

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

August 25, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 33

Has the climate crisis
fallen off our radar
during this pandemic?

WATCH

While we are trying to figure out how to have church and wondering what schools will do, other major news stories fail to grab our attention. Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) **rolled back a climate regulation**. This policy prevented oil and gas industries from emitting methane. Methane is a toxic greenhouse gas. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, **methane warms the planet by 86 times as much as CO2** over 20 years. Now, the new EPA policy removes the requirement to install pollution-control equipment. This equipment detects and fixes methane leaks from wells, pipelines, and storage sites.

News like this make me think of Psalm 24, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." Or, Romans 7:15, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate."

We know God made the world. We know what harms the world. Yet, we pollute it anyway. This is not a political issue, nor is this a liberal or conservative issue. This is a theological issue. It is about recognizing who God is and what it means to follow Christ. Oil and gas operations **leak millions of tons of methane** each year. The Natural Resources Defense Council has found that this recent move by the EPA could result in more than 510,000 tons of additional methane reaching the atmosphere each year.

I can picture the Apostle Paul saying, "I do not understand my own actions." We are all distracted by a world-wide pandemic and the ensuing economic recession. While we watch the COVID-19 numbers, it is tempting to look away when the EPA deregulates and promises it will provide prosperity.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

August 30, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Losing and Finding"
Rev. Will Brown

Scripture:
Matthew 16:21-28

Anthem:
"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O
God"
(Mueller)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, August 26

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice
(Zoom)

SUNDAY, August 30

9:45 No Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
(radio and livestream)
7:15 Youth Real Life (Zoom)

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

What is the cost of deregulation?

In the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12.13-21), Jesus tells about a man who built a bigger barn. His fields produced abundantly, so he tore down his barn and built a bigger one. When the man died, he could not take his wealth with him. Even if the reduced EPA 7 regulations stimulate economic growth, what is the cost? Is it worth 510,000 tons of methane pollution? Today, during a recession, having more money makes sense. However, more money is not worth ruining the planet for future generations. It's shortsighted.

Following God is never about immediate gratification. In some ways, God does respond in the moment. The presence of Christ comforts us today. The Holy Spirit leads us into tomorrow. Still, being a Christ-follower is a lifelong commitment. We die to ourselves and live for God each day. We recognize that the earth is the Lord's. Instead of "not doing what we want," we can be good stewards of this planet—even during a pandemic.

We can respond as Christians to EPA moves like this by voting. This is an election year. Everyone should vote. Prayerfully consider each candidate for each office. Think about the variety of ways God can use them. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you vote for the person who will protect God's world and not make shortsighted decisions.

Peace,
Matt

Prayer Concerns

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 the unrest in our country and around the world. Pray that we could listen to one another and have Christ-like empathetic eyes.

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

Called Church Conference

On Sunday, August 30 there will be a Called Church Conference directly after the worship service. There are several ways to participate:

- 1) In person
- 2) On Zoom (the primary way we anticipate for most of the congregation)
- 3) Watching on YouTube, by special request

Details about how to join the Zoom call will be emailed to all active church members on Wednesday. If you will be unable to join by Zoom, please contact Will Brown. He will provide a link where you can watch the Called Church Conference on YouTube and call on the phone to record your vote. Please contact Will if you have any questions.

University Baptist Church Quarterly Church Conference August 30, 2020 Agenda

Opening Prayer - Dr. Tennant

Nominating Committee Report for 2020/2021 - Raynell Stokes

Reports from:

- Deacons

- Finance
- Missions
- Personnel
- Other Committees and Councils

Reports from Ministers:

- Rev. Beasley
- Rev. Brown
- Dr. Tennant

Closing Prayer



Meet Val Fisk

Val Fisk holds a M.Div. with a concentration in Biblical Studies & Languages from Truett Theological Seminary (Baylor University, Waco, TX), and a BA in Youth Ministry & Adolescent Studies from Judson University (Elgin, IL). She has received various academic awards including the Dr. Ruth Ann Foster Outstanding Graduate Award (Truett, 2018) and the Erickson Prize for Excellence in Biblical Studies (Judson, 2013). Val has served in a variety of ministry roles across generations and across the country, more recently including serving as Pastoral Associate at University Baptist Church of Waco, Texas (2017-2018) and Pastoral Resident for College & Young Adults at Central Baptist Bearden in Knoxville, Tennessee (2019-2020). Val has also

spent the past several years pursuing training in the Enneagram of Personality as a tool for spiritual growth and development (she's an 8!).

On a more personal note, Val likes to burn fall & Christmas scented candles all year long, loves freshly juiced ginger shots (the spicier the better!), and enjoys spending time with her two cats, Neville and Minerva. She also enjoys paddleboarding, kayaking, and generally being near water, and hiking the occasional trail. Be careful when asking Val about her nerdy side - if you get her started in a conversation about Harry Potter or Doctor Who, you might never get her to stop! Val's list of most-listened-to artists on Spotify includes Taylor Swift, Sam Smith, Ben Platt, and Brandi Carlile, and her favorite movies include anything with Meryl Streep, *The Princess Bride*, and *Inside Out*.

Collections for FCCW (Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women) Hygiene Kits September 1 - November 8, 2020

Yes, we are beginning early this fall to collect hygiene kits for FCCW, to give everyone ample time during the COVID pandemic to get your items to the church. Collection boxes will be located on the Ground Floor in the handicap entranceway (so you don't even have to come in the building), in the lobby outside the church office, and in the Narthex.

Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, located in Troy, VA, seeks the support of individuals and churches for their inmate Christmas gift program, a ministry of the Chaplain Service of the Churches of VA, Inc. Through the generosity of so many, the Chaplain and volunteers are able to put very practical gifts into the hands of over 1,200 grateful inmates.

Please keep in mind that you must not deviate, even slightly, with regard to amount, size, or type of hygiene items, and they should be secured in a clear plastic zip-lock bag.

Hygiene Items Ministry

- One individually-wrapped toothbrush
- One tube of toothpaste no larger than 6-ounce
- One alcohol-free bottle of shampoo no larger than 15 fluid ounces
- One alcohol-free deodorant stick (spray is not permitted) no larger than 2.4 ounces
- One alcohol-free bottle of lotion no larger than 15 fluid ounces



Card Ministry

- One wooden pencil--unsharpened
- Greeting cards for all occasions including Christmas and Hanukkah
- Any stationery items
- Postage stamps

Money Contributions

For donors who wish to contribute money, please make your check payable to "Grace Inside". In the Memo section, write "FCCW Resource Fund." These funds are used to purchase shortages in Christmas gift items and to support inmates in other ways, such as purchasing classroom materials, providing worship supplies, or paying travel expenses for funeral or deathbed visits.

Please mail all checks to the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (Attn: Chaplain's Office), PO Box 1000, Troy, VA 22974.

Sunday Bible Study this Fall

As we look ahead to the fall, we know that it is not yet safe for our Bible Study classes to resume in their regular form. This is disappointing, because these classes are important on so many levels. They provide a sense of community, as we share together the joys and challenges of life. They provide a place for fellowship and prayer. And they help us to deepen our faith lives, as we study the Bible and explore the role of faith in our everyday lives. Even though the pandemic has disrupted our routines, we are challenged now to find new ways to continue nurturing community and growing in our spiritual lives.

Looking ahead to the fall, we are considering several possibilities. As you recall, last spring Matt and Will led a Sunday morning Bible Study, which was live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Another option is a more discussion-based option, either church-wide or in smaller groups, using a video platform like Zoom. In the coming weeks, we will be ironing out the details and will share our plans in the Word and online. If you have any suggestions or feedback, however, we would love to hear your input. You can call or email Will Brown at wbrown@universitybaptist.org with any questions or suggestions. Please pray for us as we seek the best ways to use technology to draw us closer to one another and to God.

Ready to Rock!

As you know, we have a number of musically talented youth in our church. Unfortunately, because the pandemic has disrupted our ability to be in close proximity, it has been difficult for musicians to play together, particularly in small spaces. How fortunate, then, that our church has several large spaces where musicians can play!



When some of our youth approached the church about the possibility of a few friends gathering to have a band practice here, we began brainstorming to see how this might work. The Fellowship Hall has plenty of room for spreading out at a safe distance. We quickly realized that we already had some amps, speakers, and cords sitting in a closet. Some youth parents were willing to donate additional equipment we might need, and the pieces began coming together quickly. We now have the supplies in place for bands to be able to come and rehearse in our space. If you're interested, contact the church office so we can reserve the space on our calendar and be sure no other events will conflict.

So... if you find yourself in our Fellowship Hall in the coming months and you hear the sound of guitars and a drum set, don't be surprised to find our talented teenagers (and adults) making music together--with safe social distancing in place, of course!

Thank-You Note

We'd like to send a HUGE thank you to the sewing team who provided masks for our preschool staff! We are excited about opening our Forest School this fall, and are doing everything we can to keep our children, families and staff safe! Your masks have made a huge difference and we are so grateful!

- CBI Forest School Staff

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



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

August 30: Jim Martindale

August 31: Maggie Kauffman, Amanda Ohlms

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 to provide your updated information at (434)-293-5706

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. There are also baskets of masks in the church lobby if you'd like to stop by and pick one up!



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

Sunday Mornings

We invite you to join us for our Sunday morning worship services either by joining us in person or by worshiping with us from home. The service begins each Sunday at 11:00 am. 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

