

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

May 21, 2019 Vol. 71, No. 20

Making God's Love Visible

ON WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP May 26, 2019

On Sunday, we examined Jesus' commandment to love one another. We leaned on the distinction between various Greek words for love, focusing on agape. Agape is the unconditional love God shows for us. That is, "For God so agape the world..." (John 3:16). "This is my commandment that you agape one another..." (John 13:34).

Agape was such a powerful word that in first-century Palestine people could have difficulty using it. In John 21:15-17, Jesus asked Peter if he loved (agape) him. Peter replied that he loved (storge) him. Storge is family love, like the love of a parent for a child or a child for a parent. When Jesus asked Peter a second time if he loved (agape) him, Peter, again, replied that he loved (storge) him. It was just too difficult to admit agape or unconditional love.

Why would Peter have had trouble with admitting agape for Jesus? Words matter. To say he had agape meant something far deeper than the familial love of storge. Yet, Jesus commands us to have agape for one another.

How do we make God's love (agape) visible to the world? This is the question we can take with us from Jesus' commandment. We can look at the ways God's love is evident through our hospitality. We can show God's love in the way we minister to each other. When we serve, give, or worship, we reveal God's love.

The deeper question goes beyond the obvious ways we can show God's love. The bigger question for us relates to being known for God's love. How can we do that? I invite you to continue exploring this question with me. Let us see where it takes us.

Peace,
Matt

Sermon:

"Letting God Move In"
Rev. William Brown

Scripture:

John 14:23-29

Anthem:

"If Ye Love Me"
arr. Tallis

Deacons: Laura Faye Groff, Brad Groff, Erin Brown, Raynell Stokes, Laura Morris, Martha Ballenger

Nursery Workers: Judy Gough, Isabella Canseco, Debra Bryant

Children's Church:

Katherine Hamel, Carter Groff

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

Greeters: Barbara Fuller, Welford Tiller

Medical On-Call: Sally Chewning

Church Picnic

It's that time of year again! As the weather warms, we are getting excited about our annual Church Picnic, which will be held this year on Sunday, June 2 at 3pm. Donna and Forrest Marshall are hosting us at their home, 2356 Scottsville Rd.



3:00 - swimming in the pool, bounce house, fishing, fellowship
5:00 - egg toss
5:30 - dinner

- Chicken, iced tea and lemonade are provided.
- Bring other meats, vegetables, salads, desserts.
- Deviled eggs are always a great picnic food!
- Bring folding chairs and blankets to sit on.

We hope to see you there!



Sunday Bible Study this Summer

This Sunday morning is the last session that Sunday Bible Study classes (children, youth, adult, and ESOL) will meet before taking a break for the summer.

During the summer, we will still have worship at 11:00am, and the nursery will open at 10:30am so that people have time to drop off kids before worship.

As in past summers, we will continue to offer a joint adult session each week in room 117 at 9:45 for anyone interested. The group will use a DVD series as a discussion starter. All are welcome.

Many thanks to all the teachers who led Bible Study classes this year!

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

10:00 PBJ Bible Study
5:15 Dinner (Cookout)
6:30 Sanctuary Choir

FRIDAY, MAY 24

No Softball Game this week
6:00p Youth Lock-In

SUNDAY, MAY 26

9:30 Seekers Bible Study
9:45 Sunday Bible Study
11:00 Worship Service
6:00 Real Life for Youth

MONDAY, MAY 27

Church Office Closed
NO Rosewood Bible Study

TUESDAY, MAY 28

9:00 UBC Work Team
9:00 Painting Group
6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

6:30 Sanctuary Choir

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

Concerns

Pray for Matt and Melanie as they travel to spend time with family this weekend, and for everyone traveling this Memorial Day weekend.

Prayer Request

This summer, Kathy Wilson is going on a 10-day mission trip to Peru, where her aunt and uncle are serving as missionaries. Please pray for Kathy and the team as they travel. If you'd like to help by contributing VBS supplies, [here is a list](#) of what is needed.

Vacation Bible School

Registration for VBS is now open, and we already have 50 kids signed up! If you haven't registered yet, you can do so by [clicking here](#). VBS will be held June 17-21, 9am-12pm each day. If you'd like to help, please contact Erin Brown: ehallissy@gmail.com

Wednesday Nights in May

Last Wednesday, David Washburn (BGAV Treasurer) and Skip Wallace (Field Strategist) presented about the Baptist General Association of Virginia, sharing some of the history of the organization, its guiding principles, and its goals for the future.

This Wednesday, May 22, is the final Wednesday night program of this semester. Weather permitting, we will have a cookout in our front parking lot, starting at 5:15. Open to all! (Rain site: Fellowship Hall)

Many thanks to Larry Johnson for so generously sharing his time and culinary talent each Wednesday night this year. Please thank him next time you see him!

Deacon Elections

Deacon elections will begin in the coming weeks. Further details will be distributed soon.

If you are not willing or able to serve as a Deacon and would like to have your name removed from the list, please call the Church Office or email Pheobe Brown at pbrown@universitybaptist.org by May 31.

The remaining list of eligible UBC members will be published, and members will have until the end of June to vote for seven (7) names on the list. Those elected will begin a three-year term in September.

Deacons should be active UBC members who are committed Christians, spiritually mature, active in church attendance and financial support, cooperative, and supportive of the vision, leadership, and various programs of our church.

Recap of Deacons Meeting

At their meeting on Monday, the Deacons continued their conversation about ensuring that Deacons are connected with all members of the church. The Circles of Caring remain the primary way that Deacons take the lead in providing care for the congregation, though the circles are open for anyone to join. The Deacons also discussed outside-the-box ways of reaching out to people in our community; you may hear about some of these creative ideas in the months ahead. The meeting ended with a time of prayer for our congregation generally and for those facing a particularly difficult season in their lives.

Conversation with Monel Jules

The Missions Council had a video chat this week with Monel Jules, one of our partners in Haiti. Among other things, Monel described the backstory of Haiti's Eden, which serves a variety of concrete needs in the community, from medical clinics to garbage removal. Monel said, "As a church, we can't just be there to talk about Jesus; we have to [show](#) Jesus through our actions." Our congregation will have the chance to meet Monel when he and his family visit the U.S. in July. Stay tuned for details!



"Conversations Toward Reconciliation"

In January of this year, several UBC members participated in a community-wide dinner and conversation about race, which drew 200 people from our community. This Thursday evening, May 23, 6-8pm, the Charlottesville Clergy Collective is hosting a follow-up dinner and conversation at the Carver Center. The event is free and open to all. Please talk to Will Brown if you'd like to attend.

Nominating Committee Survey

As the Nominating Committee begins recruiting lay leaders for the coming year, they welcome your input. How might you be called to serve? Whether it's on a committee or team or another type of ministry, all of us have a part to play at UBC.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey, which can be [found here](#).

Sunday Morning Acolytes

Are you interested in participating in Sunday morning worship? Sign up to light the candles and open the Bible at the beginning of our worship. Adults, children, individuals, and families are all encouraged to participate. You can [sign up here](#).

Thank you from Cville Tax Aid

From a note the United Way recently sent to UBC:

"Thank you for the tremendous support Cville Tax Aid received from University Baptist Church this year. With the generous donation of space at UBC, the Coalition provided free tax returns to over 387 families, individuals, and visiting students and scholars in our area. The location was not only convenient for our clients, but our student volunteers as well. You welcomed our volunteers into your space for over 132 hours. When asked how the location worked out for them as volunteers, they said, 'We love UBC!'"

Overall, this year the Coalition of partners provided free tax returns to 2,719 families in our area, creating a direct economic impact to our community of over 3.9 million dollars in federal and state refunds and saved tax preparation fees."

You can read the [full letter here](#).



UBC Softball

The season is underway, with games played most Friday nights (see calendar above for this week's game).

There's still room on the team for you, if you'd like to join! Just contact Brad Groff at brad.groff85@gmail.com

Event with new CBF Executive Coordinator, Paul Baxley

On Thursday, May 30, we will be hosting an event for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia, welcoming Paul Baxley, the new Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). This is an exciting opportunity for people in this area to meet the new leader of CBF. The event will be held 6-8pm in our Fellowship Hall.

Flowers Bring Great Joy

If you would like to dedicate sanctuary flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, the 2019 Floral Calendar is posted in the first floor hallway. Sign up on the calendar AND email or call Sarah Buchanan to reserve your special date. There are several Sundays still available: May 19, 26, June 9, 16, 23, July 14, 21, 28, Aug. 11, and 18. I will order the flowers for \$45, unless you want to provide them yourself. You can drop a check earmarked "sanctuary flowers" in the offering plate, or send to the church office.

If you love flowers, enjoy arranging them, or want to learn how, please contact Sarah at 434-409-9064 or sarahbucha@gmail.com and join us on the Floral Team.

Have some free time on Wednesdays?

We are looking for volunteers to help out around the office (answering the phone and the door, welcoming visitors, etc.) from 10 until 2 on Wednesdays. You can sign up here to help on a specific day, or talk to Pheobe: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a5ac23abfc1-wednesday>

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Connect with us

