

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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A Rainy Reflection

When I see the rain, I think about new life. The rain comes down and waters the world. As Annie sang, "The sun will come out tomorrow." With faith that the sun will rise again, we can be thankful for rainwater pouring on earth to make plants, trees, crops, and even weeds grow. The growth continues creating life.

In our walk with Christ, we need seasons of growth. During a season, plants don't grow constantly. They spend some of the time waiting for rain. When the rain comes, they soak in the moisture and begin to grow again. For seasons of growth in faith, we wait for rain from heaven. When it comes, we soak it in and grow. The rain can be in the form of a quote or verse or awareness of God's presence. When that spiritual rain comes, the wait is over and we grow.

When we wake to a rainy morning, like today, letting it dampen our spirits remains an ever-present temptation. I want to stay in bed, pull the covers up, and listen to the pitter patter sound outside. Yet, if I get up, I can see leaves on trees dance up and down as raindrops splatter off.

Rain does not need to keep us inside. Norwegians have a phrase, "Det fins ikke dårlig vær, bare dårlige klær," which means, "There is no bad weather, just bad clothes." On rainy days, appropriate clothing can make going outside a fun, refreshing experience. We can see the water bringing new life to the world around us.

In his book *Participating in God*, Paul Fiddes writes, "If rain is caused by condensation of water vapor, in what sense is God the creator of rain?" The two-cause theory suggests an immediate cause and an ultimate cause. In this case, the immediate cause of the rain today is water vapor. We can wear the proper clothing, go outside, and enjoy creation. The ultimate cause is God. God created the world, creates in the world, and will continue creating in the future.

ON WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

May 24, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Living for Christ"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
Acts 1:1-11

Anthem:
"All the Earth Rejoice With a
Gladsome Voice"
(arr. Hopson)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, May 20
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (*Zoom*)
7:00 Sanctuary Choir (*Zoom*)

SUNDAY, May 24
9:45 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
(*radio and livestream*)
6:00 Youth Real Life (*Zoom*)

Other events and activities are being canceled or modified to be online-only when possible.

We participate in God's work when we see God in the world, both in the immediate sense of right in front of us and in the ultimate sense of an eternal future. God is in the water vapor becoming rain, and God is in the ultimate future. Rain ushers in a season of growth, not just for the plants, but as an opportunity to see God in both the near present and the distant future. Sometimes, we have to wait for the rain. Other times, the rain comes. When it does, instead of pulling up the covers and going back to sleep, we can be present in the rain and grow with God. We can see the new life taking shape around us. And, we can reflect on Christ in us.

Peace,
Matt

Worship Leadership

Would you like to help lead in worship? Each week we are looking for people to read a Scripture lesson or lead in other ways. Typically, this means taking a short video of yourself--the camera on your phone is perfect for this. Talk to Alba if you're interested!

UBC Fellowship Conversation

When: May 24, 7:00pm

On Sunday evening, May 24, our congregation will gather online for a time of fellowship. While we all miss being together face to face, we are fortunate to have online tools to connect us during this time of social distancing. Many UBC groups have been meeting online in various ways, but we also wanted to have an opportunity for the whole congregation to meet and catch up. Our fellowship time will start at 7:00pm on the Zoom platform. Zoom is a video conferencing computer program, which also has the ability for people to call in on the phone and participate that way (without video).

We have several security measures in place to minimize the chance of disruption. Instructions for joining the meeting will be emailed/mailed next week (one way we are keeping the meeting more secure). If this is your first Zoom meeting, we recommend joining the meeting at 6:50pm so we can help you get started before everyone joins. Please contact our staff if you have any questions or if we can help you with the technology.

Please contact your group leader or 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.



Congratulations, 2020 Graduates!

Please join us in congratulating the Class of 2020 graduates here at UBC!!

Joey Hamel is graduating from Western Albemarle and will attend Christopher Newport University in the fall.

Zach Martindale is graduating from Albemarle High School and will be attending the University of Richmond in the fall to study business.

Ewing Minor is graduating from Albemarle High School and plans to attend Carson Newman University.

Jacob Morris will graduate from Monticello High School and plans to pursue the Agriculture Technology program at Virginia Tech.

Dean Tennant is graduating from Charlottesville High School and will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall.

Mattie Morris Tomlin graduated from Radford University Carilion with a BS in nursing.

Katherine Wagoner will graduate from Messiah College in May with a degree in Human Development and Family Science.

Seamore Zhu graduated from Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College this Spring. He plans to go to graduate school after a year's transition.

Katherine Gaines Bell is graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Masters in Social Work. She plans to be a caregiver for older adults while pursuing licensure with an end goal of hospice social work.

May God continue to bless and watch over you as you enter into this next chapter of your life.

Get Ready for Bible Study

This Sunday morning at 9:45, our Bible Study will focus on 1 Peter 2:16-25. As you prepare for our session, we invite you to read through 1 Peter—the entire book if you can take the time, and especially today's passage. This section's instructions regarding slavery are challenging to us as modern readers. What care must we take as we interpret such texts? What meaning does this passage have for us, and how is it related to the suffering of Christ?



What's New!

We have recently moved a set of shelves from the minister's study to the Library/Conference Room as part of preparing an office for a new Associate Minister for our Collegiate & Youth Ministry. Gary Dalton and Tom Moore have installed the shelves, and Tom finished the painting this week. Soon the shelves will be filled with many new books for you to borrow and read.

Deacon Election

It is that time of year once again to elect Deacons to serve as leaders in our church, ensuring spiritual health and well-being of the congregation. Expect a draft ballot by email or U.S. mail in the next few days. This ballot is a list of all church members living in the central Virginia area who are physically able to serve. The purpose of this ballot is for your review. If your name is listed and you are unable to serve as a Deacon, please contact the church office by May 20th to have your name removed. Likewise, if your name is missing and you are willing to serve as a Deacon we apologize for the mistake and ask that you also let the church office know to add your name.

Let's Share!

During this season of social distancing, we'd love to use this newsletter to help us stay connected as individuals. Would you be willing to help? Each week we'd like to share a mini-interview with a church member, so that we can hear updates from one another. We need your help! Simply write a short answer to the three questions below, and email them to Lexi in the church office, or call the office at 434-293-5106. Her email address is lwoodson@universitybaptist.org

- 1) What has been the biggest surprise to you about the COVID-19 pandemic?
- 2) What has been the biggest inconvenience?
- 3) What has been an unexpected blessing?

We hope to hear from you soon!



Interview Response: Lynn Martin

1) What has been the biggest surprise to you about the COVID-19 pandemic? I have been

disheartened by the slow and inadequate response of government agencies to the warnings about the coronavirus and their lack of coordination of efforts to inform the public. I have been given hope by the responses of individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations that have stepped up to address and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on those most directly affected.

2) What has been the biggest inconvenience? I have been only slightly inconvenienced. Mainly, I need a haircut, but I've gotten creative with hair clips and headbands!

3) What has been an unexpected blessing? I have been blessed by having my granddaughters with me almost every day, making it possible for their parents to continue working. I also feel blessed to have the family and friends connections made possible by technology.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Join us in wishing some of our church family a Happy Birthday this week!

May 19th: Mildred Spicer,
May 20th: Jimmy Li
May 21st: Tina Cromwell
May 23rd: Sally Chewning,
May 25th: Mike Dean, Leah Miller, Edith Parker



May God bless you all with abundant joy on your birthday and always.

Having a birthday and do not see your name here? Please help us update our records. Contact Lexi at lwoodson@universitybaptist.org to provide your updated information.



Masks for Rosewood

This week 50 homemade masks were made and delivered to Rosewood at Hollymead.

Need a Mask??

Volunteers in our church have been hard at work sewing beautiful fabric masks. Do you need one?



This expression of love from our talented church members is one way that we can take care of one another. If you do not have a mask yet or if you need another, please contact the church office or one of the ministers so that we can get a fabric mask to you.

Like to Sew?

We extend our deep gratitude to the volunteers in our church who have already made dozens of fabric masks for others who need them. If you would like to share your skills and join in this effort, call Will Brown or email him at wbrown@universitybaptist.org

Painting in Progress

Over the next few weeks, the church building will be having exterior painting completed getting us ready for the spring!



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. To download the 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.

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.

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

