



October 29, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 44

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

WILL YOU GROW ONE STEP?

Take a moment to put the phone down, close your computer, pray, and ask God the question: "What percentage of my income are you calling me to give to your work?"

The Centrality of Worship

WATCH

Worship is at the center of life in a church family. Someone once asked me if people needed to attend worship to be part of the church. It's a little like the statement we've probably all heard someone make, "I don't need the church to find God." There are many variations of this one. For example, "I experience God in nature." To this, I'd say, "Me, too!"

We don't *need* to attend worship to belong to the church family, but attending worship is the natural product of being part of the church family. It's where we find our center and hear reminders of our common denominator in Jesus Christ. We sing the hymns that become the soundtrack of our lives. We hear anthems that inspire us or invite us into deeper faith. We hear prayers of comfort and inspiration. We *need* to attend worship, *because* we are part of the church family.

The relationship between attending worship and being part of the church is like the relationship between faith and action in James 2:14-26. The epistle says, "Faith without works is dead." Likewise, being part of the church family without attending worship is

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, November 3, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Do You Remember That Unnamed Saint?

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9

Anthem:

Saints Bound for Heaven

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Michele Proffitt, Sheri Owen

Ushers: Erin Eaker, Gayle Eaker

Jubilate Dinner: Christina & Andrew

Mundell

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

unhealthy. (I can't bring myself to be quite so stark as the author of the epistle.)

What if you are traveling or have a soccer tournament or some other conflict? That's okay. Attending worship is for us. It's food for our souls. God loves it when we worship but doesn't need it. We need it. At a minimum, Sunday morning worship helps us maintain our spiritual lives. If there are times when we need to miss worship, that's okay.

What if you can't come to worship because your health prevents it? That's okay too. For everyone who cannot be in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning, we have the live stream and hope you join us in the virtual world. In my experience, watching online isn't as rich as being in the sacred space at 1223 W. Main St., but that's why we have the live stream.

When you think about who we are as a family of faith at University Baptist Church, I pray worship is at the center. There are so many things that make us who we are. We have a vibrant music program. We have wonderful social justice ministries. The Bible studies and small groups are essential. UBC has so many amazing ministries: the work crew, prayer shawl ministry, women's circles, children's program, softball, PACEM, youth group, Trailblazer backpack program, ice cream outreach, Wednesday night dinners and program, and probably a dozen other things. At the heart of who we are is worship.

We are a worshipping community of faith. All the remarkable ministries listed above spring forth from who we are as a family of faith in Jesus Christ. Come to worship and experience Jesus. Feel your hearts set ablaze when you see him (Luke 24:32). And see what he inspires you to do.

Peace,
Matt

WELCOME Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 3 immediately following our worship service to welcome Megan as our Associate Minister for Music and College Students. If you are able to help by providing food for the reception, sign up [here](#).

RECEPTION FOR Megan Sharp



Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3. Remember to fall back one hour on Saturday night, or you will be VERY early for worship on Sunday.



Third quarter giving statements went out last week. If you did 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



CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, October 30

9:00 Work Team
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 "Vote Jesus Christ"
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, November 3

8:30 Church Council Meeting
9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 Reception for Megan Sharp
4:30 Jubilate Rehearsal
6:00 Jubilate Dinner

MONDAY, November 4

7:00 Theology Reading Group
8:00 Youth Council Zoom

TUESDAY, November 5

1:00 UBC Childcare Meeting
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal
7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle

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

Dear UBC Family,

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for the warm reception held in my honor, as well as for the incredibly generous love offering. Serving as your Intentional Interim Minister of Music and Worship over the past year and a half has truly been my joy and a great privilege.

Your kindness and support have enriched this journey, and I am grateful for the ways we've grown together through worship and music ministry. As I transition back to the soprano section, I look forward to continuing to serve alongside you, experiencing the blessings of our church family in new ways.

With deep appreciation,

Susan Deal

Associate Minister



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.

Repentance is not a very popular topic in polite conversation, but it remains an essential part of our scriptural tradition that is reaffirmed by the Gospel message. "Getting right with God," and with others, is core to our Christian faith. We practice repentance and reconciliation in our worship services in different ways. Sometimes, repentance is central to our scripture reading and is featured in the sermon and invitation that follow. Sometimes, it is part of a litany we pray together, acknowledging our faults and taking stock of the various ways we have missed the



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

mark, preparing us for the gift of grace that is communion or some other kind of consecration.

Most often in our worship at UBC, we ask God to “forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors” as we join together to complete our Pastoral Prayer. The use of this translation of the Lord’s Prayer evokes a commitment to economic justice and the righting of relationships within the household of God. It reminds us that no one ought to take advantage of another. It reminds us that the original church, in the days following Pentecost, held their goods in common, each giving what they had and taking as they had need. It reminds us that forgiveness is not free, or even cheap, and God’s promise of a year of Jubilee will reorder the world we live in. Whenever we confess our shortcomings, our sins, or our debts, we are taking part in God’s re-creation of the world around us.

These are pretty big ideas for kids to approach! To begin to do that, we start with a story, one they can wrap their minds around. “The Parable of the Prodigal Son,” is also known as “The Parable of the Loving Father.” Having presented this story many times to children, I can tell you that they are quick to agree with the older brother about what is right and fair. It takes patience and prompting for them to think about the limitless, even reckless love of the father for his sons. Once they have considered it, they remark on the lengths to which the father goes to restore his wayward son.

My commitment to conveying important spiritual practices to kids in tangible, experiential ways met its match in trying to conceive of how to portray forgiveness! For all the ways that one method or device might illustrate God’s forgiveness, there were just as many ways that it was not at all like God’s forgiveness!

I decided to phone a friend for help, a former children’s minister with lots of experience creating curriculum. She told me about a thing I never knew existed - calligraphy practice

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Roy Clements

Tommy Deal

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.



Looking Good!

Our Wednesday work team is busy putting the final touches on the office for our new Associate Minister for Music and College Students, Megan Sharp. Megan's first Sunday with us will be this coming Sunday, November 3. Be sure to join us and welcome our new Associate Minister for Music and College Students.



paper! This special “paper” is intended to help students learn the art of Chinese calligraphy, without wasting ink or paper.

Using only a brush and some water, the paper magically darkens when wet, then returns to a blank gray as it dries.

Others had already seen the potential of this “paper” for mindfulness practice. One company was even marketing something they called a “Buddha board,” linking the mindfulness of disappearing brush strokes with the practice of meditation. I decided to call the framed canvas a “Forgiveness Board.” No matter how much water the kids paint on—and they love to saturate the entire thing!--it will dry and become blank again, as though nothing was ever there at all.

This imperfect metaphor for repentance perhaps speaks more aptly of God’s unfailing love. There is no height, nor depth, the scripture says with great elaboration, that can separate us from the love of God. Patience, honesty, vulnerability, humility, and gratitude are skills we can develop through a prayerful practice of repentance and forgiveness. Kids need this assurance as much as grownups do. Just as it was with the prodigal son, it is our belief in God’s loving-kindness that makes it possible for us to risk the embarrassment and hard work of repentance and reconciliation.



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

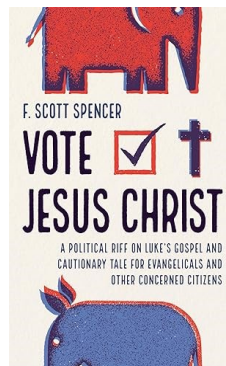
all age groups beginning at 9:00. Sign up [here](#). You are welcome to come whenever you are able any time between 8:30 and noon. If you need childcare for the youngest members of our church family, please let the [office](#) know.



Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, October 30 for dinner at 5:30 and then beginning at 6:00, we'll look at the book, *Vote Jesus Christ*. 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!

Nov 6: Kyndall Foster, Cassidy Guyton, Megan Sharp

Nov 7: Isabella Canseco, Peter Centofante, Charlotte Centofante

Nov 8: Martha Wood, Jeanette Mills

Nov 9: Mary Sheler

Nov 12: Melvin Spicer

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

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.

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Connect with us

