*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

*Let Us Worship the Father*

**Shepherd's Prayer**
James Thompson

*There's Something About That Name*

**1 Corinthians 15:1-10**
Lilly Lemmons

**Children's Church**

*The Joy of the Lord*

**Mark 7:31-37**
**Today's Message**

*Living Hope*

*Pierce My Ear*

**Communion & Offering**
**Mark 14:22-25**
Dodd Roberts

*Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*

**Operation Blue Jeans Collection**

*Light the Fire*

**Benediction**

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message
**"Be Opened"**
Mark 7:31-37
Bradley Steele

August 9, 2026

## Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

Sunday morning Bible class teachers for the fall will meet today at 4 p.m. in room 101.

Teachers are needed for the Fall Wednesday Night Bible classes for children two years old through kindergarten. Please pray about this ministry opportunity. Contact Jennifer Welch if you are interested in volunteering.

## Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

Tonight we will meet in the Youth Center from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We will be welcoming our new 6th graders into the youth group so please join us for a fun time of fellowship! Dinner will be provided.

We will have a brief parent meeting for all youth group families tonight in the Youth Center at 5:30 p.m. We will go over information regarding the fall semester so we hope all parents can attend.

We will have split boys and girls devos on Tuesday from 7-8 p.m in the Youth Center.

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

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

**Sanctuary** — Our Wednesday night summer devotional meets on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Greg Straughn will lead us in a time of singing as we prepare for our Psalms study that will begin next week. All adult and children's classes will attend.

## 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

**Operation Blue Jeans Collection** — This morning we will have our annual Operation Blue Jeans Collection which benefits the Christian Service Center. We will pass the offering tray separately for this collection. Please write "Operation Blue Jeans" on the memo line of your check or use the labeled envelopes on the pews. You can also give online for this collection at uccabilene.org/give.

**Covenant Groups** — If you would like to join a Covenant Group this fall, please contact the church office by this Wednesday.

**Back-to-School Bash** — Make plans to join us for our Back-to-School Bash on Sunday, August 16, 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!

**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 10**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 28; Genesis 37:29-36; 2 Peter 2:4-10*
*Complementary: Psalm 18:1-19; Genesis 7:11-8:5; 2 Peter 2:4-10*

**Tuesday, August 11**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 28; Genesis 39:1-23; Romans 9:14-29*
*Complementary: Psalm 18:1-19; Genesis 19:1-29; Romans 9:14-29*

**Wednesday, August 12**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 28; Genesis 40:1-23; Matthew 8:23-27*
*Complementary: Psalm 18:1-19; Job 36:24-33; 37:14-24; Mt. 8:23-27*

**Thursday, August 13**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 133; Genesis 41:14-36; Revelation 15:1-4*
*Complementary: Psalm 67; Isaiah 45:20-25; Revelation 15:1-4*

**Friday, August 14**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 133; Genesis 41:37-57; Acts 14:19-28*
*Complementary: Psalm 67; Isaiah 63:15-19; Acts 14:19-28*

**Saturday, August 15**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 133; Genesis 42:1-28; Matthew 14:34-36*
*Complementary: Psalm 67; Isaiah 56:1-5; Matthew 14:34-36*

## 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 faith in trials.
Gen. 37:1-4

Pray for thankful hearts.
Ps. 105:1-6

Pray for willing witnesses.
Rom. 10:5-15

Pray for steadfast faith.
Matt. 14:22-33

*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*