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

Kindergarten Bible Presentation

Welcome & Call to Worship
Janae Wallace

Only a Holy God

Shepherd's Prayer
Robert Rhodes

10,000 Reasons

Galatians 3:16-22
Ella Tolar

Children's Church

God Who Comes to Save

Luke 17:11-19
Today's Message

Let Us Be Faithful

Be with Me, Lord

Communion & Offering
Matthew 26:26-29
Cole Bennett

Be with Me, Lord

Shout Hallelujah

Benediction

Worship Leader: Greg Straughn

Today's Message
"Rise and Go"
Luke 17:11-19
Bradley Steele

August 23, 2026

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

Kid Check In System: If you have not had an opportunity to register on the new KidCheck System—located upstairs in the Children's Wing or in the Early Childhood Center—please do so. Once registered, you can download the KidCheck app to your phone. You can then check-in on your way to church or in the parking lot and proceed to a check-in station to print off your label. The KidCheck system will also be used on Wednesday nights, so please plan to check your child in when classes begin on Wednesday, August 26.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

Tonight we will meet in the youth center from 5:30-7 p.m. with dinner provided!

We will have split middle school and high school huddles on Wednesday in the youth center from 7-8 p.m.

Campus Ministry (College-Aged Young Adults)

Our campus ministry is called *The Crossing* and is for college-aged young adults. Join us for get-togethers throughout the week:

- Sunday Bible Study — Gym 503
- Sunday Lunch — Every week after worship in the Gym
- Wednesday Small Group — 6:30 p.m., Gym 503, "Help Yourself? — The Quest for the Good Life and the Good Shepherd Who Shows the Way"
- Daily Grind — Mondays & Thursdays, 1–4 p.m., ACU Library. Come study together—and sometimes Jason buys coffee!

Want to know more? Join our GroupMe at bit.ly/TheCrossingUCC 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

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

Ladies' Bible Class — Ladies' Bible Class will resume on Wednesday, September 2, at 10 a.m. in the Family Room. For our first meeting, we will have a brunch. Please bring a dish to share!

Save the Date — Mark your calendars for our UCC Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 13. Following service you will have the opportunity to learn about our many ministries and find new ways to plug in!

Shepherds

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Blake Williams
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2026 Elder Chair

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Lead Minister
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Jennifer Welch
Children's Minister
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Jason Craddock
Campus Minister
jason@uccabilene.org

Online Giving

uccabilene.org/give

Wednesday Bible Class Offerings

All classes begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Conversations - MAC 501
Wednesday Recharge - MAC 502 – Conversational Journey Through Mark
Campus Ministry - MAC 503 (starts at 6:30)
Bible Basics (previously The Bridge) - MAC 504
Common Ground (previously 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 months - Two Year Olds - Early Childhood Center, Room 305
Young Three and Four Year Olds - Early Childhood Center, Room 309
Older Four Year Olds - Kindergarten - Main Building, Room 216
First - Fifth Grade - Main Building, Room 233

Daily Readings

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

Monday, August 24
Semi-continuous: Psalm 8; Exodus 1:1-7; Romans 2:1-11
Complementary: Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; 1 Samuel 7:3-13; Romans 2:1-11

Tuesday, August 25
Semi-continuous: Psalm 8; Exodus 2:11-15a; Romans 11:33-36
Complementary: Ps. 18:1-3, 20-32; Deut. 32:18-20, 28-39; Rm. 11:33-36

Wednesday, August 26
Semi-continuous: Psalm 8; Exodus 2:15b-22; Matthew 26:6-13
Complementary: Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; Isaiah 28:14-22; Matthew 26:6-13

Thursday, August 27
Semi-continuous: Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Ex. 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:1-6
Complementary: Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 14:13-18; Ephesians 5:1-6

Friday, August 28
Semi-continuous: Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 3:16-22; 2 Thess. 2:7-12
Complementary: Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Saturday, August 29
Semi-continuous: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 4:1-9; Mt. 8:14-17
Complementary: Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:10-14; Matthew 8:14-17

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 help. Ps. 124

Pray for lives surrendered to God. Rom. 12:1-8

Pray for a faithful church. Matt. 16:13-20

Pray to use our gifts faithfully. Rom. 12:1-8

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*