

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 16, 2019 Vol. 71, No. 28

Whose Preference Is It Anyway?

Whose Line Is It Anyway? was a British improvisational television (1988-99) show that was adapted for American audiences and aired from 1998-2007. In the show, the host presents performers with suggestions from audience members. The performers take the suggestions and act out a scene.

I thought about *Whose Line* recently while reading a [blog post](#) from Thom S. Rainer. The post lists “Eight Signs Your Church May Be Closing Soon.” One of his signs of trouble struck me, especially in light of our recent dialogue about how we use tools in worship. Rainer writes, “The members are intensely preference-driven. They are more concerned about their music style, their programs, their schedules, and their facilities than reaching people with the gospel.”

I looked outside of the church, watched people walking by, and thought, “Whose preference is it anyway?” Do we organize our church around our preferences? Or, do we try to match what we do with the preferences of the people around us? What do they want? How do we meet those needs? If we are trying to share the love of Christ with our community, should we not organize our calendar, events, and visual displays around the preferences of the people we are trying to reach?

Stepping outside the familiar grounds of our beloved faith community and seeing with fresh eyes is difficult, if not impossible. We see the world through the lenses of our experiences. We cannot truly imagine how a visitor sees or experiences UBC. We can try. And, trying might be the best, first step. When we try to see the church through the eyes of people who have never been inside before, we can start to imagine their preferences. Imagining their preferences provides fodder for considering whether or not to incorporate what they want.

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

July 21, 2019

Sermon:

"Laban, Labor, & Leah"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Genesis 29:15-28

Anthem:

"Love Has Broken Down the Wall"
arr. Miller

Deacons: Debra Bryant, Erin Brown, Shirley Clark, Debby Johnson, Larry Johnson, Ed Smith

Nursery Workers: Judy Gough, Mary Jo Hendricks, Morgan Wagoner

Children's Church: Jeannette May, Matteo Pallini

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

How does this work? It begins by confronting Rainer's negative sign of being "intensely preference-driven." We can decide that we are not driven by our own preferences. We can be deliberate in being driven by the preferences of those we want to reach. It's a process, and it takes time. But, meeting the negative signs head on will allow us to refocus on following Christ. What next? Whose preference is it anyway? Mine? Yours? Or, something new?

Peace,
Matt

Barry Willard

Greeters: Sue Sears,
Jackie Lockwood

Medical On-Call: Lynne
Gardner

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JULY 16

9:00 UBC Work Team

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

6:30 Sanctuary Choir

SUNDAY, JULY 21

8:30 Finance Committee

Mtg

9:45 Sunday Bible Study

11:00 Worship Service

TUESDAY, JULY 23

9:00 UBC Work Team

6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

6:30 Sanctuary Choir

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

Concern Updates

Elsom Johnson -

Colonnades

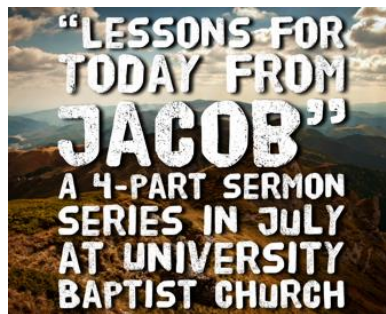
Nat Howell - home

Congratulations

Congratulations to Bob
and Cindy Bryant, proud
new grandparents of
William Boston
Craddock, IV, "Will",
born July 4 to Sarah and
Boston Craddock.

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)



Last week's speaker



Last Sunday morning, about 45 people from UBC participated in a thoughtful conversation with our guest speaker, Donna, who shared about her experience as a transgender woman. If you were unable to

attend but are interested in meeting Donna (or if you did attend and would like to talk more), she has offered to return in a less formal setting for continued conversation as a smaller group. Contact Will Brown if you are interested, and he will facilitate the meeting.

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



Soles 4 Souls: Making Progress...

In preparation for the shoe collection bin that you have read about in earlier newsletters, a group of students assisted us in preparing a site for the bin next to the playground. The bin should arrive in about 2 weeks. The volunteers you see pictured are undergraduate students from across the country who have come to UVA for the Summer Medical Leadership Program. One of them who has attended our worship services contacted us about volunteer opportunities. This is an example of how we

partner with the UVA Medical Center and students. Many thanks to Romae, Helen, Erica, Terra, Alexys, and Jordan for their help. Pheobe Brown and Alan Hendricks coordinated this volunteer effort for UBC.

Visitors from Haiti

On Sunday, July 28, we will be welcoming Monel and Joselie Jules, our friends and partners in Haiti, as our guests in worship. We also invite you to join us during the Sunday School hour, 9:45-10:45 in the Fellowship Hall, as they share about their work at Haiti's Eden. We hope you can join us!

Youth Retreat

Our youth are headed to Smith Mountain Lake, July 26-28, for a retreat. During busy summer schedules, this will be a time for relaxation, spiritual reflection, and fun. Talk to Will if you'd like to go!

Thank You Note from UVA Hospital About OIAM Sewing Project

"To all the wonderful seamstresses who participated in creating these beautiful aprons and pillowcases... Thank You!

These lovely gifts will bring cheer to the patients, smiles to the staff and families, as well as fun to the cooking experience! Thank you ever so much!"



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 Tennant: 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 Kathy Wilson's mission trip to Peru, where her aunt and uncle are serving as missionaries. (See picture)

Give thanks for Dean Tennant's safe return from his time at a medical clinic in Haiti.

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



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.

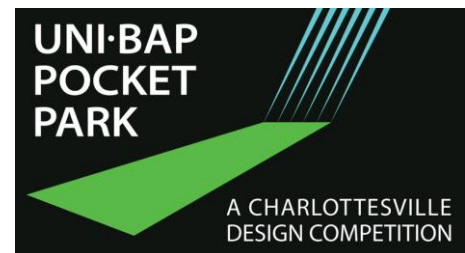
Sunday Morning Acolytes

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



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Connect with us

