

The Ministry of the Bench

Most of you know that the church has an ichthus (fish) shaped bench in the shaded area between the front parking lot and the sidewalk. Recently Alan Hendricks and I spent a couple of days sanding and applying sealer to it. At one point while I was sanding, I became aware that two women had stopped and were watching me, obviously wanting to talk. After shutting the sander off, I learned that they were mother and daughter. The mother proceeded to tell me how meaningful the bench had become to her daughter. The daughter's three-year-old son had been in intensive care at the UVA Hospital for over 70 days due to a heart problem. Things had been touch-and-go at times, but the daughter noted that he was now much improved. When the boy's mother had needed a break from the stress, she would often come over and sit quietly on our bench. She said it gave her a sense of spiritual and emotional peace. We talked a little more, and I told her I would pray for her son, and I asked his name. It is Liam.

But there is a Part B to the story. Something about the name Liam seemed familiar. A few minutes after they left, I remembered that a Facebook friend had shared a post about a young child named Liam in intensive care for a critical heart condition. I grabbed my phone, looked up the post, and read through the story. The Liam of the post was indeed at UVA Hospital. I had already been praying for Liam.

The serendipitous intersection of my story with that of Liam's family is interesting, but the reason I write this is because of the bench. Who would have thought that a bench would be a source of such spiritual support to a young woman with a critically ill child? The wind of the Spirit does indeed blow where it wills.

-Wellford Tiller

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

October 18, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Generous Grace"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
Amos 8:1-12

Anthem:
"A Place for Healing Grace"
(Sorenson)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, October 14
10:00 PBJ Bible Study

THURSDAY, October 15
1:00 Lectio Divina (*Zoom*)

SATURDAY, October 17
11:00 Ordination Service

SUNDAY, October 18
8:30 Finance Committee Meeting (*Zoom*)
9:40 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship (*radio and livestream*)



MONDAY, October 19

8:30 Morning Prayer (*Facebook Live*)

12:00 Missions Council 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

Bob Harris - The Colonnades

Nell Tiller - The Cedars

Nat Howell - UVA Transitional Care Hospital

Congratulations to Tom and Sylvie Moore on the birth of a new grandson, Samuel M. Engelhard, born September 26 in Durham, NC, to Karen & Matt Engelhard.

Opportunities to Serve God at UBC

A couple of weeks ago, 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>

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 GraceInside.



Prime Day!

Amazon Prime Day is back starting October 13 and will run through October 14. If you are looking for alternative ways to support UBC, you can do so by shopping at smile.amazon.com during these two days of deals and promotions.

You can make a difference every time you shop through Amazon, not just today and tomorrow! Simply press the link provided, and AmazonSmile will prompt you to set up UBC as your preferred charity. Shopping at smile.amazon.com will then

always send a portion of your total to University Baptist Church.

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!

DID YOU KNOW?

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

The Personnel Committee administers the policies related to our ministers and supporting staff. This includes employee policies, work responsibilities, and compensation and benefits. The committee recommends an annual personnel budget and serves as a liaison between church members and staff.

Rachel Miller
Kevin Wright

Ron Tweel
Gary Wood

Debby Johnson
Roy Thomas

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.
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"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!

October 17: Vicki Miller, Ben Chenault

October 20: Linda Boston

October 21: Brian Miller

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.

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Connect with us

