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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
To God be the Glory
We Praise Thee, O God

Shepherd's Prayer
James Thompson

Be Still My Soul

Ephesians 4:22-28
Lily Shores

Children's Church

Hosanna, You're My King

Matthew 22:1-14
Today's Message

Lord, I Need You
More Love to Thee, O Christ

Communion & Offering
Luke 22:14-20
Chai Green

Take My Life and Let it Be

How Sweet, How Heavenly

Benediction

Worship Leader: Greg Straughn

Today's Message

"RSVP REQUESTED"

Matthew 22:1-14

Jason Craddock

October 4, 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 at the Williams' home (6350 Summerhill Rd) from 5:30-7 p.m. for our first "House of Praise". This will be a time of fellowship and worship with light refreshments. No dinner will be provided. Please let Randi Williams know if your student needs transportation so arrangements can be made.

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
- Daily Grind — Mondays & Thursdays, 2–4 p.m., ACU Library.

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

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

Baby Shower — This afternoon there will be a baby shower honoring Sabrina and Jordan Turney from 2-3:30 p.m. at the home of Bicky Tolar (767 Oldham Court West). The couple is registered on Amazon and Babylist.

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

LIFT Domino Night — Ladies, join the LIFT Ministry for domino fun on Tuesday, October 13, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Family Room. We will also be collecting shampoo and conditioner for Christian Homes and Family Services.

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. We are in need of new or gently used stuffed animals or small toys for our prizes. We also need individually wrapped candy. Toys and candy can be dropped off at the Church Office.

Shepherds

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2026 Elder Chair

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Jennifer Welch
Children's Minister
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Jason Craddock
Campus Minister
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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 grilled chicken.

Governing the Social Commons: The Social Witness of the Church — The Conversations Class will begin a new series this week, led by Ben Peterson. The class will touch on social trends in community life, criminal justice policy, and the church's social witness to the hope we have in Christ.

Daily Readings

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

Monday, October 5
Semi-continuous: Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 1 Peter 2:4-10
Complementary: Psalm 144; Ezekiel 19:10-14; 1 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday, October 6
Semi-continuous: Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3; 2 Cr. 5:17-21
Complementary: Psalm 144; Isaiah 27:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wednesday, October 7
Semi-continuous: Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 6:10-25; John 11:45-57
Complementary: Psalm 144; Song of Solomon 8:5-14; John 11:45-57

Thursday, October 8
Semi-continuous: Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:1-8; 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14
Complementary: Psalm 23; Isaiah 22:1-8a; 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

Friday, October 9
Semi-continuous: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:9-11; James 4:4-10
Complementary: Psalm 23; Isaiah 22:8b-14; James 4:4-10

Saturday, October 10
Semi-continuous: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:12-18; Mark 2:18-22
Complementary: Psalm 23; Isaiah 24:17-23; Mark 2:18-22

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 faithful hearts. Ex. 20:1-4

Pray to see God's glory. Ps. 19:1-6

Pray for freedom from pride. Phil. 3:4b-8

Pray for faith in Christ. Mt. 21:42-46

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*