

# THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

February 25, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 8

Everyday Objects,  
Repentance, & Reflection

## WATCH

This year, our theme for Lent is “Reminders of Faith.” What reminds us of our faith? Some coins? A few stones? A bucket? A pair of eyeglasses? Some bones? A palm branch? A towel? Each of these items will appear during our Lenten worship services. Each one connects to one of the central scripture passages of Lent. These common items can serve as a prompt for us to start seeing reminders of our faith in Christ daily. Then, the Lenten journey can continue beyond Easter. Reminders from everyday items can become a significant part of our faith journey.

How does this work? On Ash Wednesday, February 26, we will hear a poem by John Donne (1572-1631) set to music by John Ness Beck, and we will explore Jesus’ challenge about how we give in Matthew 6:1-6. Donne’s poem opens, “Wilt Thou forgive that sin where I begun, which is my sin, though it were done before?” It’s an appropriate Lenten poem about repentance and forgiveness. But, during Lent, we can face the temptation to show everyone how much we are repenting. For example, one might give up caffeine for Lent and then complain about how tired she is. In Matthew 6:1, Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others.” We can repent, experience God’s forgiveness, and practice a holistic and humble faith.

The blue and purple fabric adorning our sanctuary is rough. It has imperfect edges. The loops around the balcony are slightly uneven. This is intentional. Lent represents our imperfect struggle to be the light of the world, while the world around us tugs us away toward the darkness. We can respond to these tugs by being intentional. We can explore ways to follow Christ in the wilderness. We can lean into the somber tone of Lent without succumbing to the pull toward darkness. There is still hope during Lent because we know that Easter is coming.

### SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 1, 2020  
11:00 AM

**Sermon:**

"Turn These Stones to Bread"  
Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**

Matthew 4:1-11

**Anthem:**

"Jesus in the Wilderness"  
*arr. Mabry*

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**Deacons:** Scott Miller, Martha Ballenger, Jennifer Wagoner, Johnny Ellen, Nelda Vaughan, Rachel Miller, Alan Hendricks

**Nursery:** Karen Minor, Connor Marshall, Mary Jo Hendricks

**Children's Church:** Jeannette May, Vittorio Pallini

**Ushers for March:** Ian Pallini, Ed Barker, Melvin Spicer, Mildred Spicer, Ron Tweel

**Greeters:** Brad Groff, Martha Ballenger

We know that when we ask, God will forgive us. And, we know that we can practice piety without making it into a performance.

This Matthean theme of humility and being the light of the world has informed our Lenten offertory. Instead of passing collection plates each week, we will have plates near the communion table and in the narthex. We will also have the giving kiosk in the narthex. During the worship service, when we would normally say an offertory prayer and pass the plates, we will try something different. There will still be a prayer of dedication, but it will emphasize the ways people respond to God in a broader sense. This includes giving our money, but we want to dedicate all gifts. These include those who have their bank send their tithe automatically and the gifts from those who give online or through Facebook. There will be a musical reflection in place of the offertory, and a video will play showing some of the ways the church uses our gifts for God's glory.

We pray that the objects on display, our theme of repentance, and the time of reflection, will be reminders of faith for you.

Peace,  
Matt



### **Ash Wednesday Service**

February 26, 2020

5:15pm - Dinner in Fellowship Hall

6:00pm - Worship Service in Sanctuary, with the Lord's Supper and the Imposition of Ashes

### **Wednesday Night Dinners and Programs**

There will be no dinners and programs during the month of March. Our plan is to resume the dinners later in the spring, during the Easter season. Details will be announced in the Word as that time draws closer.

## **CALENDAR**

### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

9:00 Tuesday Work Team

6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

10:00 PBJ Bible Study

5:15 Dinner

6:00 Ash Wednesday Service

6:45 Sanctuary Choir Practice

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

8:30 Church Council Meeting

9:30 Hymnal Task Force Mtg

9:30 Seekers Class

9:45 Sunday Bible Study

9:45 ESOL Class

11:00 Morning Worship

12:05 Ushers Meeting

5:00 Acoustic Vespers Service

6:00 Youth Real Life

6:00 Jubilate Practice

### **MONDAY, MARCH 2**

10:30 Rosewood Bible Study

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 3**

9:00 Tuesday Work Team

7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4**

(NO Wed. Dinner or Program)

10:00 PBJ Bible Study

6:30 Sanctuary Choir Practice

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

### **Prayer Concerns**

Please pray for Jubilate's upcoming tour, March 7-12, as they travel to eastern Virginia to sing and work with Habitat for Humanity.

## Called Church Conference

There will be a Called Church Conference on Sunday, March 8, after morning worship, to vote on the members of the Search Committee for the new Associate Minister for Students. Nominees for the Search Committee were selected in accordance with our Bylaws, as follows:

- Nominated by the Nominating Committee: [Sarah Ames](#), [Martha Ballenger](#), [Amanda Ohlms](#), [Roy Thomas](#)
- Nominated by the groups "Closest to the Work": [Daniel Harper](#), [Rachel Miller](#)
- Nominated by the Deacons: [Laura Martindale](#)
- Personnel Committee Designee: [Kevin Wright](#)

## Offering Collection during Lent

During the upcoming season of Lent, our offering collection will take a different form, as we seek to consider the various ways people give to the church financially and otherwise. Our Deacons have decided not to pass the offering plates during these six Lenten Sundays, but instead to provide several locations where people can place their offering before or after the service. Our worship will still have a time of reflection which will be thematically integrated into the service.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The UBC Work Team is installing additional shelving in the first floor conference room (room 114), enabling us to expand our church library. Thank you, Work Team, for your fine work!



## Acoustic Vespers

You are invited to join us each Sunday evening, 5:00-5:30pm, for a relaxed time of worship in our sanctuary. Our hope is that this service will provide a worship opportunity for those unable to attend worship at 11am, while also being an easier entry point for college students and others who may not be drawn to a morning worship service. Come worship with us!

## Volunteer Needed

Interested in greeting people new to our church? We are looking for someone to serve as a Greeter at our Acoustic Vespers service, helping guests to feel welcome. Talk to one of our ministers for more information.

## Sunday Dinners

We need some people to help prepare and/or serve dinner to Youth and Jubilate on Sunday evenings. To learn more and sign up, please [click here](#).

## Offering Envelopes

If you use offering envelopes and need more, please contact the church office. We print them in the office and will happily print more if you have run out. Please come by anytime to pick them up or contact the office and we will send them to you.

## Save the Date

[Ash Wednesday Service](#) - February 26

[Jubilate Tour](#) - March 7-12

[Lecture Series](#) - Remi Brague - March 24-26

[Easter Egg Hunt](#) - April 4

[Operation Inasmuch \(OIAM\)](#) - April 25

[Church Picnic](#) - June 14

[Vacation Bible School](#) - June 15-19

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Connect with us

