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
Randi Williams

Blessed Be the Lord

Shepherd's Prayer
KB Massingill

A Wonderful Savior

2 Corinthians 3:4-9
Dirk Nelson

Children's Church

Thank You, Lord

Luke 10:23-37
Today's Message

How Deep the Father's Love

His Grace Reaches Me

Communion & Offering
Luke 24:28-32
Jordan Turney

His Grace Reaches Me

Our God, He Is Alive

Benediction

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message

"Go and Do Likewise"

Luke 10:23-37

Bradley Steele

August 16, 2026

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

Kid Check-In System: Parents please take time to stop by our new check-in system and register. One station is located upstairs in the main hallway of the children's wing, and another is at the front entrance of the Early Childhood Center.

Promotion Sunday: Children start their new Bible class this morning. Parents, please be sure to meet your child's new teacher for the semester.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

We will have split huddles on Wednesday in the youth center from 7-8 p.m. Middle schoolers will be with Elijah in the big room, and high schoolers will meet with Bradley in the theater room.

Youth group teens and parents, please subscribe to our GroupMe to stay up-to-date with our communications. Scan the QR-code to subscribe.

The youth group is looking for members willing to host our House of Praise gathering on the first Sunday evening of each month this fall. Hosts would invite the group into their home for a time of praise and worship. If you would like to sign-up please contact Randi Williams by phone (254) 413-2128 or email randilynnwilliams@yahoo.com.

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

Back-to-School Bash — Make plans to join us for our Back-to-School Bash this evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the MAC. We will have dinner and water slides! Join us as we kick-off the school year!

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
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James Thompson
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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

Campus Ministry Need — The ACU church fair is coming up Friday, August 21, where new Freshman will have an opportunity to visit with us and receive some fun prizes. We are in need of $5 gift cards for the following: any local coffee shops, Sonic, Chick-fil-A, Brahms, Bahama Bucks, 7 brew, Tea to Go, and HTeaO. If you are able, please bring them to the church office by August 19.

Sanctuary — Our Wednesday night summer devotional meets on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Dan McGregor will be this week's teacher. All adult and children's class will attend.

Save the Date — Wednesday Night Suppers and Wednesday night Bible classes will resume on August 26.

Daily Readings

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

Monday, August 17
Semi-continuous: Psalm 130; Genesis 43:1-34; Acts 15:1-21
Complementary: Psalm 87; 2 Kings 5:1-14; Acts 15:1-21

Tuesday, August 18
Semi-continuous: Psalm 130; Genesis 44:1-34; Romans 11:13-29
Complementary: Psalm 87; Isaiah 43:8-13; Romans 11:13-29

Wednesday, August 19
Semi-continuous: Psalm 130; Genesis 45:16-28; Matthew 8:1-13
Complementary: Psalm 87; Isaiah 66:18-23; Matthew 8:1-13

Thursday, August 20
Semi-continuous: Psalm 124; Genesis 49:1-33; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Complementary: Psalm 138; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Friday, August 21
Semi-continuous: Psalm 124; Genesis 49:29-50:14; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18
Complementary: Psalm 138; Ezekiel 31:15-18; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Saturday, August 22
Semi-continuous: Psalm 124; Genesis 50:15-26; Matthew 16:5-12
Complementary: Psalm 138; Ezekiel 36:33-38; Matthew 16:5-12

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 reconciliation.
Gen. 45:1-15

Pray for God's blessing.
Ps. 67

Pray for grateful hearts.
Rom. 11:1-2

Pray for Christ's compassion.
Matt. 15:21-28

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*