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Watch worship services live: www.universitychristian.org/live

Watch on our Facebook page: **University Christian Church of Fort Worth**

Watch recorded sermons: www.universitychristian.org/resources/sermons



Listen to worship services live on KTCU 88.7 or the recorded radio broadcast at www.universitychristian.org/resources/radio-broadcast.



Assisted listening devices are available; please ask an usher to obtain one.
Handicap accessible restrooms located in the Gallery (second floor).



Ministers are on call, available after hours and on weekends for pastoral care emergencies. If you have a need, call us at **817.926.6631** and follow the prompts, fill out the pastoral care request form found at the bottom of our website or email us at pastoralcare@uccftw.com.

CLOSED

UCC Closed—Christmas and New Years Day

Tuesday, December 25, Wednesday, December 26 and Tuesday, January 1

In observance of Christmas and New Years, UCC offices and buildings will be closed.

HELPING US WORSHIP TODAY

Chancel Guild: Lori Eagleton, Randy Eagleton, Ann Lesok, Mandy Teichelman


Web Host: Rev. Jamie Plunkett, **Sound:** Chris Shipman, **Video:** Jack Stewart, **Radio Announcer:** Darla Jones

OUR MINISTRY TEAM:

Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman, Senior Minister; Rev. Renee Hoke, Executive Minister; Rev. Cyndy W. Twedell, Minister of Nurture; Rev. Shannon Moore, Minister of Faith Formation; Rev. Jamie Plunkett, Minister of Youth & Families; Rev. Dr. Todd Prickett, Minister of Music; Rev. Jessica Vacketta, Minister of Connections; Rev. Kera Watts, Minister of Children & Families; Allison Bright, Assistant Minister for Youth; William Judd, Assistant Minister for Youth; Janet Pummill, Senior Organist; Eric Mullins, Assistant Choirmaster; Dr. Amy Stewart, Assistant Organist

AS A GLOBAL MINISTRIES CONGREGATION UCC SUPPORTS AND PRAYS FOR:

Our missionary partners: Elena Huegel, Mexico and Larry and Debbie Colvin, Ghana

This week we pray for:  Philippines and Mission Coworker Eleazar Fernandez



AS A GREEN CHALICE CONGREGATION:

UCC joins churches across the country in faithfully caring for God’s creation.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

Our ministries at UniversityChristian.org | The Disciples of Christ, visit disciples.org



UNIVERSITY Christian Church

Open minds, loving hearts



Photos of WDS Santa Visit, CYF Christmas Party, Gloria Composer, Finals Feast and Chi-Rho Christmas Party



Thank you for shopping our alternative giving market, Gifts of Hope! Because of your generosity, over \$37,000 will be gifted to local and global non-profit agencies, along with UCC Outreach Ministries. Special thanks to Kim McAdams-Baker our Outreach and Gifts of Hope Chair and Michelle Groom for their hard work in making this year’s market such a success!



Website
UniversityChristian.org



Phone
817-926-6631



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December 23, 2018

www.UniversityChristian.org

A Disciples of Christ Congregation



Welcome TO UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

We choose love—as God does—loving people where they are and giving them the space to doubt, learn, wonder and ask the hard questions.

— Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman • Senior Minister



TODAY

Red Envelope Christmas Offering

Special Disciples Christmas Offering

Your gift to the Christmas offering supports the work of the Southwest Region of the Christian Church (DoC).

Worship Bags for Children

Check out this way to engage our children in worship. Worship Bags are available at the Gallery door. Please return them after worship.

Sunday School

Classes for children, youth, college and adults meet at 10:00am every Sunday. Adult class topics are located at the Sanctuary doors and reception desk.

Intergenerational Advent Experience

10:00am • Walker Hall

Share in conversations and cinnamon rolls as we prepare for the birth of Christ.

Childcare

Available for ages infant through kindergarten from 8:45am-12:15pm.

Children & Youth

Weekly Sunday programs for grades 1–12 encourage discipleship through fun and faith-centered activities. Music programs are available. Learn more by visiting our website or by picking up a UCC Journal.



10:00am | RM 201 • Whether you are a guest, returning, or a long time member, you are welcome to this 4 week faith-growing opportunity. Topics include: Exploring UCC, Growing & Worshiping, Serving and Connecting. You can begin anytime!

RECURRING EVENTS

Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival & Feast Tickets on Sale Now!

Purchase by visiting universitychristian.org or call 817-926-6631, ext. 139.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Will resume January 20

Children's Closet

Closed until January 10

Faithfully Fit Forever

Mondays • 4:00pm | RM 205

Wednesdays & Fridays

11:00am | RM 205

Yoga—Classes will resume January 3

Mondays • 12:30pm | RM 205

Thursdays • 10:30am | RM 205

Wednesday Bible Study

Will resume January 9

Room In The Inn

Wednesday Nights and Thursday Mornings

Sign up online to serve

Needlers

Thursdays • 10:00am | RM 205

Grab a UCC Journal—it's packed with valuable information!



Discover UCC programs, serving/volunteering opportunities and events in our monthly UCC Journal—found in the silver stands located near each Sanctuary entrance, by the Front Desk, can be read online by visiting our website, or you can opt in to have one mailed to you.

Opt in to receive or continue to receive the UCC Journal by mail: visit www.universitychristian.org/mail-journal or fill out a paper form. Form found alongside drop-off containers in the Gallery, Arches and Front Desk.

www.UniversityChristian.org



LIVE STREAMING all worship services on our website and Facebook page.



Give via text to 817-241-2780

Mobile Giving through “ShelbyNext Giving” available in your app store.

A Disciples of Christ Congregation



Featured Events

Register or RSVP for programs and events online at universitychristian.org, click on the Resources tab and then click on Open Registrations.

GROW

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Noon: Special music, Christmas hymns and communion.

5:00pm: Family-friendly worship with carols sung by our children's choir, handbells ringing and a living nativity scene.

8:00pm and 11:00pm: Traditional worship, communion, Christmas hymns, candlelight and music by the Chancel Choir, handbells, harp and violin (includes 30-minute preludes, beginning at 7:30pm & 10:30pm).

GROW

Simple Worship

Sundays in January • 9:30am-9:50am
Chapel of the Good Shepherd

Twenty minutes long, this come-as-you-are service (and really—come as you are!) is your opportunity to worship in a casual, relaxed style. January will serve as our “soft launch” of this service. If you're interested, come explore how this service will function and help us work out any snags.

CONNECT

Women's Ministry Gift Exchange

Friday, January 11 • 6:00pm

Exchange the gifts you received but just aren't you! Wrap and bring it along with an appetizer to share. RSVP to mgroom@uccftw.com

CONNECT

Poinsettias—Thank you

Thank you to all who ordered poinsettias. If you wish to take your plant, please take it following the 11:00pm Christmas Eve service.



CONNECT

43rd Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival

January 5 & 6 • 3:00pm and 5:00pm | Sanctuary

Ring in the New Year with spectacular pageantry, beautiful music and stunning costumes. Limited tickets for sale and plenty of free seats available.

2nd Annual Boar's Head Feast

January 5 • 6:30pm | Walker Hall

The revelry of the performance will continue in Walker Hall—a delicious catered meal and hearty merriment to be enjoyed by all. Reservations are required.



Purchase tickets by visiting universitychristian.org or call 817-926-6631, ext. 139.

GROW

Youth Parent Meeting & Spring Kick-off

Sunday, January 13 • 5:00pm

Parent meeting at 5:00pm. Kick off of regular youth groups for the spring semester at 6:00pm!

GROW

Prayer Shawl Ministry 14 Year Anniversary Sunday, January 13

We are grateful for the hands that create and pray over these shawls which become a tangible form of God's love to those who receive them.

SERVE

MLK Day of Service

Monday, January 21

Join us to make it a day on, not a day off as we celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. People of all ages and walks of life come together across Tarrant County to serve at more than 30 sites. Register online at tarranttogether.org.

Doxology is Greek for “words of glory.” We use this ancient form of praise to thank God as the offering is brought forward with the bread and cup for the Lord’s Supper.

The Lord’s Supper (also called communion) is a celebration of Christ’s love for the world. Christ is the host and invites all to share in this meal. Our communion bread is free of gluten, wheat, dairy, yeast, eggs, soy, nuts, and corn and we also use alcohol-free grape juice.

University Christian Church is dedicated to Living the Good News of Jesus Christ with Open Minds and Loving Hearts. If you proclaim Jesus as the Christ and would like to partner with us on your journey of faith, we invite you to speak to a minister after worship.

***The Doxology 46**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

(11:00am) Communion Hymn 165, stanzas 1 & 2

Once in Royal David’s City
Hymn Tune: IRBY

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution and Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Elders: (9:00am) Kevin Medlin, bread & Sandra Soria, cup
(11:00am) Mary Ruth Jones, bread & David Jarman, cup

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

***Hymn of Discipleship 138, stanzas 1 & 2**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
Hymn Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE

***Benediction and Choral Response**

***Ringing of the Tower Bells**

***Postlude**

Toccata from Variations on a French Bell Carol • Jerry Westenkuehler

Celebration of Worship

December 23, 2018 | 9:00am & 11:00am

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*Living the good news of Jesus Christ
with open minds and loving hearts*

The information in these margins will guide you through worship. If you have any questions, please ask a greeter, usher or minister.

Red text is read by the congregation. Asterisks (*) indicate times when you are invited to stand. Feel free to remain seated if need be.

In our worship, any gender-specific language is meant to apply to all genders, and all references to God are intended to encompass the full character and nature of God. In the Gloria Patri, for instance, you might sing “Mother” or “Creator” instead of “Father”, depending on how you think about God.

The Lord’s Prayer is a prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. It asks God to help us be generous, thankful, and humble. We say this prayer together each week at the end of the Pastoral Prayer.

Prelude

Variations on a French Bell Carol • Jerry Westenkuehler
Janet Pummill, Senior Organist

Ringing of Tower Bells and Procession of Acolytes

(9:00am) Elizabeth Bailey
(11:00am) Hope Hatter and Henry Vitek

Welcome and Call to Worship

Reverend Kera Watts

*Processional Hymn 142 | People, Look East

Hymn Tune: BESANCON

*Litany of Praise

One: In the midst of darkness, God brings new light.
All: Thanks be to the God of light.
One: In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings love.
All: Let us praise God who loves us into new life.

*Gloria Patri 35

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(9:00am) Charles Kendall, Libits Kendall, LaLonnie Lehman,
Gregg Lehman, Meg Lehman, Kendall Lehman, Marshall Lehman
(11:00am) Cole-Thurman Family: Cay, Tam, and Beau

Congregational Response 128, stanza 4 | One Candle Is Lit

Hymn Tune: CRADLE SONG

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Reverend Shannon Moore

Call to Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
One: Let us pray.

Pastoral Prayer, Lord’s Prayer and Choral Response

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

The Scripture in Context

Reverend Russ Peterman

11:00am worship, 1st-3rd graders are invited to join a Worship and Wonder leader in the Gallery. Children will return to the Sanctuary following the sermon.

Scripture | Luke 1:46-55

Reader: Orlew Lauger

Congregational Response

One: The Word of God, for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon | Making Room for the Birth of Love: Letting Go

Reverend Russ Peterman

*The Peace

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

*Hymn of Response 130, stanzas 1, 3 & 4

My Soul Gives Glory to My God
Hymn Tune: MORNING SONG

Invitation to Offering

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

O Thou the Central Orb • Charles Wood
Chancel Choir and Dr. Todd Prickett, choirmaster

O thou the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God’s ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measur’d grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

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You can find today’s scripture reading on page 57 of the New Testament in your pew Bible.

The Sermon is a message based on scripture that proclaims God’s love and helps to strengthen faith within the gathered community.

The Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient worship responses. Having received Christ’s peace, we pass it on.

Faithful giving supports the ministries of our church and helps us develop generosity as a spiritual practice.

The text for today’s offertory was written by English clergyman and hymnologist, H.R. Bramley (1833-1917). Although he collaborated primarily with composer John Stainer, this particular text was set by Irish composer, Charles Wood (1866-1926). Bramley’s words and Wood’s music combine beautifully to create, and draw us into, the vision of God’s transforming glory. The orb of righteous love. The Sun of Righteousness, Jesus Christ.