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
Staci Shupe

Stand Up and Bless the Lord
Crown Him with Many Crowns
Great is Thy Faithfulness

Shepherd's Prayer
Chris Shupe

How Firm a Foundation

Matthew 13:44-53
Dale McCorkle

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

Romans 8:26-39
Today's Message

Before the Throne of God Above

Abide with Me

Communion & Offering
Luke 22:14-20
Jonathan Stein

Abide with Me

Love Divine

Benediction

Worship Leader: Greg Straughn

Today's Message

"For the Good of Those Who Love Him"

Romans 8:26-39

Jeff Childers

July 26, 2026

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

Terrific Tuesday: Kids first through fifth grade are invited from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Tuesday to the MAC. We will enjoy games and activities and lunch will be provided.

Campus Prayer Time: Prayer groups will visit campuses where our children, teachers, and AISD staff will work this next year. Please call the church office or visit with Jennifer if you would like your campus to be prayed over before classes begin.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

The Youth Group will not meet tonight.

Split boys and girls devos will meet on Tuesday in the Youth Center from 7-8 p.m.

On Wednesday, middle schoolers will meet with Elijah for huddles at 7 p.m. in the Youth Center. High schoolers will attend Sanctuary.

We will have BLAST on Thursday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Students will meet at the Youth Center at 9 a.m. We will be working on projects around the home of Dionne Wilson, enjoy lunch, and swim at the Southward's house. Pickup will be at the Youth Center at 2 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

Missions' Update — Please keep our teens and parents who are in Argentina in your prayers. The group will return on Monday.

Ladies' Summer Lunches — Ladies' Summer Lunches meets on Wednesday, at noon in the Family Room. All ladies are invited to attend. Bring a dish to share! This will be the last lunch of the summer.

Sanctuary — Our Wednesday night summer devotional meets on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Foy Mills will be this week's teacher. All adult classes will attend.

Shepherds

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2026 Elder Chair

Alan Caffey
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Ministers

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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

Covenant Group Interest Meeting — If you would like to join a Covenant Group this fall, please plan to come to an interest meeting on Wednesday, August 5, at 6:30 p.m. in MAC 504. This will be our final interest meeting before we launch our groups at the end of August.

Wedding Shower — Next Sunday, August 2, there will be a wedding shower honoring Lorena Zuniga and Connor Collins. Lorena is the daughter of Lydia Zuniga. The couple is registered on Amazon. The shower will be held in the Family Room at 2:30 p.m.

Daily Readings

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

Monday, July 27
Semi-continuous: Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 30:25-36; James 3:13-18
Complementary: Psalm 119:121-128; 1 Kings 3:16-28; James 3:13-18

Tuesday, July 28
Semi-continuous: Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 30:37-43; Ephesians 6:10-18
Complementary: Psalm 119:121-128; 1 Kings 4:29-34; Eph. 6:10-18

Wednesday, July 29
Semi-continuous: Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 46:2-47:12; Mark 4:30-34
Complementary: Psalm 119:121-128; Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33; Mark 4:30-34

Thursday, July 30
Semi-continuous: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 14:1-2; Philippians 4:10-15
Complementary: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Proverbs 10:1-5; Phs. 4:10-15

Friday, July 31
Semi-continuous: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 41:8-10; Romans 9:6-13
Complementary: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Isaiah 51:17-23; Romans 9:6-13

Saturday, August 1
Semi-continuous: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 31:1-21; Matthew 7:7-11
Complementary: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Isaiah 44:1-5; Matthew 7:7-11

Lift Up In Prayer

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

Prayer Prompts

Pray for trust in God's timing. Gen. 29:15-28

Pray for God's blessings in our homes. Ps. 128

Pray for discerning hearts. 1 Kings 3:5-12

Pray for faith that grows. Matt. 13:31-52

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*