*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**
Debbie Williams

*Sing and be Happy*

**Shepherd's Prayer**
Ted Presley

*Let Us Worship*

**Ephesians 5:15-21**
Jc Enriquez

**Children's Church**

*Only a Holy God*

**1 Thessalonians 2:1-12**
**Today's Message**

*Listen to Our Hearts*
*Highly Exalted*

**Communion & Offering**
**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**
Andrew Tate

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

*The Greatest Commands*

**Benediction**

Worship Leader: Jeremy Meeks

Today's Message

**"An Imitable Community"**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Mason Lee

October 11, 2026

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

Save the date for a children and youth ministry event on Sunday, October 18, from 5- 7 p.m. in the MAC. We will start with a potluck followed by entertainment from Shawn Hull, a family entertainer, magician, and juggler.

## **Youth Ministry** (6th–12th Grade)

The youth group will meet tonight in the youth center for "Reel Faith" from 5:30-8 p.m. We will enjoy dinner and a movie followed by a discussion on faith themes from the movie. Pizza will be 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 — 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.

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

**LIFT Domino Night —** Ladies, join the LIFT Ministry for domino fun on Tuesday, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Family Room. We will also be collecting shampoo and conditioner for Christian Homes and Family Services.

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

**Wedding Shower —** On Sunday, October 18, there will be a wedding shower honoring Rebecca Blake and Jack Thompson at the home of Elena Rhodes. The couple is registered on Amazon.

**Fall Festival —** Our Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 25 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the west parking lot. We will have dinner and games for all ages! We need individually wrapped candy for our festival. Candy can be dropped off in the church office or in the baskets found throughout the campus.

## Shepherds

**Jeff Childers**
childersj@acu.edu

**Mac Ice**
macice27@gmail.com

**KB Massingill**
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**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

## Wednesday Bible Class Offerings

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

**Conversations** - MAC 501 - Governing the Social Commons
**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 (starts at 5)
**Bilingual Ministry** - Main Building, Room 109
**Youth Ministry** - Main Building, Youth Center
**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

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

# Daily Readings

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

**Monday, October 12**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 97; Exodus 32:15-35; Jude 17-25*
*Complementary: Psalm 34; Exodus 19:7-20; Jude 17-25*

**Tuesday, October 13**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 97; Exodus 33:1-6; Philippians 3:13-4:1*
*Complementary: Psalm 34; Amos 9:5-15; Philippians 3:13-4:1*

**Wednesday, October 14**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 97; 2 Kings 17:7-20; John 6:25-35*
*Complementary: Psalm 34; Song of Solomon 7:10-8:4; John 6:25-35*

**Thursday, October 15**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 99; Exodus 33:7-11; 3 John 9-12*
*Complementary: Psalm 96:1-9; Judges 17:1-6; 3 John 9-12*

**Friday, October 16**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 99; Exodus 31:1-11; 1 Peter 5:1-5*
*Complementary: Psalm 96:1-9; Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1 Peter 5:1-5*

**Saturday, October 17**
*Semi-continuous: Psalm 99; Exodus 39:32-43; Matthew 14:1-12*
*Complementary: Psalm 96:1-9; Isaiah 14:3-11; Matthew 14:1-12*

## Lift Up In Prayer

Jon Ashby
Don Baber
Shirley Baber
Vicki Blair
Marshal Kellar
Eddie Mahanay
Peggy Marler
Imogene McAnulty
Tom Milholland
Mike Nance
Kelly Roberts

## Prayer Prompts

Pray for grateful hearts.
Ps. 106:1-5

Pray for joy in God's salvation. Isa. 25:1-9

Pray for God's guidance.
Ps. 23

Pray to live in grace.
Mt. 22:1-14

*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*