

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 8, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 34

How can we 'love
our neighbors'?

N WATCH

In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus has a conversation with someone who wants to know how to be in eternal communion with God. The person uses different language to frame the question. Still, it was essentially about relating to God. Jesus responds to the question, "What do the rules say?"

In response, the person quotes Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said, "You're right!"

When the person asked, "Who is my neighbor," Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan.

It's one of the most familiar parables and the basis of many sermons. The story points out that everyone is my neighbor. It doesn't matter what differences we have or how one people group hates another. When the Samaritan person helps the Jewish person, they are part of one humanity. Highlighting the surface differences between Jewish and Samaritan people make it the basis for racial reconciliation. People also relate the story to institutional violence and systemic poverty when they ask about the background of the robbers.

Today, I thought about it because we are in an election year and we are as divided as ever. People pick sides in any election year, but this one bears the feeling of a great chasm between people. People with different ideologies cannot talk with one another. Dialogue seems to have vanished.

As I thought about our differences, I remembered the vitriol between Jewish and Samaritan people. Yet, Jesus told a Jewish

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

September 13, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Opposition to Do What's Right"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
Ezra 4:1-5

Anthem:
"I Believe"
(Miller)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, September 9
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (*Zoom*)
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice
(*Zoom*)

THURSDAY, September 10
6:30 Deacons Meeting (*Zoom*)

SUNDAY, September 13
9:40 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
(*radio and livestream*)
2:00 Jubilate Rehearsal (*Zoom*)
7:15 Youth Real Life (*Zoom*)

group a story in which the hero was a Samaritan. It was shocking! They might not have been able to imagine such a thing.

Think about a story in which someone who supports a different candidate than you is the hero. Some people might find it unimaginable to hear the story of the Good Democrat or Good Republican. Suddenly, the familiar story of the Good Samaritan carries the revolutionary ring Jesus intended.

Jesus asked, "Which one was a neighbor?"

The person said, "The one who showed mercy."

Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

We love our neighbors by being merciful. Everyone has something good to offer. Instead of focusing on the bad, we can focus on the good. We can think of something positive to say and work on building relationships. We can be part of the encouraging change we want to see.

Who knows? People might even get to a point when we can have a constructive dialogue.

Peace,
Matt

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 - UVA Transitional Care Hospital

Nat Howell - UVA Transitional Care 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.

Church Council Meeting Recap

Church Council met via Zoom on Sunday morning for the first meeting of the new church year. It was a helpful time of welcoming new Church Council members and hearing reports from the Committees and Councils of the church. These monthly meetings give staff and lay leaders the opportunity to share ideas and updates, ensuring that we are all on the same page and working together effectively.

Sunday Bible Study is Back!

As we enter the new school year, we have resumed our online Bible Study. 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!



Happy Staff Anniversary!

This month we recognize the "Staff Anniversary" for Will Brown and Thomas Hill. Will has served UBC for 6 years and Thomas for 37 years. Thank you for your years of faithful service to University Baptist Church!

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 any way 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.

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.



Thank you!!

Many thanks to our Floral Team, and especially Jeannette May, for adding flowers to the front of our church. The bright colors are a lovely addition to our building, sharing joy with the many cars and pedestrians that pass our front steps each day.

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 9: Shelley Miller

September 10: Scott Mahone, Georgina Main

September 11: Leon Castle, Desteny Bonilla, Alba Beasley

September 14: Nat Howell, Nick Martindale

September 15: Anne Smith

September 16: Ed Smith, Lynne Gardner



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.

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

