

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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What do you need to hear
right now?

ON WATCH

I struggled with what to say after last Wednesday, January 6. Seeing violent protestors crash through doors and windows of the U.S. Capitol shocked my sense of who we are as Americans. I want to respond, "This is not us." But it is.

Our history is full of violence. Neither the Declaration of Independence nor the Constitution condemn slavery. The Trail of Tears (1830-50) forced the relocation of thousands of Native Americans. Many people died on the trip. The Civil War (1860-65) should have been the apex of division. After the war, the country had opportunities to figure out how to be a multi-racial society. Instead, Jim Crow laws picked up the banner of division and enshrined it in legal code.

These divisions continued through the twentieth century. For instance, people rioted and looted in Detroit after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. My mother remembers watching the U.S. Army tanks and helicopters patrol the city. These memories returned to her in 2017. Helicopters circled Charlottesville after right-wing violent protests.

The statement, "This is not us," isn't accurate. In its place, we can say, "This is not who we should be," or, "This is not who we can be." Our potential still lies ahead of us. What do we need to hear? Words of hope. A thought about overcoming differences. Something about justice. Or, the most appropriate response might be to revisit Jesus' ethics of love in Matthew 5:38-48.

In *Seeds of Contemplation*, Thomas Merton writes, "To say that I am made in the image of God is to say that Love is the reason for my existence, for God is love. Love is my true identity. Selflessness is my true self. Love is my true character. Love is my name" (p. 46).

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

January 17, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Where Do You Put the
Quotes?"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Anthem:

"Precious Lord, Take My
Hand"
(Dorsey, arr. Curry)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, January 13

10:00 PBJ Bible Study ([Zoom](#))
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice
([Zoom](#))

THURSDAY, January 14

1:00 Lectio Divina ([Zoom link](#))

SUNDAY, January 17

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting
([Zoom](#))
9:40 Online Bible Study ([Zoom link](#))
11:00 Morning Worship
(*radio and livestream only*)

We do not have to live in the past. The sins of the generations before us do not predict our future. We can be a people who strive to find common ground and grow together. Law enforcement officers should arrest those people who committed crimes last week. We can thank God for those officers and the work they are doing to protect us. Also, we can pray for God's comfort for the family and friends of the officer killed by the insurrectionists.

God made us for something better than we now experience. Love is the reason for our existence. Made in the image of God, we can look ahead with hope. Learning from the past, we can try to build a more just society for the generations that follow us. Complicated and difficult work lies ahead of us. With God's help, we can live out our calling.

As I wrote this, I tried to answer my own question. I tried to say what I needed to hear. Maybe you needed to hear something else. That's okay. We are traveling with one another on this path. Share with me what you need to hear. Together, we can go forward into a future that is brighter than our past.

Peace,
Matt

MONDAY, January 18

8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))

1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group ([Zoom](#))

Church Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

January 16: Katherine Hamel

January 17: Emily Morris, Erin Brown

January 18: Joyce Kaswandik, Tom Moore, Marvin Key

January 21: Robert Truoccolo, Barry Willard, Larry Martin

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

Church Conference - Sunday, January 17

We will have a Church Conference immediately after worship on Sunday, January 17, for two matters of business: approving a vision document with goals for 2021 and approving the 2021 budget. All UBC members should have received these by email; please contact the church office if you have not received a copy.

Because of the pandemic, our Church Conference will be held via Zoom. Please contact Will Brown or the church office with any questions about the technology. The information for joining the meeting is as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85356372364?pwd=dFhNZlVGT3Fmbzhyc3VZZHYrdS94UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 5637 2364

Passcode: 942390

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,85356372364#,,,*942390#

Thank You!

To everyone who worked tirelessly on Sam Mackey's house and Lot. I can't thank you enough. The hours and hours of labor you generously gave to the daunting task of preparing Sam's house for sale was amazing. The house sold after only a few days on the market yielding \$47,700 to benefit UBC (somewhat less after taxes). The money will be used to offset a portion of the 2021 budget.

God bless you all,
Debra Bryant

Reading the Bible

Did you make a New Year's Resolution to read the Bible more this year? Let's do it together!

Recently one of our church members suggested forming a group to read the Bible. We'd gather on Zoom once a week, simply to read through passages of the Bible as a group. Would you be interested in participating?

We could do this first thing in the morning, at midday, in the evening--whatever works best for the group. If you're interested, email Will (wbrown@universitybaptist.org) so we can make sure the timing works for you.

String Quartet

During this past Advent Season, we were fortunate to have a String Quartet to enhance our worship services. I would like to introduce the members of this group. Three of the players are members of the Charlottesville Symphony at the University of Virginia. The first violin, Dan Sender, the violist, Ayn Balija, and the cellist, Adam Carter, are all the first chair leaders in the symphony. Dan is also the Concert Master for the symphony. Our second violinist, Jeanette Carter, is Adam's wife and often plays with the symphony and in other groups in our area. There is one more piece that they recorded for us, and we will enjoy it in the future. We are blessed to have these and many other talented musicians close to us and available to play in our worship services from time to time.

2020 Missions Discretionary Fund

For the past two years, the Missions Council has included a Missions Discretionary Fund in our missions budget to allow us to address needs that come up during the course of the year, both in our neighborhood, and around the world. We spend some time in each of our monthly meetings throughout the year discussing ideas for how the money could be distributed. We talk about keeping the money local to Charlottesville, using it in Virginia, or sending it abroad. This year, we decided to really focus on local needs right here in the Charlottesville area, especially in this year when it's been so hard to do many of the collections that we would normally participate in. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share with all of these organizations.

1. \$1000 to our Venable Backpack program to ensure we have funds to cover this ongoing mission project to supply bags of food each weekend to the children of homeless families at Venable Elementary School.
2. \$1000 to the Albemarle County Public Schools "Families in Crisis" program which helps ensure the success of homeless children in school.
3. \$800 to PACEM at UBC. PACEM looked really different in December, and we wanted to help make sure the men felt cared for at Christmas.
4. \$650 to the Christmas Dinner-in-a-Bag project. This project was also different this year, as we gave gift cards, rather than filling grocery bags with supplies to prepare a meal. We wanted to be sure we could supply as many gift cards to Love INC, as the number of dinner bags that we have typically donated.
5. \$150 to a local Head Start teacher for three families who were having a difficult time with back to school expenses.

Sunday Mornings Online

Even though we are not gathering in person, we are still joining together each Sunday morning for worship and Bible study. We hope you will join us!

Bible Study

At 10:00 am, we begin an interactive Bible Study. To join us, click this [Zoom link](#). Or, watch the Bible Study portion on [YouTube](#). We invite you to join in the conversation by adding comments during the session. To download the handout ahead of time, visit universitybaptist.org/live

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin, as usual, at 11:00 am. We encourage everyone in the congregation to join us from home. 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

