

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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A Melting Snowman

When I first saw the rather grisly snowman in my yard, I immediately snapped a photo. A melting snowman is almost comically macabre, with limbs and body parts gradually dropping to the ground. Standing beside this pitiful snowman, which had been so cheerful the day before, the thought that came to mind was: I know how you feel.

Perhaps you can relate. A year since when we first learned the term “coronavirus,” perhaps you are feeling worn down as well. The isolation of this year and the accumulated losses, large and small, have taken their toll on all of us. Yet we stand now at the beginning of the season of Lent, a subdued period when we typically slow down, reflect on our mortality and sinfulness, and embark with Christ into the wilderness of suffering and pain. To me, it feels like we’ve been there all year.

So how do we enter Lent this year? Many of us often give up something for Lent, making an intentional choice to eliminate something that distracts us, or to set aside something pleasurable in order to draw our attention back to something deeper. This can

A WORD
from **WILL**

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

February 21, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:
“In You, I Trust”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
Psalm 25:1-10

Anthem:
"God Moves in a Mysterious Way"
(Roberts)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, February 17
7:00 Ash Wednesday Service

THURSDAY, February 18
10:00 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom link](#))

SUNDAY, February 21
8:30 Finance Committee Meeting ([Zoom](#))
9:40 Online Bible Study ([Zoom link](#))
11:00 Morning Worship ([radio and livestream](#))
2:00 Jubilate Rehearsal ([Zoom Link](#))

be a powerful way to bring us out of our self-seeking ego and re-focus on the presence and promise of God.

In 2021, though, I wonder if perhaps we have given up enough already. Perhaps this year the step to draw us closer to God is a practice of addition, not subtraction. Might God be inviting us, for this season, to engage in something new? Consider what sort of practice might help you to find rest and renewal during this season. What might help you feel less like the melting snowmen in our yards? This Lent, where might God be drawing you into a new discipline of joy, connection, delight, and restoration?

As we prepare for Ash Wednesday and the arrival of Lent, I hope you will pray about how God is leading you. One place to find ideas is the list of practices we will be referencing in our Sunday Bible Study during Lent, as described below. If you'd like to talk with one of the ministers about how we can journey with you in this season, we would love to hear from you.

Peace,
Will

MONDAY, February 22
8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

February 21: Ron Tweel

February 24: Mary Jo Hendricks

February 25: Laura Martindale

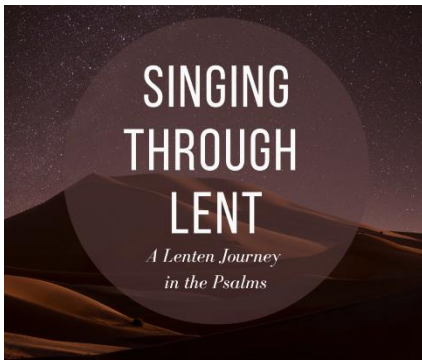
Congratulations to Al and Lucille Holliday as they celebrate 71 years of marriage!

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

New Bible Study series begins this Sunday!

As we enter into the season of Lent, our Sunday morning Bible study will turn to examine our own experiences of this season. Lent is traditionally a time when we give something up for the 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. The past year has been an extended practice in giving up - giving up hugs, handshakes, smiling at the person you pass in the produce section, eating in your favorite restaurants, lingering over coffee with a good friend. So perhaps now is a time when we need to add in a new practice.

Over the season of Lent, our Sunday Bible study will be following **Forty Simple Practices for Lent** by Sarah Bessey. You can find a printable version of these practices [here](#). Each Sunday we will spend some time discussing our experiences trying these practices - which were easy? Which were hard? What might you try to continue after Lent is over? We will end each week with a reading of Psalm 90 from a variety of translations, reading this one Psalm several weeks in a row as a practice of careful contemplation. Because so much of this study will be discussion based, we encourage those who usually watch on YouTube to consider joining us on Zoom!



Lenten Worship Theme

During the season of Lent, our worship services each week will focus on one of the psalms. Exploring the themes of these ancient texts, we discover that the joys, struggles, and promise of these texts continue to reverberate in our context today. Whether your presence is physically in the sanctuary or through the use of technology (most of us these days), we hope you will join us in worship as we sing our way through Lent in the Psalms.

Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 17, 7:00pm

We read in Matthew 6 that Jesus says, "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Our Ash Wednesday service this year will take place in the privacy of our own homes. The ashes imposed on our foreheads will not bring recognition from others we pass on the sidewalk; they will be between each one of us and God. These "ashes in secret" are a powerful reminder of our own mortality and the deeper promise of the life God gives us, even so.

We hope you will join us for this service, which will be available to livestream on our church YouTube page. Because of the pandemic, we will not be able to administer the ashes in person. Instead, we will provide ashes that you can apply to your own hand or forehead during the service. You can also use oil or ashes of your own. If you would like us to bring ashes to you, simply sign up on [this form](#), and we will bring them to your house along with your church directory.

How Can I Help?

There are many needs for help with the COVID Vaccination rollout. While talking with volunteers, we have learned that the needs are great and helpers few. While there is little that the church as a whole can do, there is much that individuals can offer. And knowing the volunteer spirit of our members, here is a [website](#) where you locate needs and volunteer to help as you are able.

Creating a UniBap College Ministry Space

One of the action points in our congregational goals for 2021 is to make space to invite our neighbors into our building and fellowship. Providing study space to college students through the fall semester shed light on one particular way to welcome those students now and in the years to come: we are creating a dedicated college student space in the church! Our youth already have dedicated space where they feel a sense of ownership and belonging in the building, and we hope to create a space where college students can feel equally welcome and wanted. After talking to several students about where in the building we might create this space, we have selected Room G-17 (formerly the Nia Room or Joyful Servants classroom).

Work has already begun to update the space, with a fresh coat of paint going on the walls soon. There are several ways you can participate in our renovation! First and foremost, pray for the students who will inhabit the space, this semester and beyond, and for the relationships that will be built there.

Along with your prayers, please consider helping fund this special project by [purchasing one of the items on this Amazon Wishlist](#). Items range in price from \$10 to \$200, and high priority needs are marked as such. You can have items shipped directly to UBC. Additionally, Val is shopping for a large sectional and area

rug for the room. Anyone interested in donating toward those items (or with ideas for where to find a comfy rug large enough for the room) should reach out to Val directly.

Directory Delivery Service -- Coming Soon!

Can we come see you?! The newly updated Church Directories will be ready for distribution this month. Rather than send them by mail, we are going to hand deliver the directories to everyone who lives in Charlottesville. (Do you sense that we are getting desperate to see everyone?)

Our four ministers will be driving around town on February 17 and 18 to deliver directories. If you aren't home, or don't want visitors in your pajamas, we will simply leave them by your door. If you're home, though, we'd be thrilled to say hello (outside, from a distance, wearing masks, of course). Sadly, we must resort to mail for those who don't live in the area, though any of us would have been thrilled to go visit the Keiths in Virginia Beach. :)

If you have any questions, contact the Church Office or any of our ministers. And if you have any last-minute updates for the directory, please let us know this week!

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)

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.

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

