

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

October 27, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 39

Unity or Harmony?

As we inch closer to a polarized and contentious election, I would like to share an excerpt from my book [Crossing the Lines We Draw](#) (Judson Press 2020).

In a polarized and politicized culture, knowing where to go and how to get there remains a challenge. Where do people of faith want to go? Unity. A place where all people matter. But, what does unity look like? Does unity mean everyone agrees on everything all the time? That sounds boring. Does unity only come with a shared enemy, as in World War II? That sounds violent. *E pluribus unum* is the unifying motto of the U.S.—*out of many, one*. The motto is the opposite of violence. People come together. Through their differences, they grow stronger. They learn from one another, not in an idealized utopia, but through growth.

Is achieving unity possible? What about harmony? Harmony is the pleasing combination of different notes, sounding simultaneously. Harmony produces chords and chord progressions that makes music sound good. Harmony requires different notes. In a polarized society, individual people can remain true to their own convictions while coming together. Differences can create something beautiful. Perhaps harmony is a better goal than unity.

Harmony allows people to have a dialogue while disagreeing with one another...

If we want to get to a place where all people matter, or a place where we can have dialogue, then we can explore shared experiences. Our quest is finding common ground with others. The "other" includes people with whom we disagree. This quest is not isolated, but in communion with others and in communion with God. The quest functions in the new cosmos and includes transcendent presence of God. God understands humanity. Humanity never fully understands God because God is beyond human comprehension...

Instead of limiting overcoming polarization to Democrats getting along with Republicans, we realize that nature and the cosmos surround everything. Overcoming political differences is

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

November 1, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:

"What My Soul Desires"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Anthem:

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"
(arr. Larson)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, October 28

10:00 PBJ Bible Study

THURSDAY, October 29

1:00 Lectio Divina (Zoom)

SUNDAY, November 1

8:30 Church Council Meeting (Zoom)

9:40 Online Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship
(radio and livestream)

MONDAY, November 2

8:30 Morning Prayer (Facebook Live)

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.

meaningless if we destroy the planet. Harmony means working with nature, not subduing it..

Faith involves risk and risk-in-Christ. The quest is harmony. Harmony is not unity, because each person retains her or his individuality. Together, people can be greater than the sum of their individual parts. To achieve harmony in Christ, people reconcile with God. And, each faith step involves risk. Addressing divisions is a risk. Confronting evil is a risk. Speaking truth to power is a risk. These risks are worthy steps in faith toward the quest.

Peace,
Matt

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

Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to Lu Overbeck and family after the death of Lu's sister, Celia Collins.

Mac Smith - prayers appreciated, but Suzanne and Mac request no calls at this time.

Bob Harris - The Colonnades

Nat Howell - UVA Transitional Care Hospital

Opportunities to Serve God at UBC

A couple of weeks ago, we shared our 2020 "Opportunities to Serve" survey. When we conducted a similar survey a few years ago, we received about 100 responses. So far, we only have 33. **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>



HEART October 25 Rev. Will Brown "With All Your Heart"	SOUL November 1 Dr. Matt Tennant "What My Soul Desires"
MIND November 8 Rev. Val Fisk "With All Your... Shame?"	NEIGHBOR November 15 Dr. Matt Tennant "Our Lives Reflect What We Love"

Stewardship is Love: How Shall We Love?

A New Sermon Series at UBC

"Love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:37-39

PACEM Coming to UBC!

Because of the pandemic, PACEM is changing this year. The usual format is not safe for the guests or volunteers. This winter, PACEM will be staying at fewer churches, but for a longer duration: a month at each location. However, there are fewer demands on each host church, as PACEM has hired additional staff to be present at all times, and a smaller number of men (up to 25) will be present each night.



For the sake of safety, church volunteers are not allowed to be in the Fellowship Hall, to serve meals, or to interact with the guests. While this is disappointing--we cherish these interactions--it is important to take these precautions to prevent an outbreak among a vulnerable population. Meals will be provided in a boxed format, primarily provided by churches unable to host this year.

What does this mean for UBC?

- We will host PACEM for the month of December.
- As in the past, we anticipate collecting items to give to the men. Details forthcoming.
- Very few volunteers are needed, but we will share needs as we learn more
- We appreciate your prayers

Our church is grateful to Laura Morris, Jennifer Wagoner, and Katherine Hamel for their organizing efforts during this unprecedented year. Please contact one of them, or Will Brown, with any questions.

DID YOU KNOW?

Who is on the Nominating Committee and what is their role?

The Nominating Committee recommends and recruits lay leaders in the church, including church officers, members and chairs of committees and councils, at-large members of Church Council, and the chair of Church Council. The Nominating

Committee is also a resource to help Teams find new Team Members and to help church members find positions in which to serve.” Members of the committee for 2020/2021 are:

Melanie Tennant (chair)
Ed Lowry

Raynell Stokes
Jackie Lockwood

Karen Minor
Judy Gough



UBC Library

UBC Library is now open for business and has been greatly expanded. It would be a good source for interesting reading material on slow socially distancing days. Special thanks goes to Amanda and Jonah Ohlms for alphabetizing and creating a data base once the books were grouped by subject.

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS AT UBC

Christmas Dinner in a Bag

We do plan to provide Christmas dinners to the clients of Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ), but it may look a little different this year. We'll have more definite plans for you in next week's WORD.



CBF Global Missions Offering

During the month of December we will be collecting donations for the CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) Global Missions Offering. You will be hearing much more about that. UBC's goal is \$2000.

CANCELED: Missions Post Office

For many years the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) has sponsored a church-wide mail box to exchange Christmas greetings with other church members, with the money you would have spent on postage going to the Global Missions Offering. We felt that with the concern for COVID transmissions that this year you should address and mail your cards yourself.

CANCELED: FCCW's Christmas Kits

The Fluvanna Corrections Center for Women's Christmas Toiletry Kits and Greeting Card collection has also been canceled by the program organizers due COVID concerns. We ask that you send whatever amount that you might have spent, to UBC earmarked GracelInside.

Donations Needed

With another school year underway, we are continuing to provide bags of food to nourish students at nearby Venable Elementary School. (This picture is an old one, pre-pandemic, but the ministry continues!) We send food for ten students each week, providing enough to sustain them through the weekend, when schools are not providing meals. While we welcome donations of food items, the most effective way to help, especially during the pandemic, is to provide monetary contributions so that we can buy food in bulk. You can give online or mail a check to the church office, designating it for Venable Food Bags. Thank you for your support!



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.

"Reading Theology with a Theologian" – A New Book Group

Have you ever wanted to take a deep dive into your faith? For those intrepid and interested sojourners, our Senior Minister is forming a group to read *The Christian Faith* by Friedrich Schleiermacher (New York: T&T Clark, 1999). Originally published in German as *Der christliche Glaube nach den Grundsätzen der evangelischen Kirche* (*The Christian faith according to the principles of the Evangelical Church*) in 1821-22, then revised in 1830-31. Schleiermacher was a pastor and professor, and he represents one of the great peaks in the mountain range of theologians. *The Christian Faith* is a massive book, so this reading group will not rush. The group will have no set pace and discuss each passage as they work through the book. Dr. Tennant will introduce other sources and demonstrate how Schleiermacher was influenced by Kant, Spinoza, Schelling, Fichte, and Plato. Generally, *The Christian Faith* elucidates how the basis of theology is a sense of religious feeling and absolute dependence on God, especially as communicated by Jesus through the church. If this doesn't sound like your cup of tea, that's okay. UBC has lots of options for Bible study and spiritual growth. The book group will probably begin in November and initially meet via Zoom. For more information, contact Dr. Tennant at matt@universitybaptist.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

November 1: Sarah Ames

November 2: Janeth Bibb

November 6: Martha Williams

November 7: Isabella Canseco, Sam Mackey



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 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.

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

