



January 28, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 4

Love Your
Neighbor

N WATCH

At the center of our faith is Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. In Mark 12:28-31, a scribe asked Jesus which is the greatest commandment. Jesus quoted the familiar words, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." Then, Jesus added a second commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." He explained that this second one is more important than all the other commandments.

We live in a time when this command to love our neighbor is challenged in many ways. People find obstacles to put up between them. Xenophobia, homophobia, sexism, racism, ableism, and others feel like they are becoming commonplace. Into this landscape, God calls us to love our neighbor.

In 2023, as Haiti descended into chaos, the U.S. government enacted a humanitarian parole program that allowed Haitians who feared the violence to come to our country legally. If a Haitian had an American sponsor, they could come to the U.S. for 3 years. I learned about the program when a Haitian friend reached out and asked me to sponsor her. She came to the U.S. in early 2023, joined our church, and, after getting her work visa, she obtained two jobs. She did all of this legally and is a contributing member of our community. [I am not putting her name in this space for her protection.]

To me, when she asked if we would sponsor her, the answer seemed obvious—not because I'm

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, February 2, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

A Season for Love
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 13

Anthems:

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
by Friedell
O Love by Hagenberg

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons:

Ushers: Erin Eaker, Gayle Eaker

College Dinner: Susan Hellings

Click [here](#) to sign up to provide a dinner for our college students.



Join us tomorrow,
Wednesday, January 29,
6:00 pm for our Church
Conference in the
Music Suite. We will be
voting on the 2025
church budget.

Childcare will be available.

We will not have our usual Wednesday night dinners January 29 or February 5. Our PACEM guests will be using the Fellowship Hall on those Wednesdays.

anything special, but because welcoming the foreigner is central to our faith (Exodus 23:9). To “love one’s neighbor” includes helping them if it is possible to do so. Now, the U.S. government has ended the humanitarian parole program for people from Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela, and Nicaragua. This jeopardizes the legal status of nearly 1.5 million immigrants in the U.S., including the one who has been part of our church family.

How do we “love our neighbor” now? God’s calling hasn’t changed, so I don’t know the answer. My commentary isn’t related to politics. It reflects belief in a God who is beyond national borders. I want to love my neighbor, whether she is from Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, or wherever. So how do we show that love in a world that seems so committed to separating people from one another?

For me, these questions are and will continue to be the subject of my prayers and contemplation. If you have any ideas, I would love to hear them.

Peace,
Matt



Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News last week. He appears on WINA once per month to provide commentary on the news from a faith perspective. This month he joined the program to discuss Jazz Vespers and our involvement with PACEM. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, January 29

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study
6:00 Church Conference
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, February 2

8:30 Church Council Meeting
9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Bagel Brunch
4:30 Jubilate Rehearsal
6:00 College Dinner

MONDAY, February 3

4:00 Theology Reading Group

TUESDAY, February 4

7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

For our most up-to-date calendar, [click here](#).



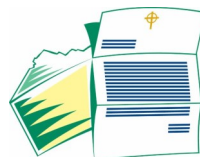
Flowers Bring Great Joy!

If you would like to dedicate flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, please contact [Linda in the Church](#)

[Office](#) to reserve your specific date to have flowers placed in the Sanctuary during worship.

Available Sundays in 2025 include **February 2, 9, 16, 23; March 9, 23 and April 6, 27.**

Also, if you delight in working with flowers and enjoy the beauty they provide during UBC worship services, consider joining the Floral Team. We can always use more workers.



Annual Giving Statements

Year-end giving statements came out last week. These were both emailed and printed/mailed. If you did not receive yours or have questions, please let [Amanda](#) know.



PACEM at UBC Begins Soon!

On Saturday, January 25, at 8:00 am, we began our two weeks of offering shelter and food to people in our area without homes. We are hosting approximately 40 people each night by providing them with a warm meal and a safe place to sleep.

We need your help! Below are links to the forms you can use to sign up to help set up the Fellowship Hall, donate (snacks, breakfast items, or gift cards), wash towels, or help clean up the Fellowship Hall.

[Breakfast/snack donations sign up](#)

[Volunteer opportunities sign up](#) (laundry, cot set up and take down)

Additionally, we will be collecting donations of:

Toothbrushes (individual, no multi-packs)

Toothpaste (travel size)

Tissues (travel packs)

Lip balm

Shaving cream (travel size)

Razors

Hand lotion (travel size)

Combs

Deodorant

Foot powder

Reading glasses

Mints

Cough drops

Journals/notebooks

Heavy, dark socks (adult men)

Hand warmers

Winter hats

Underwear (men's L, XL, or 2XL)

Plain white T-shirts (men's L, XL, or 2XL)

Washcloths

New or gently used adult sized backpacks or duffel bags

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Colleen Baber

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Herman & Gayle Eaker on the loss of Gayle's brother

David & Linda Hendon

Thomas Hill

Doc Litchfield

Edith Parker

Kaylee Risell

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

*In order to respect privacy, limited information is included here.



2025 VBS
July 21 - 25

If you'd like to learn more about the work PACEM does in Charlottesville, click the link below.

<https://pacemshelter.org>

Thank you for your generosity as we care for and love our neighbors.

Any questions? Please reach out to [Laura Morris](#), [Katherine Hamel](#), or [Jennifer Wag-
oner](#)



Help Support the UVA Community Food Pantry!

This February marks the 35th annual Souper Bowl of Car-ing. Each year, UBC members participate in this national fundraiser with proceeds benefitting local

food banks. This year, the UVA Community Food Pantry will benefit from Souper Bowl events hosted by Care & Support Services.

How can UBC participate in this support of our community at UVA? By eating Chipotle! On Saturday, February 1 between 5-9 PM, show [this flyer](#) while checking out at the Chipotle at Barracks Road shopping center, or enter the code at the bottom for online orders. 25% of event sales will be donated to the UVA Community Food Pantry (must show flyer for your purchase to count in the fundraiser). Grab another UBCer that you haven't seen in a while and catch up over a burrito!

Questions can be directed to Val Fisk (gdt6aq@virginia.edu) or the offices of Care & Support Services at UVA (434-924-7133).



Save the Date: UBC's 125th Anniversary Celebration

This year, University Baptist Church celebrates 125 years of ministry and service in Charlottesville and beyond!

Join us for a special
Anniversary Celebration Weekend
on October 11-12, 2025.

- Saturday, October 11: Banquet celebrating our history and looking to the future.
- Sunday, October 12: Worship celebration giving thanks for God's faithfulness.

We're inviting former ministers and members to join us and may need your help gathering contact information. Please share any details with the church office. Mark your calendars and pray with us as we honor our past and look forward to the future!

125 ACTS OF SERVICE IDEAS?

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH
125 ACTS OF SERVICE
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF MINISTRY

FOOD INSECURITY	CREATION CARE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rise Against Hunger• Blue Ridge Area Food Bank• UVA Community Food Pantry• Loaves and Fishes• Trailblazer bags• Meals on Wheels• Cook or buy food for a group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plant a tree• Pick up trash in an area• Clear a trail• Volunteer at an animal rescue shelter• Grow a community garden
HOMELESSNESS	MENTAL HEALTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PACEM (January 25 - February 7)• Habitat for Humanity• The Haven• Salvation Army• Goodwill• Make care package for homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alzheimer's Association Central & Western Virginia• Visit a senior residence or nursing home• Read to elderly or disabled• Bake treats for family in need of cheering



Year-End Financial Update



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Join us in wishing some of our church family a Happy Birthday!

Feb. 6: Cecil Mundell

Feb. 8: Lou Marshall,

Feb. 9: Luna Ohlms

Feb. 11: David Waters

Staff Contact Information:

Senior Minister: Dr. Matthew Tennant - matt@universitybaptist.org

Associate Minister for Music and College Students - Megan Sharp - megan@universitybaptist.org

Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Rickert Dowdy - elizabeth@universitybaptist.org

Intentional Interim Minister of Music: Rev. Susan Deal - susan@universitybaptist.org

Voces Laetae Director: Will Cooke - wcooke@universitybaptist.org

Office Coordinator: Linda Weirich - linda@universitybaptist.org

Financial Coordinator: Amanda Ohlms - aohlms@universitybaptist.org

Social Media Coordinator: Alaysia Toney - socialmedia@universitybaptist.org

Church Administrator: Alan Hendricks - ahendricks@universitybaptist.org

Education Coordinator: Rev. Tommy Deal—call the church office at 434-293-5106

Organist: Barbara Moore - call the church office at 434-293-5106

Custodian: Thomas Hill - call the church office at 434-293-5106

Sunday Mornings

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service begins at 11:00 am. We encourage everyone in the congregation to join us in whatever way you feel safe and comfortable at this time, whether in person or virtually. As always, you can listen by radio on WINA (1070 AM and 98.9 FM), or you can join us online for our live broadcast. To view the live video broadcast, visit our [Facebook page](#) or click [this link](#) to watch on YouTube.

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

