

### JOURNEY

SPRING 2023 EDITION





Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman, Senior Minister

### LEANING IN

Several years ago, on the heels of my marriage breaking apart, I decided to run a marathon. I'd never done anything like that before but thought it would be a key part of my divorce recovery plan.

It would give me something positive to focus on and work towards, and help me get healthier. That decision changed my life. In fact, over the next decade I would go on to run a total of 9 marathons.

Here's the thing, the vast majority of us that have run marathons don't do them to win.

We run to challenge ourselves, to achieve something significant, and to make us stronger and, hopefully, better people. "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

### African proverb

Running teaches us to keep moving forward, one step at a time, especially in the most painful moments. When we run, we confront some of the essential realities of life: fear, pain, comfort, curiosity, self-denial, joy, hunger and compassion, just to name a few.

In the pages of this catalog are many ways for you engage in programs and ministries that can transform our lives as together we seek the sacred, commit to love and empower one another to serve.

Whether standing at the finish line of a marathon—or sitting close to someone in the pew—it is the beauty of the human spirit that fills our hearts with hope as we glimpse what is possible when we journey together.

Grace and peace,

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# UNREVEALED UNTIL ITS SEASON: A Lenten Journey with Hymns

The season of Lent represents the 40 days leading up to Easter – typically a time of spiritual refocus and renewal.

Hymns speak deeply about who we are as children of God and followers of Jesus. Sung over a lifetime, they offer a level of wisdom and insight we might not reach on our own. Songs of faith move beyond the power of the spoken word, and speak directly to our souls. During this holy season (Feb. 22-April 8), we will use beloved hymns, paired with scripture, to guide our sixweek Lenten journey.

WEEK 1 | Psalm 47

Merciful and Mighty: Hymns Praising God

**WEEK 2** | Matthew 18-20

Beautiful Savior: Hymns About Jesus

WEEK 3 | Mark 11:20-25

Prone to Wander: Hymns About Forgiveness

**WEEK 4** | Matthew 21:1-11

Thy Presence My Light: Hymns of Vision

**WEEK 5** | Psalm: 19:1-6

With Joy Surround You: Hymns of Beauty

**WEEK 6** | Matthew 21:1-11

Stony the Road: Hymns of Holy Week



# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

### **EveningSong**

Wednesdays in March 6:30pm – 7:00pm in the Sanctuary Meditation at 6:15

On Wednesday nights during March, we will offer a mid-week worship experience in the Sanctuary. These brief services will include scripture and contemplation, centered around a hymn. A time for meditation will be available 15 minutes before the beginning of each service. Childcare is available upon request. Contact shannon.moore@uccftw.com for more information.

### **HOLY THURSDAY**

#### April 6 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

This year's Holy Thursday worship service will feature our Chancel Choir's offering of John Rutter's Requiem (see Music article for more information about the piece). This time of worship will also include communion.

#### **EASTER SUNDAY**

#### **April 9**

Easter reminds us that good overcomes evil; that hope and light fill the dark spaces of the world; that because Christ lives, we too shall live!



### **EASTER SCHEDULE**

6:45 am	Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden
9:00 am	Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
9:30 am	Simple Worship in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd
10:10 am	TEN:10 Casual Worship in Walker Hall
11:00 am	Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

### WORSHIP

Worship is an important part of our faith journey! The ways we connect with God (and each other) through worship vary, depending on the practices and approaches that resonate with our hearts and spirits. At UCC, we offer three styles of worship on Sunday mornings. If you're not already engaged in a worship service, I hope you'll explore them and discover where you feel most at home. Visit universitychristian.org/visit or contact shannon. moore@uccftw.com for more information.





**Rev. Shannon Moore** Senior Associate Minister

### TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9am and 11am, Sanctuary

Set in our beautiful sanctuary, Traditional Worship has a reverent and classic tone. The music includes timeless hymns and anthems led by our Chancel Choir, organist, and other instrumentalists. People tend to dress up a little more these services, but formal attire is not required! Both services are live-streamed on our website at *universitychristian.org/live* and the 11am service is broadcast on 88.7 KTCU.

#### SIMPLE WORSHIP

9:30am, Chapel of the Good Shepherd

Simple worship is a short, casual service that takes place in our chapel. It's a small-church experience in a large-church setting. We include all the elements of standard worship into a brief, family-friendly time frame. Participate in person or via zoom.

#### **CONNECT WITH US**

Scan the QR code with Zoom Registration







#### TEN:10

10:10am, Walker Hall

T E N:10

If you are looking for a relaxed worship experience in an informal setting, Ten:10 is for you. This service feels more like your favorite coffee shop than a church – complete with coffee from local favorite Ampersand. The music is acoustic and the dress is casual, so you can come just as you are.

#### **CONNECT WITH US**

Scan the QR code to visit universitychristian.org/ten10





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@uccfortworth
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### **MUSIC**

Church members often remark that they wish they had a beautiful singing voice, but it isn't one of their particular gifts. I think it is important for everyone to realize that when the Chancel Choir sings in worship, they are praising God on behalf of the congregation. "Each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that." (1 Corinthians 7:7) Our music ministry prays that we enrich worship for each person in the pews, whether you can beautifully sing or simply tap your toe.



**Rev. Dr. Todd Prickett** Minister of Music



Rutter Requiem • Maundy Thursday, April 6

During Holy Week, the Chancel Choir will sing John Rutter's "Requiem" on Thursday evening at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Accompanied by six instruments with organ, the Requiem does not adhere strictly to the conventional Catholic liturgy, but combines texts from the traditional Latin Requiem Mass and the Book of Common Prayer. In addition to the Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, and Lux aeterna, the composer includes Psalm 130 and Psalm 23. Although the masterwork has some necessary dark moments, it is ultimately optimistic in its expression of hope and comfort. Conducted by Minister of Music, Rev. Dr. Todd Prickett, and led by Senior Organist, Janet Pummill, this exquisite and moving piece will be an uplifting addition to your Easter preparations. The hour-long service will also include scripture, prayer and the sharing of the bread and cup.



### **UCC BELL RINGERS**

**UCC Bell Ringers to England** 

UCC's high school handbell choir is in its final preparations for the 10th Quadrennial Tour of England this summer. The fifteen ringers will be joined by 28 others in the congregation to celebrate this momentous trip! The two-week trip will include visits to York, Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath, Nuthurst (where UCC's trips began in 1987!), Windsor, Canterbury, and London. They will visit all the expected tourist sites and perform concerts in some of the country's most revered cathedrals. Please keep these youth and their chaperones in your prayers as they represent our congregation, city and country abroad.

#### **CONNECT WITH US**

Scan the QR code to visit universitychristian.org/music





### DECORATIVE ARTS EXHIBIT

March 5

See church members' remarkable creativity in the Church and the Arts Committee-sponsored Decorative Arts Exhibit on Sunday, March 5, from 9 am to 1 pm in room 207. Exhibit visitors will see examples of inspiring woodworking, textiles, stained glass, mosaics, jewelry, and other crafts. Children 10 and up as well as adults will have work on display.

### OUTREACH

There are so many opportunities for us to serve alongside each other this spring and to join God in loving and caring for one another! Our Creation Care ministry has been renewed in their efforts to care for all of God's creation-working on rebooting our recycling efforts at the church, energy stewardship, and reducing our carbon footprint.

Our Prom Dreams Boutique will once again open its doors for high school students to shop this spring, and our Children's Closet continues to gift hundreds of school uniforms to students each week. The best way for you to stay informed about how you can join us in service to God and our community is by signing up to receive our outreach e-mail Commit to Love.

Scan the QR code to sign up for this monthly newsletter or contact Rev. Jessica Vacketta. Visit the Outreach page on our website to learn more



about what's coming up, and to sign up to serve!





### **ACADEMY 4**

Our 4th grade mentor program at Alice Contreras meets on the follow Fridays for 90 minutes for mentoring (12:40-2:30) and Clubs (11:30am-1:15pm).



Volunteers are always needed to help with set-up, substitute mentor, and assist our Club leaders (activities like soccer and art).



Help our Closet volunteers sort clothes and fill orders of school uniforms for FWISD students. Volunteers fill uniform orders on Mondays and



Thursdays from 10am-12pm and unpack and sort clothing throughout the week and on the weekends.

### COWTOWN GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP

Join our Creation Care ministry on Saturday, March 25 from 8-11am for Fort Worth's largest annual litter clean-up of the year! Online registration opens March 1.

### FORTRESS BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Help us throw a birthday party at Fortress Youth Development Center each month! Cupcakes, balloons, and birthday songs - the joy from the kiddos is contagious!

MARCH 23

APRIL 20

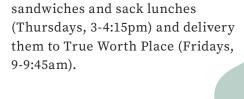
**MAY 18** 





Prom Dreams is open
Thursdays (5:00pm –
7:00pm) and Saturdays
(10:00am – 12:00pm) from
March 2 through April 29.
Volunteers are needed to
serve as sales associates
and help students shop for
dresses. It's like Say Yes to
the Dress, prom edition!





MAR 23 & 24

APR **27 & 28** 

MAY 25 & 26



### **CONNECT WITH US**

Scan the QR code to visit universitychristian.org/outreach



### STUDENT MINISTRY

Spring is a busy and incredible time for Student Ministries at UCC! Below you will see the many and varied ways to plug into our programming as we dive deeper into our semester, and anticipate all of the fun summer will bring. As we look ahead into this spring, I invite you to find something in the ministries offered below that speaks to you or something you'd like for your student to participate in, and visit our website to get more information, or to reach out to me or one of our Directors. We would love to help you get connected into all that Student Ministries has to offer!





**Alison Fitzgerald**Minister to Students

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### YOUTH SUNDAY

May 7 | 9:00 am, TEN:10, and 11:00 am Worship Services

All youth age 7th-12th are invited to organize, participate, and lead in worship on Youth Sunday! We will begin planning this service in mid-April during our Sunday night Youth Groups.

#### SENIOR BANQUET

**Evening of May 7** 

We hope you can mark your calendars as we celebrate and send off a wonderful group of graduating Seniors! More information will be coming out soon for our Seniors and their families.



HIGH SCHOOL

12:15 - 2:00pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL

3:00 - 5:00pm

Join us as we celebrate the end of an incredible year full of new beginnings, sacred study, and fun together! More information on these parties is coming soon. Please sign up for our weekly youth e-news through the church's website to receive more details.

### SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Registration is Open March 1 - May 1

Service-Learning Trips are offered for grades 7-12 and are an incredible way to learn more about issues and injustices that people face every day, while also getting the opportunity to make an impact nationally with our hands and feet. Registration for our annual youth Service-Learning Trips will be open this spring and we hope you'll join us on one of these amazing trips that are always the highlight of the summer for our youth! Service-Learning Trip Dates:

CYF (grades 9-12): June 4 to June 10 – Albuquerque, NM

Chi Rho (grades 7-8): July 17 -20 - Austin, TX July 17-20.





**Linnea Blakemore**Director of Youth Ministry





#### CENTERED

Sundays | 7:30pm to 8:30pm UCC Chapel



Centered is a college worship service led in collaboration with TCU Disciples on Campus designed to connect students with God, each other, and to center

ourselves for the week. All are welcome! Join us to get centered for the week ahead!

### **GROW**

Tuesdays | 4:00pm to 5:00pm College Lounge



A new program this Spring, Grow is a small group space for students to go further & deeper in their relationship with God, with others, and in discipleship

to Jesus. In our gathering, we check in with one another, read scripture, and have conversations about what God is like while asking ourselves what this all means for our lives. Through this time in community, we hope to truly grow more and more into Christ's image.

### FINALS FEAST & FUN

**Evening of May 4th | Courtside Kitchen** 

Finals Feast & Fun is going on the road this Spring to Courtside Kitchen! This event is all about creating space for our college students to fuel up with good food for their finals and decompress through playing pickleball, corn hole, and yard games.

### SPRING RETREAT

March 3-5

All local college students are invited to attend the Spring Retreat hosted at a retreat site about a half an hour away on a peaceful lake. Over this weekend, our students are invited to rest, relax, take a moment to breathe, and spend time with God and each other.

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

Wednesdays | 11:30am to 1:30pm College Lounge



Each week, college students meet in the College Lounge, easily accessed from the "College Corner" (Cantey & Rogers). This staple ministry provides a free meal and time of connection for our local college students.

### COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT CLASS

**Sundays** | 11:00am to 12:00pm | Room 150

College students and twenty-something young adults meet on Sunday mornings after the Ten:10 service in Room 150 to learn about God, meet others, and grow as members of a faith community.

### **CROWDED TABLE DINNER**

Dates & Locations are internally shared.

Crowded Table is a once-a-month dinner gathering for LGBTQ+ college students. Here, we exchange our diverse stories and make every effort to support one another. This group takes seriously the privacy of those who attend, so the date, time, and location of the gathering are provided by reaching out directly to Rev. Alison Fitzgerald or Austin Schmidt.





Austin Schmidt Director of College Ministry

**CONNECT WITH US** 

Scan the QR code to visit universitychristian.org/for-college-student





## CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Children learn faith by doing. Raising children who are empowered to share Christ's transforming love means inviting them into the action of sharing Christ's love—now!

I am excited to continue to encourage families to try "just one thing" to grow in faith each day, each week, each month. All of our children and families programming is designed for you to pick just one thing that works for your family to grow in faith together.





**Rev. Kera Watts**Minister of Children
and Families

### CHILD AND FAMILY DEDICATIONS

MARCH 26

MAY 14 MOTHER'S DAY

APRIL 23

**JUNE 18** FATHER'S DAY

Contact Robin Doyle for more information.

### PARENT NIGHT OUT

**April 28 (Registration March 21-April 21)** 

Infants-5th graders. Registration required. Visit universitychristian.org for more information.

### LENTEN FAMILY FAITH PACKETS

Children experience faith by doing. Let's do Just One Thing for the Lenten season; resources will guide your family with ideas to do Just One Thing to grow in faith. Packets were mailed to families and are available at check-in kiosks and welcome desks.

### UCC KIDS ADVENTURE CAMP

UCC Kids Adventure Camp—Beyond Belief! June 13-15, 9 am to 12 pm for current Twos –Third graders. Registration for UCC Members begins March 1; open registration begins April 1. Adult and Youth Volunteer Registration begins March 1. God's love for us is Beyond Belief! Visit universitychristian.org for more information.

### MISSION VBS COMPASSION CAMP

June 13-15, 9 am to 3 pm

Current 4th, 5th, 6th graders Registration for UCC Members begins March 1; Open registration begins April 1. Visit universitychristian.org for more information.

### **SUMMER FUN 2023**

JUN 27-30

Session 1

JUL 11-14

Session 1

Ages: infant—First grade Registration for UCC Members: February 14-27

#### Open Registration begins March 7

Cost: \$110 UCC members/\$125 non-members Our theme for Summer Fun 2023 is Be Kind! Visit universitychristian.org for more information.

### **FAMILY HOLY WEEK**

Family Holy Week Outdoor Experience is **Good Friday, April 7, 4:30-6 pm.** Your family is invited to walk-through Holy Week at your own pace. Visit universitychristian.org for more information.

### DISCIPLES CROSSING SUMMER CAMPS

Disciples Crossing Summer Camps for Children and Families More information about camps and registrations is available at disciplescrossing. org. Early Bird registration begins **February 19** 

Family Camp (any family make-up with at least one child under 18): May 26-28

DC Grand Camp (4-10 year olds with Grandparent/s) June 2-4 DC Kids (Completed 1st grade-completed 5th grade): June 26-July 30



### CHILDCARE FOR LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

#### **Holy Thursday Service**

Preschool childcare is available for the service.

#### **EveningSong Worship**

Preschool childcare is available for the service.

#### **CONNECT WITH US**

Scan the QR code to visit universitychristian.org/ childrens-ministry



### FAITH FORMATION

Discipleship and curiosity are two of our core values at UCC. As your Discipleship Coordinator, I seek to provide opportunities for people to engage in their faith journey. Join a Sunday School class. Participate in a Circle of Faith. Join a Bible study. Participate in prayer groups. Join in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Sign up for special events such as our most recent event—The Enneagram Journey.





**Rev. Zena McAdams**Coordinator

### SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

On Sunday morning, we currently offer ten diverse classes. Some are age specific while others are multigenerational. Most groups are discussion-oriented with a wide variety of topics, biblical, current events, topics of interest, and service-oriented. Class times vary to accommodate our participants in the Ten:10 worship service. Specifics can be found on our website under Adult ministry

### **TAPESTRY**

Not yet a year old, Tapestry is a flourishing ministry for Millennials—casual in nature and designed for young professionals. They meet on Wednesday evenings to seek, serve, and socialize. Details can be found on the website under Adult Ministry. For more information, contact Mary Ashley Ray. maray413@gmail.com



Wednesday Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 at the church. Discussion oriented, we ponder biblical texts from a historical and critical approach while reflecting how the text is relevant to current times. We encourage people to join with us. More information is available on our current study and can be found on the website under Adult Ministry

### CIRCLES OF FAITH

COF started during the pandemic in 2020 and has evolved into topic-centered small groups with



the intent to build new relationships within the faith community. They are offered in the fall and the spring. Many have described COF as lifegiving Currently, we are in the midst of Circles of Faith groups. We typically offer 10-12 groups each session. Four groups are still available right now, at the time of publication, to join. For more information, check the website under Circles of Faith.









And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,











## MEMBER and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. ENGAGEMENT

One of my jobs is shepherding our guests into membership. It's not hard to convince folks to join us, since UCC is so open, loving and inclusive. Coming to worship is pretty easy, too. The harder part is taking the next step of getting involved. We're hesitant to make ourselves vulnerable to smaller groups but that's where the long-term connection happens.

I've seen how meaningful it is to everyone (no matter age or relationship status) to have a place to grow. I invite you to visit a Sunday School class, look into a Circles of Faith small group and volunteer with our Outreach Ministry. Growth in your faith journey and life-long friends are waiting for you!

introduction to your congregation! It's not scary because you'll be joining a whole group of other New Members. We all love meeting our new UCC family members so prepare to be adored.



Scan the QR code to register for New Member Sunday



### **UCC & YOU SEMINAR**

Sunday, April 16th | 12pm-2:00pm

Room 207- Lunch provided Childcare on request

Membership at UCC means choosing to belong to our church family & joining us on our faith journey. Our UCC & You seminar, led by senior minister, Dr. Russ Peterman, is a great place to learn about the foundations of our theology, the programs we have to support you in your journey & how we can find the ministries you're passionate about. Whether you're brand-new to UCC or have attended services here for years, this seminar is a can't-miss opportunity to help you connect.

#### **CONNECT WITH US**

Scan the QR code to register







**Stacy McCoy** Member Engagement Coordinator

#### **NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**

Sunday, May 21st During the Ten:10 & 11:00 services

New Members, this is your day! Come forward during the Ten:10 or 11:00 service for an



Rev. Dr. Zena McAdams is the Discipleship Coordinator for Adult Ministries. She works with Sunday School classes, develops programming for our Circles of Faith small group ministry, works with women's minintries, facilitates Wednesday Adult Bible study, and frequently leads/teaches various groups. leads/teaches.



**Rev. Zena McAdams** Coordinator

### FIRST FRIDAY FUN DAY

First Friday Fun Day Friends gather to spend time together and play games in Room 150 at 10:00 am.

All are welcome to join in the fun!

#### **CONNECT WITH US** •

Scan the QR code to visit universitychristian.org/ ministries-for-adults



### **FAITHFUL FIT FOREVER**

Faithfully Fit Forever, a holistic wellness and exercise program geared for older adults though all ages are welcome, meets each week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:00am in Room 205. Includes 45 minutes of exercise, health education and devotional time.

### **GENTLE YOGA**

Mondays from 9:30 - 10:30am Room 205

This in-person class is led by yoga instructor Julie Vitek.



Each session is \$5. Please bring your own mat.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Ministry Gathering with other women is "soul" time —a time to connect, share, think, nurture, and just be yourself. We are missing you!

### LATTE WITH THE LADIES

Latte with the Ladies Women gather once a month for Saturday "me" time to be refreshed and nourished in Christian friendship. We gather on the second Saturday of each month at the Panera's on University Drive. Coffee, tea, a bite to eat, and great conversations help us build relationships with other women of faith. All women are invited. No reservations required.

#### WILD WOMEN'S CLUB



Our Wild Women Book Clubs are thriving with a diverse gathering of women, books of all kinds, great discussions, and lots of laughter define these two groups, differentiated by the names—Wild Women MONDAY (in-person) and Wild Women TUESDAY (Hybrid—in-person at church and Zoom). Check the website for book lists and dates. New members and friends are always welcome. No reservations are needed. If you want your name on the email list, please contact Zena McAdams, zena.mcadams@uccftw.com.

#### **CONNECT WITH US**

Scan the QR code to visit universitychristian.org/womens-ministry





### MEN'S MINISTRY

We think it's essential for men to grow together in community, support one another, and dive deeper into what it means to be a person of faith. There's a need in our church to gather men together, and our quarterly Men's Breakfast offers the chance to do just that in an informal way, where all men are welcome. Our mission is to support spiritual growth, fellowship, and community service among men, helping them to grow as disciples of Christ. We hope to provide opportunities – specifically for men – for fellowship, discipleship, and mission that equip and encourage men to serve and lead others.



Angelon-

### MEN'S QUARTERLY BREAKFAST

#### Saturday, March 25 at 8:00-9:30am

A Men's Fellowship breakfast is scheduled for March 25 in Walker Hall. The Reverend Dr. Steve Wilde, who preached at UCC in the fall, will be leading a short program. We are hoping to make this a quartely event moving forward. It has been a few years since this has happend. Aimed at all men in the congregation.



**Steve Wilde** Guest Speaker

### OUR VISION

TRANFORMING THE WORLD BY LIVING OUT CHRIST'S COURAGEOUS LOVE.

### OUR MISSION

**♦ SEEK THE SACRED** 

COMMIT TO LOVE

**◆ EMPOWER TO SERVE** 

### DISCIPLESHIP

As member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we are committed to following Jesus Christ with open minds and loving hearts as we work to bring about wholeness in a fragmented world.

### INCLUSIVITY

God created you to be you. We welcome all people, understanding that our conversations and relationships, and thus our work, becomes richer when we listen to each other, rather than we turn people away.

### **COMPASSION**

Jesus' compassionate spirit is at the heart of everything we do. We are called to care for one another as we experience each other's vulnerability, and we are equipped to carry that compassion into the world.

### **CURIOSITY**

We don't pretend to have all the answers, and we don't shy away from big questions about who God is and what God is calling us to do.

### **GENEROSITY**

We respond to God's abundance with gratitude as we invest in God's calling for our community. Our giving doesn't begin and end with our finances. We commit our spiritual gifts and talents back to God.

### OUR CORE VALUES

### **VULNERABILITY**

Together we create brave spaces where we can be honest and open about where we are on our spiritual journey. It is in these brave spaces where we do the work of discernment to uncover what God is calling us to do, both as individuals and as a community of faith.

AN OPEN-HEARTED CHURCH FOR CURIOUS-MINDED PEOPLE.



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