

WE AWAIT THE LIGHT OF

Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.



ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday Worship • 9:00am | 11:00am

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

(Childcare is available for infants to two-years old during the 11:00am and 5:00pm Christmas Eve services)

Open minds, loving hearts





UCC Celebrations

NEW MEMBERS

BABY DEDICATION



Baby Dedication
September 17th, 2017



James Hunter Pitts

Son of James & Margaret Pitts
(little brother to Preston)



Wich & Ashlee Brenner
(and son Bobby—not pictured)



Elaine & Tom Reeder



Rosalie Reeder

Merry Christmas



Table of Contents

UniversityChristian.org

Title	Page
<i>The Moment Before the Moment</i> by Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman	2
Advent Daily Devotions—Available in The Arches	2
Hanging of the Greens	3
Blue Christmas Worship Service	3
Intergenerational Advent Experience	3
Christmas Eve Worship	4
42nd Annual Boar’s Head & Yule Log Festival.	4
Living Out Our Faith—Opportunities to Serve	
Room In The Inn	5
Christmas Angels and Order Form	6
Gifts of Hope and Order Form	6-8
A List of Opportunities to Serve throughout Advent	9
Celebrate Advent with Your Family	
Devotionals for Children & Families	10
Traditions Begin Today—Start a New Advent Tradition in Your Family	10-11
Make an “Acts of Kindness” Tree	10
A Christmas Tree Blessing	11
No Cook Cinnamon Ornaments	11
Youth Ministry	12
Disciples Class	12
UCC Youth High School Ski Trip	12
Amahl and the Night Visitors at Ridglea Presbyterian Church	12
Women’s, Adult & Young Adult Ministry.	13
UCC Women’s Christmas Tea	13
First Thursday Fellowship	13
How the Finals Stole Christmas: A Whoville Feast!	13
<i>Of Many Colors</i> Christmas Concert	14
ShelbyNext Giving	15
15th Annual <i>Reel Religion</i> Film Festival.	15
Upcoming Advent Events.	16





The Moment Before the Moment

I've always loved the moment right before the moment. Like when the lights in the movie theatre dim and the opening credits begin to run, and you settle into your seat and anxiously wait for the story to unfold before you...

Like when someone gives you a beautifully wrapped gift, and as you slide your finger underneath the tape and begin to open it your pulse quickens and you are filled with gratitude and hope...

Like when you start to lean in for that first, long anticipated kiss. You are aware of nothing else around you except the beating of your own heart...

Frederick Buechner reminds us that ***"the extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens."***

As people of the faith, we live constantly between the already and the not-quite-yet; and even though that is where we spend most of our days, it often goes unnoticed except for special times such as this.

As a community of faith, you are in an in-between time. With a heart filled with gratitude, you are saying "Goodbye, God be with you," to Chuck, thankful for the incredible things he has done with you and for you. You are also awaiting my arrival in the next few weeks. While the name has become familiar to you, the face you aren't sure you'd yet recognize in a crowd.

And as if all that weren't enough, we are also about to enter the holy, sacred season of Advent—truly that moment before the moment. The word "Advent" literally means, "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 season to prepare for the birth of the Christ child. We live into this season with an anticipation that is marked with hope and longing.

That is definitely where I am. I am so excited and eager to be with you. Like you, I am filled with hopes and



Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman · UCC Sr. Minister

dreams as we all eagerly await this new beginning, anxiously expecting the new things that God is dreaming for the people who are University Christian Church.

During this time of anxiously waiting, may we open our hearts and minds to the still, small voice of God's spirit for the new things being born in our lives and whatever is next in the journey of this great church.

Eagerly waiting to do ministry with you,

Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman

Welcome Reception

Sunday, December 3

**10:00am and 12:00pm
Walker Hall**

After both services, join us for treats and drinks as we welcome our new Senior Minister and his family.

What a joy it is to welcome Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman to University Christian Church!

Join us in worship and invite your friends to be part of this historic day on Sunday, December 3.



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 26 at 5:30pm

Attend this festive worship service where we decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas and the Advent season. Come participate in this intergenerational experience that includes song, readings, and performances by each of our youth handbell choirs and our children's choir. People from across the church lead the service and share the history of our symbolic decorations as we hang the greens that fill and transform the Sanctuary.



Blue Christmas Worship Service

December 17 • 6:30pm | Chapel of the Good Shepherd

Not everyone is happy and cheerful during the holiday season. Grieving the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with job loss, or living with disease are just a few situations which can make Christmas a painful time. If you are experiencing hardships this Advent season, you are not alone. Join us for this special worship service; a time of solace and hope for anyone faced with grief, loss or pain during a time when the whole world seems to rejoice.

Intergenerational Advent Experience

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, November 26–December 24. Our hope is that this experience allows you to live out Advent, serve together and create new relationships across generations. Contact [Jessica@uccftw.com](mailto:jessica@uccftw.com) with questions. See below for a preview of what will happen each week.

November 26—Advent Week 1 Send Tidings of Comfort and Joy

We will write notes, create art and sign Christmas cards to send to Global Mission Co-Workers, homebound members, and families affected by recent hurricanes and wildfires.

December 3—Advent Week 2 Welcome Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman and Family & Shop Gifts of Hope

Join us for treats and drinks as we welcome our new Senior Minister and his family! Also, you can shop for gifts at our alternative giving market, *Gifts of Hope* and we will provide a space to create a gift of your own.

December 10—Advent Week 3 Christmas Angels

Learn more about UCC's Christmas Angels Ministry, help with last minute preparation for the event, bless the gifts and create Angel Blessing Cards.

December 17—Advent Week 4 Shared Stories

We will gather around tables with members of all ages to share Christmas hopes and memories and how to live out Christ's peace on earth.

December 24—Christmas Eve The Christmas Story | Room 207

During Sunday School at 10:00am, Rev. Shannon Moore and Rev. Jessica Vacketta will lead us in a deeper exploration of Jesus' birth narrative in the Gospel of Luke.



Worship

Christmas Eve Worship

Celebrate the coming of the Christ Child with UCC this Christmas Eve at one of four worship services on Sunday, December 24 at 11:00am, 5:00pm, 8:00pm or 11:00pm. Each service is unique and celebrates our “We Await the Light of” Advent theme.

At 11:00am, our traditional morning worship service will include festive music by the Chancel Choir, Christmas hymns and communion.

Our family-friendly worship service at 5:00pm will be enlivened with music by our children’s choir, Whitechapel Handbell Choir and UCC Bronze.

Witness the Christmas story retold through scripture, cherished carols and a living nativity scene, which will include live animals and feature children in the roles of angels and shepherds. Each child will receive a special gift of light to represent the beauty of Christ’s light to take into the world as they exit the Sanctuary.

Thirty minutes prior to the start of our 8:00pm Christmas Eve service experience a seasonal prelude with string quartet, flute, and pipe organ. This traditional worship will include Christmas hymns, communion and

symbolic candlelight. Enjoy holiday music provided by our Chancel Choir and UCC Bell Ringers during worship.

The 11:00pm candlelight worship service begins at 10:30pm with a flute, strings and organ prelude. The Chancel Choir will sing and the beautiful *Ad Deum* Handbells will ring. This traditional worship incorporates our Advent theme, “We Await the Light of” and includes Christmas hymns and symbolic candlelight.

However and whenever you choose to worship at UCC this Christmas Eve, there is something for everyone!

THE BOAR’S HEAD & YULE LOG FESTIVAL



42nd Annual Boar’s Head & Yule Log Festival

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

The New Year not only brings peace and joy from Christ’s birth, it also brings UCC’s 42nd 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 BHYLF 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!

Performances are at 3:00pm and 5:00pm on Saturday, January 6 and Sunday, January 7. Limited reserved seating will be on sale for \$15 beginning Monday, November 27. As always, there are hundreds of free seats available.

NEW THIS YEAR! Boar’s Head Feast

The Boar’s Head Guild is excited to announce a **Boar’s Head Feast on Saturday, January 6**. This addition to the Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival is UCC’s unique twist on a traditional madrigal dinner. You are invited to attend this yuletide banquet of fine food, good cheer, and hearty merriment in Walker Hall following the 5:00pm Saturday performance. Costumed actors will be your hosts as the revelry from the Sanctuary continues! Seasonal music will be provided by a vocal octet from the Chancel Choir and a Renaissance instrumental duo. Advance tickets are required. Pricing is determined by your desired proximity to the actors; the show and food per each price point is identical—\$50, \$40, \$25 and \$12 for 5th graders and under. **Reserve your tickets today by visiting universitychristian.org or call 817-926-6631, Ext. 141.**

Living Out our Faith—Opportunities to Grow

UniversityChristian.org

Is There Room in the Inn? *by Carol Stewart*

More than 2000 years ago, a couple expecting the imminent arrival of a child walked through the streets of Bethlehem, looking for a place to rest. In Bethlehem, they were homeless. They must have felt abandoned and desperate when they were told over and over, “There is no room for you here.”

In our own city, there are many without homes who are told the same thing: “There is no room for you.” Many of these people count on radical hospitality that offers them a safe and nurturing place to spend the night, and to enjoy fellowship and good food.

Room in the Inn at University Christian Church is just such a ministry. Every Wednesday evening in December through February and July through August—the coldest and hottest months—ten homeless men come to UCC to be greeted enthusiastically and affirmed as children of God. As you can imagine, many of UCC volunteers are needed to pull this off. Absolutely essential to our program are the innkeepers who spend the night, and drivers to pick up and return our



guests. We also need adults and kids to make beds, set tables and get food ready to serve; hosts to visit and eat with our guests; volunteers to tidy up afterwards. Behind the scenes, others prepare the meals, wash linens and bring groceries.

Most of our guests come back regularly. We get to know one another. We care about struggles and outcomes. We celebrate successes. We are not just hosts and guests, but friends. Lou Frieze was a consistent RITI guest for several years. We joyfully heard the news that he had

found housing and a job at the First Street Mission, and looked forward to seeing him there and at other RITI events. We grieved when we learned in October that he had died. Many members of UCC attended his service.

The Holy Family found shelter in a stable. Each week, ten men receive assurance of God’s love in the warm welcome they receive at Room in the Inn. Holy families are found in many different configurations.

We need volunteers! If you would like to participate in this enriching experience, contact carolmstewart@sbcglobal.net.

Advent Daily Devotions—Available in The Arches

Seeing a Different World: Partners in Prayer 2017 Advent Devotional *by Chalice Press*

The familiar places of our lives look different in Advent. Light changes colors by the second, holiday decorations appear on the shelves and the excitement of the season brightens our faces and our spirits during the darkest days of the year.

We also see change in our hearts. Advent invites us to prepare for the coming of Christ, to see a new world being born in our midst. In *Seeing a Different World*, author and pastor Elizabeth Hagan (Birthed), invites us to see a different world in which Jesus is present in our everyday actions.

Beginning on the first day of Advent, *Seeing a Different World* offers daily meditations and prayers.

All are invited to pick up one of these devotionals and take time to draw near to God daily and experience the wonder of the season.



Living Out our Faith—Opportunities to Serve

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

UCC celebrates its eighteenth year of thoughtful and creative giving opportunities through *Gifts of Hope*. Join us for a unique holiday shopping experience at the *Gifts of Hope* Market on Sunday, December 3, after both worship services. Honor your loved ones by shopping our

alternative gift market that keeps on giving to those in need. You can purchase food, building materials, water tanks or even farm animals that benefit multiple local and global charitable organizations along with some of UCC’s signature outreach ministries.

An order form is included on the next page and copies will be widely available. For those who miss the *Gifts of Hope* Market or wish to purchase additional gift cards, we will be at The Arches Information Desk December 10 and December 17.



Christmas Angels is a long standing UCC outreach ministry. We are grateful for your contributions that make this outreach possible year after year. Through donations provided by our UCC family, we have 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, underwear, outdoor toy, a book and a Bible.

If you have any questions, contact 2017 Christmas Angels Chair, Kate Williams at katecwilliams@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE! Christmas Angels Wrap Night
Sunday, December 10 • 5:00 pm | 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 \$ _____ .
(number)

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

Name/Group: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

2017 Gifts of Hope Order Form

UniversityChristian.org

Organizations/Gifts	Each	Qty	Total
UCC Signature Outreach Ministries			
<input type="checkbox"/> Prom Dreams <i>A prom dress and 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"/> Mission Pilgrimages	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Angels <i>Coat, clothing, shoes, toy, book and Bible</i>	\$80		
The Children's Closet			
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's underwear	\$6		
<input type="checkbox"/> One school uniform	\$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> Uniforms for a classroom of students	\$300		
Global Ministries			
<input type="checkbox"/> School supplies for children in Nicaragua	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yarn for indigenous group of weavers in Guatemala	\$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> Support for a medical worker in Syria	\$50		
Heifer International			
<input type="checkbox"/> Share of a goat	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Flock of chicks	\$20		
<input type="checkbox"/> Honeybees	\$30		
The Caribbean Initiative: Embracing the Spirit			
<input type="checkbox"/> Meals for children at House of Hope in Haiti	\$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Training for a teenager at Caminante in the Dominican Republic	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Support for a mission coworker in Cuba	\$50		

Organizations/Gifts	Each	Qty	Total
Week of Compassion			
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction materials to help rebuild hurricane damaged homes	\$20		
<input type="checkbox"/> Latrine for a family in Vietnam/Cambodia	\$50		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 kilogram water tank to provide clean water in Vietnam	\$75		
Refugee Services of Texas			
<input type="checkbox"/> 48 diapers for a refugee family	\$7		
<input type="checkbox"/> A crockpot for a refugee family	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Toddler car seat for a refugee family	\$40		
Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene kit of soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, etc.	\$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> 25lb bag of rice, 25lb bag of beans	\$40		
<input type="checkbox"/> Food and support for children at Casa Bethel	\$50		
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		
Grand Total: _____			

Your Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

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



Gifts of Hope Program Descriptions 2017

University Christian Church Signature Outreach Ministries are part of UCC's commitment to participate in God's mission as we offer help and hope to people in our community, country and world.

The Children's Closet is a ministry of University Christian Church that provides new uniforms, clothing and supplies to disadvantaged children in Fort Worth.

Global Ministries is in mission in more than 90 countries and in covenant with more than 160 partner churches and ecumenical bodies around the world. It is the joint global mission outreach effort of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

Heifer International provides families with income-producing plants and animals and training in their care. HPI educates partners in community building and sustainable agriculture, providing daily nutrition and additional income for basic needs and education of children.

The Caribbean Initiative: Embracing the Spirit invites the whole church to focus on this diverse region with a broader understanding of the many ways in which God is seen at work in the world and challenge us to expand our vision of the church.

Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), works through a network of church partner organizations in the US and around the world to ensure WOC's response to humanitarian need is efficient, effective and faithful.

Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries provides assistance to hundreds of people in need, especially Central American political refugees, and individuals from other countries in political and economic turmoil. Their ministry is to teach the love of Jesus Christ by building a renewed wholeness and dignity in those who are broken, disenfranchised and displaced.

Tarrant Area Food Bank empowers communities to eliminate hunger by providing food, education, and resources through innovation and collaboration.

Tarrant Churches Together is a nonprofit network of diverse Tarrant County churches working together to resolve community needs especially related to: high-school completion for students of all ages, homelessness and poverty.

Living Out our Faith—Opportunities to Serve

UniversityChristian.org

This **Advent** season, as we live out our faith in tangible and meaningful ministries, make a meaningful and positive impact in our community by sharing your time, providing food, financial support or praying for others.

GIFTS OF HOPE MARKET

When: Sunday, December 3 | 9:00am–1:00pm

Where: Walker Hall

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 5 | 11:30am–1:00pm

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 and clean-up help

Contact: Phyllis Allen • wpallen@swbell.net

ROOM IN THE INN

When: December 6–February 28 | 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: Drivers, greeters, 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 10 | 5:00pm

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 11 | 5:00pm–7:00pm

Where: Room 207

Benefits: College students—enjoy a Christmas feast, sweets, fellowship and a gift from UCC

Needed: Prepared hot meals, desserts, set-up/clean-up

Contact: Rachel Ngurukie • rachel.ngurukie@uccftw.com

RED ENVELOPE GIFT

When: Throughout Advent

Where: Mailed to you and in Sanctuary pews

Benefits: UCC ministries

Needed: Monetary donations

Contact: Business Office, michelle@uccftw.com

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

When: Sunday Worship | December 10 & 17

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, michelle@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



Celebrate Advent With Your Family

Devotionals for Children & Families

We Await the Light this Advent season and count the days until Jesus arrives at Christmas. Each day of Advent, our children and their families can read the *Countdown to Christmas* devotional and create a traditional chain that grows longer as we get closer to the arrival of our promised Savior. These daily devotional lessons and activities will provide your family with a guide for tradition and ritual to help prepare you for Christmas. As a gift from UCC, we will mail these to all of our families with children, infants through fifth grade. This gift will also include an Advent Calendar for your children to share with your family. Please feel free to share extra copies of these resources, located in The Arches, with family and friends.



Traditions Begin Today—Start a New Advent Tradition in Your Family

Traci Smith, the author of *Seamless Faith Simple Practices for Daily Family Life* (Chalice Press, 2014) and *Faithful Families Creating Sacred Moments at Home* (Chalice Press, 2017) says, “faith is learned as it is woven seamlessly into the fabric of daily life.” Try starting a new tradition in your family this Advent season as you create space for the sacred in the midst of the everyday. Here are two ideas from Smith’s *Faithful Families* (2017) book.

Make an “Acts of Kindness” Tree



Examples of Acts of Kindness:

1. Give someone a compliment.
2. Feed the birds.
3. Write someone a thank-you note.
4. Leave an encouraging note around the house for someone to see.
5. Pick up trash around your house or school or church.

For more ideas of Acts of Kindness, see Faithful Families (Smith, Chalice Press, 2017).

Acts of Kindness Ornament How To (continued):

3. Place all 25 ornaments on the tree or branch.
4. Take an ornament off the tree each day of Advent and complete the “Act of Kindness” suggested.
5. Don’t give up if you get behind—give yourself flexibility and grace as you work toward focusing your family’s Advent season away from busyness and pressure toward awaiting the light of the gift of Jesus.

During the hectic holiday season, help your family focus on the values of caring for others, kindness, service, and compassion by making an “Acts of Kindness Tree” for your home. Here’s how to do it:

Materials:

1. Acts of Kindness ornaments.
2. Small Christmas tree or a branch on your tree that is dedicated to acts of kindness.

Acts of Kindness Ornament How To:

1. Make 25 Acts of Kindness” ornaments. You can visit www.traci-smith.com/ resources for a link to printable ornaments, or make your own using different shapes (e.g., stars, candy canes, bells, etc.).
2. On each ornament, write one Act of Kindness that can be completed in a day.

A Christmas Tree Blessing

The decorating of a Christmas tree is a secular tradition. Use this blessing from Traci Smith (*Faithful Families*, Chalice Press, 2017) to incorporate spirituality in the process of preparing your home for Christmas.

Materials:

1. Blessing (below)
2. Christmas tree (before decorating)
3. Nativity scene (optional)

How To:

1. Before the tree is decorated, gather your family together and read the following blessing (or create a blessing as a family):

"God, who created the birds in the air, the fish in the sea, the stars in the sky, and the trees in the ground, bless this tree as we

decorate it, and make it a joyful symbol in our home. May its branches remind us of the shade and shelter you provide for us and for many creatures. May its trunk remind us of your strength. May its lights bring us peace. May we remember your gift to us this season, the gift of the baby Jesus, Amen."

2. After decorating the tree, set up a nativity scene beneath the tree instead of gifts. The tree is the focal point of Christmas in many homes;

setting up your tree in this way and being intentional at the outset with a blessing can highlight the spiritual significance of celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas, instead of simply getting gifts.



No-Cook Cinnamon Ornaments

Use this recipe from <http://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2013/11/no-cook-cinnamon-ornaments.html> to make your own ornaments this year. You can use this simple recipe to make ornaments for your "Acts of Kindness Tree" (from previous page). When the ornaments are dry, they not only smell good, but also provide a light canvas for children to paint and decorate.



Cinnamon Ornament Ingredients:

- 1 cup of flour
- 1/2 cup of salt
- 1/2 cup of cinnamon
- 3/4 cup of very warm water

Other Materials:

- Cookie cutters
- Wax paper
- Acrylic paints (optional)

Recipe/Instructions:

- Combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix well.
- Once combined, knead the dough with clean, dry hands. If the dough is a little sticky, dust your hands with a bit of flour and knead.
- After a few minutes of kneading you will be left with amazing cinnamon ornament dough.

Give kids cookie cutters and rolling pins, and they will have a blast making their very own cinnamon ornaments.

Roll the cinnamon dough out on wax paper to prevent sticking. Be sure to pierce a hole in the ornaments before leaving them to dry. This makes stringing them on the tree much easier!



It will take roughly 24 hours for the ornaments to dry. Once dry, kids can embellish the ornaments using acrylic paint, or you can simply hang them from the tree as-is. If kids are painting the ornaments, add a touch of cinnamon to the paints they are using to make the ornaments extra fragrant. If you are not painting the ornaments, spray them with a clear finishing spray or use Mod Podge to return them to a deep brown color before hanging on the tree.

This easy ornament cinnamon clay recipe will make roughly 10 ornaments.

Recipe and images taken from <http://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2013/11/no-cook-cinnamon-ornaments.html>



Youth Ministry

Disciples Class *Begins Sunday, December 3*

The Disciples Class is the annual Sunday school series that prepares youth for baptism by exploring a variety of topics fundamental to Christian life. Although the Disciples Class primarily includes incoming 6th graders, it is open to anyone who wishes to be baptized. The class uses a curriculum called *Passage into Discipleship: Guide to Baptism* by a local Disciples minister, Rev. Chris

Wilson. This special series allows participants to explore the touchstones of being a Disciple of Christ in our day and time and offers a space for a sense of community as participants develop their faith, grow closer to one another, and grow closer to God.

The Disciples Class will begin with an orientation for youth and parents on Sunday, December 3, at 10:00am and will meet most

Sundays through March 4. A day retreat is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 24, before youth are invited to make a Confession of Faith on Palm Sunday, March 25, and to be baptized the two Sundays following Easter, April 8 and 15.

If you are interested in participating in the Disciples class for 2017-18 or have questions, please contact Tyler Heston at tyler.heston@uccftw.com.

UCC Youth High School Ski Trip

Wednesday, December 27–Saturday, December 31

Every other year, our CYF (Grades 9–12) youth travel to the beautiful state of Colorado for a ski trip. This year, the youth are going to **Crested Butte, Colorado, from December 27–31**. This trip allows a chance for youth and mentors to celebrate the community built by youth groups and Sunday school classes throughout the year as they retreat to the mountains to ski and celebrate the beauty of creation. Contact Tyler Heston at tyler.heston@uccftw.com with questions and for more information.



The trip is open to all high school students currently active in youth group and/or Sunday school programming. The cost is \$700 for skiers, \$500 for non-skiers and includes hotel, transportation, food, ski lift tickets and equipment rentals.

All payment is due at the mandatory information meeting following the 11:00am service on Sunday, December 10.

Register and pay online at universitychristian.org/youth-ski-trip.

Amahl and the Night Visitors at Ridglea Presbyterian Church



Sunday, December 10th

UCC 6th-grader Ethan Prickett will sing the lead role in Gian Carlo Menotti's one-act opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors" at 3:00pm on Sunday, December 10. Admission to this joint production by the Fort Worth Opera and Ridglea Presbyterian Church is free to the public; a free-will offering will be taken. Other cast members will include Fort Worth Opera's Hattie Mae Leslie Apprentice Artists: Bronwyn White (Mother), Bridget Cappell (Guest Artist), Joshua Friend (Kaspar), and Sam Parkinson (Melchior). "Amahl and the Night Visitors" is a fictional Christmas story about a disabled boy who encounters the three wise men on their way to the manger. He and his mother welcome them into their home and drama ensues. As they depart, the young boy gives the visitors his crutch as a gift for the newborn Child with miraculous results. Ethan is thrilled to sing this role again, having performed it with the University of Alabama Opera Theatre in 2016. He is also a member of the world-renowned Texas Boys Choir.

Women's, Adult & Young Adult Ministry

UniversityChristian.org

UCC Women's Christmas Tea

The Women of UCC will gather for Christmas Tea on December 9th at 2:00pm at the Montgomery Street Antique Mall Secret Garden Restaurant. Register and make your \$15 payment on the UCC website. Register early!



L to R: UCC women around the table at last year's tea; Cyndy Twedell and Leslie Dell; Sarah Jane and Margaret McDonald

Join us as we resume our regular monthly **Latte with the Ladies** the second Saturday morning of each month at 9:00am at different local coffee shops.

Watch for **WiLD Women Book Club** monthly book discussions, retreats 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. For more information please contact Cyndy Twedell, Senior Associate Minister, at cyndy@uccftw.com.



Thursday, December 7 • 11:00am | Room 207

Join us for a time of holiday stories, fellowship, feasting on a catered meal, special Christmas music and a surprise or two. Call the church or e-mail Rachel Ngurukie, rachel.ngurukie@uccftw.com to make a reservation by Tuesday, December 5.



Friday, December 11 • 5:00pm-7:00pm | Room 207

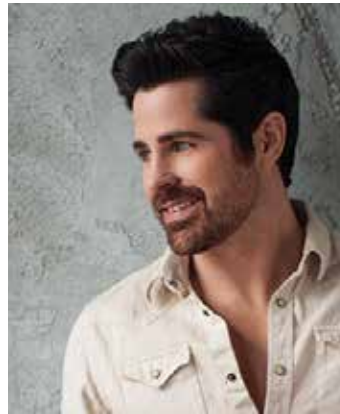
College students are invited to embrace their inner Grinch or indy-Lou Who at this year's Finals Feast. This is an opportunity for our students to take a break from studying, enjoy a classic Christmas feast, sweet treats, and an early Christmas gift from their University Christian Church family.

College students are welcome to attend this event for free. 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 de-stress during the first night of finals.

Volunteers are needed to provide food and clean-up after the event. **Sign up online under open registrations to serve or contact Rachel Ngurukie, rachel.ngurukie@uccftw.com for more information.**



Of Many Colors Christmas Concert



JT Hodges



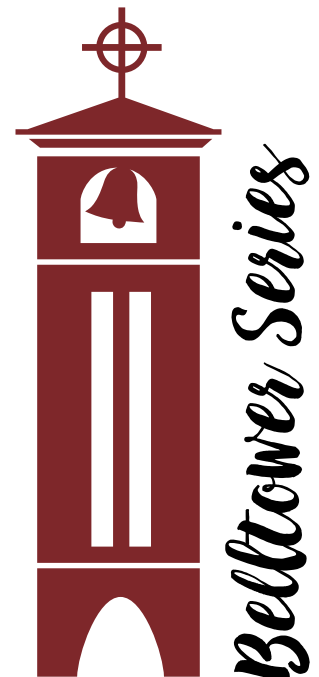
Sheran Keyton

On Monday, December 11, University Christian Church is pleased to present the next event in our Belltower Series: “Of Many Colors” (OMC) Christmas Concert in our Sanctuary at 7:00pm. This concert has become a highlight of the Advent seasons past, and this year will not disappoint! OMC is excited to announce not one, but two headliners: Sheran Keyton and JT Hodges will be this year’s featured soloists. This year’s concert theme is “Let There Be Love”.

Both Sheran and JT are familiar to UCC audiences. Sheran works in the community as an educator and performer through her own nonprofit theater company, DVA Productions. Most recently, she was awarded Best Actress by the Fort Worth Black Chamber of Commerce Film Festival. JT, a Fort Worth native, lives and works as a country singer and songwriter in Nashville. In 2017, he performed at the Fort Worth Symphony’s Concerts in the Garden and starred in “Part of the Plan”—a new musical featuring an original story to the music of Dan Fogelberg.

OMC provides a unique platform for performance. Their music is confluence of jazz, gospel and classical music, and features jazz rhythms and harmonies that showcase the talents of 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. OMC shares a special connection with audiences through music that celebrates joy, love, worship and praise of God.

Don’t forget, the concert will be on Monday, December 11, at 7:00pm in UCC’s Sanctuary. Free admission. An offering will be collected to support future musical performances at UCC. Bring a friend!



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UCC Chancel Choir Presents “Gloria”

The UCC Chancel Choir will present a special musical offering on Sunday, December 17. Under the direction of Choirmaster Todd Prickett they will sing K. Lee Scott’s exciting “Gloria” at both morning worship services, accompanied by brass quintet and timpani. Scott is widely considered one of America’s top church music composers. His festive three-part setting of the Latin *Gloria* features dynamic brass fanfares and thrilling choral singing. This service will certainly put you in the “Christmas spirit”!





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 26 through December 17. 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 11:00am Christmas Day worship service.

ShelbyNext Giving

We are excited to announce that we have upgraded our online payment systems! Supporting church ministry, registering for special programs and events are easier than ever with ShelbyNext Giving.

What does this mean for you?

More options! Do you like the convenience of registering for an event or making a gift online? Maybe you'd like to swipe your card at a kiosk for a quick way to support UCC Outreach? Maybe you prefer to download a free mobile app to make a gift or save our dedicated local number in your phone contacts

for a quick text-to-give option? No matter the method you choose, you'll be able to monitor all of these gifts under one safe and secure log in. You need only to register once with your email and payment information (credit card or ACH). All of your online giving will be accessible under the same login where you can check the status of a payment, update a card number or set up a reoccurring gift at any time, at your convenience!

What happens to your existing reoccurring pledge payment?

If you currently have a reoccurring pledge payment set up through the

Business Office, your auto payment will continue to run through December 31, 2017. If you would like auto payments for your pledge to continue in January of 2018, we ask that you create a log in and set up those payments through ShelbyNext Giving. This can be done before January or in January. The set-up process is quick and user-friendly, however, should you need assistance, our Business Office staff is here to help.

Online giving options:

www.universitychristian.org/business-office

Save the Date: 15th Annual "Reel Religion" Film Festival

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

When: Friday, January 26-Saturday, January 27

Where: University Christian Church

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

Registration: Coming soon!

Movies are free and open to the public.

More information on films and registration coming soon at UniversityChristian.org.





Upcoming Advent Programs and 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. Please visit our website, UniversityChristian.org, for detailed information.

Event	When	Where	Who	Contact/Sign-up
Hanging of the Greens	Sunday, November 26 5:30 pm	Sanctuary	All	Tyler Heston tyler.heston@uccftw.com
Poinsettia Orders	Sunday, November 27 thru Friday, December 17	Online, The Arches, Reception Desk	All	Pam Reeser pam@uccftw.com
Gifts of Hope Market	Sunday, December 3 After both services	Walker Hall	All	Michelle Groom mgroom@uccftw.com
Intergenerational Advent Experience	November 26–December 17 Sundays • 10:00am	Walker Hall	4th grades and up	Jessica Vacketta jessica@uccftw.com
Room in the Inn	December 7–February 22 Wednesday nights thru Thursday mornings	Room 121	All	Carol Stewart carolmstewart@sbcglobal.net
First Thursday Fellowship	Thursday, December 7	Room 207	Adults	Jessica Vacketta jessica@uccftw.com
Parents Night Out	Friday, December 8 6:00pm–9:00pm	Walker Hall	Infant–5th graders	Kera Watts kera@uccftw.com
Christmas Tea (<i>Special Latte with the Ladies</i>)	Saturday, December 9 2:00pm	Montgomery St. Antique Mall Secret Garden Tea Rm	Ladies of all ages	Cyndy Twedell cyndy@uccftw.com
Christmas Angels Wrap Night	Sunday, December 10 5:30 pm	Walker Hall	All	Kate Williams katecwilliams@yahoo.com
Finals Feast	Monday, December 11 5:00pm–7:00pm	Room 207	College Students	Jessica Vacketta jessica@uccftw.com
Of Many Colors Christmas Concert	Monday, December 11 7:00pm	Sanctuary	All	Todd Prickett todd.prickett@uccftw.com
Blue Christmas Service	Sunday, December 17 6:30pm	Chapel of the Good Shepherd	All	Shannon Moore shannon.moore@uccftw.com
Christmas Eve Worship	Sunday, December 24 11:00am 5:00pm 8:00pm 11:00pm	Sanctuary	All	Shannon Moore shannon.moore@uccftw.com
Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival	Saturday & Sunday January 6–7 3:00pm 5:00pm	Sanctuary	All	Todd Prickett todd.prickett@uccftw.com
Boar's Head Feast	Saturday, January 6 6:30pm	Walker Hall	All	Todd Prickett todd.prickett@uccftw.com

Welcome New Youth Minister, Jamie Plunkett

UniversityChristian.org

The Board of Stewards unanimously voted to call Jamie Plunkett as our new Youth Minister at University Christian Church. Please share in our joy as we welcome Jamie, Skylar, and Cohen.

Jamie has accepted the call to serve as UCC's Youth Minister and is looking forward to building meaningful, fun, and deep relationships with the UCC youth. "I want kids to feel like their entire personality is allowed to be at church, and one way to communicate that is to model it. I often feel that laughter and 'playtime' are undervalued when it comes to cultivating community. I don't mind getting messy, I love to play, and I want kids to know that church is a place where they can just be themselves." Jamie's ministry focuses on youth, and he feels like God has given him a unique set of skills and abilities that allow him to connect deeply with the church's young people.

Jamie received his Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Christian University (2009), and his Masters of Divinity from Brite Divinity School (2016). Jamie is currently a commissioned minister with the Disciples of Christ denomination and is in the final stages of the ordination process.

Jamie worked in marketing and communications for several years after graduating from TCU; however, he always felt called to ministry. After he entered Brite Divinity School, he accepted a position as Director of Youth at his home church, Northway Christian Church, in Dallas. Once he graduated from Brite, Jamie was hired full-time at Northway as the Minister to Youth and Young Adults. Jamie recently started a campus ministry at Southern Methodist University. He has also been active in the DoC camping program at Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX for several years as a director, as a counselor, and as the chair for the Disciples Crossing capital campaign. He is a familiar face to many of our youth.

Jamie has been married to Skylar for five and a half years. His son, Cohen, will turn 4 in December, and he and Skylar are expecting their second son in January. Jamie enjoys spending time with family and friends, trivia, pickup games, and podcasts. He is also an avid TCU Horned Frog fan and manages the Frogs O' War blog, radio show, and social media.

Jamie's first Sunday at UCC will be January 14th.

It is my great privilege to introduce Jamie Plunkett to University Christian Church. We are confident that he will be an engaging, dynamic minister to our youth and will lead us in our continued commitment to bringing vitality to all ages at UCC.

A special thank you to all the members of the Youth Minister Search Committee for your commitment, hard work, and devotion to finding and calling the perfect Minister for our Youth.

Ken Hubbell
Chair Board of Stewards



Advent
Open minds, loving hearts



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