

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

October 20, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 38

A Jazz Drummer, Christ the Savior, & Dynamic Unity

ON WATCH

I was reading *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter with God* by Edward Schillebeeckx (Oxford: Sheed & Ward, 1963) and discovered a surprising metaphor for Christ as a sacrament. Schillebeeckx writes:

“Just as when a drummer is playing, he is extending himself through all his bodylines into the instruments grouped about him, so that these instruments dynamically participate in the expressiveness of his rhythmic movement, making but one total movement... so too the heavenly saving will of Christ makes one dynamic unity with the ritual gesture and the sacramental words of the minister who intends to do what the Church does” (page 77).

This brought Buddy Rich’s “Dancing Men” to my mind. The song begins with Buddy setting the tempo and riffing around the song’s main beat. At about 12 measures, the horn line blasts the melody, and the song is off and going. Everything in that song goes back to the drummer. Buddy “extends himself through all his bodylines into the other instruments.” Everyone participates to make one total movement.

In the church, we live out our salvation. Through singing, communal prayer, reading and studying the Bible, and celebrating our Lord’s supper, we become unified in Christ. This dynamic unity moves, just like jazz. Different people play different roles. Sometimes one person stands up and everyone watches that person’s role, just like the different musicians taking turns playing solos in a jazz group.

Schillebeeckx is a serious theologian. He’s not the type to draw the comparison between theology and jazz. The Belgian-born Dominican taught at the Catholic University in Nijmegen,

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

October 25, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
“With All Your Heart”
Rev. Will Brown

Scripture:
Matthew 6:19-21

Anthem:
“Treasures in Heaven”
(Clokey)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, October 21
10:00 PBJ Bible Study

THURSDAY, October 22
1:00 Lectio Divina (Zoom)

SUNDAY, October 25
8:30 Missions Council Meeting (Zoom)
9:40 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship (radio and livestream)

MONDAY, October 26
8:30 Morning Prayer (Facebook Live)

Holland. One of his central arguments was that we should approach Jesus from below. This means beginning with his earthly ministry. That is, everyone can relate to the idea of Jesus' earthly ministry. Schillebeeckx's Christology begins with this bottom-up approach.

As a Baptist, I appreciate Schillebeeckx's approach. As a jazz listener, I was happy to see how he used jazz to demonstrate dynamic unity in the church. Churches around the world are struggling to show that they are relevant. Some try gimmicks to attract people. Jesus didn't do that. When people demanded miracles as proof he was who he said he was, he said no. For Jesus' earthly ministry connected people to God and to one another. His life started building the dynamic unity that still exists in the church today. The best part is we get to participate.

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.

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

Prayer Concerns

Bob Harris - The Colonnades

Nat Howell - UVA Transitional Care Hospital

Sympathy to Laurie Pallini and family after the death of Laurie's father, Robert Chocklett, Sr., on October 17

Sympathy to Donna Marshall and Michelle Proffitt in the passing of James Musser on October 21.

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>

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

Ordination of Rev. Val Fisk

Saturday was an exciting day in the life of our church, as we ordained Rev. Val Fisk to the gospel ministry. This was a meaningful, joyful service, affirming God's call upon Val's life, and installing her as a minister in this congregation. Due to a technical glitch, the live stream did not function properly, but the service is now available to watch on YouTube. It can be found here: <https://youtu.be/7Si0FpS3y9I?t=152>





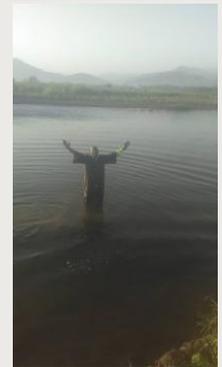
The laying on of hands takes a slightly different form during the pandemic. Everyone in the congregation is invited to write a note to Val, sharing a few words or a prayer that you might have spoken during this time. You are welcome to mail in or drop off at the church a card for Val. It doesn't have to be fancy or formal--an index card or regular piece of paper is perfectly fine. These notes will be collected and presented to Val, a way for us to surround her with our love and encouragement as part of this meaningful ordination experience.

Called Church Conference Recap

At our Called Church Conference on October 11, the church voted unanimously to approve two items of business. The first was to ordain Val Fisk to the gospel ministry. The second was to purchase the Mackey house, as explained at the August 30, 2020 Church Conference. Debra Bryant, Bill Cromwell, and Ed Lowry will manage this process on behalf of the church.

Encouragement and Prayers from Haiti!

Pastor Bertil Rubuns sent these photos of a recent baptism at the Limbe River. As you may recall, for the past two years UBC has partnered with Pastor Rubuns along with Pastor Monel Jules in Limbe, Haiti. Unfortunately, we have not been able to travel to see each other in person in 2020. However, we have stayed in touch and they are praying for us! As these pictures show, their ministry is thriving.



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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Who is on the Buildings & Grounds Committee and what is their role?

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is responsible for the care, safety, and maintenance of church property including the building, parking lots, grounds, playground area, and facility equipment. The committee is also responsible for overseeing the safety and security of the building and the safety of those who attend services. The committee authorizes expenditures related to the maintenance and minor improvements of the church property, and recommends major maintenance and improvement items to Church Council. They coordinate with the UBC Work Team, custodian, and staff for general maintenance and improvements. Members of the committee are:

Brian Mulcahy - Chair
Ed Smith

Robby Gough
Herman Eaker

Wellford Tiller
Ian Pallini

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!

October 24: John Brown
October 25: Christian Proffitt
October 26: Zach Martindale, Ed Lowry, Raynell Stokes
October 28: Jeanne Nye
October 29: Caroline Wagoner, Molly Lowry
October 30: John Buchanan



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.

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Connect with us

