

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

November 3, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 40

"It's okay."

ON WATCH

I don't mean to minimize the significance of this election. This election is certainly consequential. Still, as I sit down to write, I am aware of God's presence. Within the loving embrace of the Holy Spirit, I know that it's okay.

My feeling of contentment at this moment is a bit like our relationship with sin. When we do something that separates us from God, we have sinned. When we ask God to forgive us, through the miracle of grace, our Lord is quick to forgive. However, God's forgiveness doesn't undo our action. There are still consequences of our sinful acts.

For example, consider when someone lies. If the person recognizes his deceit and goes to God with a contrite heart, God will forgive that person. The lie is still a lie, and the results of the dishonesty continue. In addition to asking God for forgiveness, the person can confess the lie and try to make right the harm that came from it.

Forgiveness is quick. Restitution can take longer.

In a season of widespread deceit, rebuilding trust will take a long time. Regardless of what happens next, God is bigger than this election. Even though we will not likely know the outcome today, the sun will rise tomorrow.

The psalmist says, "Be still and know that I am God." We can take a step back from the political turmoil of this season and look outside. Where I live, today is sunny. The air is cool. And, the autumn leaves crunch as I walk down a path. Outside, with the news and social media turned off, I can remember that life is good.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

November 8, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:

"With All Your Shame?"
Rev. Val Fisk

Scripture:

James 3:13-18

Anthem:

"We Are Not Alone"
(Choplin)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, November 4
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (*Zoom*)

THURSDAY, November 5
1:00 Lectio Divina (*Zoom*)

SUNDAY, November 8
9:40 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
(*radio and livestream*)

MONDAY, November 9
8:30 Morning Prayer (*Facebook Live*)

TUESDAY, November 10

Tomorrow, as is the case with every new day, there will be work to do. Just as Micah 6:8 calls us, we are to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our Lord.” Even though right now I rest in the love of Christ and trust that everything is okay, I will keep trying to do justice. I will keep seeking to be emblematic of Jesus’ kindness. And, I will walk humbly with God through each moment of each day. I have faith that everything’s going to be okay.

Peace,
Matt

Report from Church Council

At the last Church Council meeting on November 1, the main agenda item was a discussion of strategic priorities to guide our church for the coming year. More details will be shared after the deacons provide input and help refine the list. The strategic priorities will then be shared with the congregation for discussion and approval in an upcoming Church Conference.

Thank-You Note

Thank you to my UBC family for all the love and support you have shown me and my family after the death of my father. We received delicious meals, beautiful flowers, and incredibly thoughtful cards from a multitude of people and groups in the church. Alba even used his connections to help me find a bagpipe player to honor my dad's wishes at the gravesite. This pandemic has made me feel disconnected from church at times, but your outpouring of love and support makes me realize that you all are always near, even though physically we are apart.

Thank you,
Laurie Pallini and the Pallini family

12:00 Annie Armstrong Circle 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

Donna Marshall - UVA Encompass

Sympathy to the family of Sissy Bruton, who died October 25.

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

Bob Harris - The Colonnades

Nat Howell - UVA Transitional Care Hospital



A Quite Place to Study

There are just 3 weeks left before UVA students head home for Thanksgiving, doing their final exams from home in December, and many will not return to Charlottesville until late in January. We have had a variety of students from different organizations utilizing our AQPTS All Semester hours, including music students who are using our many pianos to rehearse! And as the weather gets cooler, we are seeing more students moving their study time indoors and needing our space. With that in mind, Val restocked our snacks and drinks this week, and we are adding study hours on Fridays! Volunteers will be here from 9a to 5p the next three Fridays to let students into the building.

Students who are interested in reserving a room should go to universitybaptist.org/study and click on the sign up link. And if you have a student who will be returning to Charlottesville at Thanksgiving with a need

for study space in December and January, send an email to Val Fisk (vfisk@universitybaptist.org). We can keep our study spaces available for them after Thanksgiving as well!

DID YOU KNOW?

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

The Finance Committee maintains and supervises the church's financial program in all its dimensions. It oversees the receipt and disbursement of church finances, informs the congregation of the church's financial status, and prepares and recommends to the congregation a proposed budget each calendar. The Finance

Committee works with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary to accomplish its work. Members of the committee are:

Larry Martin (chair)

Laura Faye Groff

Daniel Harper

Diane Mundell

Debra Bryant

Shelby Clements

Richard Vaughan (Treasurer, ex-officio)

Martha Ballenger

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS AT UBC

Christmas Dinner in a Bag – Reimagined

Ten or twelve years ago our WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) realized that all of our missions efforts, other than the Global Missions Offering, were over and done by Thanksgiving, leaving a bit of a void. We called Love INC to see what their needs were, and were told that while lots of organizations did Thanksgiving dinners, no one gave Christmas dinners. We agreed on a grocery list and this fun, personal, hands on ministry was born. Last year we delivered 46 bags of non-perishables and a \$15 (from the WMU budget) gift card with each bag intended to be used for the main dish.



After several conversations with Susan Shellito, Love INC's Clearinghouse Coordinator, we learned that due to COVID 19 their office is closed with just one volunteer coming in each day to answer the phones. The others are working from home. Then last week one of their office volunteers tested positive for COVID. Susan feels that a gift card for the entire meal would be much safer for everyone.

Sarah Buchanan did a price comparison of our shopping list between three stores finding the average cost was \$12. We realize that everyone is asking for money at this time of year. So we're asking that you donate only what you would have normally spent on bags of groceries. Or if you would like to give an entire meal donate \$27.

We want to deliver the gift cards to Love INC on Monday, December 14, so we need your gifts turned in no later than **Sunday, December 13**. Write checks to UBC earmarked Dinner in a Bag. Joy to the World!

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 in the weeks to come. UBC's goal is \$2000.

CANCELED: UBC Missions Post Office due to COVID concerns, you'll need to mail all of your own cards.

CANCELED: Fluvanna Corrections Center for Women's Christmas Kits

We ask that you send whatever amount that you might have spent on toiletries or stationery, to UBC earmarked GraceInside.

FREE Drive-thru COVID-19 Testing in November

During the month of November, the Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD, formerly TJHD) will continue to host **free** drive-thru COVID-19 testing across the district. To learn more about our name change or to sign up for our biweekly BRHD newsletter, click [here](#).

Attached is a flyer in English and Spanish with all of BRHD's November testing sites across the district. Walk-ins are welcome. Call 434-972-6261 on the dates listed in the flyer to guarantee a spot and make an appointment.

You can also visit [BRHD's COVID-19 Testing Sites](#) webpage for the full schedule of upcoming free community testing events, including testing hosted by UVA Health.

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.

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!



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>

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 8: Martha Wood

November 12: Melvin Spicer

November 13: Wellford Tiller, Lula Overbeck, Vittorio Pallini, Matteo Pallini



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

