

# THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

January 26, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 51

## Ambitious & Decent Proposal

## WATCH

By March 1, I want to talk with everyone (or, as many of you as possible).

In our recent church conference, we adopted a vision for the new year. This included exploring questions about the future of organized religion. People have been asking these questions since the Acts of the Apostles in the Bible. In Acts 15, they had to decide what to do with Gentiles who wanted to follow Jesus. Ultimately, they said it was okay. That's good for us!

As we move into the second score of the twenty-first century, churches are continuing to change. Some are closing. Others are thriving. We feel called to grow and thrive. Anyone who has been part of a growing organization knows that growth brings changes. Some are good and comfortable. Others aren't. Before the pandemic, the staff often discussed what they lovingly referred to as my 'big picture' ideas. We looked at the future and thought about what it would mean to be a church in 5, 10, or 20 years.

At some point in the coming months, we will all get a COVID vaccine. This will allow us to return to church. But, to what do we return? In some ways, life will never go back to the way it was before 2020. We could argue that is a good thing. Working from home reduces the carbon footprint of commuting. Cities will no longer require a massive influx of people each day as the distributed workforce grows.

The downside to working from home is a loss of connection. I want to listen to what you think God is saying in this moment. I want to hear how you imagine the church can connect with people and create a deeper sense of community. Let's hear how we can minister right now. How can we minister to you or your neighbors or coworkers or fellow students? Our 2021

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

January 31, 2021  
11:00 AM

**Sermon:**  
"Pause to Praise"  
Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**  
Psalm 111

**Anthem:**  
"This is the Day the Lord Has  
Made"  
(Hayes)

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, January 27

10:00 PBJ Bible Study ([Zoom](#))

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice  
([Zoom](#))

### THURSDAY, January 28

10:00 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom link](#))

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

6:30 Deacon Handbook Review  
([Zoom Link](#))

### SUNDAY, January 31

9:40 Online Bible Study ([Zoom link](#))

11:00 Morning Worship  
(*radio and livestream only*)

vision includes discipleship and putting our faith into action. It also includes an invitation to imagine the church in a post-COVID world.

To this last point, my ambitious (& thoroughly decent) proposal is to meet with each one of you via Zoom. I want to listen as we have an honest conversation about the church of the future.

There are 20 time slots over the next few weeks available. Each slot is one hour. Go to [this link](#) and pick a slot. Or, call Lexi (434-293-5106) and she can sign you up. Each slot is limited to 10 participants.

Hopefully, you can find one that fits your schedule. If these slots fill up or we need to add more, we will. Our goal is to have a conversation with everyone by March 1.

When we meet, I will ask what you think organized religion will look like in the future. I will also ask: What is God saying to us right now? What changes do we need to make? What needs to remain the same? How can we prepare for what's next?

I can't wait to see each one of you.

Peace,  
Matt

2:00 Jubilate Zoom Rehearsal  
([Zoom Link](#))

**MONDAY, February 1**

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

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

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### Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to the family of [Margaret Burruss](#), who died January 24.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

**January 30:** Todd Minor  
**January 31:** Nancy Castle

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

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### Thank-you!

In 2020 the UBC Missions Council decided to support the Albemarle County Public Schools Families in Crisis program with part of our Missions Discretionary Fund. We recently received this note and wanted to share it with you, in thanks for your financial support through the UBC budget.

*We want to thank you so much for the generosity of your congregation. The \$1,000 that you donated to the Families in Crisis program will be used to meet the needs of families – directly. The Womenade Fund is used to purchase gift cards for food, clothing, supplies and/or gas for our homeless families. Your contribution to that fund allows us to reach more families in need during this crisis.*

*Thank you again,  
Megan Horwitz  
Laura Brown*

### New Church Directory

We ask for your assistance and updated information as we prepare to create and distribute a new edition of our Church Directory in the coming weeks.

**Contact information updates:** If your address, phone number, or contact information has recently changed,

please contact the church office (call 434-293-5106 or email Lexi at [lwoodson@universitybaptist.org](mailto:lwoodson@universitybaptist.org)) to let us know by **February 2**. In addition, if you would like information to appear differently than it did in the prior directory (e.g., not to list a home or cell phone number), please let us know.

**Pictures:** If we don't hear from you, we will use the same picture as the last directory. To use an updated picture, or to add a picture if you weren't in the last directory, please email the picture file to Lexi at [lwoodson@universitybaptist.org](mailto:lwoodson@universitybaptist.org)

## COVID-19 Vaccination

The Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD) is working diligently on COVID-19 vaccination plans for the district. Currently BRHD is in Phase 1B – for individuals 65+ and high risk.

If you are **65 YEARS OR OLDER** living in the Blue Ridge Health District OR are living/coordinating for those in a correctional facility, homeless shelter, or migrant labor camp and have a FIRM commitment to be vaccinated against COVID-19, please complete [this survey](#) to be placed on our vaccine list. The Blue Ridge Health District includes Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson.

- Individuals ages 65+ that live in Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson.
- Individuals living or coordinating services for those in a correctional facility, homeless shelter, or migrant labor camp.

This form is only to notify the Health Department of your specific demographics. This is NOT scheduling an appointment. We will be in touch with more information as it becomes available, which could be awhile, and next steps for how you can schedule an appointment.

## Read the Bible with Us!

Each Thursday morning, on Zoom, a group will be gathering for 30 minutes to read the Bible. Instead of reading a short passage and spending time discussing it (our usual approach in Bible Study), we're going to primarily be reading aloud to one another. Listening to large passages of Scripture at once, we will be attentive to the large, overarching stories and themes we encounter. Mostly, we'll just gather to listen and hear the Bible read aloud.

We'd love to have you join us! There's no commitment, and no "homework" required. Simply come and read the Bible with us. Click here to find the Zoom

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85381408096?pwd=MzdkVG9JZ2x0M2JFK01KNINjSWtqUT09> (If you have any questions, contact Will Brown at [wbrown@universitybaptist.org](mailto:wbrown@universitybaptist.org))

## 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](http://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

