

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 9, 2019 Vol. 71, No. 27

Following Up on Video Screens

Occasionally, a question within a congregation can become unexpectedly troublesome. When that happens, the question becomes a distraction from what God is calling us to do. In this case, the question is about video screens in the sanctuary. It was apparent at the first listening session on this topic that there are a wide variety of reactions on the subject which need to be considered. I appreciate the open and frank discussion we had.

In a world facing imminent climate change impact, answering the question about using multimedia in the UBC sanctuary ranks pretty low. In a country divided along political lines, we do not need to feed polemics. In addition to the listening session on June 25, I have had a number of conversations with people about how we could or should use or not use screens. As a result, it occurred to me that, perhaps instead of pursuing this question now, we should focus our efforts on talking about how we can better share the love of Jesus with our community.

In The Screwtape Letters, C. S. Lewis writes a series of letters to a young demon named Wormwood from his uncle Screwtape. It is a brilliant classic that I recommend everyone read. In one chapter, he addresses the church and ways to distract someone from following Christ:

"When he gets to his pew and looks round him, he sees a selection of his neighbors whom he has hitherto avoided. Make his mind flit to and fro between an expression like 'the body of Christ' and the actual faces in the next pew. It matters very little, of course, what kind of people that the next pew really contains... Provided that any of those neighbors sing out of tune, or have boots that squeak, or double chins, or odd clothes, the patient will quite easily believe that their religion must therefore be somehow ridiculous."

How often do we, like Lewis's fictional Christian, let something small take our attention away from the reason God called us to be a church? Many of us do this at the individual level. Something bothers us and we let it grow. Until we resolve it or move on, that small thing can be a

ON WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP July 14, 2019

Sermon:

"Listen"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Genesis 28:10-19a

Anthem:

"Have You Heard God's Voice"

arr. Chatfield

Deacons: Wellford Tiller, Brad Groff, Carolyn Lowry, Donna Marshall, Ed Lowry, Peter Ohlms

Nursery Workers: Judy Gough, Colleen Baber, Debra Bryant

Children's Church: Shirley Clark, Joey Hamel

Ushers for July: Cindy Bryant, Shelley Miller, Lily Pallini, Ronda Wiley, Barry Willard

Greeters: Pam Hallissy,

stumbling block on our spiritual journey. When it is personal, we can either share it with others, and they can help us resolve our problem or get over it. Or, we can choose to not share it and let it fester.

We can also let a question, concern, or issue become a stumbling block within the congregation. What if, instead of continuing course, we paused? What if we changed our approach to refocus on God's purpose for us to be a church? What if we set aside our multimedia discussion for the moment to train our attention on becoming an inviting church? What would happen if we put our energy into figuring out how to move UBC forward together? For example, the nursery volunteers asked for a monitor to watch the worship service live. Church Council approved that request and putting a video board in the narthex to improve communications. These two small moves can, respectively, bring us together by drawing the nursery volunteers into worship and more effectively sharing information. What else can we be doing to come together and to engage with our community?

The questions in the previous paragraph should grab our attention. They can inspire listening sessions, brainstorming, and planning meetings. For the moment, we are going to cancel the second listening session (July 21) on multimedia and kick the topic back to the Deacons and Church Council. After they give it more consideration, the question might return to the congregation. Or, it might not. Either way, let us give ourselves to praying for God's direction as we follow Christ further into the twenty-first century.

Peace,
Matt

Learning Opportunity this Sunday

We have a unique and exciting opportunity this Sunday. Many of us have seen on television or read in books about the experiences of transgender people in society, but many of us have had few chances to meet and hear directly from someone with this gender identity.

This **Sunday, July 14**, in the Fellowship Hall, you are invited to a presentation entitled, "*From the Heart: A Transgender Virginian's Story.*" Join Donna, a member of Equality Virginia's Transgender Advocacy Speakers Bureau, for a morning of fellowship and learning as she shares her story as a transgender woman, followed by plenty of time for dialogue and questions. Our time with Donna will be the usual Sunday School hour, 9:45-10:45am, and we hope that you can join us for this unique opportunity to hear from someone with a different life experience. Childcare will be provided.

This event will be one of many opportunities to hear the stories of people from various backgrounds. Please let the ministers know your suggestions for future speakers who could share with the congregation.

Jim Hallissy

Medical On-Call: Sally
Chewning

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JULY 9

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

1:00 Nominating
Committee
6:30 Sanctuary Choir

FRIDAY, JULY 12

8:00 Softball Game
(McIntire)

SUNDAY, JULY 14

9:45 Speaker in Fellowship
Hall
9:45 Combined Adult Class
11:00 Worship Service

MONDAY, JULY 15

No Rosewood Bible Study
12:00 Missions Council
6:30 Deacons Meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 16

9:00 UBC Work Team

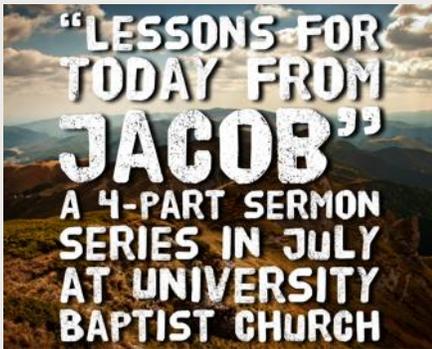
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

6:30 Sanctuary Choir

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

Concerns

Elsom Johnson -
Colonnades
Nat Howell -
Colonnades
Barbara Phipps -
Rosewood (Greenbrier)
Martha Williams - home



July's 4-part sermon series: "Lessons for Today from Jacob"

- July 7, 2019 - What are some stories that point to God's glory? (Genesis 25:19-34)
- July 14, 2019 - How do we hear God speak? How do we listen? (Genesis 28:10-19a)
- July 21, 2019 - Why do we do what we do? What is our motivation? (Genesis 29:15-28)
- July 28, 2019 - What happens when God grabs ahold of us? (Genesis 32:22-31)



Ice Cream Social

Save the date! Our annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, August 25, at the home of Robby and Judy Gough, beginning at 3pm. Hope to see you there!

Alba's Sabbatical Continues

We pray for Alba and Pam Beasley as they spend six weeks away this summer for Alba's sabbatical. Our prayer is that Alba will be able to rest, rejuvenate, and return to work with new energy. Alba's sabbatical will last from July 1 until August 15. For worship-related questions while Alba is away, please contact Matt: matt@universitybaptist.org

During Alba's sabbatical, we are pleased to welcome Caroline Schetlick as our interim Choir Director. A rising fourth-year student at UVA, Caroline is studying music and statistics, and she comes highly recommended by the music faculty at UVA. Please greet her warmly when you see her in worship this July and August.

UBC Members on Mission

Pray for Dean Tennant as he serves in Haiti at a medical clinic in Haiti's Eden.

Pray for Kathy Wilson's mission trip to Peru, where her aunt and uncle are serving as missionaries.

Give thanks for Roy and Jane Thomas's safe return from their two-week mission trip to Malawi and Kenya.

Pheobe Brown away

Pheobe Brown, Volunteer Coordinator, will be out of the office June 30-July 12. She and her family are travelling to Ireland. If you need assistance from the church office while Pheobe is gone, call 434.293.5106, or email Pheobe and she will be happy to assist when she returns. If you need immediate assistance, contact Rev. Will Brown wbrown@universitybaptist.org

Deacon Elections

Deacon ballots have been distributed to church members and are **due back in the office by July 15**. Please take a few minutes to prayerfully complete your ballot and participate in this process of selecting the spiritual leaders of our congregation. Contact the office if you have any questions: office@universitybaptist.org

What are they wearing??

During Sunday morning worship this summer, the choir and ministers will not be wearing robes. This accords with the more casual feel of worship in the summer, as well as the practicalities of warm robes on hot days!

Sunday Bible Study this Summer

Although our Sunday Bible Study classes take a break during the summer months, we offer a combined adult session each week in room 117 at 9:45 for anyone interested. The group will use a DVD series considering daily life in the ancient world. All are welcome.

Sunday Morning Acolytes

Are you interested in participating in Sunday morning worship? But maybe you don't like reading or speaking in front of a crowd? Please sign up to be an acolyte! We welcome anyone to participate in worship by lighting the candles and opening the Bible at the beginning of the service. The candles represent Jesus as the Light of the World, and opening the Bible reminds us that God speaks to people through Scripture. These elements of worship are brief, but they are integral to setting the tone for our worship on Sundays. We encourage all individuals, families, youth and seniors to take a turn being an acolyte. You can [sign up here](#) today!

Competition underway!

The design competition to re-imagine the green space between our parking lot and West Main Street is now underway, with the first expressions of interest coming in. Church Council will recommend to the church a panel of judges, who will select the winning design. With congregational approval, we will build it, and the winner will receive a donation to the charity she or he chooses. If you have any questions or comments, contact the senior minister. The detailed contest description can be found here: universitybaptist.org/unibap-pocket-park



UBC Softball

The season is underway, with games played most Friday nights at McIntire Park. Come cheer for our team, or contact Brad Groff if you'd like to play: brad.groff85@gmail.com

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. Upcoming Sundays that are still available are July 28 and Aug. 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.

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Connect with us

