

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 29, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 37

“Finding Joy”

God is with us. We find this affirmation over and over again in the Bible. We read people’s testimonies of God’s presence throughout history. Many of us may have experienced God in our own lives.

More than just a divine presence, God is also within us, giving us our existence. The air we breathe, the water and food we consume, the shelter and clothes for protection—everything can be traced back to God.

Dwelling in God’s life-giving presence resituates our priorities. Instead of seeing the short-term ups and downs, we can take the long view. We can consider the idea of God moving in history.

Consider an example from the Book of Ezra. Did God move Cyrus’ heart in Ezra 1:1? Or, did the Hebrew chronicler retroject God’s initiative into something Cyrus already was going to do? In either case, the outcome in Ezra (rebuilding the temple) brought glory to God. Thus, seeing God at work can mean answering yes to both questions. Yes, God moved Cyrus’ heart, and, yes, Cyrus decided to let the ancient Israelites rebuild.

Seeing God’s presence and activity in the world can bring us joy. Seeking to find God at work helps us see God’s presence. If we look for it, we will find it.

These days, there’s a lot to steal our joy. We don’t have to let it. God’s grace transcends this moment and can abide with us through whatever we encounter.

Peace,
Matt

ON WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

October 4, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
“Growing Justice”
Val Fisk

Scripture:
Isaiah 5:1-7

Anthem:
"Offertory"
(Beck)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, September 30
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (*Zoom*)
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice (*Zoom*)

THURSDAY, October 1
1:00 Lectio Divina (*Zoom*)

SUNDAY, October 4
8:30 Church Council Meeting (*Zoom*)
9:40 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship (*radio and livestream*)
2:00 Jubilate Rehearsal (*Zoom*)
3:30 Youth Hike

(for more info visit
<https://conta.cc/2S4y6EI>)

Opportunities to Serve God at UBC

Last week, we shared our 2020 "Opportunities to Serve" survey. Please take 5 minutes to fill it out and let the church leadership team know how God can use you. Thank you so much!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q3V5BPK>

Kittie Colvin Circle

The Kittie Colvin Trail circle will meet Tuesday, October 6, at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. Wear a mask, bring your own drink, and join us for a time of friendship and missions planning. For more information contact Sarah Buchanan, sarahbucha@gmail.com.

Last Chance: State Missions Offering

This is the last week of our annual State Missions emphasis. This year our contributions support the ministry of Chaplain Jerusha Moses at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. Please note that because of the covid-19 pandemic, we will not be collecting toiletry kits and stationery this year. Instead, we suggest supplementing your missions offering when you give this month.

Called Church Conference

On October 11, after the Sunday morning worship service, we will have a Called Church Conference with two items on the agenda:

1. The Ordination Council unanimously recommends that University Baptist Church ordain Val Fisk to the gospel ministry.
2. Based on the information presented at the August 30, 2020 Church Conference, the Deacons recommend that UBC buy and then sell the Mackey house (2719 Brookmere Rd). Debra Bryant, Bill Cromwell, and Ed Lowry will manage this process on behalf of the church.

There are several ways to participate:

1. In person
2. On Zoom (the primary way we anticipate for most of the congregation)
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84248169721?pwd=SlhFcWRxdmMvOEUyQnhWUkJCS0VIZz09>
 - Meeting ID: 842 4816 9721
 - Passcode: 698487

MONDAY, October 5

8:30 Morning Prayer (*Facebook Live*)

TUESDAY, October 6

7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle

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

Sympathy to the family of Nancy Eaton, who died on September 26

Sympathy to Melanie Tennant and family after the death of Melanie's brother, Kevin Caudle, on September 24

Bob Harris - Martha Jefferson Hospital

Nell Tiller - UVA Transitional Care Hospital

Nat Howell - UVA Transitional Care Hospital

3. Watching on YouTube, by special request

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.

A Quiet Place to Study

University Baptist Church is excited to open our doors to students and provide A Quiet Place to Study all semester! Rooms are set up so that individual students will have private space to participate in Zoom calls and complete their work while socially distanced. Snacks and beverages are available in the church kitchen to keep you fueled all day long. In order to maintain our social distancing protocols, please reserve your time in advance by visiting www.universitybaptist.org/study and clicking "sign up here." Students are welcome to reserve as much time as they need!

Beginning Monday, September 28, our open hours will be Monday – Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We anticipate this will be a popular space, and we are advertising with several other ministries on grounds, so we are looking for volunteers to monitor extended hours in the evenings and on Fridays! If you are willing to volunteer a few hours a week in the evening or on Fridays, please let Val Fisk know (vfisk@universitybaptist.org).

Voicing Lament and Nurturing Community

2020 has been a year like no other. The devastating losses of the pandemic and the intense polarization of a presidential election have profoundly impacted our lives, a dynamic likely to intensify in the coming weeks and months. How do we navigate these tumultuous waters as people of faith?

On Sunday mornings for the next couple of months, Val and Will are leading a Bible Study that will approach this question from various angles. Alternating between the book of Lamentations and the book of 1 Corinthians, we will engage Scripture to find models for faithful engagement: lament, hope, unity, repentance, reconciliation. We expect to find both challenge and reassurance in each of these texts, and we hope you will join us for the conversation.

Sunday mornings, 9:40am on Zoom, and streaming on YouTube at 10:00 (see details below)

Let's Go Deeper

During this pandemic season when we are unable to follow our usual routines, God remains present with us. In fact, this is a unique opportunity to reexamine the habits of our spiritual lives and to be intentional about the practices that ground our faith. Here are a few opportunities to join with us in deepening our spiritual lives:



Monday Morning Prayer

- 8:30am each Monday on Facebook Live
- A quick prayer to start our week on the right foot
- To join us, visit our [UBC Facebook Page](#)

Thursday Lectio Divina

- 1:00pm each Thursday on Zoom

- A practice of reading Scripture contemplatively, with times of silence and listening for God's spirit
- To join us, click this [Zoom link](#)

Sunday Bible Study

- 9:40am - Fellowship and sharing prayer concerns
- 10:00am - Bible Study
- To join us, click this [Zoom link](#). Or, watch the Bible Study portion on [YouTube](#) beginning at 10am.

Daily Devotions

- You can pick up a copy of the *Reflections* daily devotional booklets from our church office.

UBC's Favorite Hymns

Thank you to all who have submitted a list of their favorite hymns. If you have not sent your list, Alba is always wanting to hear from you and to know your favorite hymns. Also, if you have favorite anthems or solos or organ pieces – in short, ANY favorite church or religious music, you can include on your list. Please feel free to email them to abeasley@universitybaptist.org. By the way, Alba suggested your top 10 favorite hymns, but you can make your list as long or as short as you want – he just wants to know what music inspires you and helps you worship.

And, to help with creating your list, there are hymnals that you may take home for research and to have as a devotional tool. They are on a table outside the office where we serve coffee on Sunday mornings when we are able to meet together.

Thank you for helping us identify University Baptist Church's favorite hymns!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

October 4: Margaret Fitch, Tom Mundell

October 7: Tony Barretta

October 8: Ed Barker

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!



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

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

