



March 9, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 57

## Community Conversation Outcomes

During the month of February, we took steps to begin the process of imagining what our congregation might do now in order to prepare for the future of UBC. Our Senior Pastor, Dr. Matthew Tennant, spoke with more than 80 church members in a series of group and individual Community Conversations. He asked everyone the same set of questions:

- What do you think organized religion will look like in the future? What does UBC look like in 5, 10, & 20 years?
- What is God saying to us right now? What are we learning?
- What changes do we need to make? What has the pandemic freed us to do? Is there anything we did before the pandemic that we don't need to do in the future?
- What needs to remain the same? What have you been missing?
- How can we prepare for what's next? What steps bring us closer to God's dream for UBC?

At the end of these conversations, our ministerial staff went over the answers together and found common themes. The compilation of responses can be found [here](#).

Continuing to read prayerfully through these responses, we developed a list of the main themes we were hearing. We then developed some initial plans for how we might implement them. Listed below are the Insights and Action Plans for 2021 based on the feedback from our congregation.

### Community Conversation Insights and Action Plans for 2021

**We all greatly miss the sense of community from being together in person.**

- As the pandemic eases, plan multiple opportunities for in-person fellowship, including cookouts, Wednesday night

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 14, 2021  
11:00 AM

**Sermon:**  
"Lenten Thanksgiving"  
Rev. Will Brown

**Scripture:**  
Psalm 107: 1-22

**Anthem:**  
"All the Earth Rejoice With a  
Gladsome Voice"  
(Hopson)

## CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAY, March 10**  
10:00 PBJ Bible Study ([Zoom](#))

**THURSDAY, March 11**  
10:00 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom link](#))  
7:00 Deacons Meeting ([Zoom](#))

**SUNDAY, March 14**  
9:40 Online Bible Study ([Zoom link](#))  
11:00 Morning Worship  
(radio and livestream)  
2:00 Jubilate Rehearsal ([Zoom Link](#))

**Daylight Savings starts, remember to set your clocks forward an hour.**

dinners, and potluck meals

- Emphasize small groups--not just on Sunday mornings--to provide connection for church members and entry points for new members
- Facilitate intergenerational fellowship and friendship

### **We must commit ourselves to outreach.**

- Open sanctuary during the week
- Give away coffee, ice cream, etc. in front of the church
- Make stickers, yard signs, banners for the church property, for handing out to the public, and for church members to use
- Pursue new piano as centerpiece of new piano concert series
- Keep finding new ways to utilize our building in support of the community

### **We must be nimble and open to change, maintaining a bold, hopeful, "why not?" attitude, while remaining true to our identity as University Baptist Church.**

- Clarify our affiliations (e.g., join the Alliance of Baptists) and communicate clearly our identity (signage, bulletin, website, social media)
- During JARC process, ensure our documents reflect our identity
- Maintain an attitude of curiosity and a willingness to experiment in worship, in outreach, and in our fellowship activities.

### **We cherish UBC's meaningful worship services on Sunday mornings.**

- Maintain a strong music program and choir, with worship that connects us with God and one another
- Continue including members and friends through videos during worship
- Host additional conversations about worship and music at UBC

### **We should retain the technological tools we've gained during the pandemic.**

- Continue to have a virtual option to participate in worship, Bible study, and meetings.
- Receive the offering online and by mail, rather than passing the plates
- Portable screens remain in the sanctuary so that we can include the members of our congregation who are not physically present

### **We must be engaged with the current issues in our community and world.**

- Host honest, challenging conversations about the issues
- Serve as agents of God's love and justice by participating in PACEM, IMPACT, OIAM, Love INC, AIM, and other endeavors to address income inequality, housing instability, hunger, and racial injustice

**MONDAY, March 15**

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

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

---



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

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

**March 17:** Kathy Wilson

**March 18:** Alan Hendricks

**March 19:** Anne Wilkerson, Karen Minor

**March 20:** Audrey Miller

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

---

## **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

We want to grow and are willing to endure some discomfort and change, as long as we are remaining faithful to who God has called us to be.

- Prioritize welcoming and incorporating visitors and new members—even when this requires prioritizing it over something else
- For each of us: make UBC the place we'd want to invite our friends and strangers alike (if it isn't already), and then invite them!
- Pray and trust in God's future for UBC

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=dFhNZlVGT3Fmbzhyc3VZZHYrdS94UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 5637 2364  
Passcode: 942390  
One tap mobile:  
+19292056099,,85356372364#,,,,\*942390#

**SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE COVID-19 VACCINE**  
[Vaccinate.Virginia.gov](https://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



### 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 Scarlette Jasper, a CBF missionary working in southeastern Kentucky, where UBC has been partnered with missionaries for many years. Scarlette 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](https://olivebranchministriesky.org)) to address the needs of the local community. Some of the many needs that Scarlette 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>.

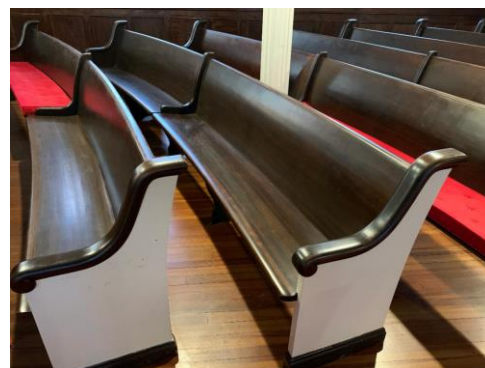


Like the majority of our field missionaries, Scarlette must raise her own program and project support. Last year, our church was able to raise \$2,255 to help support Scarlette's ministry to the communities she serves. Our contribution certainly made a difference in those communities, as Scarlette helped 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 Scarlette is still active in her community to help with their needs. Our goal this year is to raise \$3,000 to support Scarlette 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 Scarlette.

### 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!

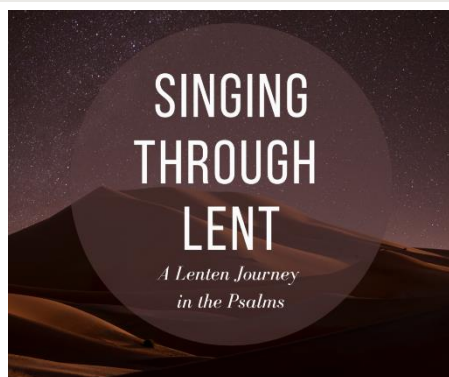


### Piano Search Task Force

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.

### 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.



### 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](http://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 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

