



May 12, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 18

Virginia's Phase 1: Stay Safe & Stay at Home

ONWATCH

Governor Northam issued guidelines for Phase 1 of reopening the state. They include some mandatory steps and recommendations for churches. However, they do not require us to reopen. In fact, the safest approach is probably to continue doing what we have been doing in recent weeks.

COVID-19 spreads by contact. Thus, we should avoid contact. This is not a political statement. Nor is it my opinion. It is the advice of the CDC, WHO, and every other expert about the spread of COVID-19. If we want to see the number of new cases decrease, we must avoid spreading it and take steps to mitigate risks when we leave our homes. These steps include wearing a mask, washing our hands, and maintaining a safe social distance.

Right now, at UBC, we are thinking about our next steps. We are exploring having different doors for people to enter and exit the building. We are looking at whether we need to mark pews or trust people to distance themselves. We are actively searching for ways to provide worship music while keeping the choir safe. Denominational bodies, government officials, and public health experts have guidance about reopening. Alba, Will, and I have been trying to take it all in. And, on Thursday, the deacons will talk about various options as we look at what reopening our church looks like. If you have ideas, please reach out to one of the ministers.

At some point, there will be a period when some people might start coming to worship at church instead of worshipping via the live stream. We are setting up several video screens to allow people to see and hear the videos included in worship. This novel coronavirus pandemic has changed the world, and in the distant future, worship might look a little different than it did

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

May 17, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Baptizing Fear"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
1 Peter 3:13-33

Anthem:
"Be Not Afraid"
(Courtney)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, May 13
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)
6:30 Sanctuary Choir (Zoom)

THURSDAY, May 14
6:30 Deacons Meeting (Zoom)

SUNDAY, May 17
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.

just a few months ago. More people might remain connected through a live stream rather than coming together in person. That's okay. We will adjust.

Worship is about God—praise, growth, and communal spiritual formation. It's not just a place or some songs and ancient words. We can worship even if we have to maintain some distance. When we worship, we go through some familiar motions. These are our rituals, and the rituals we follow have meaning. In Romans 2:25-29, Paul talks about a ritual from his time, and he points out that it is important when it has inner meaning. He calls it a "matter of the heart" and suggests that rituals are spiritual and not literal.

Over these past Sundays, when Will and I light the candles and open the Bible, we invoke the Holy Spirit as a "matter of the heart" in the life of our church. It signals the start of worship. It's a visual reminder that we, as a family of faith, pause to praise God, grow in Christ, and become aware of the Holy Spirit's movement.

We can keep worshipping via the live stream for now. We won't be exclusively online forever. In the future, we don't know exactly what worship will look like. For now, as a church family, let us stay safe and continue coming together each week online.

Peace,
Matt

Please contact your group leader or the Church Office with any questions

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

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.

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.



CONGRATS GRADUATES!

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 2:11-17. 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. Notice the complicated relationship described here between the Christian community and the broader society, including its political arrangements. As you read, ask yourself why Peter offers the advice that he does. What impact does our conduct have on the society around us? How should our Christian faith relate to our engagement in the political life of our community?

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. 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.

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!

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:

Patti Barretta

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

The inadequacy and incompetence about the COVID-19 pandemic of the Federal Gov. to take charge for combating the situation sooner.

2) What has been the biggest inconvenience?

It was difficult not being able to see family and friends especially on Easter.

3) What has been an unexpected blessing?

Our neighbors, quite a number, have inquired about how we are and offering to grocery shop for us! We felt loved!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

May 13th: Eddy Tennant, Michele Turner

May 15th: Shelby Clements, Nancy Eaton, Tom Mahone, Logan Wilson

May 16th: Jacob Morris

May 17th: Barbara Weber, Lucille Holliday, Bill Murray

May 18th: Thea Cheuk



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.

Soles 4 Souls

Our Soles 4 Souls box is still here! Please bring any clothing and shoes you would like to donate. Donations assist in disrupting poverty worldwide. Help us serve those in need, create opportunities and protect the environment! The box is emptied about once per month.

To learn more, click [here](#) or visit <https://www.soles4souls.org/>



Masks for Southwood

Ever since the CDC recommended fabric face masks be worn in public, members of our congregation have been busily sewing and giving away dozens and dozens of masks. (If anyone in the congregation does not have a mask yet or knows someone who needs one, please contact the church office so we can send them to you.) Thank you to all the people who have been hard at work sewing and sharing masks!

At the suggestion of one of our Deacons, we reached out to a contact at Southwood, a large local mobile home community, to see if residents there needed masks. As our contact talked to families, she found that while a few of them already had masks, but many did not. Word began to spread between neighbors, and requests kept coming in. Our contact explained, "These families just don't have connections to know where to find these things and are so grateful."

We distributed over 50 masks to the people at Southwood, including some child-sized masks. Residents were effusive in their thanks. Said one in a text message, "Wow! Besides serving to protect us and protect other people, they ARE BEAUTIFUL !!" Another recipient said, "Muchas gracias alas señoras por ayudarnos a cuidar nuestras familias Dios les bendiga," which translates, "Thank you very much to the ladies for helping us to take care of our families. God bless you."



Sharing these masks is one way we are able, as individuals and as a church, to share God's love with our neighbors. As this pandemic continues, please be on the lookout for ways we can be the Church to those in our community. If you become aware of people needing masks or people with other needs, please reach out to our church staff so that we can help find ways to get involved, as we seek always to serve God and love our neighbors.

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.

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Connect with us

