

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

August 20, 2019 Vol. 71, No. 33

The 6 Minutes That Matter Most

What are the 6 most important minutes on a Sunday morning?

Arguably, the most important 6 minutes are those moments when you experience God's presence. They could be the times when you are God's instrument for another person to grow in Christ. Or, they could be the period when we, as a church, are closest to one another.

What if, instead, the question was: what are the 6 most important minutes to first-time guests or visitors? The anthem? Hymns? Scripture readings? Prayers? The sermon?

I recently saw a short video suggesting that the 6 most important minutes for guests or visitors are the 3 minutes before worship and the 3 minutes after.

My sister told me a story about visiting a church with her husband and children. He was parking the car and she went ahead to find the children's area. When she walked in, an old gentleman who wore a "greeter" nametag saw her and her children. He said nothing, but pointed down a hallway. Presumably, he was pointing to the children's area. He did not say anything.

Smiling and saying, "Good morning! We're glad you're here," is a soft, low-risk welcome. Crouching to child's level and saying, "How are you?" validates the child.

There are lots of ways to get the welcome wrong. There are lots of ways to make people feel awkward or unwelcome.

We use insider language. Mostly, it is unintentional. We all know what we mean when we say Narthex or Fellowship Hall. First-time guests will not know our insider language. Context clues might give it away, but they might not. We can watch for that pause or look of confusion and offer an explanation. Or, if we say, "We have coffee and doughnuts in the Narthex," we can point while we say it. For my sister, it was not the pointing that was the problem. It was the lack of greeting, stoic expression, and cold reception. Recognizing the importance of the 3 minutes before worship and the 3 minutes after attunes our senses to making the most of our opportunities. As I read different stories in the Gospels, Jesus continually responded to his circumstances. When someone asked him a question, nowhere in the Bible does he say, "I'm too busy." Whenever he encountered someone, he reacted and reflected perfect grace. That is why people wanted to be with him. He

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

August 25, 2019

Sermon:

"Richness of a Life in Christ"

Dr. Matt Tennant

Scripture:

Colossians 3.1-11,
Luke 12.13-21

Anthem:

"With a Voice of Singing"
arr. Shaw

"Treasures in Heaven"
arr. Clokey

Deacons: Raynell Stokes, Debby Johnson, Larry Johnson, Michelle Proffitt, Ed Smith, Wellford Tiller, Peter Ohlms

Nursery Workers: Aimee Marshall, Suzanne Smith, Connor Marshall

Children's Church: Erin Brown, Miles Jolin

Ushers for August: Shirley Clark, Sally Chewing, Martha Wood, Joyce Martin, Jack Wilkerson

transformed them into new beings.

What can we do to make the 3 minutes before and after worship count? Be fully present. Welcome people. Learn their names. Smile. Pray and ask for the Holy Spirit to help us represent the warmth of Christ so people want to come back and join our family.

Peace,
Matt

Ice Cream Social

Our annual Ice Cream Social will be held **this Sunday**, August 25, at the home of Robby and Judy Gough. (Contact the office if you need directions!)

3:00pm -- Swimming and fellowship
5:00pm -- Hot dog cookout
HOMEMADE ICE CREAM!!



- Bring drinks, chips, cookies, or brownies
- Bring chairs and blankets to sit on
- Let Judy know if you can bring a freezer of homemade ice cream

Hope to see you there!

Welcoming UVA Students

As we prepare to greet UVA students returning to Charlottesville in the next two weeks, keep an eye out for ways to welcome them into our congregation. One opportunity is to invite them to a casual student breakfast on **August 25 at 10am** in the Fellowship Hall, and then to a student lunch after worship on **Sunday, September 1**.

Perhaps the most powerful welcome, however, is for members of our congregation to greet students on Sunday mornings with a smile and a "we're glad you're here!" As students adjust to so many changes in their lives at the start of a new school year, the warm welcome of a loving church family can be a meaningful reminder of God's steadfast love, experienced in a family faith.

Sunday Bible Study Resumes

Our regular Sunday Bible Study classes resume this week. All are welcome to join us for study and fellowship, beginning each week at 9:45!

Preschool Division – Preschool Suite – Ground Floor

- Babies (G11), Younger Preschool (G10), Older Preschool (G09)

Children's Division - Second Floor

- Grades K-1 (Room 311), Grades 2-5 (Room 212b)

Youth Division - Third Floor

- Grades 6-12 (Room 303, 305)

Greeters: BJ Blincoe, John Buchanan

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

9:00 UBC Work Team

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

No Sanctuary Choir

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

9:30 Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Bible Study
10:00 Student Breakfast
11:00 Worship Service
3:00 Ice Cream Social
6:30 Jubilate Practice

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

12:00 Missions Council

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

5:45 Church Conference
6:30 Sanctuary Choir

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

Prayer Concern Updates

Martha Wood - back at Colonnades after hip surgery

Adult Division (in alphabetical order)

- **English Classes (ESOL)**, Fellowship Hall – English for International students and visiting scholars
- **Kairos Class**, Off Fellowship Hall – Discussion-based fellowship. We are somewhere between 20-somethings and senior adults.
- **Koinonia Class**, Room 117 – Discussion-based coed class, uses “Formations” literature.
- **New Life Class**, Room 115 – Discussion-based class, median adults are especially welcome
- **Open Minds**, Room 120 – Explores a progressive approach to Christianity described at <www.ProgressiveChristianity.org>.
- **Seekers**, Room G14 – Coed median/senior class covering a challenging range of Biblical studies. This class starts at 9:30.
- **Young Adults Class**, Room 209 – Discussion-based class; undergraduate and graduate students, 20-somethings, and all young adults are especially welcome.

(NOTE: The New Life Class and the Young Adult Class have switched rooms.)

Potluck Dinner - August 28, 2019

Join us for a potluck dinner on Wednesday night, August 28. We'll have a true potluck, so bring whatever you like--entrees, sides, and/or desserts! The church will provide drinks.

Church Conference - August 28, 2019

Following the dinner at 5:15, we will have a Church Conference at 5:45. Topics will include:

- Approval of the lay leadership recommendations from the Nominating Committee for the 2019-2020 year
- Approval of the panel of judges for the "UniBap Park" design competition
- Creation of the Collegiate Ministry Task Force (with members recommended by Church Council)
- Approval of updated covenants for Rev. Alba Beasley and Rev. Will Brown, with Will's covenant reflecting the shift to three-quarter-time employment

Wednesday Nights this Fall

Our fall Wednesday night programming resumes on August 28 with the potluck dinner and Church Conference (see above).

Each Wednesday night, dinner will be served beginning at 5:15. We will pray and begin the evening's program at 5:45. Dinner reservations are not required.

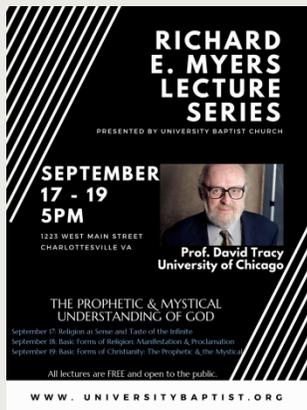
Please note that we will not meet for dinner every week, including a break for the month of October. Our hope is to keep the dinners fresh and exciting, without the burden of an unending commitment. Here is our Wednesday night schedule:

- 8/28 – Church Conference
- 9/4 – Haiti Conversation and Report
- 9/11 – Mission Reports: Roy & Jane Thomas and Kathy Wilson
- 9/18 – No Community Dinner. Lecture Series upstairs (reception to follow)
- 9/25 – Collegiate Ministry Town Hall

- October – Break - No Wednesday dinners

- 11/6 – Charlene Greene: History of Race in Charlottesville
- 11/13 – Mark Snipes, CBFVA & MLK Weekend
- 11/20 – Church Conference
- 11/27 – No Program (Thanksgiving)

- December programming TBA



Lecture Series

Save the date!
September 17-19, 5pm

Professor David Tracy will present a series of lectures entitled, "The Prophetic and Mystical Understanding of God"

More information available at universitybaptist.org/lecture-series/

Thank You!

I would like to say thank you all for all the kindness and love you have bestowed on me this past month. The delicious food, cards, prayers were amazing. I found out on Wednesday my toe is safe for now: just a "watch for now." Once I finish the antibiotics and pic line out I can halfway be normal (for me) again. Thanks so much. Blessings, Sally Chewning

Helping Our Neighbors

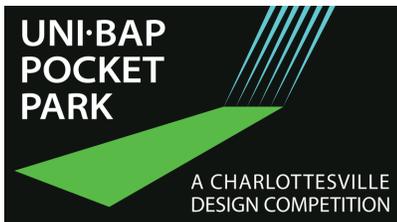
In response to a request from a local Head Start teacher, the Missions Council has provided gift cards to help four families struggling to shop for the beginning of the school year. Thank you, UBC, for supporting these families in need.

Did You Know?

Several UBC members donated household items to a new refugee family from Syria? Thank you to those of you who were able to donate household items to help our new neighbors settle in to life in Charlottesville!

Soles4Souls

Our **Soles4Souls** box is here! Please bring any clothing and shoes you wish to donate. Donations assist in disrupting poverty worldwide. Help us serve those in need, create opportunities and protect the environment! The box will be emptied about once per month.



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. At the August 28 Church Conference, 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.

So far we have had architects and landscape architects express interest in our project from New York, North Carolina, South Africa, India and Pakistan. We are excited to see what designs our contestants come up with! If you know anyone who might wish to compete please share our link: universitybaptist.org/unibap-pocket-park

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Connect with us

