



#allarewelcome, #allmeansall

Open minds, loving hearts

Sunday Worship • 9:00am | 11:00am

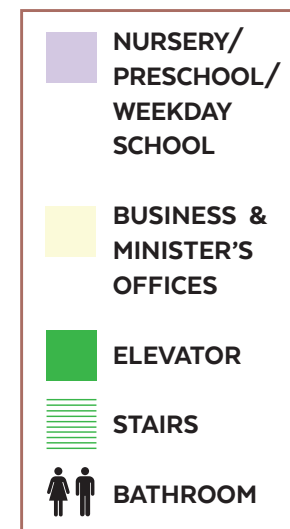
Christmas Eve Worship • Noon | 5:00pm | 8:00pm | 11:00pm

(Childcare is available for infants to two-years old during the noon and 5:00pm Christmas Eve services)





Map of University Christian Church



Words from our Senior Minister

The Discipline of Anticipation

We are making our way into the holy, sacred season of Advent. Advent means, literally, “the arrival of that which has long been waited for.” It is a season of preparation and anticipation of the in-breaking of God, who comes to us, always, in the most unexpected and surprising of ways.

For thousands of years, people of faith have taken this month to prepare for the birth of the Christ child. As the great mystic Meister Eckhart once asked, “What good is it that Jesus came two thousand years ago if he doesn’t continue to come now?”

We live into this season with an anticipation that is marked with hope and longing.

Advent is important because all too often we get bogged down in the daily routine. We find ourselves burned out, bruised or betrayed and we slowly begin to lose the ability to anticipate or be filled with wonder and awe.

Advent, however, is a season when we open ourselves up to God and invite God to come into those places where our hearts have lost the ability to be filled with hope, anticipation, wonder and awe.

Joseph Bottum once wrote, “What advent is, really, is a discipline: a way of forming anticipation.”

I love that image; that Advent is the season when we practice the ‘discipline of anticipation.’

Throughout the year, when we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” it’s often said as a future hope. Yet this time each year, we spend a month remembering that

it was a fulfilled promise. When Jesus came to live among us, as Emmanuel, God-with-us, he showed us that he is what Laurence Hull Stookey described as, “the God who keeps promises yet loves surprises”.

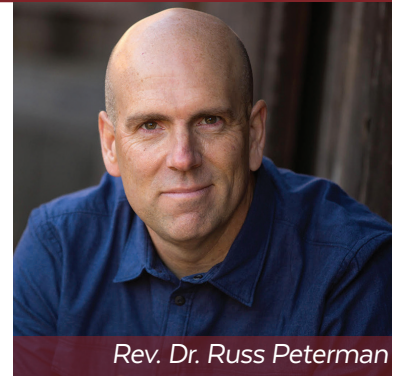
Over the next several weeks I hope you’ll heed the invitation to practice the discipline of anticipation and open yourself up and invite God in. I hope you’ll join us and enter into this season together—a season filled with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—seeking God’s presence and promises, yet keeping open and flexible to whatever God might surprise us with.

For, once again in the words of Frederick Buechner, “If you concentrate for just an instant, far off in the deeps of you somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world itself holding its breath.”

Many blessings on your journey to Bethlehem,



Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman, Senior Minister



Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman

Advent Sermon Series • *Making room for the birth of...*

December 2

Hope: Taking Risks

Jeremiah 33: 14–16

December 9

Peace: Doing Less

Luke 3: 1–6

December 16

Joy: Giving More

Philippians 4: 4–13

December 23

Love: Letting Go

Luke 1: 46–55

December 24

It Was Not a Silent Night

Luke 2: 1–14 (15–20)

How to connect and get involved at UCC

Can you believe it is December already? It is so easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of every day life. The struggle to make time for the important things is becoming more and more prevalent in today’s society.

UCC wants to provide opportunities for everyone to take a moment and allow time for God, our families and loved ones. This Advent season, UCC is gifting a Mason Jar Advent Calendar to each household. We invite you to intentionally take time to do a daily act of love and grace. Mason Jar Advent Calendars will be available in the Gallery following the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 25 and in the Arches the following Sundays until we run out.

Christmas is also a time of year that we come together as families and friends. We all know of someone or may be that someone who would like to share in the joy of the season. Invite your friends, acquaintances and

extended families to celebrate with us in worship and participate in any of our holiday programs and opportunities to serve. There are so many wonderful things always happening at UCC and especially throughout Advent, there is definitely something for everyone. Shop at the Gifts of Hope Market, be a Christmas Angel—help provide a coat, clothing and shoes to an underprivileged child, attend a concert performed by the Texas Boys Choir, partake in any one of our Intergenerational Advent Experiences and so much more. Learn about all these events and opportunities to serve on the following pages.

May this Christmas season be a blessed and joyful time for all!

Merry Christmas!

Open minds, loving hearts



Programs & Events

Welcome to all things UCC!

We have so many ministries and events for everyone to participate in and enjoy throughout the month. Below is a color code to help you quickly navigate whether programs are for: all (all ages and genders), men, women, college, youth, children and so on.

We look forward to seeing you all connecting, growing and serving!

- ALL
- ADULTS 18+
- MEN
- WOMEN
- YOUNG ADULTS
- COLLEGE
- YOUTH
- CHILDREN

✉ Email for more information

DECEMBER'S FEATURED EVENTS & PROGRAMS

The following events and programs are highlights; specific to this month.



ADVENT WORSHIP (Sermon Series, see pg 1)

Sunday Worship • 9:00am & 11:00am

Christmas Eve Worship • Noon | 5:00pm | 8:00pm | 11:00pm

(Childcare is available for infants to two-years old during the noon and 5:00pm Christmas Eve services)

UCC ADVENT GIFT: MASON JAR ADVENT CALENDAR

As we "Make Room" this Advent Season, we encourage you to pick up a Mason Jar Advent Calendar, a printable Advent calendar in the form of beautifully illustrated gift tags, each with an Advent prayer or activity. Step away from the busyness and make room each day to slow down, breathe, and refocus on God's love and goodness. As each day unfolds, simply draw a card from the jar—day by day, week by week, prayer by prayer, action by action, together we countdown to that holy night when God slips into the world.

ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONS—AVAILABLE IN THE ARCHES

I am Mary: 2018 Advent Devotional by Chalice Press

Join young Mary as she experiences the surprise, confusion, fear, anticipation, and blessing that follows her brave response to

God's call: "Here am I, Lord." Listen carefully, and you may hear that call in your own life.

DEVOTIONALS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Families, take time to count the days until Jesus arrival through a daily family devotional. Each family will receive Gifts of Love, a devotion and activity booklet.

INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT EXPERIENCE

December 2-23 • 10:00am Walker Hall

Every Sunday during Advent, all are welcome to learn, serve and experience Advent together. This faith formation opportunity is designed for 4th graders-adults, but younger children are welcome to attend with an adult. We invite you to break out of your Sunday morning routine and join us in Walker Hall at 10:00am, December 2-23. Our hope is that

this experience allows you to live out Advent, serve together and create new relationships across generations.

✉ jessica@uccftw.com

WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE

Saturday, December 1

This year UCC hosts our community's World AIDS Day observance with a service in Walker Hall. Our labyrinth will be open beginning at 5:00pm, followed by a contemplative service at 6:00pm.

✉ shannon.moore@uccftw.com

GIFTS OF HOPE—ALTERNATIVE GIVING MARKET

**Sunday, December 2
9:00am-1:00pm**

Mark your calendars, grab your Christmas list, and join us for UCC's alternative giving market, Gifts of Hope.



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

**Saturday, December 8 • 2:00pm
Antique Mall Secret Garden**

The Women of UCC will gather for Christmas Tea on December 8th at the Montgomery Street Antique Mall Secret Garden Restaurant. Register and make your \$15 payment on the UCC website. Sign up early!

✉ cyndy@uccftw.com

BELLTOWER SERIES: TEXAS BOYS CHOIR

**Saturday, December 8 • 7:00pm
Sanctuary**

Christmas with Texas Boys Choir will feature all of the Texas Boys Choir ensembles, including the Training and Intermezzo choirs, as well as the top-level ensemble, the Tour Choir. The program will feature



selections from a wide-range of styles and traditions, both sacred and secular, from the Renaissance to the present day. Kids from one to ninety-two will surely find themselves in the holiday spirit! Free Admission.

✉ todd.prickett@uccftw.com

CHRISTMAS ANGELS WRAP NIGHT

Sunday, December 9 • 5:00pm
Walker Hall

All ages are welcome and encouraged to join us as we assemble gift bags for children in our community. Preschool childcare available beginning at 4:30pm.

FINALS FEAST

Monday, December 10
5:00pm | RM 207



College students, give your brain a break, grab your most festive sweater, and join us for Finals

Feast! Refuel with a traditional homemade Christmas meal, sweet treats and a gift from your UCC family. Spread some holiday cheer and invite friends—all are welcome at our table!

✉ jessica@uccftw.com

POINSETTIA ORDERS

November 25-December 16

Purchase poinsettias in memory, honor, in celebration or in appreciation of a person or events. Order online or get a order form at the Reception Desk or in the Arches.

JYF CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 16 •
5:00pm-6:15pm | RM 211

UCC children will celebrate Christmas together with a scavenger hunt. Bring friends and family to join us for food and fun!

✉ kera@uccftw.com

CHI-RHO CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 16
5:30pm-7:00pm
Home of Lehman Family

Bring a favorite side or dessert, \$5 white elephant gift and family and friends can join the party. A fun prize will be given for most festive costume!

✉ jamie.plunkett@uccftw.com

CYF CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 16
5:45pm-7:15pm
Home of O'Neil Family

Bring a favorite side or dessert and something from your home for a re-gift exchange. It's a party—bring family and friends to join our Christmas celebrations! A fun prize will be given for most festive costume!

✉ jamie.plunkett@uccftw.com

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 19
6:30pm
Home of Tom & Jennifer Lanter

Come and catch up with friends and celebrate the season with dinner, dessert and an ornament exchange. RSVP to Rev. Jessica Vacketta by Monday, December 17.

✉ jessica@uccftw.com

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP AROUND THE LABYRINTH

Friday, December 21 • 6:30pm
Walker Hall

Not everyone is feeling cheerful during the holidays. On this longest night of the year we will share together in God's light and love.

✉ shannon.moore@uccftw.com

WEEKDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK—NO SCHOOL

December 24-January 8

UCC CLOSED—CHRISTMAS

December 25-26
In observance of Christmas, UCC offices and buildings will be closed.

✉ michelle@uccftw.com

BOAR'S HEAD & YULE LOG FESTIVAL TICKET SALES

Month of December



Tickets for the 43rd Annual Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival and Boar's Head

Feast will be on sale beginning Monday, December 26. Tickets for the festival are \$15. As always, free seats are available. Feast ticket pricing is determined by proximity to the actors; the show and food is identical per each price point—\$50, \$40, \$25 and \$12 for grades 5 and under. **Advance tickets are required for the feast.** [Purchase tickets by visiting universitychristian.org](http://UniversityChristian.org) or call 817-926-6631, ext. 139.

CONNECT

Meaningful fellowship, learning and spiritual development opportunities are available for all seasons of life at UCC. We offer an array of ways for you to grow and connect: Bible studies, book clubs, retreats, workshops and small groups.

FAITHFULLY FIT FOREVER

Mondays • 4:00pm | RM 205
Wednesdays & Fridays
11:00am | RM 205

All ages join us for a light aerobic exercise program and a faithful reminder of God's loving presence in our lives. All ages welcome.

✉ mgroom@uccftw.com

YOGA WITH JULIE VITEK

Mondays • 12:30pm | RM 205
Thursdays • 10:30am | RM 205

Julie Vitek teaches yoga every Monday and Thursday! All are welcome. \$5 per class Bring a mat if possible.

✉ mgroom@uccftw.com

BIBLICAL STORYTELLING

Sunday, December 2
10:00am | RM 313

UCC's own Barbara Tucker is a certified Storyteller with the Network of Biblical Storytellers. The first Sunday of each month she will be presenting Bible stories for people of all ages as a way to help us engage with scripture in a different way. All are welcome!

✉ shannon.moore@uccftw.com



Programs & Events

FIRST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 2 • 12:00pm
Walker Hall

Adults, \$10. College students and children 5 and under, free Grades 1-12, \$5. ✉ pam@uccftw.com

COLLEGE FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday, December 2 • 12:15pm

A free lunch for college students the first Sunday of each month. Gather in the Gallery after 11:00am Worship.

✉ jessica@uccftw.com

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, December 6
3:30pm | RM 201

A support group for caregivers of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. This group meets the second Thursday of the month.

✉ pam@uccftw.com.

MEN'S THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH

Thursday, December 20
Noon | Café Bella

Join men of all ages for lunch and fellowship on the third Thursday of every month at Café Bella.

✉ robin.doyle@uccftw.com



GROW

UCC offers Bible studies, classes, special speakers, small groups and more as opportunities for you to continue your spiritual journey. Learn more about discipleship and grow your relationship with God.



FIRST THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, December 6
11:00am | RM 150

This year's First Thursday December gathering will include a visit from the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future as we add some UCC flavor to Dickens' A Christmas Carol. We will also put a flavorful spin on some well-known carols, enjoy a delicious catered meal, and be delighted by delectable desserts. Don't be a Scrooge—come join the fun! RSVP by Tuesday, December 4.

✉ rachel.ngurukie@uccftw.com

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays • 10:00 am
RM 203

A weekly Bible study led by Rev. Shannon Moore. We are currently studying the teachings of Jesus found in the gospel of Matthew. All are welcome to join at any time.

✉ shannon.moore@uccftw.com

UCC AND YOU

UCC & YOU

Sundays • 10:00am | RM 201

Whether you are new to UCC, returning after some time away, or if you have been here forever, you are welcome to UCC & You. Learn about UCC & the Disciples of Christ, find ways to get connected to ministries you are passionate about, discover your Spiritual Gifts,

and lots more! There are 4 sessions that repeat each month, so you can come any time.

✉ shannon.moore@uccftw.com

SERVE

Part of discipleship is responding to the needs of others. From around the world to our local community, we are being called to serve. We offer many outreach programs to fulfill this calling.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE USHERS

December 24 • Noon,
5:00pm, 8:00pm and
11:00pm | Sanctuary

Our ushers help ensure that everyone who passes through our doors are warmly welcomed and have everything they need to experience God through worship. If you can serve at 1 (or more) of our 4 Christmas Eve services, contact Rev. Shannon Moore.

✉ shannon.moore@uccftw.com

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Month of December

Box Tops for Education is an easy way to support our children! UCC's Weekday School is able to accept Box Top labels that can be cut from certain food packaging and submit them for money for our school. Last year enough Box Tops were collected to purchase new picnic tables for our children to enjoy at the bikes playground. Box Tops can be donated next to any preschool classroom or to the donation boxes next to the Weekday School offices.

✉ robin.doyle@uccftw.com

ROOM IN THE INN

Month of December •
Wednesday Nights and
Thursday Mornings

Jesus challenged us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty,

and welcome the stranger.

Room In the Inn allows us to do just that on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings in December, January, and February. Visit our website for more information.

✉ carolmstewart@sbcglobal.net



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Sundays • 12:00pm | RM 211

Regular rehearsals including lunch for the Children's Choir.

✉ maryelizabethfarmer@yahoo.com

YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIRS

Sundays • 5:00pm | RM 205,
RM 229 & Sanctuary

Regular rehearsals of the Youth Handbell Choirs.

✉ todd.prickett@uccftw.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Sundays • 5:00pm | RM 206

Prayer shawl ministry welcomes all to gather to knit and crochet shawls—given in gratitude, to those undertaking a new journey in life, and to those facing surgery or loss.

✉ cyndy@uccftw.com

COLLEGE LUNCH BUNCH VOLUNTEERS

Wednesdays • 12:00pm
College Lounge (RM 223)

We are looking for volunteers to help provide food for our weekly college lunch. Please sign up online under open registrations. If you are interested in serving as a monthly host (set out drinks, plates, welcome students, etc.) ✉ jessica@uccftw.com

NEEDLERS

Thursdays in December
9:00am | RM 312

The Needlers gather to crochet, knit and do needlework.

✉ cyndy@uccftw.com.

AD DEUM HANDBELL CHOIR

Thursdays • 6:00pm | RM 229

Adult handbell choir rehearsal.

✉ eric.m.mullins@gmail.com

UCC CHANCEL CHOIR

Thursdays • 7:00pm | RM 147

Regular rehearsals of the Chancel Choir in Shirey Hall. Childcare available.

✉ todd.prickett@uccftw.com

SERVING IN PUERTO RICO

Spring Break • March 10–16, 2019

Share in the hard work of hurricane recovery with our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters. Cost is \$1300. Scholarships are available. A \$200 deposit is due now. All 14 and older are welcome.

✉ cyndy@uccftw.com

GOVERNANCE, COMMITTEE & LEADERSHIP

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, December 2
9:00am | Third Floor Kitchen

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 6
5:30pm | RM 202

The committee regulates policies relating to our employees regarding staff hiring, salaries, employee contracts, benefits, leave and other administrative matters.

✉ renee.hoke@uccftw.com

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Sunday, December 11
12:15pm | RM 226

The committee addresses maintenance and improvement of UCC buildings and surrounding grounds.

✉ renee.hoke@uccftw.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 11
5:30pm | RM 202

This monthly meeting is to review financial reports and discern all matters of financial impact to UCC. Open to all.

✉ michelle@uccftw.com

CHILDREN'S TEAM MEETING

Sunday, December 11
9:00am | Third Floor Kitchen

Team members meet to plan and discuss children's programming.

✉ kera@uccftw.com

BOARD OF STEWARDS

Tuesday, December 18
6:30pm | RM 150

The Board of Stewards has the general responsibility to govern and manage the business and affairs of the Congregation.

UCC MINISTRIES

ADULT MINISTRY

We offer many ways for you to grow in your faith and connect with God and others through fellowship, spiritual development, Bible studies, book groups, retreats, workshops and small groups.

Minister: Rev. Shannon Moore

Leader: Sue Gover

CARPENTERS MINISTRY

A ministry that's equal parts carpentry and fellowship and everyone is welcome! Check us out on Fridays—we meet at 11:00am, the house at 2700 Rogers, followed by lunch at 11:30am.

Minister: Rev. Renee Hoke

Leader: Charles Kendall

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We provide a safe, welcoming and engaging place for our children to discover and experience God.

Minister: Rev. Kera Watts

Leader: Ali Briseno

CHURCH AND THE ARTS MINISTRY

Church and the Arts enhances the understanding, shaping, and expression of our faith through the arts. We sponsor various cultural activities throughout the year.

Staff: Janet Pummill

Leader: Lisa Wan

COLLEGE MINISTRY

Our hope is to cultivate life-giving community for students through worship, fellowship, and service.

Minister: Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Leader: Mark Tentinger

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

We're a large church with a BIG heart. Care is provided in personal and compassionate ways through visits to hospitals and to the homebound, prayer groups and countless interactions that help us sense God's loving presence and provision. Contact: 817-926-6631, pastoralcare@uccftw.com or use

the Pastoral Care Request link on our website.

Minister: Rev. Cyndy Twedell

Leader: Sandra Soria

MEN'S MINISTRY

The men of UCC are busy serving the needs of others and sharing in opportunities for fellowship and fun together. All are welcome!

Minister: Rev. Cyndy Twedell

Leader: John Andrus

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music enriches our worship experience and helps us understand our relationships with God and each other. All of our music ensembles are open to anyone who would like to participate.

Minister: Rev. Dr. Todd Prickett

Leader: Bill Shelton

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Called to demonstrate the love of God, we work within and beyond our community to build caring partnerships and foster mutual

ministries as we open our hearts in service to others.

Minister: Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Leader: Kim McAdams Baker

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women share together in fun, fellowship, spiritual growth and opportunities to advocate for women in our community and around the world. All are welcome!

Minister: Rev. Cyndy Twedell

Leader: Debbie Powell

WORSHIP LIFE MINISTRY

We focus on ways to grow, support, and enhance how we worship as a congregation and community.

Minister: Rev. Shannon Moore

Leader: Art Busbey

YOUTH MINISTRY

For our youth, we focus on fun, fellowship, games, worship, opportunities to serve, spiritual growth and so much more.

Minister: Rev. Jamie Plunkett

Leader: Julie O'Neil

2720 South University Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76109-1150
817-926-6631



SAVE THE DATE!

16TH ANNUAL "REEL RELIGION" FILM FESTIVAL

Friday, January 25-Saturday, January 26
University Christian Church

Films of religious, cultural and philosophical significance, followed by a facilitated discussion. Information on films and registration coming soon. Movies are free and open to the public.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, January 21

Joining up with national celebrations, this event honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. People of all walks of life come together across Tarrant County to serve at more than 30 service sites. Join us to make it a day on, not a day off.

BOAR'S HEAD & YULE LOG FESTIVAL & FEAST January 5 & 6 • 3:00pm and 5:00pm | Sanctuary

UCC presents the 43rd Annual Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival and 2nd Annual Boar's Head Feast. Celebrate Epiphany and ring in the New Year with this spectacular pagentry full of beautiful music and stunning costumes. Limited reserved seating are on sale for \$15 and, as always, there are hundreds of free seats available. Make this a holiday tradition—invite your friends and loved ones!



UNIVERSITYCHRISTIAN.ORG

Patty Poling, Editor & Designer • Michelle Groom, Circulation

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A Disciples of Christ Congregation

