

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

May 26, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 20

Being Present During a Time of Social Distancing

NWATCH

As I looked from face to face during the recent church wide Zoom party, I thought about being present. I don't mean simply showing up. By being present, I mean being engaged, actively listening to what someone says, and continuing to think about the person later.

Being present is an awareness of the moment. It means taking in one's surroundings. Being present with another person frees us from previous interactions. The past is the past. Being present is about this moment, right now. The moment can be pregnant with opportunities and possibly even include some latent excitement. There's gratitude in the moment because experiencing it is a blessing, and when we are blessed, we say thank you.

COVID-19 presents a special challenge to being fully present. Zoom is fraught with distractions. During the call, we divided into virtual rooms so that we could have more intimate conversations. Yet, I maintained an eye on the larger controls for the call. Just as I listened to someone tell about her week, I saw a new arrival in the Zoom waiting room.

During a pandemic, we cannot be together in the same physical space, and video conferences make being fully present a challenge. Still, God calls us to care for one another, to listen to each other's stories, and be present. The challenges are worth addressing.

Despite Zoom-fatigue, social distancing, and varying opinions about when and how we can gather, join video calls and listen to one another. Doing so allows us to be the family God called us to be. Pray for wisdom for church leaders. We are working together to provide clarity about when and how we can be in the same space again.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

May 31, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Gracious Gifts from God"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, May 27

10:00 PBJ Bible Study (*Zoom*)
7:00 Sanctuary Choir (*Zoom*)

SUNDAY, May 31

8:30 Associate Minister Search
Committee Meeting
9:45 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
(*radio and livestream*)
7:00 Youth Real Life (*Zoom*)

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

You know the drill: masks, hand washing, and social distancing. As we move forward through these strange times, our calling does not diminish. Being present, even on a video conference, allows us to minister to one another.

Peace,
Matt

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.

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!

Get Ready for Bible Study

This Sunday morning at 9:45, our Bible Study will focus on 1 Peter 3:1-12, a passage that begins with instruction regarding marital relationships and then broadens to address everyone. 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. As with the latter part of chapter 2, there is a notable distance between the original cultural context of this passage and our own context today. When we take care to read thoughtfully, what wisdom does this passage teach us about how to act faithfully in our relationships? What type of life does this describe? Where does this passage challenge you?

UBC Fellowship Conversation

On Sunday evening, several dozen members of UBC gathered online for a time of fellowship and conversation. It was great to see each other's faces, to pray, and to hear updates about life during these strange days. We will have a similar gathering in two weeks, on a Sunday afternoon. We hope you will join us on June 7 at 2pm. See you then!



What's New!

During this season when our sanctuary cannot be filled on Sunday mornings, we are using this unique opportunity to clean and stain all of the pews in our sanctuary--a lengthy process that has not been possible in many years. Thank you to the church volunteers who are devoting numerous hours to this project. The beautiful pews will make our re-gathering that much sweeter, when at last that day arrives.



Update: Vacation Bible School

We are sad to announce that Vacation Bible School will not take place this year. We were hoping to be able to make something work, but there doesn't seem to be a safe and responsible way to have VBS at church this year. In lieu of meeting in person, Erin will be sending out a virtual VBS Bingo with summer activities for kids and families.

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: Marcus Stanley

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

How many jobs were severely impacted through this. How many precious lives have been lost. How many families have been affected.

2) What has been the biggest inconvenience? Going to the gym daily. But on the positive side, my family and I now walk several times together a week. Also, I started running.

3) What has been an unexpected blessing? Receiving the news that we will be expecting our fourth child in 2020.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

May 28th: Debby Johnson, Scott Morris

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.



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.

Online and Automatic Giving

DID YOU KNOW?

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

