



March 2, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 56

Sneak Peek into the Community Conversations

ONWATCH

In the coming weeks, we will begin sharing information from the recent community conversations. Over the last twelve months, we averaged less than a dozen people in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Yet, since January 28, eighty-one people participated in community conversations via zoom. Generally, people have been optimistic, offered good suggestions, and look forward to changes.

Over and over again, we talked about how much we miss seeing one another. We saw the need for outreach and clarity about who we are. People named every member of the staff in their appreciation for our approach to ministry during the pandemic. People said how much they like our history of rich, formal worship and our current use of technology. Social justice, current events, and addressing inequalities are important to our congregation. Without exception, every person who participated wants to see UBC grow.

The conversations dovetailed with the Vision and Goals we adopted for 2021 at our January Church Conference. For instance, one goal relates to spiritual growth, and fostering small groups came up in the conversations. Another goal is "Closer While Apart" which touches the desire people expressed to get together again. The weather is getting nicer and a third vaccine is available, so getting back together seems realistic. Each goal for 2021 had organic representation in our conversations.

Now might be the time for some people to think about rejoining worship in person. For months, we encouraged people to join the worship service via the live stream. As the local number of positive cases goes down and more people

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 7, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Knowing God"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
Psalm 19

Anthem:
"Come, Ye That Love the Lord"
(Bass)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 3

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

THURSDAY, March 4

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

SUNDAY, March 7

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

receive the vaccine, you are welcome to come back to the sanctuary if you feel so led. We will still wear masks and maintain our social distance (i.e., sit on a pew with a cushion). If lots of people come to worship, we might encourage you to spread out or begin recessing out of the sanctuary after worship. Our goal, as it has been throughout this pandemic, is to keep everyone safe.

This Sunday, we will incorporate an idea that grew indirectly from the community conversations. During worship, we will begin singing a doxology and reciting together our Lord's prayer. Doxologies are simply songs of praise. They can be familiar, like, "Praise God from who all blessings flow..." They can be Latin expressions of praise, "Gloria in excelsis Deo..." Or, they can be new to us, like "From all that dwell below the skies." This last one is an eighteenth-century doxology inspired by Psalm 117 and written by Isaac Watts. For the Lord's prayer, we will say the traditional, "Our Father..." and use "debts." As in, "...And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors..."

Watch this space as we develop what we learned in our community conversations into actions.

Peace,
Matt

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

MONDAY, March 8

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

March 8: Gerald Brown

March 9: Ewing Minor

March 10: Sarah Buchanan,
Diane Mundell

March 12: Johnny Ellen

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)-293-5106.

Prayer Concerns

Debby Johnson - Home

Ed Lowry - Home

An advertisement for COVID-19 vaccination. It features a dark blue background with a white shield containing a cross, a syringe, and a vial labeled 'VACCINE'. The text reads: 'SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE COVID-19 VACCINE' and 'Vaccinate.Virginia.gov'. Below this, it says 'Or call 1-877-VAX-IN-VA 7 days a week, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Available in English and Spanish. Call-back service in 100+ languages. TTY service.' At the bottom, there is a 'VACCINATE VIRGINIA' logo and a list of three steps: 'GET INFORMATION on how vaccines work and why they are safe.', 'GET PRE-REGISTERED to put your name on the list.', and 'GET VACCINATED —when it's your turn, we'll contact you to schedule your vaccine.' The logo for the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is also present.



Pew Repair Completed

We are pleased to report that the pew that was damaged in the small sanctuary fire last summer has been repaired. Creating an effective replacement pew is quite a challenge, but thanks to the dedication of our church volunteers, especially Alan Hendricks, and the expertise of Jaeger & Ernst, this project has been completed beautifully. While our pews are mostly empty right now, we are excited about the future when

the pandemic recedes and our sanctuary is overflowing with people. When that day comes, all of our pews will now be ready!

Upcoming Church Conference

Called Church Conference - March 14, 2021

There will be a Called Church Conference immediately after worship on Sunday, March 14. In keeping with our church bylaws, we will vote to formally accept Alba's letter of resignation, and then we will look ahead to next steps. This meeting will lay the groundwork both to celebrate Alba's ministry at UBC as he moves into retirement, and also to begin preparing for what lies ahead for UBC. You may join this Called Church Conference in the Sanctuary or by Zoom:

Link to join meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85356372364?pwd=dFhNZIVGT3Fmbzhyc3VZZHYrdS94UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 5637 2364

Passcode: 942390

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

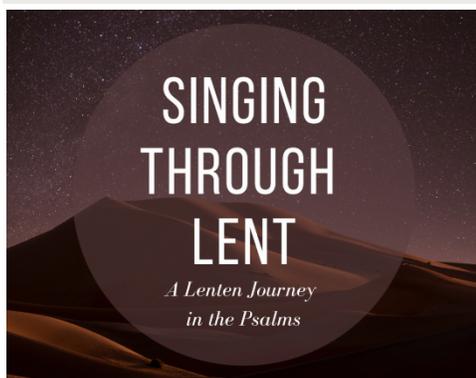
Piano Search Task Force

Several generous members of the UBC Family, including the Jubilate Alumni Association, have pledged funds for the purchase of a new piano for the sanctuary. At the February 7 Church Council meeting, we formed a Piano Search Task Force. The members are: Matthew Tennant (chair), Jack Averill, Alba Beasley, Karen Dalton, Barbara Moore, Beth Wright, Kevin Wright. If you know of a concert grand piano and want to recommend it, please contact any member of the task force. We look forward to the completion of their work and the arrival of a new piano.

New Bible Study Series Has Begun!

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.

Contemplation: UVA Prof. Kevin Hart will present a seminar on "Medieval Wisdom On Prayer" [this Sunday at 4:30 PM.](#)

Prof. Hart will look at "contemplation," "lectio divina," and "consideration" as presented in the writings of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and other celebrated medieval writers. All are welcome and it is free to attend. Hosted by Holy Comforter Catholic Church.

The registration link is here:

https://virginia.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYkcuyqrzosG9KMPD7mrkmlVr_FFNyTaxqY

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

