



October 22, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 43



Sunday, November 10, is our church's Consecration Sunday.  
Join us for worship and the Celebration Luncheon.

### Jesus, Truth, & Election Politics

## ON WATCH

In election season in the U.S., people's relationship with truth can become strained. Politicians and pundits make outlandish claims. Some of these claims seem to disregard any connection with reality. Others merely stretch the truth or exaggerate facts. As Christ-followers, what are we supposed to do?

Sometimes we can take a lesson from the parents of the early church. These men and women were working out what it means to follow Jesus in those first centuries after Easter. At that point, many of their writings were working out what we believe about God and Jesus in real time. They had earlier writings, so they could form ideas about God from what came before, and their writings articulated the further development of this notion of God.

For us, we can turn to Gregory of Nyssa who wrote that Jesus is truth himself. Think about that. Jesus is truth. Gregory writes, "The Divine Word doesn't want

### SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, October 27, 2024

11:00 AM

**Sermon:**

Are We Doing What We Can?

Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**

Colossians 3:23-24

**Anthem:**

*Alleluia*

Ralph Manuel

### SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacon:** Sheri Owen

**Ushers:** Cindy Bryant, Mildred Spicer

**Jubilate Dinner:** Ohlms Family

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

us to be slave of anything; our nature has been changed for the better... He doesn't keep what he took, but purged our nature of evil." For Gregory, following Jesus means replacing all the bad parts in us with the good of Jesus himself.

When we become Christ-followers, we follow the embodiment of truth. Today, as we look at the political landscape, we do not find this same embodiment of truth. Gregory invites us to look upward at Jesus as the truth. Then, we ask, "What is he calling us to do?"

I invite you to hold up each decision you make each day in the light of Christ. As we go through our days, we can ask, "How does *this* or *that* bring glory to God?" This same logic is transferable to politics. Every candidate and referendum should stand for us in the light of Christ. When we hold up the choices for a political office to this divine light, what do we see? Neither will be perfect. However, abandoning the process leaves the choice to others. If every person except one decided not to participate in the political process, that one person would decide who represents everyone else.

Voting is not a biblical mandate and attempts to cite the Bible to support voting involve retrojecting twenty-first-century politics into a time when they didn't exist. Instead, we can take a biblical principle, like "Love your neighbor," and hold it up alongside our opportunity to participate in the political process. We can also examine politicians in the light of Christ and ask if they support biblical principles like "Love your neighbor."

I don't know what Gregory of Nyssa would say if he saw us today. I don't know if he would commend us as faithful servants or slap himself in the face out of disbelief. I do know that Jesus calls us to live out our faith (James 2:14-26). This might look different for each one of us, but that's the beauty of the priesthood of all believers and what I love about being baptist.

Peace,  
Matt



Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 27 immediately following our worship service to celebrate Rev. Susan Deal's time with us as our Intentional Interim Minister of Music. If you are able to help by providing food for the reception, sign up [here](#). If you would like to contribute to a love offering for Susan, you can do that with a check or online and by writing love offering in the memo line.



Third quarter giving statements are coming out this week. If you do not receive yours (either through email or print) or you have questions, please let Amanda know.



Third Quarter  
Financial Update  
January-September  
2024

Contributions:  
\$372,446.12  
Expenses: \$467,253.21

Mark Your Calendars!

UBC Youth Retreat  
November 15-17, 2024  
CrossRoads Camp  
for all 6th - 12th graders  
To reserve your spot,  
or if you have questions,  
contact Elizabeth.



## CALENDAR

In this series of Word articles, [Elizabeth Dowdy](#) explains what *Worship+Wonder* is and how it is teaching our children to engage the parts of our worship services.

An important part of any worship service is prayer. There are lots of forms for prayer in worship. An invocation prayer invokes the name of God and asks God's Spirit to be present and enliven our worship. A prayer of illumination asks God's Spirit to open our ears to hear God's message for us, through Scripture and its interpretation. A prayer of consecration dedicates someone or something special to serve or honor God. A worship service can include these and many other kinds of prayer, but there is one kind of prayer that we do almost every time we get together, in worship and at other times. It goes by several names depending on your church tradition, like Prayers of the People, or Intercessory Prayer. At our church, it is called Pastoral Prayer.

By its name, you might think that only a pastor can pray a pastoral prayer. If you were worshiping with us on Sunday, Kevin Adams, church member and chaplain, prayed our pastoral prayer on Sunday, and did so beautifully! So, what makes this kind of prayer *pastoral*? Well, the answer is in the story we use in *Worship+Wonder* to introduce prayer, ["The Parable of the Good Shepherd."](#) God, made known through Christ, is indeed the Good Shepherd. God knows us as a shepherd knows their sheep. God wants to take us to the good, green pastures. God longs to lead us beside the refreshing waters of life. God goes before us in times of trouble. God searches for us when we get lost. God carries us when we are sick and injured and nurses us back to health. We know the sound of God's voice like we know whenever we feel

### WEDNESDAY, October 23

9:00 Work Team  
10:00 PBJ Bible Study  
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner  
6:00 "Vote Jesus Christ"  
6:00 Music+Missions  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### SUNDAY, October 27

8:30 JARC Meeting  
9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class  
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study  
11:00 Morning Worship  
12:00 Reception for Susan Deal  
4:30 Jubilate Rehearsal  
6:00 Jubilate Dinner

### MONDAY, October 28

12:30 Missions Council Meeting

### TUESDAY, October 29

7:30 Voces Laetae Concert

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



October is Clergy Appreciation Month. UBC is blessed to call three very hard-working ministers our own, Matt, Elizabeth, and Susan. The work of a minister doesn't just happen on Sunday mornings but every day of the week. Their love for God and care for people is ever present, even though it may go unnoticed at times. This month, we pause to encourage and commend our faithful leaders who point us to God, pray for our souls, perform important ceremonies, and promote spiritual well-being for our families. We encourage you to let our ministers know how much you appreciate their diligence in whatever way you desire.  
Personnel Committee

love. A pastoral prayer is built on each of these aspects of our relationship with God.

Pastoral Prayers often follow a pattern known by the acronym PARTS. First, we Praise, or lift up, God's name. We Adore God, usually by proclaiming something great God has done. Thinking about the greatness of God can remind us of our smallness. So next, we Repent. That is, we admit the actions we regret, the ways we have missed the mark, or how we have let God, others, or ourselves down. Since we do this all together, this is a chance to think of the ways we participate in systems and structures that are unfair or harmful to ourselves, others, and the world around us. I will say more about this part of our prayer next week.

After we have acknowledged God, and taken a good, honest look at ourselves, we are ready to give our Thanks! In our prayer, we can thank God for all kinds of things, knowing that the practice of gratitude, no matter how small, contributes mightily to our own happiness and resilience! Lastly, we name our Supplications, or our requests and petitions, for ourselves or on behalf of others (which are also called intercessions). God wants to know what we need, what we want, and all the longings of our hearts. Indeed, like the Good Shepherd, we believe God knows the desires of our hearts before we even ask!

While there is a typical structure and pattern for Pastoral Prayers, there are many, many ways to go about it. At its core, it is a conversation between us and God. As Baptists, we don't have a printed book of prayers or special words that we have to say. Many of our kids already pray with their parents at bedtime and at meals. To help them begin to connect their family's prayer practice with what we do in worship, the kids are given a chance to make their very own Prayer Albums! On a

## Prayer Requests\*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Kaylee Risell

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Richard Vaughan

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



## We've Got Some Color on the Walls!

Our Wednesday work team is busy preparing an office for our new Associate Minister for Music and College Students, Megan Sharp. Megan's first Sunday with us will be November 3, so we're getting close.

series of cards, a pattern of prayer is printed at the top, with plenty of room at the bottom for kids to write, draw, color, or collage their unique prayers. Since this takes time, it has to be finished as "homework," in between sessions of Worship+Wonder.

This past Sunday, one of our young people brought her completed prayer album to church to show me! It was thoughtful and honest. I felt awe and inspiration to be entrusted with reading her sweet prayer. In the weeks and seasons to come, this young worshiper will be able to change the cards in her album, add new ones, or simply use the album as a template for her growing practice of prayer. When she is in church, she can pray her own prayer by flipping through her Prayer Album. Or she can follow along with the person praying as she begins to identify the patterns in our congregational practice. Someday, she will be able to lead us as we pray together in worship.



### Mark Your Calendars!

Join us on Saturday, November 9 for a church workday for the whole family. We will begin with breakfast at 8:30 and then have a list of projects for all age groups beginning at 9:00. You are welcome to come whenever you are able any time between 8:30 and noon.



### Voces Laetae Concert

Join us tonight, Tuesday, October 22, in the Music Suite for our Voces Laetae concert beginning at 7:30. Come and support our youth choir directed by Will Cooke.

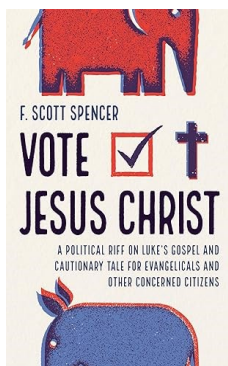


Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, October 23 for dinner at 5:30 and then beginning at 6:00, we'll look at the book, *Vote Jesus Christ*, while the children attend *All Creation Sings*. Childcare is always

available.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Following the program you are invited to sing with the Sanctuary Choir as they rehearse in the Music Suite.



### "Vote Jesus Christ"

On Wednesday, we will continue looking at the book, *Vote Jesus Christ* by F. Scott Spencer. Our discussion will be led by the author, Scott Spencer. This is a fun and fascinating book describing the Jesus of the Gospel of Luke as if he were

running for public office. Strange as it sounds, it is in fact a genius way to show how Jesus was campaigning for God, God's kingdom, and God's people to live a new kind of story—not according to the cut-throat politics of the world but based on the theme of love for God and love for neighbor.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Oct 30: John Buchanan, Jim Anderson

Nov 1: Jim Guyton

Nov 2: Janeth Bibb

## Staff Contact Information:

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

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

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

Jubilate & 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*  
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Connect with us

