



# JOURNEY

*WINTER 2024 EDITION*

**UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*[www.universitychristian.org](http://www.universitychristian.org)*



*Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman*  
*Senior Minister*

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Back in 2019, just before the world changed as we knew it, our congregation's leadership engaged in a process of strategic discernment to identify a handful of priorities that would help shape and strengthen our congregation in the coming years. This type of planning, we anticipated, would create our path for the next 3-5 years. Building on our vision, mission and core values, we identified three essential areas of growth: to **grow younger, grow deeper, and grow outward**. Within each of these mission imperatives we determined strategic priorities that would help us reach those goals. Four years later, I am pleased to share with you a progress report.

### Grow Younger

While UCC has had some success in this area, we needed more focus on reaching young families, young adults and youth.

- We determined we needed a worship service that offers a Sunday morning alternative to traditional worship. Out of this was born our TEN:10 worship service, which launched in August of 2021. TEN:10 attendance this year is near capacity on many Sundays.

- We developed a more vibrant Sunday morning experience by revamping social media, prioritized high quality childcare, and preparing to update our facility through the Cornerstone Project to create a more welcoming environment, update children and youth spaces, provide added security, and help visitors more easily navigate our facility.
- We cast a new vision for Student Ministry that offers continuity in faith formation from middle-school through college.

### Grow Deeper

A primary role of the church is to help people grow deeper in their faith journey. As this happens, members become more committed and connected. In 2019, participation in adult faith formation was low and mostly limited to Sunday mornings.

- To offer more ways to grow deeper, we launched our Circles of Faith ministry—a robust and intentional small group ministry for adults. This year we have had more than 270 people engaged in at least one Circle of Faith!
- Churches that are most alive and thriving are those that set high expectations from their members. We created a Discipleship Path to share with prospective members at our UCC & You seminars.
- We added a Member Engagement Coordinator to encourage members to connect and grow in their faith.

### Grow Outward

While Outreach is one of UCC's hallmarks, the pandemic encouraged us to be more hands-on in our approach to local missions. Our hope was to develop a signature ministry linked to children's literacy, which Mayor Betsy Price identified as one of the greatest concerns of our community.

- Three years ago we connected with a new ministry partner, Academy 4, and committed to



provide a mentor for every 4th grade student at Alice Contreras Elementary School. This year we have more than 110 mentors and volunteers. We have expanded to offer Leader 5, which with the help of our volunteers, empowers the fifth graders we mentored last year to demonstrate their leadership skills by mentoring younger students.

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As we give thanks for new momentum and new members and mark the incredible milestone of 150 years as The University's Church, it's time for us to think about what's next. I recently attended a church leadership conference in Kansas City in which Carey Nieuwhof, one of the most visionary church leaders around today, spoke on what he believes to be some of the important trends in the church over next 10 years. He suggested that in the next decade the churches that will thrive will place an even greater emphasis on digital ministry. Younger generations, he said, will want less performance and more presence; less production and more participation; less noise and more space; less personality and more humility; less head and more heart.

Nieuwhof also reminded us that churches that continually look back never move forward. So, over the next several months our ministry team and congregational leadership will prayerfully seek a new set of strategic priorities that allow us to build on the success of the last five years and continue to shape and strengthen University Christian Church in the coming days. I hope you will pray for these important conversations. I can't wait to share the results with you in the coming months.

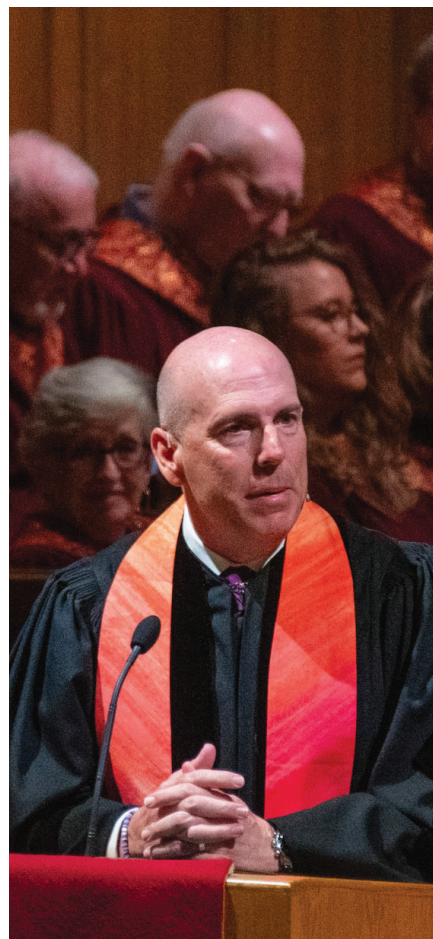
I'm excited and invigorated about our future as we embark on the next 150 years of being church together, as we dare to dream big dreams, and partner with God to transform the world by living out Christ's courageous love.

With gratitude and hope,



**Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman**  
Senior Minister

*Transforming the world  
by living out Christ's  
courageous love.*



# 2023 MINISTRY



**1526**

Attend Christmas Eve Worship



**1183**

Attend Easter Sunday Worship  
(In person and online)



**\$31,000**

Given to community/global  
partners through Gifts of Hope



**318**

Children in FWISD receive  
Christmas Angels gift bags



**92**

New members join UCC



**1183**

Members serving as  
Newcomer Links



**20**

Memorial services including  
169 hours of volunteer support



**1564**

Volunteer shifts completed  
by UCC greeters



**700**

Sack lunches prepared/  
delivered to True Worth Place



**\$72,000**

In ministry funds provided  
through Endowment earnings



**\$21,672**

For Christmas Eve offering  
to Tarrant Co. Homeless Coalition



**\$28,000**

In Page Scholarships awarded  
to underserved college students



**10**

New members of the  
Legacy Society



**\$20,375**

Donated to Children's Closet  
on North Texas Giving Day



**140**

Men experiencing homelessness  
hosted by Room in the Inn



**\$239,000**

Outreach grants provided to  
community partners





**8944**

Adult Sunday School check-ins



**271**

Participants in Circles of Faith small groups



**1587**

Personal contact through Congregational Care Ministers



**603**

Personal responses to prayer concern cards



**962**

Givers contributed nearly \$3.2 million



**431**

UCC volunteers honored at Outreach appreciation event



**125**

Children and volunteers attend kids adventure camp



**22**

Girls select homecoming dresses, shoes & accessories at Prom Dreams Boutique



**2850**

Sunday morning check-ins for Children's Ministry



**125**

Backpacks blessed for the school year



**1515**

People blessed by Family Service Sunday projects



**10**

Children & families blessed and dedicated in worship



**2250**

Hours of mentoring 4th graders at Alice Contreras Elementary



**100**

Birthdays celebrated with children at Fortress Youth Development Center



UCC Bell Ringers played concerts in 6 cities across England



More than 2,000 attend 45th Annual Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival

# WORSHIP



## TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9 and 11 am, 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 for these services, but formal attire is not required! Both services are live-streamed on our website at [universitychristian.org/live](http://universitychristian.org/live) and the 11am service is broadcast on 88.7 KTCU.



### CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org/live](http://universitychristian.org/live)

## SIMPLE WORSHIP

9:30 am, 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 in a brief, family-friendly time frame. Participate in person or via zoom.



### CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code with  
Zoom Registration for Simple Worship



*In John 10:10, Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance."*

## Ten:10

10:10 am, Walker Hall

That verse is the basis for TEN:10 our alternative worship experience. Now well into its second year, this casual worship service is thriving! UCC's Senior Minister, Russ Peterman is the lead pastor and our music leader is Stephanie Hord, a talented singer and guitarist.



TEN:10

At TEN:10 you'll find relevant and thought-provoking messages and an eclectic variety of music. The welcoming, coffeehouse-style atmosphere helps us bring folks to UCC who don't connect with traditional-style worship. With delicious Ampersand coffee, scrumptious snacks, and a table for kids to color at and play, there's truly something for everyone at TEN:10. Following the service each week, we have an informal Post-Worship Conversation to dive deeper into the message and scripture.

There are plenty of opportunities for you to participate in leading worship! We always need scripture readers and communion servers.

**Got questions? Contact Shannon Moore**  
[shannon.moore@uccftw.com](mailto:shannon.moore@uccftw.com)



### CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org/ten10](http://universitychristian.org/ten10)

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

November 29, 6-7:30 pm, Walker Hall

Let's have an old-fashioned Christmas celebration to kick off the holiday season. We'll share a simple meal of soup and sandwiches, design ornaments, decorate trees, play games and sing Christmas songs & carols. Something for all ages!



@uccftw

@uccfortworth

**FOLLOW US**

## MIDWEEK ADVENT REFLECTION

For three weeks during the season of Advent, we will gather in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd to reflect on scripture and beloved Advent hymns. The Chapel will be available at 6:15 pm for a time of quiet meditation and the service will begin at 6:30 pm. Preschool childcare is available. Contact Rev. Shannon Moore for more information [shannon.moore@uccftw.com](mailto:shannon.moore@uccftw.com).

## ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES



This Advent season we will focus on some surprising gifts that come to us if we are able to be patient, still, and pay attention.

Traditionally, when we think of Advent, we immediately call to mind Mary, Joseph, and the angel Gabriel. But in the Gospel of Luke, Zechariah and Elizabeth are the first two people we meet in the Advent narrative. They'll be our guides in this journey through Advent and will teach us about the living in the pain of unanswered prayers, the power of silence and simplicity, the blessing of life-giving relationships, and the promise of God to make a way, even when it seems no way is to be found.

**DEC 3**

**UNANSWERED PRAYER**  
Luke 1: 5-7

**DEC 10**

**SILENCE AND SIMPLICITY**  
Luke 1: 8-23

**DEC 17**

**A SENSE OF BELONGING**  
Luke 1: 39-45, 56

**DEC 24**

**A SENSE OF BELONGING**  
Luke 1: 39-45, 56

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**10:10AM • TEN:10 SERVICE**  
IN WALKER HALL

**11 AM • LESSONS & CAROLS**  
IN SANCTUARY

**5 PM • FAMILY SERVICE**  
IN SANCTUARY

**8 PM • TRADITIONAL SERVICE**  
IN SANCTUARY

**11 PM • TRADITIONAL SERVICE**  
IN SANCTUARY

Join us as we celebrate Christ's birth at UCC. The day begins with a TEN:10-style Christmas Eve service at 10:10 am in Walker Hall, with acoustic guitar-led music and communion. At 11 am we will gather in the sanctuary for a service of Lessons & Carols. The 5:00 family service will invite children to experience the Christmas story in an exciting way, complete with live animals, handbells, and carol singing.

The 8 and 11 am services will feature candlelight and Communion; music for both services will be led by the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir and guest instrumentalists accompanied by our talented organists. Please make plans to join us as we celebrate God's love together!

*Childcare will be available for all preschool ages during the 8:00pm worship service. Childcare for 0-Threes is available during the Family Christmas Eve Service.*



### CONNECT WITH US

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[universitychristian.org](http://universitychristian.org)





# MUSIC MINISTRY



UCC's Music Ministry will be sharing the joyous news of the Christ Child's birth through song this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. In addition to weekly worship anthems, our singers, ringers, and organists will offer two special opportunities to celebrate the season...



## CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org/music](http://universitychristian.org/music)

## UCC MUSIC MINISTRY CHRISTMAS CONCERT "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!"

Thursday, December 14, 7 pm

Join the Chancel Choir, all three handbell choirs, pipe organ and trumpets in our beautifully decorated Sanctuary for this joyous concert. Led by our choirmasters and organists, familiar carols and new festive music will provide the perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit. In addition, TCU's new Director of Jazz Studies, Allen Cordingley, will add some gospel flare on the alto saxophone. Admission is free. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## 46TH ANNUAL BOAR'S HEAD & YULE LOG FESTIVAL

Saturday, January 6, 3 pm & 5 pm

Sunday, January 7, 3 pm & 5 pm

This is one of the oldest and most stunning festivals of Christmas. Travel back in time to the 14th century and relive the magnificent story of Christ's birth like you've never seen before. You will feel the floor shake and your excitement rise as the Beefeaters make their way into the Sanctuary. The enchantment of the Renaissance comes to life through stunning costumes and masterfully composed music performed by the members of the UCC Chancel Choir, Youth Bell Choirs and Fort Worth Civic Orchestra. Limited reserved seating will be on sale for \$15 beginning Monday, November 27, by calling 817-926-6631. As always, there are hundreds of free seats available.



**Rev. Dr. Todd Prickett**

Minister of Music  
[todd.prickett@uccftw.com](mailto:todd.prickett@uccftw.com)

# MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org](http://universitychristian.org)



It's been such an honor for me to serve UCC as Member Engagement Coordinator for the past 4 years. The position did not exist when I joined the staff so it's been fun getting to pave the road with new ideas and processes. What made it most fun was to see the way so many of our members stepped up to help me identify guests on Sunday mornings and the genuine interest we all have in making sure those guests feel welcome and comfortable here.

I now understand (more than ever) that University Christian Church is a unique place for believers and even not-so-sure believers to come to find a safe space to pursue their faith journey. I have seen so many come to our newcomers' seminar (UCC & You) in search of something they have not found at other churches. We are a place to question and perhaps even heal from the taught theologies of our past. I cannot count the number of times I've heard, "I didn't know that a church like this existed."

UCC's congregation is growing at time that many are not. This can be attributed to many things, like an impressive clergy team, excellent lay leaders and a proactive congregation. All of these people create a church full of possibility and hope in the midst of a world that can seem sad and scary.

If you're looking for a church home, we'd love for you to give us a chance by worshiping with us and letting us welcome you to this place that gives us hope, every week. If you're a seasoned member, I encourage you to find new ways to serve. We're growing and we need you!

*Stacy McCoy*  
Stacy McCoy



**Stacy McCoy**

Retiring Member Engagement  
Coordinator



*Stacy McCoy is thrilled to have Lee Nelson as our new Member Engagement Coordinator. They have worked together for years welcoming guests and guiding them on the path to membership.*

## UCC & YOU NEWCOMER SEMINAR

**Monday, January 22, 6-8 pm**

Visitors and new members: Join us for dinner and spend time with Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman as he leads a discussion about Disciples of Christ theology and the core values of University Christian Church. Russ will share what it means to be a member at UCC and answer questions you may have. Child care is available by request.



# ADULT MINISTRY

As your Discipleship Coordinator, I invite you to “lean-in” to growing your faith by participating in one of the many ways for intentional learning and exploring ways to belong to the UCC community. To follow in the Way of Jesus Christ, we are called to expand our knowledge and understandings—neither is particularly simple. In fact, discipleship is hard, but it leads us to God’s transforming love made known in his beloved Son.



**Rev. Dr. Zena McAdams**

Discipleship Coordinator  
[zena.mcadams@uccftw.com](mailto:zena.mcadams@uccftw.com)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

On Sunday mornings, we currently offer a variety of diverse classes/groups. 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. We have offerings at the 10 and 11 hours. Information can be found on the website under Adult ministries. This fall, we also had two Circles of Faith at the 11 time slot. Most likely, we will again offer COF groups at the same time.

## TAPESTRY

Tapestry is a flourishing ministry for Millennials—casual in nature and designed for young professionals. They meet on Wednesday evenings in Room 150 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](mailto:maray413@gmail.com).



## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study provides a discussion-oriented opportunity to study scripture from a historical and critical perspective while reflecting on how the text is relevant to the urgent times we live in today. We meet weekly (except for July) at 9:45 am in Room 150. Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcomed into an inclusive study group as we ponder biblical texts and ask lots of questions. Please, join us!

## CIRCLES OF FAITH

Circles of Faith are a small group ministry of UCC. We usually offer 12-15 groups each fall and spring. Our COF groups vary: bible studies, progressive theology, the Enneagram, justice-oriented topics, prayer groups, crafts and spirituality, to name a few. The intent is to grow in faith and in relationships. Many participants describe them as life-giving experiences—a place of connection. Groups will begin the last week of January and extend until the Easter season. Length of groups and group sizes vary. Registrations forms will be available on the website after Christmas.

## BANNED BOOK CLUB

This book club is a thriving new group that started in September. We meet monthly on the 4th Thursday at 1:30 pm in Room 206, UCC. Each month, we will be reading books that are currently challenged for high school young people. We will look critically, from a faith perspective, at content, author, and reasons for particular books being challenged and offer opinions on whether we agree or disagree. The purpose is to be informed about said challenges impacting schools in many states. Lively discussions. All are welcome to join us.

## WELLNESS MINISTRY

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry knits shawls to be given in gratitude, to those undertaking a new journey in life, to those facing surgery or loss, and to babies at the time of their blessing and dedication. Anyone, regardless of experience, is encouraged to come! All ages are welcome. Sundays at 5 pm (in-person and Zoom) and Wednesdays at 11 am in Room 206. Contact Mary Jane Alland at [mj.alland@att.net](mailto:mj.alland@att.net) with any questions.



## FAITHFULLY 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 am in Room 205. The hour includes exercise, health education and devotional time.

## GENTLE YOGA

**Mondays from 9:30 - 10:30 am | 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

### LATTE WITH THE LADIES

Latte with the Ladies meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Panera's on South University, at 9:00 am for coffee, pastries, and/or breakfast. If you are seeking to make connections with women in the church, join us for conversation and fellowship. For more information, contact Zena McAdams at [zena.mcadams@uccftw.com](mailto:zena.mcadams@uccftw.com).

### WILD WOMEN'S BOOK CLUBS

We have two Book clubs meeting monthly for lively discussions of fiction, non-fiction and/or faith-based books. Book info for meetings are available on the UCC website.

#### Wild Women MONDAY group

December 18, Christmas Party, Leslie Dell's home, 6 pm  
January 15, La Madeline's on Camp Bowie, 6 pm  
February 19, La Madeline's on Camp Bowie, 6 pm

#### Wild Women TUESDAY group

December 19, Christmas Party, UCC, Noon  
January 16, UCC in Room 206, Noon  
February 20, UCC in Room 206, Noon

## WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

The annual Women's Christmas Tea is set for Saturday, December 9, at the Rose Garden Tea Room, The Mercantile. High tea will be served at 1:30 pm. Not only is high tea a special treat, but the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping is a plus! Registrations are required and the cost is \$25 per person.



## MEN'S MINISTRY

### MEN'S QUARTERLY BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry Quarterly Breakfast is scheduled for December 9 in Room 207 at 8 am. The program will be announced at a later date.

Please plan to come and participate in the Boar's Head stage build on Sunday, December 31 at 1 pm. Tools that will be useful are gloves, 9/16" ratchet, head lamp, and knee pads if you have them. Stage strike date is TBD.

One Man's Treasure is an organization that seeks to empower men recently released from Texas state men's prisons who come to the Northeast Texas areas by providing them with clothing and opportunities for networking. To read more about this ministry, visit: <https://www.onemanstrong.org/>.

The UCC Men's Ministry has decided to partner in this ministry as it is being extended to Fort Worth. We will collect new and gently used shoes, pants and shirts. UCC men, who will be called "Shepherds", will deliver this clothing. The idea is to give clothing that will be used to help find work and, more importantly, show that we care. We invite UCC men to join us in being "Shepherds." We invite all of UCC to donate gently used clothing and money to help us purchase clothing for this ministry. If you are interested in learning more about how we plan to support, please contact Mark Alland, Roy Gover, or Larry Borne.



**Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman**  
Senior Minister



### CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org/ministry-for-adults](http://universitychristian.org/ministry-for-adults)

### CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org/mensministry](http://universitychristian.org/mensministry)



# FAMILY MINISTRIES



How is your family engaging in faith? Children learn faith at home through the intentional efforts of families modeling faithful behavior and inviting children to join. As we raise children who are empowered to share Christ's transforming love, we continue to invite children and families to make faith a part of their everyday lives. Children's Ministries is excited to continue to encourage asking BIG questions and wondering about faith and has designed programming, service opportunities and at-home resources for your family to be equipped to foster growing in faith daily.



**Rev. Kera Watts**

Minister of Children and Families  
[kera@uccftw.com](mailto:kera@uccftw.com)

## CHILD AND FAMILY DEDICATIONS

DECEMBER

17

JANUARY

14

FEBRUARY

11

Please contact [Robin.Doyle@uccftw.com](mailto:Robin.Doyle@uccftw.com) to register and confirm a dedication for your family.

## PARENTS NIGHT OUT

**February 9**

Compassion is one of our core values and it is required when raising young children. Infants through fifth graders are invited to spend a fun night at UCC while parents and caregivers have an opportunity to get away and reconnect.

**Infants-5th graders. Registration required. Visit [universitychristian.org](http://universitychristian.org) for more information.**

## DC KIDS MIDWINTER RETREAT: 1st-5th GRADERS

**January 26-28**

**Registration begins December 4.**

**Register through Disciples Crossing.**

DC Kid Campers will engage in faith and Bible stories through interactive and creative learning, and energetic worship experiences in the beauty of Disciples Crossing. UCC is responsible for providing sponsors for children registered through UCC. If your child is attending, please be available to serve.

## BRIDGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

**December 3, 5 pm to 6:30 pm**

**Fourth-Sixth Graders**

Join us for a progressive dinner scavenger hunt through the church as we remember the Christmas story and have a lot of fun along the way.



## CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org/childrens-ministry](http://universitychristian.org/childrens-ministry)



## WEEKDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR UCC MEMBERS

**January 29-February 1**



Weekday School is a ministry to families in our community that focuses on living out our UCC Core Values in developmentally appropriate ways. WDS Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year will be open to currently enrolled families and church members for any available openings. Email Robin Doyle, **robin.doyle@uccftw.com**, with questions or for waitlist information.

## THIRD GRADE BIBLES

**Bible Presentations in Worship: January 21**

Learning to Use My Bible:  
January 28-March 3

Gifting each third grader with a Bible from UCC is a favorite tradition. Part of this gift is a specialized class to prepare third graders to engage in God's word for a lifetime. If you would like your third grader to participate, please contact Robin Doyle at [robin.doyle@uccftw.com](mailto:robin.doyle@uccftw.com).

## FAMILY SERVICE SUNDAY

**January 21, 4 - 5 pm**

Gather as a family to serve together with other families. Fun, fellowship, service and growing in faith. Opportunities to serve for ALL ages!

## KIDS ADVENTURE CAMP AND MISSION VBS

**June 11-13**

Registration begins March 1  
KAC for Preschool-completed Third graders,  
9 am to 12 pm

Mission VBS—completed 4th-6th Graders 9 am to 3 pm (6th graders can choose to volunteer for KAC if they prefer) Save the date so you can be a part of this incredible week of learning, serving and growing in faith as we learn to recognize God at work in the world.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve morning we will have no K-fifth grade programming. Preschool childcare only will be available for the TEN:10 and 11 am services. Childcare for 0-Threes is available during the 5 pm Family Christmas Eve Service. Childcare will be available for all preschool ages during the 8 pm worship services.



**Robin Doyle**

Ministry Assistant for Children  
[robin.doyle@uccftw.com](mailto:robin.doyle@uccftw.com)





# STUDENT MINISTRY

As our fall semester wraps up and our spring semester begins, Student Ministries has many and varied ways for you or your student to get looped into all of our ministry's opportunities for exploring faith, building community, and having a whole lot of fun. I invite you to find a program below that speaks to you and to find more information by visiting our website, joining our weekly e-newsletters, or reaching out to either Austin or me. We would love to help you get connected to all of the wonderful programming our Student Ministries have to offer.



**Alison Fitzgerald**

Minister to Students  
[alison.fitzgerald@uccftw.com](mailto:alison.fitzgerald@uccftw.com)

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### YOUTH GROUPS

**Sundays | Room 211 | 5 - 6 pm**

Evening Youth Groups continue this winter with great opportunities to be curious, compassionate and to be in community with one another. We begin each evening at 5:00 pm with a game, move to smaller group activities, and end with devotion time led by our high school leadership team. Youth Group is always a great time. Please join us!



### CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org/youth](http://universitychristian.org/youth)

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

### Wednesday evenings

Community Groups are a wonderful way for youth to spend time growing their faithful community in smaller group settings! Our high schoolers (9th – 12th grade) and middle schoolers (7th – 8th grade) meet in the middle of the week to check-in, re-center, and have a lot of fun.

## YOUTH SUNDAY

**February 11 | 9 am, TEN:10, and  
11 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 January during our Sunday night Youth Groups. Come and help us lead worship in a way only we can do!

## DISCIPLES CLASS

### Begins in February

Disciples Class is held for any of our youth who are interested in taking the next step in their faith journey by getting baptized or having their previous baptism confirmed. Together we'll walk through what that commitment means by discussing the what and how of being a part of the Disciples of Christ denomination, belonging to a community, and furthering our relationship with God. Registration for Disciples Class will go out in early December.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday | 11 am | College Lounge**

Youth grades 6 – 12 are invited to join us for Sunday School on Sunday mornings following the TEN:10 service. In this class we will be discussing the scripture for the day, the sermon, and how it applies to our lives. We hope you can join us.

# COLLEGE MINISTRY



## CENTERED

Sundays | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | Chapel

Centered is a worship service designed to connect with God, each other, and to center ourselves for the week. Each week we sing, discuss, pray, and share in communion with each other. It's the perfect way to get centered for your week! Please join us!



## FINALS FEAST & FUN

December 7 | 6 pm

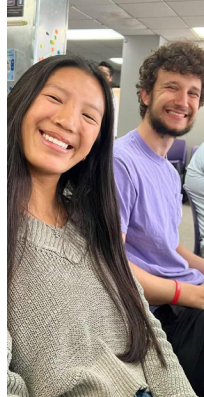
College Lounge and Coyote Drive-In

Finals Feast is taking a fun twist this semester! We'll begin our time with a delicious dinner in our College Lounge and then we'll all hop into cars and head to Coyote Drive-In Movie Theater to catch a flick to unwind before the intensity of finals sets in. Join us for some great food, connection, and a movie outside to take off the edge of finals.

## GROW

Weekly Meeting | College Lounge

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, and create space to discuss our faith in relation to the world around and in us. Through this time in community, we hope to truly grow more and more into Christ's image.



## CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org/for-college-student](http://universitychristian.org/for-college-student)



## LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesdays

11:30 am - 1:30 pm | College Lounge

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



## YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 11 am - 12 pm | 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

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. If you want to learn more information, check out our Instagram or reach out to Rev. Alison Fitzgerald or Austin Schmidt.



**Austin Schmidt**

Director of College Ministry  
[austin.schmidt@uccftw.com](mailto:austin.schmidt@uccftw.com)



# OUTREACH



## LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

UCC continues to have a meaningful impact in our community because of the hours put in by the Outreach Committee and Outreach volunteers. The work done by these members of our congregation is truly inspiring! I am thankful to be able to work alongside and learn from such a dedicated community.



*Chandry Manzke*  
Chandry Manzke,  
Outreach Committee Chair



## CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org/outreach](http://universitychristian.org/outreach)

## CHRISTMAS ANGELS

**Save the Date! Christmas Angels Wrap Night**  
**Sunday, December 10 at 5 pm**

Christmas Angels has been providing a gift to FWISD elementary students for the past 30 years! The red bag includes a new jacket, jeans, uniform sweatshirt, shoes, socks, underwear, a toy, book and a Bible. Each student is picked by a counselor on their campus, and as a church we rally together to provide this amazing gift. Every person who participates in Christmas Angels is vital—those who donate money, shoppers who find the right sizes for more than 300 boys and girls, those who help set up everything on Christmas Angel day, and more than 100 volunteers who help us to fill those red bags on "Wrap Night."



Personally, I love watching generations come together on Wrap Night to visit, share stories, and laugh as they assemble the bags. Jesus shared with us in Matthew "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." As a church, we are providing children who would often go without a warm jacket or a new book at home something to look forward to on Christmas Day and in turn sharing God's love with those around us.



*Kristin Harman*  
Kristin Harman,  
Christmas Angels Chairperson





## GIFTS OF HOPE

UCC's annual Gifts of Hope Market is a testament to our congregation's commitment to local and global outreach. Each year we feature organizations that we love, allowing you to provide symbolic gifts to your friends and loved ones, while supporting these amazing organizations.

The Gifts of Hope Market is no small feat. We rely on our partners from the different organizations we feature, as well as dedicated volunteers from UCC, for the success of this meaningful and important event. I am so honored to be a part of this beloved tradition; I am always amazed at the outpouring of love and dedication that UCC shows for those in our community and far beyond by supporting Gifts of Hope each year.



*Kim McAdams-Baker*  
Kim McAdams-Baker,  
Gifts of Hope Chairperson



## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Since 1915, ACH Child & Family Services has been protecting children and preserving families in Fort Worth. Their programs are designed to prevent child abuse, neglect, and family separate and help heal and treat children already impacted by these tragedies. University Christian Church is proud to partner with ACH and dedicate our 2023 Christmas Eve Offering to this outstanding organization.



**Melanie Williams**

Administrative Assistant  
[melanie.williams@uccftw.com](mailto:melanie.williams@uccftw.com)



## CONNECT WITH US

Scan the QR code to visit  
[universitychristian.org/volunteer](https://universitychristian.org/volunteer)



# 2023 Order Form



Organizations/Gifts	Each	Qty	Total
<b>UCC Signature Outreach Ministries</b>			
<b>Christmas Angels Gift Bag</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bible	\$6		
<input type="checkbox"/> Toy	\$12		
<input type="checkbox"/> Shoes	\$20		
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Bag (Coat, shoes, bible)	\$100		
<b>Children's Closet</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> One pair of pants & shorts	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Two polo shirts	\$13		
<input type="checkbox"/> A uniform set (2 shirts, 1 pant, socks & underwear)	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Supports the purchase of new socks & underwear	\$100		
<input type="checkbox"/> Back to School "Starter Kit"	\$1250		
<b>Emergency Assistance</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily Bus Pass	\$4		
<input type="checkbox"/> McDonald's Gift Card	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gas Card	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kroger Card	\$50		
<input type="checkbox"/> Utility Assistance	\$100		
<b>Page Scholarship</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> College scholarships awarded to local high school students	\$50		
<b>Disciples of Christ Ministries</b>			
<b>Global Ministries</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide face masks & hygiene kits	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant a tree in East Jerusalem	\$20		
<input type="checkbox"/> Water purification system	\$60		
<b>Southwest Good Samaritans Ministries</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Uniforms and supplies for Casa Hogar Bethel Orphanage	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Meals for the hungry through Ministerios Mericorida in Matamoros	\$35		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus tickets, clothing and meals for 25-30 refugees each month.	\$50		
<b>Week of Compassion</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene supplies for displaced persons in Gaza	\$5		
<input type="checkbox"/> School supplies for a girl in Afghanistan	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> One box of flooring for a home damaged by disaster in the U.S.	\$35		

Organizations/Gifts	Each	Qty	Total
<b>Local Partners</b>			
<b>Academy 4</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Provides an A4 tshirt to a mentor	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor one A4 student for a month	\$35		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fund one Spark Club for a year	\$250		
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide A4 workbook to every 4th grader	\$500		
<b>ACH Child and Family Services</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene kit for a teen in foster care	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> Duffle bag of necessities for a youth in the Youth Emergency Shelter	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Anti-bullying skill-builder class	\$50		
<b>DRC Solutions</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Postage for someone to get their birth certificate	\$5		
<input type="checkbox"/> Apartment application fees for a family escaping homelessness	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Seed gift to help purchase a truck for the Street Outreach Team	\$100		
<b>Fortress</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Funding playground equipment	\$12		
<input type="checkbox"/> Feed one parent class	\$30		
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide one Family Christmas gift at our Christmas Celebration	\$50		
<b>LGBTQ Saves</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> One week of groceries for a struggling youth	\$30		
<input type="checkbox"/> Helps a transgender youth obtain transition related supplies	\$50		
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide new clothes to a youth in need	\$75		
<b>Tarrant Area Food Bank</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> A week of fresh produce	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 meals for children	\$50		
<b>Global Partners</b>			
<b>Heifer International</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Share of a goat (Total goat is \$120) Goat's milk can be used to make cheese & butter or sold for income.	\$12		
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Basket Provides family with a variety of nutritious products to help overcome hunger	\$20		
<input type="checkbox"/> Honeybees	\$30		

Your Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Paid By: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card   Last 4 digits of credit card used: _____	<b>Grand Total:</b>
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## GIFTS OF HOPE MINISTRIES PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS 2023

**Christmas Angels** provides children with a holiday gift that builds confidence and encourages play.

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

**UCC Emergency Assistance Fund** allows us to meet the needs of our neighbors, in the moment, by providing a meal, bus pass, gas card, groceries, utilities assistance, and more.

**UCC's Page Scholarship** awards partial college scholarships to seniors in Tarrant County.

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

**Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries** provides assistance and care to hundreds of people in need along the Texas Border, especially Central American political refugees, and individuals from other countries in political and economic turmoil.

**Week of Compassion** is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**Academy 4** is a mentoring program that equips communities and churches to build lasting relationships with schools and families. UCC partners with Alice Contreras Elementary School to support 4th, 1st, and 5th graders, and their families.

**ACH Child and Family Services** brings needed resources and skills to children and families struggling with life's challenges. Some programs keep families together, while others provide a healing home for children who can't live with their family.

**DRC- Community Solutions to End Homelessness** provides respectful, responsible, and effective community-based solutions to help individuals and families emerge from homelessness as productive, healthy people.

**Fortress Youth Development Center** provides hope and resources for children and their families through programs focused on academic, social-emotional, and spiritual support.

**LGBTQ Saves** provides a safe and brave space for social and personal development for LGBTQ youth and allies. Their mission is to create a community where all youth are safe.

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

**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.



**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.

## 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.



46th  
BOAR'S  
HEAD  
YULE LOG FESTIVAL

JANUARY  
6th and 7th

SHOWINGS  
3 pm and 5 pm

University  
Christian Church

The poster features a large, detailed illustration of a medieval-style festival scene with many people in period costumes, including children and adults, gathered in a church-like setting. The text is overlaid on this illustration. A central logo consists of a black shield with a white stylized cross and two red hearts. Below the shield is a grey banner with the church's name.





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CHURCH

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*Open minds.  
Loving hearts.*