

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 23, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 59

Preparing for Holy Week

ON WATCH

For many committed Christ-followers, the rhythm of the church year highlights various aspects of faith. During Advent, we get ready for the coming Christ child. At Christmas, we think about God-incarnate and how that impacts experiencing God. During Lent, we prepare for Easter. But, before we get to Easter, we have one final array of worship opportunities.

Holy Week traces the end of Jesus' earthly journey. We borrow different elements from the gospels and put together a picture. It begins with Palm Sunday. Jesus enters Jerusalem. In film adaptations, there are enormous crowds, shouting and cheering. Reality might have looked different. Still, we can imagine the dissonance between the shouts of "Hosanna!" and the cries later in the week of "Crucify him!" Palm Sunday puts us in the celebration and gives us pause to consider how we view Jesus. Is he a superhero? Are we like his first-century followers who wanted a savior to kick out the Romans? Or, are comfortable with a Savior who pushes us from our comfort zones and calls us to leave our nets to follow him?

Things get quiet on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday, we train our eyes on a character who is essential to the Jesus story: Judas. It's hard to imagine a scenario in which no one betrays Jesus. Maybe I have trouble because we have only ever known Jesus' Passion story with Judas' betrayal. Judas was a trusted follower who decided to nudge Jesus toward fulfilling the calling Judas understood. Judas wanted a superhero Messiah. He wanted someone like the person who entered Jerusalem in triumph on Palm Sunday. He hoped for a Davidic general who would kick the Romans' butts. Instead, Jesus was going to be the suffering servant and child of

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 28, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Celebration Before A Storm"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
John 12:12-16

Anthem:
"Forever King"
(Forrest)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 24

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

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

THURSDAY, March 25

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

7:00 Young Adults ([Zoom](#))

SUNDAY, March 28

8:30 Missions Council Meeting ([Zoom](#))

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

11:00 Morning Worship

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

MONDAY, March 29

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

humanity all along. Looking at Judas helps us find our own complicity in pushing God to do our own bidding.

Maundy Thursday is a centerpiece in Holy Week for many Christians. We mention it on the first Sunday of every month because Maundy Thursday began the eucharistic celebration we call the Lord's Supper. Jesus gathered with his disciples for the Passover celebration. They broke bread together and left an empty seat in case Moses showed up (as continues to be part of the Seder tradition in Judaism). After the meal, Jesus made some cryptic comments about the bread of life and cup of the new covenant. Only in hindsight did it make sense to the disciples, and from those strange words, we began this tradition of the Lord's Supper. John's Jesus also demonstrates the embodiment of service in love when Jesus washes the feet of his disciples.

Later that night, Judas plays his part. Roman guards arrest Jesus and Peter cuts off a soldier's ear. Jesus tells him not to fight and heals the man. In the midst of horror and violence, Jesus demonstrates love, compassion, and healing. His peace confronts violence and wins.

Friday includes a mock trial, the crucifixion, and death. It appears to be the end. Today, we have no trouble conceptualizing the new life looming just ahead at Easter. But, if we climb inside the story, we wait and our moods reflect the darkness of the tomb. Friday is the low point and the high point. Because Jesus died, we can see God's power over death.

The various pieces of Holy Week create a tapestry for faith to explode on Easter. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. The celebration is bigger when we follow the entire path to get there. Join me as I get ready for the merry fête of Easter. We will pause at each stop along the way to appreciate the way it contributes to making Easter special. Let's get ready to experience the glory of the Lord.

Peace,
Matt



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

March 28: Linda Hendon, Alice Batten
April 2: Forrest Marshall

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

Sympathy to the family of Barbara Phipps. A Memorial Service will be held at UBC on Sunday, May 23, at 1:00pm.

A Big Surprise for Easter Morning!

Those of you joining us for the Easter service in the front parking lot at 9 AM on April 4th are in for a treat! This morning a large delivery appeared in the parking lot - thanks to Robby Gough & Larry Johnson for jumping in to help with the unload. The ministers are excited to reveal this longtime dream project to the congregation when we are back together on Easter morning!



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly.

Join us for Holy Week in person or virtually - you are welcome and wanted here!

Spy Wednesday | March 31 at 12 PM

Maundy Thursday | April 1 at 6 PM

Good Friday | April 2 at 12 PM

Easter Sunday on April 4

9 AM | Front Parking Lot *bring lawn chairs

11 AM | Sanctuary

We seek to be an authentic community of Christians who love and care for each other as a family, and openly welcome and include all people regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or background.

1223 W Main Street, Charlottesville, VA | www.universitybaptist.org

Deacon Doings

Although the front pew has not been filled with Deacons over the past year, the Active Deacons have continued to meet monthly via Zoom to discuss updates from the ministers, share prayer concerns, and take steps to advance Deacon initiatives. Here is a brief list of recent activities:

- Discussed potential candidates for the Deacon Emeritus designation
- Investigated where the theme of "Deacons Doing Something" (most recently expressed in the very tangible form of coordinating the renovation and sale of the Mackey house) might take us next to help the congregation get involved in spiritual growth and discipleship
- Began preparing for the annual process of electing new Deacons
- Brought the Deacon Handbook up to date

You are Invited to Join UBC for 2021's Operation Inasmuch Reimagined

Operation Inasmuch (OIAM) is University Baptist Church's own local mission outreach effort. In the past it has been a focused one-day event, usually the last weekend in April, that seeks to mobilize individuals to engage in hands-on projects for the benefit of those within our Charlottesville community. Our OIAM for April 2020 was canceled due to the COVID pandemic.



The UBC Missions Council discussed OIAM at our last meeting and hated the thought of missing it again. While we are still not comfortable gathering 100 of us together for breakfast, or working in close contact with community members, we thought it would be a wonderful idea to commit April 2021 as a whole month of OIAM. We would like for families to seek out a project for a neighbor, church member, non-profit organization, family member or friend. Plan a date in April that is convenient for your family or small group, choose your recipient, and spend a day in service.

Previous OIAMs have included such projects as cleaning, painting, trash hauling, home repairs, and yard work for our elderly or disabled neighbors. We have done projects for local non-profit agencies such as the Ronald McDonald House, UVA Children's Hospital, the University Hospitality House, and WorkSource. We have done sewing projects for city foster kids, the children's hospital, and cancer center. Your project for this year can be as simple as raking leaves for a neighbor, making a couple of colorful pillowcases for the children's hospital, or whatever you dream up! Think of a project, decide on a recipient, work out the date and details with your recipient, gather your family or social pod, then let us know what you have chosen to do.



You can find an OIAM 2021 sign-up sheet with previous projects and new suggestions [here](#). Log in, add your new and original project to the spreadsheet, or sign up for one of the suggestions. If you choose one of the projects listed on the spreadsheet, YOU will need to contact the recipient and make arrangements with that person.

If you need help with more suggestions or know of a need, please contact one of your OIAM team: [Will Brown](#), [Sarah Buchanan](#), [Shirley Clark](#), [Robby Gough](#), [Jim Hallissy](#), or [Pam](#)

[Hallissy](#).

If you find you need some financial help for materials, we still have our OIAM budget allocation to draw from. Just turn your receipts, designated OIAM, in to Lexi Woodson in the church office for reimbursement.

During your day of service, take a few photos, and when you have finished your project, write just a couple of sentences telling how your experience went, what you accomplished, and the connection you made with your recipient. Email your pictures and descriptions to [Sarah Buchanan](#). We will compile all of our experiences in a special newsletter that will go out to all of our church members and friends.

Looking forward to seeing the ways you come up with to be the hands and feet of Christ!

Sarah Buchanan, OIAM chair
sarahbucha@gmail.com
434-403-3064

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me. ~Matthew 25:40

National Missions

Each Spring UBC has participated in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's National Missions Offering. This emphasis helps support our missionaries right here in the US. Last year, our Missions Council reached out to Scarlett Jasper, a CBF missionary working in southeastern Kentucky, where UBC has been partnered with missionaries for many years. Scarlett was commissioned by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as a field missionary in 2014, and now serves one of the poorest parts of the United States. There, she is the director of Olive Branch Ministries,

Inc (olivebranchministriesky.org) to address the needs of the local community. Some of the many needs that Scarlett helps address are: working with the homeless, coordinating childrens' literacy projects, rent and utility aid, assisting with transportation costs for distant medical appointments, providing heaters or propane in the winter, supporting local schools with supplies, and helping veterans get needed services. She maintains a small mission house that serves as an emergency shelter and place for pastoral counseling. You can see her most recent projects on her Facebook page, here: <https://www.facebook.com/Olive-Branch-Ministries-766161053487938>.



Like the majority of our field missionaries, Scarlett must raise her own program and project support. Last year, our church was able to raise \$2,255 to help support Scarlett's ministry to the communities she serves. Our contribution certainly made a difference in those communities, as Scarlett helped to provide food and hygiene items at the start of the pandemic, as well as assistance to the homeless and economically vulnerable through emergency shelter and rental assistance, and to help struggling students to maintain and improve their skills with reading and math games.

As we all know, the effects of the pandemic are still with us, and Scarlett is still active in her community to help with their needs. Our goal this year is to raise \$3,000 to support Scarlett and her work in Kentucky. This year, please consider offering your thoughts, prayers, and financial support to our National Missions Emphasis. When donating online, specify "National Missions" to ensure that your offering is sent to Scarlett.

SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE COVID-19 VACCINE

[Vaccinate.Virginia.gov](https://www.vaccinate.virginia.gov)

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.



VACCINATE VIRGINIA

- ✓ **GET INFORMATION** on how vaccines work and why they are safe.
- ✓ **GET PRE-REGISTERED** to put your name on the list.
- ✓ **GET VACCINATED** —when it's your turn, we'll contact you to schedule your vaccine.



VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Sunday Mornings

As we slowly begin to regather, there are several options for joining us on Sunday mornings. We will continue to offer our minister-led Bible study via Zoom, and our in person worship services will continue to be livestreamed for those who are not ready to come back to the building yet. We hope you will join us!

Bible Study

At 9:40 am, we gather on Zoom to share prayer requests and updates about our lives. 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.

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.

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin, as usual, at 11:00 am. We encourage everyone in the congregation to join us in whatever way you feel safe and comfortable at this time, whether in person or virtually. 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

