

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Little Reminders of Faith

WATCH

As COVID-19 disrupts daily life, we must adjust our expectations for what is next. Our Lenten theme is “everyday reminders” and we are looking for everyday reminders of our faith. We have chosen some objects to point to a particular biblical story. For example, some coins remind us of Jesus’ instructions about our motivation for giving in John 6.

Today, I saw a reminder for days like this. It didn’t point me to the Bible, but it did remind me of our faith journeys. Even as the world seems focused on the news, the weather outside provides nearly constant reminders of the season. This morning, it was 41 F. Now, it is 70 F. Today, it has rained, been windy, been cloudy, and is now sunny.

The springtime reminder that spoke to me about what the world faces was a sapling. In a gentle breeze, the young tree bent back and forth with ease. It’s flexible. It doesn’t try to stop the wind. It moves with it. I need to do that too.

God is still God, and we can move through this pandemic in faith. No matter what happens, God is with you and loves you very much. Remain flexible. Be open to the Holy Spirit’s movements.

You’ll see changes this Sunday when we have Bible Study and worship together online. I don’t even know about some of those changes yet. But, I am trying to remain flexible and bend as the Spirit moves and guides me.

Peace,
Matt

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 22, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:

“Seeing as God Sees”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

John 9:35-41

Anthem:

“A Place of Healing Grace”
Arr. Sorensen

Solo:

“Give Me a Vision”
by Terrell

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

9:45 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship (join us from home!)

Other events and activities are being canceled or modified to be online-only when possible. Please contact the Church Office with any questions.

Sunday Mornings Online

Even though we are not gathering in person, we are still joining together each Sunday morning for worship and Bible study. We hope you will join us!

Bible Study

At 9:45 am, we begin an interactive Bible Study that is broadcast via [YouTube](#). We invite you to join in the conversation by adding comments during the session. We are able to see the comments in real time, and they are incorporated into the discussion. It's not quite face-to-face, but it's as close as we can get! To download the study handout ahead of time, visit universitybaptist.org/live

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin, as usual, at 11:00 am. We encourage everyone in the congregation to join us from home. As always, you can listen by radio on WINA (1070 AM and 98.9 FM), or you can join us online for our live broadcast. To view the live video broadcast, visit our [Facebook page](#) or click [this link](#) to watch on YouTube.

Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to [Ray and Nancy Gaines](#) and family, after the death of Ray's mother, Dudley Gaines, on March 13.

Pray for our world, as we all face the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pray for those infected with the virus, for people who are taking care of them, and for all who are especially at risk.

Pray for our church family, that we may draw closer, even as we keep a physical distance from one another.

Changes to Upcoming Events and Regular Programs

Because of the current outbreak of COVID-19, we are choosing to postpone or cancel many upcoming events. This decision is a painful one, as each of these events is important to who we are as a church. The [Richard E. Myers Lecture Series](#) stimulates our minds and deepens our faith. The [Easter Egg Hunt](#) is a cherished tradition, enjoyed by children and adults alike, which draws us closer as a church family. [Operation Inasmuch \(OIAM\)](#) is a way that put our faith in action to serve our community. Nevertheless, we must refrain from gathering for these events right now:

- [Lecture Series](#) - with Remi Brague - postponed until a later date, TBA
- [Easter Egg Hunt](#) - canceled
- [Operation Inasmuch \(OIAM\)](#) - canceled

In addition, many of our regular group meetings are on hold for now. The following regular activities are not meeting:

- [Acoustic Vespers](#)
- [Youth Real Life](#)
- [Rosewood Bible Study](#)
- [Sanctuary Choir](#)
- [Jubilate](#)
- [Tuesday Work Team](#)
- [Wednesday Night Dinners and Programs](#)
- [Sunday Bible Study](#) (we have a joint online study at 9:45 each week)
- [Other group/committee meetings](#): confirm with your group leader

How are we the church without these events? We are the church because we follow Christ. As unsettling and disorienting as this season may be, we remain centered in our identity as God's people. We remember that our calling as a church is more than any single event or program; it is who we are, not just what we do. So, as painful as it is to make these decisions, we do what we must to protect our church family and all who live in our community. This is in itself an act of compassion for our neighbors. We look forward to the time when we can resume our regular

church programming, and we will keep you posted in future editions of The Word.

Looking ahead to the summer, we keep these activities on the calendar as we wait to see how the coronavirus situation unfolds:

- [Church Picnic](#) - June 14
- [Vacation Bible School](#) - June 15-19

Need Groceries?

If you need groceries or medicines and don't want to go out shopping, let the church office know. Healthy volunteers with a lower risk of serious infection are willing to bring the needed items your door.

A few people have already volunteered to help with this, but please also let the office know if you're willing to be added to the list of healthy shoppers.

Feeding Local Students

Yesterday we delivered 22 bags of food to Venable Elementary School. These are now being distributed to students without reliable access to meals when schools are closed.

Thank you to Brian and Vicki Miller for being our consistent food shoppers, and to our 3rd-6th graders for packing these bags during their "Second Sunday" time during a recent worship service.

Going forward, the principal at Venable has let us know that the response is being coordinated by the city as a whole, so we will no longer need to bring the weekly bags during the school closure. However, she appreciates our church's willingness to help whenever the need arises and will let us know how we can help. For those wishing to contribute now, you might consider the [Blue Ridge Area Food Bank](#) or the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation's [Emergency Response Fund](#).



Construction In Progress!

Installation of benches is underway in the UBC Pocket Park, the outcome of the Design Contest last fall. It is exciting to see these developments taking shape!



Jubilate Tour 2020

These are difficult and different times for us all, and our tour this year reflects that. Because of the size of our group this year (11 singers) we decided not to rent a bus for our planned trip to Clearwater, Florida, but to try to find ministry closer to home. We travelled to Williamsburg on Saturday, March 7, and had supper with Lydia Erbaugh's family and Kathleen Harrell Leiner's parents. After a short rehearsal, we spent the night with the Erbaugh's and the Harrell's. On Sunday morning, we assembled at Williamsburg Mennonite Church, where we were invited to present our full musical program in their morning worship service. As we sang "Beautiful Savior" at the close of the service, we were joined by Derek and Kathleen Leiner and Robby Gough!



That afternoon we travelled to the home of Anne and W.C. Keith, where we spent the week with them. After supper out, we spent some time playing games and growing fellowship. With the use of inflatable air mattresses, couches and sleeping bags, we were able to rest and prepare for a week of

ministry and music.

On Monday morning, we helped the Keith's with several work projects around their house. We then sang a noon concert at Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay. Again, we were able to present our entire program, and the residents were enthusiastic and appreciative of our music and our presence. That night we went bowling! One of our members, a tenor named Misha from China, had never been bowling. He had the best score of all the guys in the last game! And Lydia gave us all a lesson on how to bowl!!

On Tuesday, we worked in the Habitat for Humanity Store in Virginia Beach. That evening we sang at The Bickford of Virginia Beach. Again, we were able to sing our entire program and again the residents were enthusiastic and appreciative. After supper, Lydia led us in a worship time.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed some quality time with the Keith's. That afternoon we travelled to Yorktown and had some time to walk on the beach and even put our toes in the Chesapeake. We then went to St. Luke's Methodist Church (Alexis Haskiell's home church), where, again, we were able to present our entire program. The church was gracious and received our music ministry enthusiastically.

After this concert, we had a bitter sweet moment as we realized that we were close to the end of our tour, and we did not know when we would see each other again.

I am so proud of our 11 member "ensemble" and especially the 8 who were able to go on tour. They sang beautifully and with enthusiasm. Their facial expressions and their understanding of and ability to express the meaning of the music as they sang was inspiring.

Going forward, we hope and pray that we can get back together and present our program here at UBC.

Thank you for your financial and prayerful support of Jubilate this year and for 46 years!

Memorial Lilies for Easter

Easter will be April 12, and we would like to decorate our sanctuary with an abundance of lilies. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Lexi at lwoodson@universitybaptist.org or call the church office to let her know the wording that you would like to appear in the Easter bulletin. The cost of each lily will be \$10. You can mail a check or drop it in the offering plate earmarked "Easter Lilies." The last day to order is Monday, April 6. You may pick up your lilies after the 11:00 am Easter service.



Mission Moment

Each Spring UBC has participated in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's National Missions Offering. This emphasis helps support our missionaries right here in the US. For many years, our Offering has gone directly to Paula Settle in Nada, Kentucky. With Paula's December 2019 retirement looming, she made us aware of another CBF field missionary in a county in southeastern Kentucky. Our Missions Council reached out to this missionary, Scarlette Jasper. She is enthusiastic and excited to create a partnership with our church. First, a bit about Scarlette... she was commissioned as a field missionary by CBF in 2014. She serves in areas of persistent poverty in McCreary County, one of the poorest counties in the United States. She is married, the mother of three children and two grandchildren. She is also a student at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky pursuing her Master of Divinity with a concentration in pastoral Care and Counseling. Scarlette is the Director of Olive Branch Ministries, Inc. (olivebranchministriesky.org) Some of the many needs that Scarlette helps address are: working with the homeless, coordinates children's literacy projects, allocates funds for rent and utility deposits, assists with transportation costs when families must travel for appointments to distant medical centers, provide heaters or propane in the winter, supports

local schools with clothing, school supplies, food, hygiene items, and helping veterans get needed services. She maintains a small mission house that serves as an emergency shelter and place for pastoral counseling. Like the majority of our field missionaries, Scarlette must raise her own program and project support.

Now, that you know a little more about Scarlette's work, won't you prayerfully consider being apart of our National Missions offering that will go directly to Scarlette's numerous community needs? Please use one of the envelopes in the pew racks **to donate** with cash or by check, designated " National Missions".

Lenten Series: Reminders of Faith

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.



Available for use

Do you know someone hearing impaired that could use an attachable phone unit that amplifies sound and lights up to signal incoming calls? If so, contact Jeanne Nye at jpny@hotmai.com or call the church office.

DID YOU KNOW?

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.

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