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
Marnie Fangio

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Shepherd's Prayer
Jason Morris

O How I Love Jesus

Galatians 5:25-26, 6:1-10
Kaila Craddock

Highest Place

Luke 7:11-16
Today's Message

The Joy of the Lord

How Deep the Father's Love

Communion & Offering
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Jack Thompson

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Jesus, Hold My Hand

Benediction

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message
"Arise"
Luke 7:11-16
Bradley Steele

September 6, 2026

Children's Ministry (Birth–5th Grade)

September Scripture: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Ephesians 6:1

Character Call Out for September - Obedience: Responding to authority with a happy heart.

Youth Ministry (6th–12th Grade)

The youth group will not meet tonight due to the Labor Day holiday.

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

Don't forget to join the Youth Ministry GroupMe to stay up-to-date!

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 — MAC (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, 2–4 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

Ladies' Bible Class — Ladies' Bible Class meets on Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Family Room. Bradley Steele will be teaching this week.

Wednesday Night Supper — Join us for Wednesday Night Supper at 5:45 p.m. in the MAC. This week we will have a nacho bar.

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

LIFT Bunco Night — Ladies, join the LIFT Ministry for Bunco on Tuesday, September 15, from 6:30 - 8 p.m., in the Youth Center!

Shepherds

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KB Massingill
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Jason Morris
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Blake Williams
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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

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 - MAC 504
Common Ground - Main Building, Room 101
Young Adults - Main Building, Room 107
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, September 7
Semi-continuous: Psalm 121; Exodus 12:14-28; 1 Peter 2:11-17
Complementary: Ps. 119:65-72; Leviticus 4:27-31; 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:11-17

Tuesday, September 8
Semi-continuous: Psalm 121; Exodus 12:29-42; Romans 13:1-7
Complementary: Psalm 119:65-72; Deuteronomy 17:2-13; Romans 13:1-7

Wednesday, September 9
Semi-continuous: Psalm 121; Exodus 13:1-10; Matthew 21:18-22
Complementary: Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28; Matthew 21:18-22

Thursday, September 10
Semi-continuous: Psalm 114; Exodus 13:17-22; 1 John 3:11-16
Complementary: Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 37:12-36; 1 John 3:11-16

Friday, September 11
Semi-continuous: Psalm 114; Exodus 14:1-18; Acts 7:9-16
Complementary: Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 41:53-42:17; Acts 7:9-16

Saturday, September 12
Semi-continuous: Psalm 114; Exodus 15:19-21; Matthew 6:7-15
Complementary: Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 45:1-20; Matthew 6:7-15

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 joyful worship. Ps. 149

Pray for courage to speak truth. Ezek. 33:7-11

Pray for lives shaped by love. Rom. 13:8-14

Pray for reconciliation and unity. Mt. 18:15-20

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*