



January 5, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 48

A New Year of Integrity

WATCH

Decay causes people to lose heart—moral decay, spiritual decay, and, even, decaying matter in the natural world. We have a natural desire for beauty. On Instagram, people post pictures of themselves at their best. Or, they share pictures of incredible scenery and adorable puppies or kittens. Decay undermines beauty.

A different kind of decay pervades our twenty-first-century culture. Several years ago, a political operative claimed “alternative facts” provided evidence in a dispute about reality. Her statement and adherence to “alternative facts” points to the decay of integrity. Saying, “The Sky is blue,” can no longer stand unrefuted if it contradicts someone’s opinion.

When I was a child, my father always told me that integrity is “doing the right thing even when no one is looking.” This concept of integrity seems straightforward enough, but it hangs on a universal understanding of “the right thing.” For a parent teaching a child ethics, “the right thing” is easy to understand. Tell the truth. Don’t steal. Don’t hit or bite people. For adults, the definition can become more complicated, especially when telling the truth or doing the right thing is difficult.

When people spew lies so often, we can become numb to dishonesty. Lying becomes commonplace. When it does, a lack of truth pervades the mundane. Lying gets easier and easier.

In this new year, God’s call to honesty must not be unfamiliar. Through scripture and the Christian tradition, truth, beauty, goodness, and righteousness remain central to a life in faith. Calling ourselves ‘Christian’ comes with a declaration to live lives of integrity.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

January 10, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:

“Water Without Watering Down”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Mark 1:4-11

Anthem:

“Be Not Afraid Courtney”
(Courtney)

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, January 7

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

SUNDAY, January 10

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

11:00 Morning Worship
(radio and livestream only)

MONDAY, January 11

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

In the face of a culture of deceit and decay, truth is one of the greatest tools available to us. Truth-telling means having something on which to stand. No one can repudiate facts without doubling down on lies. As we move into 2021, we must not participate in the sin of spreading misinformation. Tell the truth in love and God will be with you.

Peace,
Matt

Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to the family of Jim Estes, who died January 4.

Sympathy to the family of Bob Harris, who died January 1. We pray especially for Ed and Betty Barker, Bob's sister.

Sympathy to the family of Martha Williams, who died on December 28.

In Memory of Jim Estes

Long-time church member, Jim Estes, passed away Monday, Jan. 4. Jim was an English teacher at Albemarle High School for all of his career, was a member at First Baptist Cville from youth until he moved to UBC about 30 years ago, was an active participant in the Open Minds Bible Study class and Wednesday night bible studies, and sang bass in the Sanctuary Choir until his age forced him into a less active role. He was a great lover of literature, music and learning. Per his request, there will be no services now, but plans are being considered for a memorial service later in the year.

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=dFhNZIVGT3Fmbzhyc3VZZHYrdS94UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 5637 2364

Passcode: 942390

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

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

January 9: Ruth Key

January 15: Eric Devairakkam

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



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

