

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Seeing One Another &
Life During a Pandemic

NWATCH ^{New}

How can we see each other when we are supposed to stay home? Governor Northam issued a “stay-at-home” order yesterday. After carefully reading it, I think we can continue to maintain social distance from one another and present the live stream from UBC. Some people have shared with me how grounding it feels to see the sanctuary in real time on Sunday mornings.

Live streams provide an amazing opportunity to remain connected to the church, yet congregants don’t get to see one another. As with everyone else, the church staff has been climbing a steep learning curve. We try to improve the live stream each week. If you have suggestions or would like to see something, please let me know.

A few weeks ago, we started testing Google Meet for video conferencing. The Associate Minister Search Committee met on Sunday morning via Meet. It was a productive meeting, and the committee elected Kevin Wright as the chairperson and Amanda Ohlms as the vice-chairperson. The group identified some candidates to explore further and will continue moving forward. They are moving slowly since we do not know the future and what impact this pandemic will have on our church. In the middle of everything else, a group of people doing the work of the church via video conference is amazing! It reminds me that God is still moving.

In the church office, we have a Zoom Pro account that we want to put to use. On Sunday, we will host a Church Council meeting via Zoom, and next Wednesday, April 8, we will host the PB&J Bible Study video conference. I want more! I want to see different groups getting together on Zoom, and I think it will be good for our body of believers to see one another.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

April 5, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:

“What Kind of King”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Matthew 21:1-11

Anthem:

“Hosanna to the King”
arr. Larson

Solo:

“Hymn of Brays”
by Olney

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, April 1

7:00p Sanctuary Choir (*via Zoom*)

SUNDAY, April 5

8:30 Church Council (*via Zoom*)
9:45 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship (*join us from home!*)

WEDNESDAY, April 8

10:00a PBJ Bible Study (*via Zoom*)

My question for you is: how can I help? What group would you like to get together?

Alba, Will, and I are here for you. We can set up your meeting, put it on the church calendar, and be available to help pull it off. That's why we are here, and that's our evolving interpretation of ministering during this crisis. Wouldn't it be great to replace all of the "cancelled" lines on the church calendar with "This Group - Zoom" and "That Group - Zoom"?

Replacing "cancelled" with "Zoom" on the calendar and in our lives is a story of resurrection. Something replaces nothing. People saying words aloud to one another substitutes for silence. Sharing together switches with isolation and loneliness. Praying with one another takes the place of praying alone. Together, we can bring new life into this time of uncertainty.

We are here for you and want to minister to you during this very difficult time. Tell us what you need.

Peace,
Matt

Looking Ahead:

April 19: Associate Minister Search Committee Meeting

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

Prayer Concerns

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.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Spy Wednesday - April 8, 12:00 noon

Maundy Thursday - April 9, 6:00 pm

Good Friday - April 10, 12:00 noon

All services will be broadcast live on YouTube and Facebook. Details available here: [universitybaptist.org/live](https://www.universitybaptist.org/live)

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](https://www.youtube.com). Each week we are examining Biblical Responses to Crisis. This week Will Brown will be leading a session entitled "These Seventy Years: Making a Home in Exile," focusing on Jeremiah 29:1-14.

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](https://www.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.

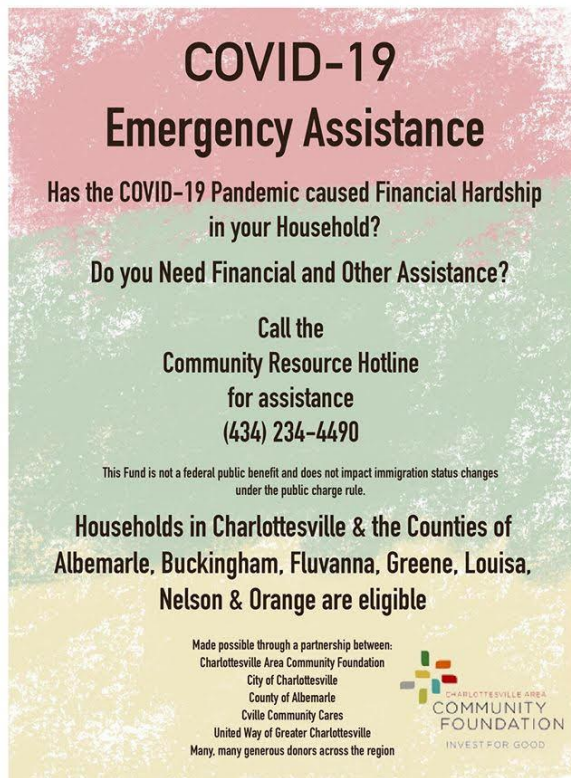
Communion Sunday

We will share in the Lord's Supper this Sunday morning as part of our worship. When you gather by your computer, phone, or radio, bring some bread and juice with you (of any kind!), so that you are ready to participate when the time comes.

Need Groceries or Meals?

If you need groceries, meals, 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 to your door.

A few people have already volunteered to help with this, but please also let us know if you're willing to be added to the list of healthy shoppers. You can contact the office or email pbrown@universitybaptist.org



**COVID-19
Emergency Assistance**

Has the COVID-19 Pandemic caused Financial Hardship
in your Household?


Do you Need Financial and Other Assistance?

Call the
Community Resource Hotline
for assistance
(434) 234-4490

This Fund is not a federal public benefit and does not impact immigration status changes
under the public charge rule.

Households in Charlottesville & the Counties of
Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa,
Nelson & Orange are eligible

Made possible through a partnership between:
Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
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Many, many generous donors across the region

CHARLOTTESVILLE AREA
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INVEST FOR GOOD

An Update from the Office

While much of the church building is quiet during this time, there is office staff available Monday-Thursday to continue to address your needs. Many activities continue as normal in the areas of worship planning and adapting to livestream-only services, financial tracking and administration, and ministry. Marcus Stanley has done an excellent job preparing videos for Sunday morning worship, and Lexi Woodson has quickly and enthusiastically moved into her role in our office.

We have worked to conserve funds by turning off non-essential equipment, such as some refrigerators and hot water heaters, and adjusted thermostats for minimal energy usage. Essential building maintenance and safety related items continue to be addressed. For example, we recently had our required quarterly elevator inspection and annual fire extinguisher inspection. Thomas has shifted his custodial responsibilities to do additional cleaning of touch surfaces and catch up on many cleaning tasks that are not part of his normal weekly routine.

Memorial Gifts for Easter

With the unusual circumstances this year, we are planning something different in place of our usual Easter Lilies. As it appears increasingly unlikely that the congregation will be able to gather in the sanctuary for Easter morning, we will not be purchasing lilies to decorate the space and then go home with members of the congregation. However, we know that dedicating these lilies to our loved ones is a cherished tradition for many of us.



This year, we invite you to make a contribution to the church in honor or memory of a loved one, and we will compile a list of these dedications as we traditionally do. To make this special Easter contribution, 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. Even without the tangible flowers in front of us, the love and memory of family and friends brightens our spirits this Easter season.

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.



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 Scarlett's work, won't you prayerfully consider being a part of our National Missions offering that will go directly to Scarlett's numerous community needs? Please use one of the envelopes in the pew racks **to donate** with cash or by check, designated " National Missions". You can also mail your missions offering to the church office along with your regular offering, or make a contribution online.

DID YOU KNOW?

Online and Automatic Giving

Online giving simplifies contributing by allowing for a specific dollar amount to be sent to University Baptist Church on a specific date, thus decreasing the number of checks you have to write. You can set this up to happen automatically from your bank account, or make a single contribution on our website or Facebook page. For more information, visit universitybaptist.org/give or call our church office.

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