

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH · JANUARY 2019

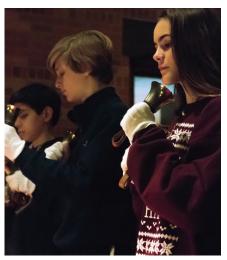
UCC JOURNAL · VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 14







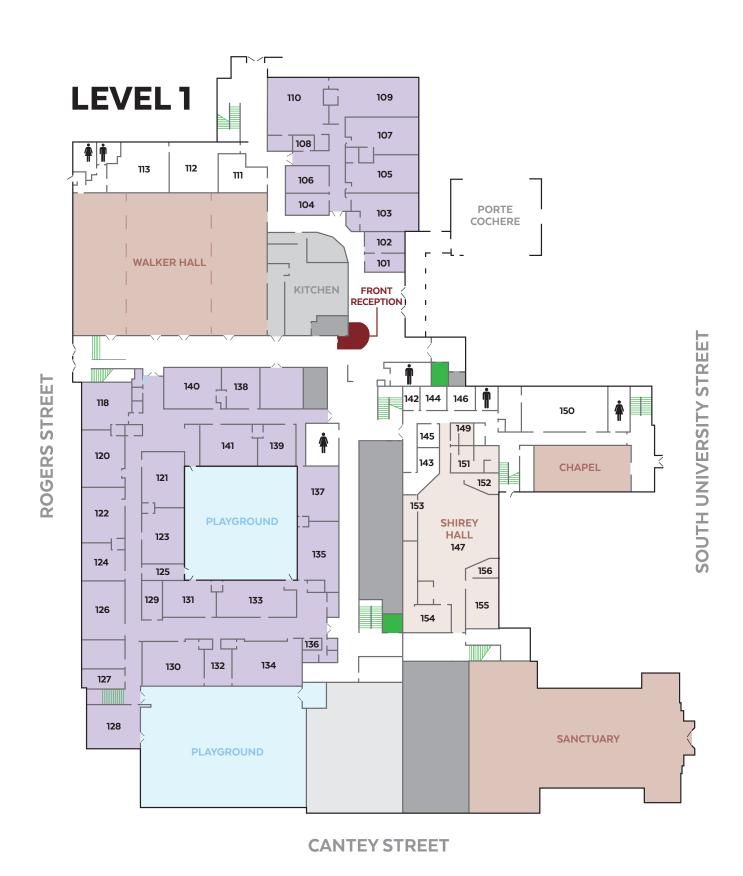




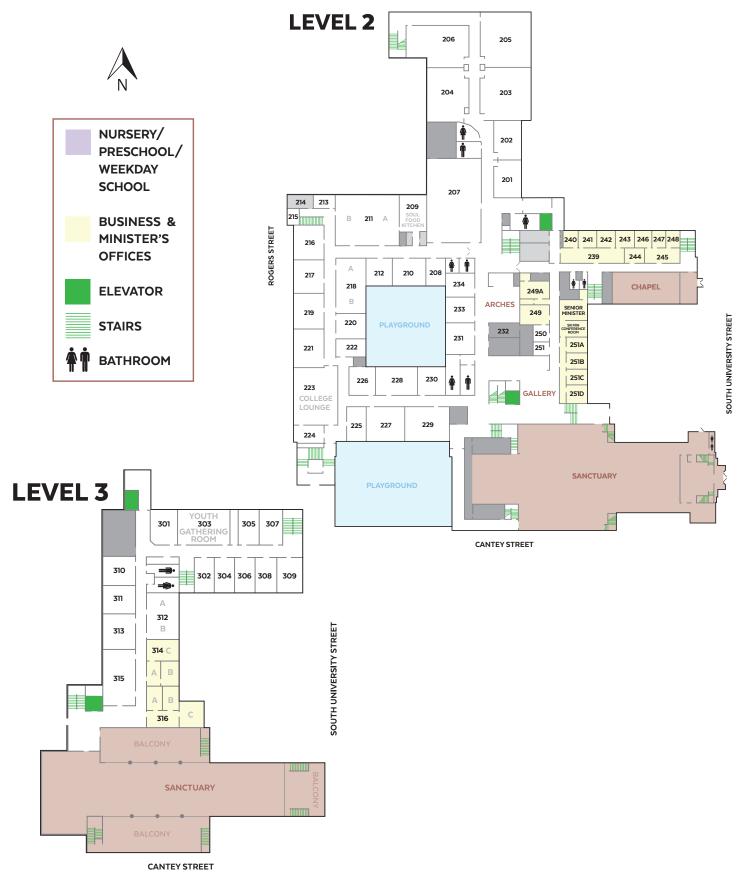
#allarewelcome, #allmeansall



Open minds, loving hearts



*Register at universitychristian.org > Resources Tab > Open Registrations.





Words from our Senior Minister

Warning: Pure, Unadulterated Gushing Ahead!

Normally I use this space to write of matters of theology, hoping to inspire or challenge you in some way. This time, however, I'm going to take a slightly different angle. Today I'm simply going to talk about how incredible our staff is and why I'm so thrilled to serve alongside of them!

Each day I have the privilege of serving a church alongside a group of people who are compassionate, generous, and deeply, deeply faithful. They are willing to struggle with the questions and doubts that come with ministry, as well as share in the joyous blessings that come with each day. They are willing to take risks and be of service in the community around us. And, more than anything, they love this church and the people they serve.

Our Executive Minister, **Rev. Renee Hoke**, the newest member of the clergy staff, is creative and willing to think outside the box. Her infectious laughter puts us all at ease and invites us to continually ask if there are better, more effective or faithful ways we can be going about our ministry. I know there are still folks in the congregation who wonder what an executive minister is and why we need one. To put it as clearly as I can, she is my right hand and takes on all of the administrative elements of managing the ministry of the church and the staff, to free me up to focus on what you all called me to do: preach, cast the vision of the church, and be the face of the congregation in the community. I simply couldn't do my job in the manner this congregation desires without her important work. I'm thankful for her every day!

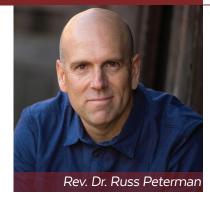
For over thirty years, **Rev. Cyndy Twedell** has faithfully served this congregation in a number of different positions and role. She uses that experience and institutional wisdom to lead the congregational care ministry here at UCC. Cyndy is incredibly caring, nurturing and pastoral. She knows so many of the rich stories of this congregation and holds them all as sacred.

Rev. Jessica Vacketta oversees our Outreach ministry, inspiring us to give and serve in ways that make our community and world around us better. She has such a passion for connecting people to the places that they can find their own way to serve God by serving others. In addition, she works with our college students and young adults and helps them find a home away from home while navigating the journey into adulthood. She does all that in a spirit and way that brings much joy and laughter.

The clergy team member who works with God's youngest children and their families is **Rev. Kera Watts**. She quietly goes about her important work of creating an environment where children (and their parents) are given the tools discover God within themselves. Her goal is to be sure that nothing is taught

to our children that they will need to unlearn later in life in order to live an authentic faith.

Rev. Shannon Moore is our Minister of Faith Formation, but really, he's more than that. In addition



to overseeing all the ministries – including worship and adult Sunday School – that help us grow in our faith, he is one of the most genuine and gracious people I've ever met. I've noticed that when any of us are ever having a bad day we find ourselves in his office, sometimes without even realizing why we are there. He has a way of making us feel better and find our joy again.

Rev. Dr. Todd Prickett, our minister of music, is beyond talented. You see (and hear) the fruits of his labor every Sunday in the beauty and wonder of the choir. But what you don't see is how diligent he is behind the scenes to make sure we sing just the right hymns and that our worship is thematically cohesive and meaningful. He makes it all look so easy, which takes a lot of work.

Rev. Jamie Plunkett and his youth ministry staff of William and Allison provide a safe place for the young people of UCC to grow and explore what it means to be people of faith. They continually remind us that the youth are not the church of tomorrow, but a vital, thriving part of the church today!

Michelle Ingram handles all the operations of the church, makes sure that everything falls into place and is one of the hardest working people I know. Patty Poling is the creative mind behind all of our communications and constantly pushing us to consider how our message of inclusive love will be seen and heard by those we are entrusted to welcome and serve.

I could go on and on, but let it suffice to say that I am deeply honored to serve alongside such an incredible, gracious staff. Each one of them is called to shine the light of God's love into the world and with each other, and they do that in incredible ways.

There is no place I'd rather be, nothing I'd rather be doing, then what we are doing together right here, right now.

Grace and peace to you,

Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman, Senior Minister

How to connect and get involved at UCC

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A new year for a fresh new start! There is something to be said about that feeling we get when we receive a clean slate. We feel empowered to carry out our resolutions to be better to ourselves and to those around us. What better place to fulfill those goals, than right here at UCC. There are so many opportunities to connect, grow and serve—taking action to bring us closer to who we aim to be.

Take a look through this Journal to discover ways in which you can become part of an amazing church community, enlightened and passionate about God. Wherever you may be in your faith journey, UCC will meet you there and support you along the way, at the speed most comfortable to you.

If you have questions or doubts about church or faith, our ministers would love for you to reach out to them—they love to listen and enjoy conversations.

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND BLESSED 2019!

REGISTRATION & OTHER MISC INFO

In this section you will find opportunities to sign up for future programming, events and service opportunities. Unless otherwise noted, registrations are online at: www.universitychristian.org/web-calendar/open-registration.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Registration is open January 8 until February 8
PNO is January 15
Register at www.facebook.com/
uccftwkids

This is an opportunity for a date night or even just a few hours to take some time just for you. Only \$5 per child, \$10 max per household. Fun activities and programs provided for infants through 5th graders.

™ robin.doyle@uccftw.com

EXPANSIVE LANGUAGE: THEOLOGICAL AND MUSICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR CHURCH MUSIC

Saturday, January 12 10:30am-2:00pm

Bass Conference Center, Brite Divinity School

Moderated by Dr. Mary Louise Bringle, Professor of Religious Studies at Brevard College, an expert panel will discuss fundamental questions related to this important issue in the worship life of the church. An additional session regarding music copyright law and a hymn-writing workshop will be offered. Register online.

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 the programs on the following pages 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!



















^{*}Register at universitychristian.org > Resources Tab > Open Registrations.



JANUARY'S FEATURED EVENTS & PROGRAMS

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

43RD BOAR'S HEAD & YULE LOG FESTIVAL

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

UCC presents the 43rd Annual Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival Celebrate Epiphany and ring in the New Year with spectacular pageantry, beautiful music and stunning costumes. Limited reserved seating is 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!



2ND ANNUAL BOAR'S HEAD FEAST

January 5 · 6:30pm | Walker Hall

UCC will reprise this exciting madrigal-style feast again this year. Following the 5:00pm performance on Saturday, costumed actors will be your hosts as the revelry from the Sanctuary continues. A delicious catered meal and hearty merriment will be enjoyed by all. Reservations are required.

SIMPLE WORSHIP

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

In February, we will officially launch a "Simple Worship" service in our chapel on Sunday mornings. 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. If you're interested, join us in January as we explore how this service will function and work out any snags.

≤ shannon.moore@uccftw.com.

WEEKDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK-NO SCHOOL

School will resume Wednesday, January 9.

UCC CLOSED

Tuesday, January 1 Monday, January 21

In observance of New Years Day and Martin Luther King Day offices and buildings will be closed on Tuesday, January 1 and Monday, January 21.

michelle@uccftw.com.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, January 13

UCC's Prayer Shawl Ministry celebrates its 14th year anniversary in worship 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. Come by 'Knitting Our Prayers for the New Year' in The Gallery from 8:30am to 12:30pm—all are welcome to be a part of this ministry.

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. Register online at tarranttogether.org.

ANNUAL HOMELESS COUNT

Thursday, January 24-Friday, January 25 · 8:00pm-2:00am

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition will use UCC as a gathering point for the yearly homeless count. Over 500 Volunteers are needed to help count and survey unsheltered homeless persons who live on the streets, camps and in vehicles within Tarrant and Parker County. Register online at ahomewithhope.org.

16TH ANNUAL "REEL RELIGION" FILM FESTIVAL

Friday, January 25-Saturday, January 26

Films of religious, cultural and philosophical significance, followed by a facilitated discussion. Movies are free and open to the public. Register at lifelong.tcu.edu.

ROOM IN THE INN ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, January 27 · Noon | Gallery

Join us Sunday, January 27 following the 11:00am worship in the Gallery as we celebrate 10 years of Room in the Inn at UCC.

igessica@uccftw.com

 igessica@uccftw.com

► • • 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

Join us for a light aerobic exercise program and a faithful reminder of God's loving presence in our lives.O 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

COLLEGE FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday, January 6 · 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, January 10 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.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

Friday, January 11 · 6:00pm

Let us help you with those gifts you received but just aren't you! Wrap a gift and bring it along with an appetizer to share and lets have some fun! RSVP to Michelle Groom.

mgroom@uccftw.com

LATTE WITH THE LADIES

Saturday, January 12 9:00am-11:00am **Leaves Book & Tea Shop** (120 St Louis Ave, Ste 101)

Join women of all ages for fellowship over morning coffee. We meet at local coffee bistros each month on the second Saturdau.

✓ cyndy@uccftw.com

KNITTING OUR PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Sunday, January 13 8:30am-12:30pm | Gallery

All are welcome to 'Knitting Our Prayers for the New Year'. Be a part the Prayer Shawl ministry its 14th year anniversary in worship!

MEN'S THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH

Thursday, January 17 · 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

CONNECT DINNER

Thursday, January 17 6:00pm-7:30pm | Walker Hall

Gather with us around the table monthly on the third Thursday of the month to fill your soul and tummies with good conversation, connected community and delicious food. College students and children 5 and under eat free, grades 1-12 \$6 and adults \$12. Walk-ups are welcome, but please help us plan by making reservations online or contacting us by email or phone.

pam@uccftw.com.



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.

NO FIRST THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP IN JANUARY

We will resume in February.

Shannon.moore@uccftw.com

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, January 9-30 10:00am | 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. We will not meet Wednesday, January 2.

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

YOUTH PARENT MEETING

Sunday, January 13 • 5:00pm RM 303 & 312

An informational meeting for parents/ guardians of Youth currently participating or who are interested in UCC's Youth Ministry classes, activities, camps and trips. This evening will also be the first youth group of the semester.

■ jamie.plunkett@uccftw.com

THIRD GRADE BIBLE CLASS

Sundays, January 13-February 17 10:00am | RM 218

Third Graders attend a special 6 week series on How to Use My Bible culminating in the Presentation of Bibles on February 17.

∠ kera@uccftw.com

WILD WOMEN BOOK CLUB

Monday, January 14 6:00pm | Cat City Grill Tuesday, January 15 11:30am | RM 150

The WiLD Women Book Club is both Growing Young and growing in our

awareness of people and situations different from our own. This year we are reading Young Reader Books and inviting youth to join us as we open our eyes to new understanding and listen to a younger voice. Our January book is *Along Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park

The WiLD Women Book Club meets the third week of each month September through May (excluding December) to discuss a book, enjoy time together around the table and support the work of Heifer's WiLD program, Women in Livestock Development.

✓ cyndy@uccftw.com

DISCIPLES CLASS PARENT AND YOUTH ORIENTATION

Sunday, January 20 10:00am | RM 303

Required orientation for youth in grades 6-12 who feel ready to explore the meaning of church membership and baptism/confirmation are invited to attend this 10 week class led by UCC ministers.

∠ jamie.plunkett@uccftw.com

JYF MIDWINTER

January 25-27 Disciples Crossing Athens, Texas

JYF Mid-Winter Retreat is a chance for our third through fifth graders to experience Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX, develop and strengthen relationships with friends from UCC, develop new friendships with kids from the region and to grow in faith. We will spend time being inspired—a weekend full of camp fire, songs, games, and lots of free time to explore the beauty of Disciples Crossing. Full and partial scholarships are available. Register through Disciples Crossing and click "pay with check" and UCC will contact you with a payment link.

≥ kera@uccftw.com







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 opportunities to live out this call.



ROOM IN THE INN

Month of January · 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 January and February. Visit our website to sign up to serve.

✓ carolmstewart@sbcglobal.net

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Month of January

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

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 will resume on Sunday, January 13.

™ todd.prickett@uccftw.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Sundays, January 20 and 27 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 or email Jessica Vacketta.

∠ jessica@uccftw.com

NEEDLERS

Thursdays in January 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.

PRAYER BEADS

Saturday, January 12 · 10:00am **RM 204**

Prayer bead ministry meets the second Saturday of the month at 10:00am in Room 204. No experience needed, beginning beader skill taught and all equipment provided. Prayer beads are made for UCC and THR Harris Hospital for people in crisis situations.

≥ pam@uccftw.com



GOVERNANCE, COMMITTEE & LEADERSHIP

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Sunday, January 6 12:15pm | RM 226

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

✓ renee.hoke@uccftw.com

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 8 5:30pm | RM 202

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 15 5:30pm | RM 203

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

michelle@uccftw.com

BOARD OF STEWARDS

Tuesday, January 22 6:30pm | RM 150

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

≥ betsy.ferguson@uccftw.com

MISSION PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 23 6:00pm | Los Vaqueros

This committee meets the fourth Wednesday each month to discuss current and upcoming Mission Pilgrimage opportunities.

∠ coffey@imperativeinfo.com

WORSHIP LIFE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 23 5:30pm | RM 150

CHILDREN'S TEAM MEETING

Sunday, January 27 9:00am | Third Floor Kitchen

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

™ kera@uccftw.com

ASSEMBLY MEETING

Tuesday, January 29 6:30pm | Walker Hall

The Assembly is composed of the Assembly Elders, Board of Deacons, Board of Stewards, Ministry Division Leaders and Student Delegates. It has the responsibility to adopt policies binding upon the Board of Stewards. Childcare available for Kindergarten children and under. Additional tables will be set up in the meeting room for children older than Kindergarten level.

✓ renee.hoke@uccftw.com







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, 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

MUSIC MINISTRY

Leader: John Andrus

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 arowth 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!

COUPLE'S RETREAT

February 1-2

Contact Shannon Moore for more information and to reserve your spot!

≥ shannon.moore@uccftw.com

FOR THE LOVE OF PUERTO RICO

Thursday, February 7 • 7:00pm The 4 Eleven

All proceeds will benefit hurricane recovery in Puerto Rico through Week of Compassion.

✓ cyndy@uccftw.com

UNIVERSITYCHRISTIAN.ORG

Patty Poling, Editor & Designer • Michelle Groom, Circulation

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