

WATCH.WAIT.ACT.



A Disciples of Christ Congregation



ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday Worship | November 27th–December 21st | 9 am & 11 am

Christmas Eve Worship | 12 pm, 5 pm*, 8 pm, & 11 pm | *Childcare is available for infants to two-years old.

Christmas Day (Sunday) | 11 am—**Watch.Wait.Act** in the beauty of Christ's birth | There will be no Sunday School.

Living the Good News of Jesus Christ with Open Minds and Loving Hearts.





NEW MEMBERS



Ron & Susie Henderson



Thomas & Lea McCracken



Odie & Gala Arambula



Kerby, Marcy & Henley



Ross & Paige Perez



Brady & Mitchell



William & Kate Monroe



Molly



Carol Williams



Sharon Stoner



Todd & Amy Prickett



Ethan & Madelyn

Baby Dedication

August 7th, 2016



Noelle Nai'a Ford

Daughter of Brady & Abigail Ford
(little sister to Mabel)

Merry Christmas

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A Message: This Holiday Season at UCC

Do you hear what I hear? I hear the bells of “Christmastide,” the season of Christmas, jingling. Some people say they dread the Christmas season; others are happier than “partridges in a pear tree!” I am personally grateful we have Christmastide—Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, in the church year. Do I find some parts of the holiday season superficial and sometimes exploitive? Sure. Do I find some parts of the holiday season inspiring, hopeful, wondrous, and holy? Absolutely... absolutely yes!

University Christian Church has a stuffed-full holiday stocking of activities and worship services planned. The four weeks leading to Christmas are called the season of Advent. The word “advent” means “the coming.” Like Mary and Joseph of the Christian tradition, we too will journey to behold the coming of Jesus, the Christmas gift from God. Our congregational journey of Advent will be marked by the themes of watch, wait, and act. We will have intergenerational Advent activity calendars for all; amazing worship experiences; worship on Christmas day; and the grand finale of the season: The Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival which celebrates Epiphany – the recognition of God’s universal love.

The Christmastide journey through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany is full of opportunities for us to invite THIS Christmas season to be one in which we become filled with anticipation and awe.

In grateful anticipation,
Chuck



Rev. Dr. Charles Rolen • UCC Interim Sr. Minister



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 27th | 5:30 pm

All are invited to a meaningful University Christian Church tradition—the Hanging of the Greens. This special evening worship marks the beginning of Advent by preparing the Sanctuary for the holiday season and sharing the stories behind many of the symbolic holiday decorations.

Enjoy the festivity as our youth participate in leading worship complemented by UCC’s bell choirs and children’s choirs.



“Welcome” to the New Associate Minister

UniversityChristian.org

Advent at UCC *by Sandra Soria*



Rev. Shannon Moore • UCC Associate Minister

We all like to look forward to something in the future, especially if we are looking forward with hope! As the chair of the search committee for the associate minister that called Shannon Moore, I am eagerly anticipating him beginning his ministry with us on November 8th.

Although I do not know Shannon well, I know of him by reputation and am confident he is well-suited to be part of our journey at UCC. He already knows many of us through his time with The Search, and he is gifted in many ways that complement our staff. Because our staff has been stretched so thin this year, his arrival can give needed breathing room to Chuck, Cyndy, Jessica, Russ, and Kera. Keeping tabs on our extended membership while doing funerals and weddings throughout the year is so time-consuming and necessary. The fact that Shannon already lives in town, is acquainted with our ministers, and will not need to rely on GPS to find the hospitals is a bonus!

My favorite part of the interview process will stay with me all my life. We asked Shannon why he applied at UCC, and what caused him to consider joining us. He said simply, “Why wouldn’t I?”

So many of you have congratulated me on the selection, and I truly believe your prayers have guided us to the choice that will bless us all. Continue to pray, and welcome Shannon with me!

Christmas Eve Worship

On Christmas Eve, our Advent theme of WATCH.WAIT.ACT. is fully realized as we REJOICE! Celebrate the birth of the Christ child at one of four worship services on December 24th at 12 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm or 11 pm. Please note the slight differences between the services highlighted below.

For those that would like an opportunity to celebrate earlier in the day, we will worship together at noon in the Sanctuary with special vocal music, cherished Christmas carols and communion.

Share the joy of the season at our 5 pm family-friendly worship service with our children’s choirs and Whitechapel Handbell Choir. Join us as we relive the Christmas story through scripture, carols, a live nativity with animals and children

serving as angels and shepherds. At the conclusion, children will receive a special gift of light to represent the beauty of Christ’s light to take into the world.

During our 8 pm worship service, the Sanctuary will be filled with the festive sounds of the Chancel Choir, a string quartet, and the UCC Bell Ringers. Experience the awe of Christmas as we share in the bread and the cup, darken the Sanctuary, light candles, and sing Silent Night together.

The 11 pm Service of Light will evoke the wonder of Christ’s birth in our candlelit Sanctuary. Musical offerings will include beautiful choral music, strings, and the Ad Deum Handbell Choir. This service will also conclude with candle-lighting and singing Silent Night.

Each of these services will begin with a thirty-minute organ prelude. So, plan to arrive early and prepare your hearts for worship. Whenever you choose to worship at UCC this Christmas Eve, there is something for everyone!

Please note that Sunday services on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day will be held at 11 am only.





UCC Spreading Holiday Good Will

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Room In The Inn

Room in the Inn is a ministry UCC shares in that takes place every Wednesday evening through Thursday morning in December, January and February. It provides homeless guests with dinner, a good night's sleep and breakfast. If you are not already on our list to receive email about volunteer opportunities, *please contact carolmstewart@sbcglobal.net.*

Those Who Have Served Say...

One of our UCC youth, Latham Hallgren, says he feels happy when helping and enjoys hearing the guest's stories. His experiences have:

“changed my mind about homeless people—they are awesome and smart!”

—Latham Hallgren

“Room in the Inn is one of the very fine ministries of University Christian Church, and one of the reasons I joined UCC. I have had many heartfelt conversations with some of our guests, and many of them have shared with me their appreciation of what the church is doing.”

—Eldon Irving

“Being with guests at Room in the Inn, whether sharing a meal or serving our guests, has been an awesome experience for me, and one that I look forward to each week. It gives me the opportunity to visit, joke and laugh with these men in a home-like atmosphere. I am thankful to have this opportunity to serve!”

—Lynn King

Refugee Outreach *by Stephanie Stoner*

65.3 million people in the world displaced by violence

University Christian Church is responding to the call to be the hands and feet of God by partnering with Refugee Services of Texas (RST) as a Welcome Team to help resettle refugee families in Fort Worth. A refugee is anyone forced to leave their country because of violence, persecution, or natural disaster. There are 65.3 million people in the world displaced by violence, and 21 million are registered as refugees. The average wait for a refugee to be resettled is 7 years. The United States resettles more refugees than any other country in the world, and Texas is the largest resettlement state. With the help of Jessica Vacketta and Cyndy Twedell, I have formed a group

with over 50 UCC members to serve as a Welcome Team for incoming refugee families. Our first responsibility is to gather donations to furnish an

21 million people are registered as refugees

apartment. Once we are assigned a family through RST, we will have a couple days to set up an apartment. RST will notify us when the family will be arriving at the airport, and a few of our Welcome Team members will go

apartment orientation, preparing a culturally appropriate meal, and mentoring the family for 3-6 months to assist with assimilation into society.

By serving refugees as a Welcome Team, UCC is able to demonstrate Christ's love and compassion to families that have been through unimaginable trauma. We hope that our role in their

The average wait for a refugee to be settled is 7 years

with a case manager from RST to pick up the family and bring them to their new home. Some of our Welcome Team responsibilities include: providing

transition to a new life in Fort Worth can help ease the difficulties that come with starting over in an unfamiliar place.

Finals Feast *A Testimonial by TCU Junior, Josh Jackson*



“Finals Feast is one of my favorite events that UCC hosts. It's a great way to come and relax and spend time in a community of love during the most stressful time of the semester. It is such a special thing that UCC does, and it has always brightened my finals week and helped me end the semester on a good note. I go to it to take a nice break from all the studying and stress of school, and to spend time with friends and with people who care about each of us to get refreshed. I want the congregation to know how much of a positive impact Finals Feast has on UCC's college students. It also attracts TCU students who don't really go to UCC, because everyone needs a nice break where they can feel loved and refreshed during finals.”

This is Finals Week, this is Finals Week! All college students are invited to celebrate The Nightmare Before Christmas at this year's Finals Feast on Monday, December 12th from 5–7 pm in Room 207. This is an opportunity for our students to take a break from studying, enjoy a classic

Christmas feast, sweet treats, and an early Christmas gift from their University Christian Church family.

All college students are welcome to attend this event for free and information cards are available at the reception desk; please take one and

pass it along to any college students you know of who may need to destress during the first night of finals.

Volunteers are needed to provide food and clean-up after the event. **Contact barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com for more information.**

Home for the Holidays *by Zena McAdams*

I attended my first Home for the Holidays meal sponsored by Tarrant Churches Together and hosted by UCC last December. My assignment as a board member was to greet our guests and direct them to Walker Hall.

As our guests arrived, their faces were aglow. Great anticipation was in the air—not to mention the fragrant aroma of food drifting down the hall to the lobby. Dressed in their best garb, some a little nervous and others held hands at this feast. Lots of chattering filled the lobby as they made their way to Walker

Hall—maxed out with tables where every seat was soon to be filled!

As food was being served by a bevy of volunteers, I made my way through the room stopping at every table to visit our guests and take pictures. With plates toppled with food, their faces were filled with hope and possibility for what this great feast represented—a time out from loneliness and depression that often accompanies the holidays. Our guests were HOME for a brief respite from their daily journey.

For you see, our guests are people of all ages who are in transitional housing seeking to get off the streets. No easy task.

TCT partners with various agencies to make this special day happen for some of the least among us. I give thanks for the hospitality of UCC. We give generously to the work of TCT. Intrigued? Want to be a part of this wondrous day? **Contact TCT to volunteer. You won't regret it!**



Living Out Our Faith—Opportunities to Serve



Watch.Wait.Act this **Advent** season as we live out our faith in tangible and meaningful ministries. Whether sharing your time, financial support, prayers or providing food, you make a meaningful and positive impact in our community and beyond.

GIFTS OF HOPE MARKET

When: Sunday, December 4th | 10 am–1 pm
Where: Gallery
Benefits: Multiple UCC Outreach ministries, local and international organizations
Needed: Volunteers to work the Market and Gifts of Hope shoppers of course!
Contact: Michelle Groom • mgroom@uccftw.com

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

When: Tuesday, December 6th | 11:30 am–1 pm
Where: Walker Hall
Benefits: Those transitioning from homelessness into homes—a collaborative effort with Tarrant Churches Together.
Needed: Greeters, prepared hot dishes, desserts, set up/clean up help
Contact: Michelle Groom • mgroom@uccftw.com

ROOM IN THE INN

When: Dec. 7th–Feb. 22nd | Wednesday evenings through Thursday mornings
Where: Room 121
Benefits: Homeless men—share in fellowship, meals and a warm, safe place to sleep for one night a week
Needed: Meals (dinner, breakfast, sack lunches), set up on Wednesday afternoon and clean up on Thursday morning, volunteers to wash towels and bedding
Contact: Carol Stewart • carolmstewart@sbcglobal.net

CHRISTMAS ANGELS WRAP NIGHT

When: Sunday, December 11th | 5:30 pm
Where: Walker Hall
Benefits: 500 children/families in our community
Needed: Everyone! Celebrate the joy of the Christmas season and join us as we assemble gift bags
Contact: Kate Williams • katecwilliams@yahoo.com

FINALS FEAST

When: Monday, December 12th | 5pm–7pm
Where: Room 207
Benefits: College students—receive a Christmas feast, sweets, fellowship and a gift from UCC
Needed: Prepared hot meals, desserts, set up/clean up
Contact: Barbara Rektorik • barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com

RED ENVELOPE

When: Throughout Advent
Where: Mailed and in Sanctuary pews
Benefits: UCC ministries
Needed: Monetary donations
Contact: Business Office, psantangelo@uccftw.com

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

When: Sunday Worship | December 11th & 18th
Where: Sunday Worship
Benefits: The mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the ministries of our region
Needed: Monetary donations
Contact: Business Office, psantangelo@uccftw.com

KIDS HOPE USA

When: 1 hour weekly mentorship, throughout the school year
Where: Rosemont Elementary School
Benefits: Children at Rosemont
Needed: Mentors
Contact: Mike & Chris Wagner • tcuwags@aol.com



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Gifts of Hope *(Order form on next page)*

UCC celebrates its seventeenth year of creative and thoughtful giving through Gifts of Hope. Join us for a unique holiday shopping experience at the Gifts of Hope Market on Sunday, December 4th in the Gallery, after both worship services. Your friends and family will feel honored that food,

clothes or even farm animals were given in their honor and benefit those in need. The gifts are inexpensive and assist local and global charitable organizations along with some of UCC's signature outreach ministries. In 2015, UCC's generous gifts to the ten organizations was over \$19,000!

Order forms with gift descriptions will be available at the Gifts of Hope Market, reception desk and in Sunday school classrooms. Gifts of Hope purchases can also be made at The Arches Information Desk on Sunday, December 11th and December 18th after each service.

Christmas Angels



Christmas Angels is a long standing UCC outreach ministry. We are grateful for your contributions that make this ministry possible year after year. Through monetary donations provided by our UCC family, we have collectively benefited 500 economically disadvantaged children in our community each year.

Donations of all amounts make an impact and are appreciated. Approximately \$80.00 provides a gift bag that gives each child a new coat, sweatshirt, jeans, shoes, socks, underwear, outdoor toy and a book.

If you have any questions, contact 2016 Christmas Angels Chair, Kate Williams, katecwilliams@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE! Christmas Angels Wrap Night is Sunday, December 11th at 5:30 pm in Walker Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to help assemble the gift bags—*the more the merrier!*



Christmas Angels Ministry at University Christian Church

(Please remit this form, along with your contribution, to the Reception Desk)

I (we) support the Christmas Angels Ministry by sponsoring _____ children at a total of \$ _____.

I (we) support the Christmas Angels Ministry through a contribution of _____.

Name/Group: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

WATCH.WAIT.ACT

Living the Good News of Jesus Christ with Open Minds and Loving Hearts



2016 Gifts of Hope Order Form

Additional order forms with gift descriptions will be available at the reception desk, Sunday school classrooms and at the Gifts of Hope Market.

Organizations/Gifts	Each	Qty	Total
UCC Signature Outreach Ministries			
<input type="checkbox"/> Prom Dreams <i>A prom dress and/or accessories</i>	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kid's Hope <i>A year of teacher appreciation gifts</i>	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Page Scholarship <i>College scholarship award to local students in need</i>	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Room In The Inn <i>Laundry services at DRC</i>	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Angels <i>Coat, clothing, shoes, toy and book</i>	\$80		
The Children's Closet			
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's underwear	\$6		
<input type="checkbox"/> One school uniform	\$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> Two school uniforms	\$30		
Global Ministries			
<input type="checkbox"/> Portion of the cost of a bicycle for a pastor serving rural congregations	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Baby box for new mothers at Christian Hospital Mungeli in India	\$30		
<input type="checkbox"/> Portion of the cost for a medical worker in the Congo	\$25		
Heifer International			
<input type="checkbox"/> Share of tree seedlings	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Flock of chicks	\$20		
<input type="checkbox"/> Share of a community biogas stove	\$50		
The Middle East Initiative			
<input type="checkbox"/> Portion of a scholarship for a student to attend leadership training	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Portion of the cost for advocacy programs promoting rights of women in Palestine	\$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> Resources for a woman to attend vocational training in Palestine	\$25		

Organizations/Gifts	Each	Qty	Total
Mission Pilgrimage			
<input type="checkbox"/> School supplies for children in Nicaragua	\$8		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene kit supplies for South Central Alliance of Churches	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Church and home repair supplies for Navajo Mission Pilgrimage	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships for South Africa Mission Pilgrimage	\$25		
Refugee Services of Texas			
<input type="checkbox"/> One day bus pass for refugee in Fort Worth	\$5		
<input type="checkbox"/> Portion of the cost of food for a week for a newly arrived refugee family	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic clothing needs for a newly arrived refugee	\$25		
Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries			
<input type="checkbox"/> Supplies for a school kit for a child in the Rio Grande Valley	\$6		
<input type="checkbox"/> Shovel or hammer for home repairs	\$8		
<input type="checkbox"/> Large bag of beans and rice	\$18		
Tarrant Area Food Bank			
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 meals for seniors living on fixed incomes	\$6		
<input type="checkbox"/> 60 meals for impoverished working families	\$12		
<input type="checkbox"/> Food for 5 children in the Backpacks for Kids program	\$25		
Tarrant Churches Together			
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 months of afternoon snacks at Ready, Set, Go! Centers	\$5		
<input type="checkbox"/> After school supplies for 1 year for 1 child at Ready, Set, Go! Centers	\$12		
<input type="checkbox"/> Books for a scholar for 3 weeks of Children's Defense Fund Freedom School	\$16		

Your Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Paid By: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card | Last 4 digits of credit card used: _____



41st Annual Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival

UniversityChristian.org

The New Year not only brings peace and joy from Christ's birth, it also brings UCC's 41st annual Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival. Come celebrate the triumph of good over evil and the true meaning of Christmas the first weekend of January. The BHLYF is a wonderful way to celebrate Epiphany and ring in the New Year. Beautiful music, costumes and pageantry make the festival a unique experience you don't want to miss!

The BHLYF will be performed at 3 pm and 5 pm on Saturday, January 7th and Sunday, January 8th. Limited reserved seating will be on sale for \$15.00 beginning Monday, November 28th. As always, there are hundreds of free seats available.



For more information or to purchase tickets visit UniversityChristian.org or call 817-926-6631, Ext. 141

Advent in the Gallery Art Collection *by Steve Mosher*

The festival of Thanksgiving is a harbinger to the Advent Season that honors the birth of Jesus. Many UCC community programs are actively tied to the Advent Season and its meaning to Christians. Another way UCC celebrates the birth of Jesus year-round, albeit in a more passive way, is through the fine art works exhibited in the UCC Gallery. So let's look at some examples, in brief descriptions adapted from The Catalog of the Exhibition.

The "Annunciation," a print reproduction of a fresco in the San Marco Monastery, c. 1438-1447 by Fra Angelico, depicts the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus.

"The Holy Family," an original painting on wood, 1996 by Konstantinos Dibolis, expresses the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, shown here in the lap of his mother Mary as Joseph embraces both within his arms.



"Adoration of the Magi"

The "Adoration of the Magi," a reproduction of an original tempera and oil painting on panel, c. 1471-1482 by Sandro Botticelli, leaves space in the foreground for the viewer to join with the Magi in adoring the infant Jesus, seated on his mother's lap.

"Madonna and the Child Jesus," an original mosaic, c. 1982 by Roberto Maria Anselmi, depicts Mary presenting her infant son to the viewer. This beautiful small image, though it draws much from the 9th Century mosaic style and technique, expresses the humanity of Mary and Jesus while pointing to the divinity of the Christ child.

All are invited to enjoy and view these fine art works in the UCC Gallery.



Celebrate Advent With Your Family



UniversityChristian.org

Rolo Pretzel Sandwiches



Yields: 25 Sandwiches

Prep: 10 min | **Cook:** 3 min | **Total:** 1 hr

Ingredients:

50 small square pretzels
25 ROLO candies
8 ounces white chocolate melting wafers
1/4 cup holiday sprinkles, optional

Directions:

Preheat oven to 250°F. Place 25 of the square pretzels on a parchment or foil lined baking sheet. Place one Rolo candy on top of each pretzel.

Place baking sheet in preheated oven and bake 3 minutes, until Rolos have softened. Remove from oven and place a square pretzel on top of each Rolo to form a sandwich. Let cool completely.

Put chocolate wafers in a microwave safe bowl. Heat for 1 minute at 50% power and stir. Continue to heat at 30 second intervals, stir in between, until melted.

Dip half of each pretzel sandwich into the melted chocolate. Allow excess chocolate to run off, then return to the baking sheet. Sprinkle with holiday sprinkles. Allow to cool completely before serving.

From Iheartnaptime.com, <http://www.iheartnaptime.net/rolo-pretzel-sandwiches/>.

Family Friendly Acts of Kindness Projects

Share the gift and act of service with your family this Advent season. Listed below are ideas to encourage service as a family. Everyone can serve—no matter the age!

Check the wish list for a local organization, like Cook Children's Hospital, The Warm Place, Alliance for Children or others. Together with your family, choose items to purchase and deliver to the organization.

Visit or take Christmas cards to residents at an assisted care facility.

Being a good neighbor is important! Show those in your neighborhood you care by helping with yard work, raking leaves or sweeping off sidewalks. Simple acts will start conversations and conversations lead to relationships.

Bake extra Christmas treats and sign extra Christmas cards to give and show your appreciation to first responders.

Kids love drawing and painting, put those talents to use by creating a yard sign to thank your sanitation workers or create a card for the mail carrier.

Have animal lovers at home? Take supplies to an animal shelter. Not sure what to take? Give the local animal shelter a call and ask.

All ages, join us for Christmas Angel's Wrap Night on Sunday, December 11th at 5:30 pm in Walker Hall.

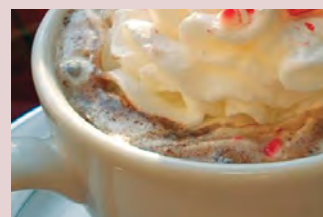
Take time to intentionally do something kind for someone in your family. Kids, help your parents with jobs around the house, help a sibling with a chore (and do it with a smile!), see something that needs to be done in your home and take care of it without being asked.

Thank a soldier for their service by sending a Christmas package. You can google "military care package" or view Operation Gratitude's Wish List on Amazon.com: https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/FY2O3UG2PNSG/ref=cm_sw_su_w.

A fun craft project idea for older children is to host a service party to make blankets with your children and their friends for Project Linus, <http://simplepracticalbeautiful.com/project-linus-blanket-party/>.

Candy Cane Cocoa

Prep: 5 min | **Cook:** 10 min | **Total:** 15 min



Ingredients:

- 4 cups milk
- 3 (1 oz) semisweet chocolate squares, chopped
- 1 cup whipped cream
- 4 peppermint candy canes, crushed
- 4 small peppermint candy canes

Directions:

In a saucepan, heat milk until hot, but not boiling. Whisk in the chocolate and the crushed peppermint candies until melted and smooth. Pour hot cocoa into four mugs, and garnish with whipped cream. Serve each with a candy cane stirring stick.

© 2016 Allrecipes.com

Devotionals for Children & Families

Transport your family into the Bethlehem manger scene this Advent. Together, *Look Around the Manger* and explore the biblical figures who gathered to worship the newborn Jesus. These daily devotional lessons and stickers will guide your family through tradition and ritual to prepare for Christmas. As a gift from UCC, we have mailed these to all of our families with children, infants through fifth grade. This gift also includes our [UCC Watch.Wait.Act. Advent Calendar](#) to enjoy with your family. Please feel free to share extra copies of the Advent Calendar, found in The Arches.

Family Faith Ritual: Advent Wreath

The family has the strongest impact on a child's faith; this Advent season, take time to start a family faith ritual by trying this Advent wreath activity from *Seamless Faith, Simple Practices for Daily Family Life* by Traci Smith (Chalice Press, 2014). Advent wreaths help mark the passing of the four weeks in Advent. In this version for the home, the family gathers weekly around a very simple votive wreath to have dessert and talk about each of the four Advent candles: hope, peace, joy and love. On Christmas Eve, a fifth candle is lit to represent Christ, the light of the world.

Time Investment

5 minutes to put the wreath together, and 15 minutes each week during Advent.

Materials

1. Four votive candles (*represents hope, peace, joy and love*)
2. One pillar candle (*the Christmas Eve candle represents Christ, the light of the world*)
3. A plate (*large enough for all five candles*)
4. Special Dessert (*cake, cocoa, cookies, etc. See recipes on opposite page.*)

How To

1. Arrange the votive candles in a circle around the perimeter of the plate
2. Place the pillar candle in the center
3. Decorate around the candles (*greenery from the yard or make some from construction paper*)

Light the Candles

1. Choose a consistent time and day of the week to light the candles during Advent—consider this time sacred
2. Gather together with the special dessert
3. Light the candle of the corresponding week as well as the candles from the previous week(s). Every week take turns following the related week's readings and lighting the candle(s)

Week 1 • HOPE: The leader says, "This is the first week in Advent, and we light the candle of hope." The leader lights the first candle, and asks, "What does it mean to have hope as we wait for Jesus' birth?" Take turn answering and discussing the question while enjoying the dessert. Conclude with someone saying, "Let us leave with hope in our hearts."

Week 2 • PEACE: The leader lights the first candle and then says, "This is the second week in Advent. Last week we lit the candle for hope. This week we light the candle of peace." The leader lights the second candle, and asks, "What does it mean to have peace as we wait for Jesus' birth?" Takes turns answering and discussing the question while enjoying the dessert. Conclude with someone saying, "Let us leave with hope and peace in our hearts."

Week 3 • JOY: The leader lights the first two candles and then says, "This is the third week of Advent. We have already lit the candles for hope and peace and today we light the candle of joy." The leader lights the third candle, and asks, "What does it mean to have joy as we wait for Jesus' birth?" Take turn answering and discussing the question while enjoying the dessert. Conclude with someone saying, "Let us leave with hope, peace, and joy in our hearts."

Week 4 • LOVE: The leader lights the first three candles and then says, "This is the fourth week in Advent. We have already lit the candles for hope, peace, and joy, and today we light the candle of love." The Leader lights the fourth candle, and asks, "What does it mean to have love as we wait for Jesus' birth?" Take turn answering and discussing the question while enjoying the dessert. Conclude with someone saying, "Let us leave with hope, peace, joy and love in our hearts."

Christmas Eve: The leader lights the votive candles and says, "Tonight is Christmas Eve. We have already lit candles for hope, peace, joy, and love, and we have talked about what it means to have these things as we wait for Jesus' birth. Today we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world and we light the Christ candle." The leader lights the Christ candle, and asks, "As we think about Christmas, how do we experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus in our lives?" Conclude Christmas Eve/Advent by singing "Silent Night" and saying Merry Christmas to one another.



Upcoming Advent Events



Celebrate this joyful holiday season by taking advantage of one or several of the many Advent events, services and worship provided at this time of year. The list below provides general information on each event: the event name, when the event is and what time, where the event is, who can participate, page number within this Journal where you can read more about them and who you can contact for more information. You can always visit our website, www.universitychristian.org, for detailed information.

Event	When	Where	Who	Page No.	Contact/Sign-up
Hanging of the Greens	Sunday, Nov. 27th 5:30 pm	Sanctuary	All	2	Russ Boyd russ@uccftw.com
Poinsettia Orders	Sunday, Nov. 27th thru Friday, Dec. 18th	Sanctuary	All	14	Pam Reeser pam@uccftw.com
Gifts of Hope Market <i>Gifts of Hope Purchases</i>	Sunday, Dec. 4th Sunday, Dec. 11th & 18th	The Gallery	All	7, 8	Michelle Groom mgroom@uccftw.com
Room in the Inn	Dec 7th–Feb. 22nd Wednesday nights thru Thursday mornings	Room 121	All	4	Carol Stewart carolmstewart@sbcglobal.net
Christmas Tea <i>(Special Latte with the Ladies)</i>	Sat., Dec. 10th 2 pm	Montgomery St. Antique Mall Secret Garden Tea Rm	Ladies of all ages	15	Cyndy Twedell cyndy@uccftw.com
Christmas Angels Wrap Night	Sunday, Dec. 11th 5:30 pm	Walker Hall	All	7	Kate Williams katecwilliams@yahoo.com
Finals Feast	Monday, Dec. 12th 5 pm–7 pm	Room 207	College Students	5	Barbara Rektorik barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com
Friday Fellowship	Friday, Dec. 16th 11 am–1 pm	Room 207	All	–	Barbara Rektorik barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com
Of Many Colors Christmas Concert	Monday, Dec. 19th 7 pm	Sanctuary	All	14	Marsha Hodges marsha@uccftw.com
Christmas Eve Worship	Saturday, Dec. 24th 12pm 5pm 8pm 11 pm	Sanctuary	All	3	Kyla Rosenberger kyla@uccftw.com
Christmas Day Worship	Sunday, Dec. 25th 11 am	Sanctuary	All	3	Kyla Rosenberger kyla@uccftw.com
Holiday Potluck Brunch	January 8th 10 am–11 am	Walker Hall	All	15	Barbara Rektorik barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com
Boar’s Head & Yule Log Festival	Saturday & Sunday Jan. 7th & 8th 3 pm 5 pm	Sanctuary	All	9	John Andrus jmandrus@gmail.com

Other Upcoming Events & Important Sign-Ups

UniversityChristian.org

Please feel welcome to join us in the following opportunities happening in the New Year. The list below provides general information on each event: the event name, when the event is and what time, where the event is, who can participate, page number within this Journal where you can read more about them and who you can contact for more information. You can always visit our website, www.universitychristian.org, for detailed information.

Event	When	Where	Who	Page No.	Contact/Sign-up
Room In The Inn	Dec. 7th–Feb. 22nd Wednesday nights thru Thursday mornings	Room 121	All	4	Carol Stewart carolmstewart@sbcglobal.net
Young Adult Retreat	Jan. 8th–Jan. 10th	Disciples Crossing Athens, TX	High school graduates to 25yr olds	16	Jessica Vacketta jessica@uccftw.com
MLK Day of Service	Monday, Jan. 18th 8 am–2 pm	Ft. Worth Sites	All	–	Cyndy Twedell cyndy@uccftw.com
JYF Mid-winter Retreat	Jan. 27th–Jan. 29th	Disciples Crossing Athens, TX	3rd-5th graders	16	Kera Watts kera@uccftw.com
Reel Religion	Saturday, Jan. 28th 10 am–5 pm	UCC	All	15	Marsha Hodges marsha@uccftw.com
Couples Retreat	Feb. 3rd–Feb. 4th	Briarwood Retreat Center Argyle, TX	Couples	16	Barbara Rektorik barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com \$100 deposit due by Jan. 9th
Mission Pilgrimage	March 13th–16th June 23rd–July 1st July 15th–22nd	Ft. Worth Shiprock, NM Nicaragua	All Ages 6 & up 9th grade & up	13	Cyndy Twedell cyndy@uccftw.com

Mission Pilgrimage 2017

“A pilgrimage is a prayer in the shape of journey to a place where spirit resides.”

– Adapted from Patricia Sinnott and Kim Ryan

UCC Mission Pilgrimage offers opportunities of shared journey with the potential for transformation: where listening, learning and receiving are as much a part of the spiritual journey as speaking, teaching and giving. Save the dates and sign up to be part of these life changing experiences. Contact Cyndy Twedell for additional information.

Mission Worth It!—Spring Break

Hometown mission opportunities offered March 13th through March 16th.

Navajo Mission—Shiprock, NM

In partnership with Broadway Baptist Church. Camping and serving with Navajo churches, June 23rd through July 1st.

Nicaragua Mission Pilgrimage

Serving again with Chococente Christian School and La Mision Cristiana, July 15th through July 22nd.

South Africa Mission Pilgrimage is currently a wait list only and takes place May 15th through May 27th.

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Of Many Colors Christmas Concert

More Fellowship

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On Monday evening December 19th, University Christian Church will again present “Of Many Colors” (OMC) for the annual UCC OMC Christmas Concert in the sanctuary at 7 pm. This year, OMC is excited to announce the return of Sheran Keyton who will be our featured soloist. This year’s concert theme is “Children, Go Where I Send Thee”. Sheran is an original member of OMC and has done several recordings with the ensemble.

Sheran formed her own nonprofit theater company, DVA Productions. Through that company she intends to continue her work in the

community and as an educator. Her primary outreach program with DVA Productions is the DVA Young Artist Mentor Program. In 2005, she was awarded a best actress award by the DFW Theatre Critic’s Forum for her portrayal of *Bessie Smith: Empress of the Blues*. She made her major motion film debut in 2008 in *The Longshots*. Recently, she was awarded a Best Actress Award by the Fort Worth Black Chamber of Commerce Film Festival.

As many University Christian Church members and others are aware, OMC provides a unique platform for performance. OMC’s music is

a confluence of Jazz, Gospel and Classical music. The music contains jazz rhythms and harmonies that provide the perfect platform for OMC’s gifted vocalists. The accompanying rhythm section is comprised of studio musicians who make up this inspired ensemble directed by UCC member, Jim Hodges. Importantly, OMC has shown a special connection with audiences in the sharing of music that connects with joy, love, praise and worship of God.

Admission is free. An offering will be collected to support future musical performances at UCC.

UCC Women

The Women of UCC will gather for **Christmas Tea on December 10th at 2 pm** at the Montgomery Street Antique Mall Secret Garden Tea Room. Register and make your \$15 payment on the UCC website. Limited seating so register early!



L to R: Ellen Myers, Gloria Richardson, Carolyn Critz, Leslie Dell | Nicole, Madison & Cheryl Alexander | Leslie Dell, Jessica Vacketta, Bea Smith and Phyllis Allen

Join us for our regular **Latte with the Ladies** at different local coffee shops the second Saturday of each month at 9 am. We will meet at Brewed on January 14th.

Watch for WiLD Women Book Club monthly book discussions (January’s book: *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George) and other opportunities for women to engage in meaningful enrichment, spiritual growth, study and worship while advocating for and reaching out to women in our community and around the world. **Contact Cyndy Twedell at cyndy@uccftw.com for more information.**

Holiday Potluck Brunch

All are invited and welcome to a Holiday Potluck Brunch on January 8th from 10–11 am in Walker Hall. Beverages will be provided and we ask that you bring a breakfast dish to share. Sunday school classes will not meet, but childcare is available. **Contact barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com for more information.**



Christmas Poinsettias

Beautiful red poinsettias complement the greenery in our sanctuary throughout Advent. Celebrate the season and/or remember, honor, or appreciate the special people in your life. Poinsettias are available to [purchase](#) for \$25 each. Orders may be placed November 27th through December 18th. Order online or pick up an order form at the Reception Desk or Arches Information Desk. **Contact Pam Reeser at pam@uccftw.com for more information.**

Purchased poinsettias may be picked up following the 11am Christmas Day worship service.



14th Annual Reel Religion Film Festival

Sponsored by University Christian Church, Broadway Baptist Church and TCU Extended Education

SAVE THE DATE!

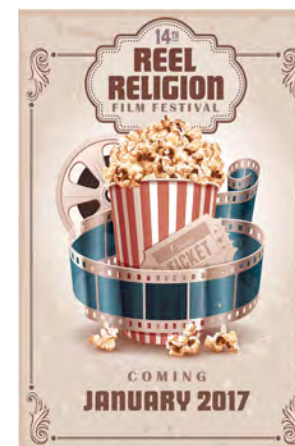
When: Friday, January 27th–Saturday, January 28th

Where: University Christian Church

What: Films of religious, cultural and philosophical significance followed by a facilitated discussion

Sign-Up: Coming soon!

Movies are free and open to the public. More information on films and registration coming soon at UniversityChristian.org.



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2017 Retreats

Give the Gift of UCC's Annual Couples Retreat

Date: The evening of Friday, February 3rd through the afternoon of Saturday, February 4th
Location: Briarwood Retreat Center, Argyle, TX
Cost: \$200* per couple, includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday
Information/Contact: barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com
Sign-Up: UniversityChristian.org *A non-refundable \$100 deposit is due by Monday, January 9th.



After the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, enjoy a much needed weekend getaway with your partner! Spend time to reflect, relax and reconnect together at the annual Couples Retreat. Rev. Russ Boyd will facilitate this year's retreat using the PREP curriculum, a scientifically-based and empirically-tested method of teaching relationship education. It is based on over 30 years of research in the field of relationship health, with much of the research conducted at the University of Denver, and sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

Young Adult Mid-Winter Retreat: January 8th–10th



Join young adults from the North East Area, North Texas Area and Trinity Brazos Area (NEA, NTA, TBA) for a weekend of catching up with friends and recharging your soul. **Contact Jessica Vacketta at jessica@uccftw.com for more information.**

Pictured: Lexie Uribe, Addison Gardner, Cameron Cossio, Rebekah Stutheit, Josh Jackson, John Younger, Lindsay Puckett, Tulley Beard, Jonathan Lowell, Taylor Morton, Alex Cooper and Oakleigh Beard

Who: High school graduates up to 25 year olds
Where: Disciples Crossing, Athens, TX
Cost: \$50, scholarships available
Sign-Up: www.disciplescrossing.org

JYF Mid-Winter Retreat: January 27th–29th

Who: Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders
Where: Disciples Crossing, Athens, TX
Cost: \$50, scholarships available
Sign-Up: Not yet available—*Children's Ministries will notify families when registration is open*

What is it? JYF Mid-Winter Retreat is a chance for our JYF children to experience Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX, develop and strengthen relationships with friends from UCC and with kids from the Tri-Area all while growing in faith. All worship and learning opportunities are created by kids and for kids. Of course, the weekend will also be full of campfires, songs, games, and lots of free time to explore the beauty of Disciples Crossing. **Please contact Kera Watts at kera@uccftw.com for more information.**



HELP STRENGTHEN University Christian Church

We invite and encourage you to **participate in a 10-20 minute survey*** that will help us understand our church's culture.

The survey is based upon research from the Fuller Youth Institute, presented in their book *Growing Young*.

Please take the survey* at: www.uccsurvey.org

*Must be 18 years or older to participate.

Mini Advent Calendar!

UniversityChristian.org

Advent begins **November 27th** and ends **December 24th**.

<p>One First Sunday of Advent Light: One candle</p> <p>Meditate: Hope looked down and saw despair. "I will go there," said Hope.</p> <p>Read: Isaiah 2:1-5</p> <p>Pray: God, open our eyes to despair all around us and fill us so full of hope that we can each be a light amid the shadows.</p>	<p>Two</p> <p>Deliver sweets to a neighbor, or bake a yummy casserole for a family with a new baby.</p>	<p>Three</p> <p>Write "You Are Beautiful" on a steamy bathroom mirror and watch it reappear for days (God loves writing with invisible ink!).</p>	<p>Four</p> <p>Subtract one thing from your day today - and use the extra quiet time to pray for better relationships between races in our country, our city, and our neighborhoods.</p>
<p>Five</p> <p>Write a short "I believe..." manifesto and share it on Facebook.</p> <p>"I believe despair will give way to hope." "I believe being a vegetarian reduces suffering." "I believe everyone has a story worth telling."</p>	<p>Six</p> <p>Sabbath Time: Turn everything off tonight (no computer, no phones, no television, no radio) - and listen for God's still small voice.</p>	<p>Seven</p> <p>Leave quarters in every gumball machine you see on your errands today.</p>	<p>Eight Second Sunday of Advent Light: Two candles</p> <p>Meditate: Peace looked down and saw war. "I will go there," said Peace.</p> <p>Read: Isaiah 11:1-10</p> <p>Pray: God, pour out your peace so that the wolf may lie down with the lamb, and no one will hurt or destroy on your holy mountain ever again.</p>
<p>Nine</p> <p>Give handmade "thank you" notes to your mail carrier and garbage collectors.</p>	<p>Ten</p> <p>Sing Christmas carols at the top of your lungs in the shower, in your car, or while you're walking down the street.</p>	<p>Eleven</p> <p>Subtract one thing from your day today - and use the extra quiet time to pray for refugees and migrants all over the world.</p>	<p>Twelve</p> <p>Find a little - or a big! - way to be generous today: hold the door open for someone, pay for someone's coffee, do a stranger a simple favor.</p>
<p>Thirteen</p> <p>Sabbath Time: Host a vegetarian potluck tonight - and be sure to invite someone from outside your friendship network.</p>	<p>Fourteen</p> <p>Make a trip to the grocery store and buy some choice items for your local food bank - think peanut butter, almond butter, and yummy black beans.</p>	<p>Fifteen Third Sunday of Advent Light: Three candles</p> <p>Meditate: Joy looked down and saw sorrow. "I will go there," said Joy.</p> <p>Read: Isaiah 35:1-10</p> <p>Pray: Loving God, make the deserts of grief bloom with color and fragrance, so that we might sing for joy.</p>	<p>Sixteen</p> <p>Make eye contact with everyone today - and smile!</p>
<p>Seventeen</p> <p>Write a short "I want to live in a world where..." manifesto and share it on Facebook.</p> <p>"I want to live in a world where women and men are equal." "I want to live in a world where people are not judged by the color of their skin." "I want to live in a world where everyone has clean water."</p>	<p>Eighteen</p> <p>Subtract one thing from your day today - and use the extra quiet time to pray for all countries experiencing the strife of war.</p>	<p>Nineteen</p> <p>Go stargazing tonight and - with heaven and nature - sing "Joy to the World!" at the top of your lungs.</p>	<p>Twenty</p> <p>Sabbath Time: after dinner, fill a table with tea light candles and light one for everything you are thankful for (food, shelter, family, friends, pets) - and then bask in the simple, beautiful glow of God's blessings all around!</p>
<p>Twenty-One</p> <p>Go out for breakfast with someone you love, and wildly overtip your server.</p>	<p>Twenty-Two Fourth Sunday of Advent Light: Four candles</p> <p>Meditate: Love looked down and saw hate. "I will go there," said Love.</p> <p>Read: Matthew 1:18-25</p> <p>Pray: God, when the world is cold and full of hate, be our Emmanuel, "God with us," giving us the courage to be kind, vulnerable, and loving.</p>	<p>Twenty-Three</p> <p>Give out compliments today with abandon!</p>	<p>Twenty-Four</p> <p>Hand-write a love note on beautiful paper to someone dear to you, and send it by post mail.</p>
<p>Twenty-Five</p> <p>Subtract one thing from your day today - and use the extra quiet time to pray for people who are vulnerable because of physical or mental illness.</p>	<p>Twenty-Six</p> <p>Make a birdfeeder from pinecones, peanut butter, and seeds - all God's creatures deserve special treats!</p>	<p>Twenty-Seven</p> <p>Sabbath Time: make a list (double spaced and on cute paper) of everything for which you're grateful, cut them out, and use these slips of gratitude to help decorate your tree.</p>	<p>Twenty-Eight Christmas Eve Light: Five candles</p> <p>Meditate: God looked down and saw you. "I will go there," said God.</p> <p>Read: Luke 2:8-11</p> <p>Pray: God, thank you for coming into the world with a soft spot on your head and Mary's milk on your breast. This Christmas, change us into your hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen!</p>

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Advent Devotional Partners in Prayer 2016

From Chalice Press-

"This Advent, don't just light candles—ignite hearts. Imagine the voice of God taking on a new sound as robust and diverse as the world in which we live. Add the voices of the silenced and invisible to the Advent narrative of birth and the power of redemption to see the familiar tale in fresh, creative, and revolutionary stories of triumph and wonder.

Written by a diverse group of the church's newest leaders,
Partners in Prayer 2016 will help you see the everyday incarnations of
God among us, appearing in the midst of our struggles and celebrations."

Devotional booklets will be available in The Arches on Sunday, November 20th.

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A Disciples of Christ Congregation



Patty Poling, Editor & Designer • Michelle Groom, Circulation

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