

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

November 12, 2017
11:00 am

Sermon:

“Be Prepared”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Matthew 25:1-13

Anthem:

If Ye Love Me — Tallis

Deacons: *Bill Jesser, Alice Batten, Debra Bryant, Joe Zhu, Lynda Tweel, Peter Ohlms

Nursery Workers: Aimee Marshall, Laura Faye & Carter Groff

Children’s Church: Sarah Buchanan, Joey Hamel

Ushers for November: Shirley Clark, Sally Chewning, Martha Wood, Joyce Martin, Jack Wilkerson

Greeters: Pam & Jim Hallissy

Medical On Call: Clara Belle Wheeler

Dr. Matthew Tennant will be out of the office Monday, November 13, through Friday, November 17. He will be attending a conference, “Pastoral Leadership in a Polarized and Politicized America,” at Harvard University. The conference is convened by Baptist News Global to cultivate a hospitable and engaging space for conversations that matter to leaders of faith communities.

Interactive Family Worship Service

Sunday, November 12
9:45 am
In the Sanctuary

*Everyone is Invited
To Attend!*

The Word

November 7, 2017

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 69, No. 44

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

On Watch

“How do we respond?”

Some current events find clear analogies in scripture. For example, when someone looks different from me and I want to know how the Bible tells me to respond, I can read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Jesus’ command to the lawyer questioning him instructs us. He says, “Go and do likewise.” It says who our neighbors are. It shows how to respond. And, it forms a clear parallel for some contemporary situations.

What about the shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas? Politicians decry questioning the ubiquitous nature of guns in America. They say, “Now is not the time to talk about gun violence.” Instead, many argue, now is the time to pray for the victims’ family and friends. They argue against politicizing this horrific episode. Yet, we must respond to episodes like the most recent mass shooting. How? What can we say that someone has not already said?

Every Christian doctrine should have some biblical basis. So, what does the Bible say about gun violence? Is the response to “beat swords [or, guns] into plowshares” (Isaiah 2:4, Joel 3:10, or Micah 4:3)? Ah! Immediately, voices rise and protest politicizing tragedy. Or, in Matthew 2:16-18, part of the Christmas story is the mass murder of the innocents. This particular massacre is gruesome enough, but it is only one of many troubling texts.

1 John 4:16, “God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.” How do we lovingly respond? Arm everyone? Statistics suggest violent crime rates increase when more people have guns. In the case of Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, a bystander with a gun complicated the vital work of law enforcement officers. What is loving? More gun laws? Why can we not “beat swords [or, guns] into plowshares”? Is that too idealistic?

Does “love your enemies” (Matthew 5:44) mean let the bad guys have all the guns? I confess that if I were in a mass shooting situation, I would be praying for armed police officers to arrive. Yet, would Jesus take up weapons in his own defense? The Gospels clearly indicate that he would not. When the Roman guards showed up to arrest him, he told Peter to “put away your sword” (Matthew 26:52).

This is complicated, and I don’t have all the answers. Is this issue about mental illness? Background checks? Why are we the only developed country with so many mass shootings?

Let us pray. Let us turn to scripture. Let us keep talking. Let us dream of a day when mass shootings are a bleak chapter in our beautiful country’s history.

Peace,
Matt



FALL
FAMILY
FESTIVAL



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH
 1223 West Main Street
 Charlottesville, VA 22903
 Phone (434) 293-5106
 Fax (434) 979-6433
 Prayer Line (434) 923-0120
 Web Site www.universitybaptist.org



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Did You Know?

Every week we pack 17 backpacks for the Venable School Backpack Program to help students who receive free lunch at school during the week, but don't have enough to eat at home over the weekends. That comes to:

- ◆ 34 shelf-stable individual milks
- ◆ 34 breakfast food items
- ◆ 68 lunch/dinner items
- ◆ 34 snacks
- ◆ 34 individual juice items

Your ongoing donations of food and money help us meet this need every week.

THANK YOU!

Collection boxes are located in the First Floor Lobby and in Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers Needed to Help With

- People to SORT the yarn and PREPARE for the sale (November 9-14)
- CASHIERS and HELPERS (November 15, 16, 17, 18)

Check the signup board to find a time you can help, or contact Debra Bryant or Carolyn Lowry.



In Fellowship Hall

November 15, 4 - 6 pm
Open to UBC

November 16, 9 am - 6 pm
Open to UVA Hospital Staff

November 17-18, 9 am - 6 pm
Open to the Community

**All Proceeds Go To
 UVA Children's Hospital
 In Memory of Helen Mackey**

All of the yarn was donated by Sam Mackey from his mother's estate.

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, November 8

- 10:00 PBJ Women's Bible Study
- 5:00 Supper (SHRIMP)
- 6:00 Prayer Time
- 6:00 Children's Mission Activities
- 6:15 Jonah, Part 2 — Will Brown
- 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, November 9

- 9:30 Parent's Morning Out
- 12:45 Fellowship Lunch (Michie Tavern)

SUNDAY, November 12

- 9:00 Fellowship
- 9:30 Seekers Bible Study
- 9:30 Joyful Servants Bible Study
- 9:45 Interactive Family Worship
- 9:45 Bible Study, ESOL Classes
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 6:00 Real Life — Youth
- 6:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

MONDAY, November 13

- 10:30 Bible Study at Rosewood

TUESDAY, November 14

- 9:00 UBC Work Team
- 9:00 Painting Group
- 10:15 Staff Meeting
- 12:00 Annie Armstrong Circle Mtg.
- 6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry Mtg.

WEDNESDAY, November 15

- 10:00 PBJ Women's Bible Study
- 4:00 Yarn Sale Begins
- 5:00 Supper (Turkey)
- 6:00 Prayer Time
- 6:00 Children's Mission Activities
- 6:15 Mission Fair
- 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Collections for Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (FCCW)

Hygiene Kits

Due Sunday, November 19

- 1 individually-wrapped toothbrush
- 1 (6 oz.) tube of toothpaste
- 1 (2.6) solid deodorant stick (No spray or roll-on)
- 1 (15 oz.) bottle of lotion
- 1 (15 oz.) bottle of shampoo

Place all items in a one-gallon Zip Loc bag or bring individual items.

Greeting Cards, Stationery, & Stamps

Due Sunday, November 19

- Greeting cards for all occasions, including Hanukkah and Christmas (no foil on card or envelope)
- Writing paper, envelopes
- "Forever" postage stamps (Do not affix stamps to envelopes)
- Wooden pencils (unsharpened)

Monetary Donations

Due to UBC Sunday, November 19

For those who wish to contribute money, please make your check payable to "Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia (GraceInside)." In the memo section, write "FCCW Resource Fund." Used to benefit inmates: shortages in Christmas gift items, purchase classroom materials, provide worship supplies, travel expenses for funeral or deathbed visits.