. Bring a dish to share!

Shepherds

Jeff Childers
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Mac Ice
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James Thompson
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Blake Williams
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2026 Elder Chair

Alan Caffey
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(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

Watermelon Family Night— Join us on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the MAC for our Watermelon Family Night. We will have a watermelon eating contest and a seed-spitting contest. Bring a friend!

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.

Gas Cards Available — The UCC Elders realize that the current increase in gas prices can be putting 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.

Daily Readings

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

Monday, June 1
Psalm 29; Job 38:39-39:12; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Tuesday, June 2
Psalm 29; Job 39:13-25; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Wednesday, June 3
Psalm 29; Job 39:26-40:5; John 14:25-26

Thursday, June 4
Semi-continuous: Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 13:1-18; 2 Peter 2:17-22
Complementary: Psalm 50:7-15; Lamentations 1:7-11; 2 Peter 2:17-22

Friday, June 5
Semi-continuous: Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 14:17-24; Acts 28:1-10
Complementary: Psalm 50:7-15; Lamentations 3:40-58; Acts 28:1-10

Saturday, June 6
Semi-continuous: Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 15:1-20; Matthew 9:27-34
Complementary: Psalm 50:7-15; Exodus 34:1-9; Matthew 9:27-34

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 awe at God's majesty. Ps. 8

Pray for gratitude for God's care. Ps. 8

Pray for trust in Christ's presence. Mt. 26:16-20

Pray for courage to make disciples. Mt. 28:16-20

"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*