

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 1, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 34

Love in the name of Christ

ONWATCH

In Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus talks about approaching someone who did something to separate that person from God—commonly known as sinning. Usually, we think about sin as an act between a person and God, but there are communal aspects to sin. When I do something wrong, I separate myself from God, but the sin has earthly implications too. These implications for the here and now are what Jesus is addressing. We approach someone who sins, not to forgive their sin, but to seek reconciliation.

Within Jesus' teaching about reproving one another in Matthew 18, he gives the assurance that God is always present. He says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20). We do not act in isolation. We act in the presence of God. Both reconciliation and dissension affect God and other people. God is present and quick to forgive, but sometimes people need to work on it.

Even if it is only two or three people, being together in the name of Christ creates common ground. When we gather in Jesus' name, we share something significant. Jesus is the motivation for our fellowship. He provides the archetype of the perfect life and something for which we can strive to achieve.

John Chrysostom (347-407), a leader in the early church, describes gathering in Jesus' name as a motivation for Christian love. He writes, "Some love because they are loved. Others love

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

September 6, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Permission to Go Home"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Matthew 16:21-28

Anthem:

"Home"
(Sorenson)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, September 2

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice
(Zoom)

SUNDAY, September 6

8:30 Church Council (Zoom)
9:45 No Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
(radio and livestream)
2:00 Jubilate Rehearsal (Zoom)
7:15 Youth Real Life (Zoom)

MONDAY, September 7

Labor Day - Church Office
Closed

TUESDAY, September 8

because they have been honored. Still others show love because the person was useful to them... It's hard to find people who love their neighbors sincerely for the sake of Christ."

Normally, worldly affairs bring people together. Instead of coming together because of worldly affairs, the church is unique. We come together because of the love of Christ. We lift one another up in prayer, encourage each other, ask how we are doing, and hold one another accountable. We "speak the truth in love" to one another (Ephesians 4:15). We bring each other back from wandering (James 5:20).

John Chrysostom writes, "Love for the sake of Christ is firm. It cannot be broken. Nothing can tear it apart... the love of those who are bound by it will never stop."

Let us let our lives and our church reflect a vivid love for the sake of Christ. We can seek ways to embody it and reflect it to our community.

Peace,
Matt

12:00 Annie Armstrong Circle Meeting (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

Prayer Concerns

Nell Tiller - VCU Hospital

Nat Howell - UVA Hospital

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.

Sunday Bible Study is Back!

As we enter the new school year, we will resume our online Bible Study **this Sunday** morning, September 6. There will be a few changes from the spring, which we hope will improve the ability to interact and share with one another.

The Bible Study will be held over Zoom, without any in-person component in the sanctuary. The link to join will be the same each week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85381408096?pwd=MzdkVG9JZ2x0M2JFK01KNINjSWtqUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 8140 8096

Passcode: 954000

Schedule:

9:40-9:50 fellowship and informal conversation

9:50-10:00 prayer concerns and prayer time

10:00-10:30 Bible study

For those unable to use Zoom, we will also stream our Bible study on YouTube--but only from 10:00-10:30. (The time of fellowship and prayer will remain private to those on the Zoom call.)

During the month of September, Will Brown will lead a study focusing on the book of Ezra. Examining the Hebrew people's return from exile in Babylon, we draw insights for our own experience in 2020. Our sessions will have lots of time for discussion. We hope to see you there!

Church Conference Recap

At Sunday's Church Conference, the church heard reports from the various committees of the church.

- The Finance Committee reported on the financial status of the church, noting that while we are currently at a deficit for the year, we have ways to weather the current season, including the PPP grant we received this year. They are also examining other sources of income, including parking fees and endowment income.
- The Personnel Committee reported on an increase in compensation for Lexi Woodson in our office, and reported that Pheobe Brown has stepped down from her position at the church because of childcare realities during the pandemic. The largest Personnel update is the exciting addition of Val Fisk to our ministerial staff.
- The Nominating Committee presented a list of candidates to be our Church Officers and the members of our committees and councils. The church voted to approve this report. The full listing of lay leaders will be distributed in the coming days.
- The deacons presented about their major project this year, which has been to renovate Sam Mackey's house. The church will purchase the house, use volunteer and contracted labor to make improvements, and then sell the house on the market. This project will benefit Sam, and we anticipate that the church will benefit financially. The purchase of the house will be presented at an upcoming church conference to be approved by the church.

Youth Regathering

On Sunday evening, our youth group gathered for the first time with our new Associate Minister, Val Fisk. Students met up in Pen Park (safely distanced and masked!) to spend some time getting to know Val and letting Val get to know more about them. Topics discussed included upcoming school classes, our love for dogs, and the light saber battle that was happening on the tennis courts nearby! Students offered up some great feedback and ideas for more socially distanced activities together in the near future, so be on the lookout for announcements about our fall youth schedule soon! If you need to be added to the youth & parents email list, please let Val know (vfisk@universitybaptist.org).



UBC's Top Ten Favorite Hymns

In 1961, in preparation for a revival, the members of University were asked, "What is your favorite hymn?" These were their top ten favorite hymns:

- 1) Breathe on Me
- 2) I Need Thee Every Hour
- 3) Just As I Am
- 4) Rock of Ages
- 5) The Old Rugged Cross
- 6) Blessed Assurance
- 7) Open My Eyes
- 8) It Is Well with My Soul

- 9) Just As I Am
- 10) Great is Thy Faithfulness

In 2003, I asked you for your top ten favorite hymns, and you gave me a list of hymns that included 6 from the 1961 list. But, I wonder, what would that list include today? What are your favorite hymns now, the ones that you recall in happy times as well as in difficult times? What are your favorite hymns that help you get through a pandemic? I would like to know!

I would like to ask you to send me your list of favorite hymns. It can be as long or as short as you want to make it. But I want to know what hymns or spiritual songs comfort and inspire you in times that are tough, and give voice to your joy and thanksgiving in times that are lighthearted and happy. You can email them to me (abeasley@universitybaptist.org) or get them to me anyway that is convenient. I'd like to ask you to respond in the next two weeks, but I am always open to your suggestions for hymns and anthems and other musical selections that can make our worship more meaningful.



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 and 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

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://soles4souls.org/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

September 7: George Payne

September 8: Judy Smith, Scott Miller

September 9: Shelley Miller

September 10: Scott Mahone, Georgina Main

September 11: Leon Castle, Desteny Bonilla, Alba Beasley, Liam Wilson



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 worshipping 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.

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.

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Connect with us

