

# THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 13, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 62

## Post Easter Thoughts

In the life of faith, there is no higher point than Easter. Jesus Christ is risen. God has power over death, and this is the reason for everything else we do. We can go backward to Easter and see how the glory of Jesus' resurrection informs our identity. When we look at it, we can see how we come into a relationship with God through Jesus' transformative act. This is not a transaction. We do not exchange our profession of faith for eternal life. God changes us into new beings when we acknowledge who Jesus is and what Easter means for humanity.

When we talk about loving our neighbors, we do it because God first loved us and because Jesus sacrificed his life for us. His sacrifice on Good Friday is not the whole story. It's the first part. Jesus' sacrifice has meaning because of Easter. Real love might mean laying down one's life for one's friends. Yet, that kind of sacrifice does not lead to redemption because we do not have power over death. God does. On Easter, we see this power manifest and nature itself seems to testify to God's love.

After Easter, or any other big event, we face the temptation to move on and focus on what's next. Before moving on, think back to Easter. Remember singing "Christ the Lord is risen today..." or "Up from the grave, he arose..." Easter does not have to end. It can be the centerpiece of what we do and how we see ourselves.

In our church, we will soon begin reaching out in various ways. We will share ice cream and other goodies with the people who walk by the church. During the week, the sanctuary will be open, and we will invite people to come in and enjoy some peace and quiet in the middle of the city. This summer, our church will play softball and more people will come into the church for worship.

## NWATCH

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

April 18, 2021  
11:00 AM

**Sermon:**  
"Walking to Emmaus"  
Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**  
Luke 24:13-35

**Anthem:**  
"Devotion"  
(Beck)

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, April 14

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

### THURSDAY, April 15

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

### SUNDAY, April 18

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting  
([Zoom](#))  
9:40 Online Bible Study ([Zoom Link](#))  
11:00 Morning Worship  
2:00 Jubilate Rehearsal ([Zoom Link](#))

We do not do these things for the sake of doing them. It is because of Easter. Sharing ice cream can lead to a meaningful conversation, and we might start one while handing someone a soft-serve cone. We open the sanctuary because the God of resurrection can speak in the still, silence of the sanctuary God can give a weary person peace. Softball and worship are opportunities to gather in the name of the one who conquered death.

Keep Easter in your heart and look ahead to the celebration of the ascension of our Lord (May 16), Pentecost (May 23), and Trinity Sunday (May 30).

Peace,  
Matt

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### Community Blood Drive at UBC on May 5th

On Wednesday May 5, UBC will open our doors to the American Red Cross for a community blood drive. Our very own Jubilate student and UVA 3rd year, Alexis Haskiell, has worked to organize this blood drive, and she and a group of her friends will be acting as volunteer organizers for the day!

The blood drive will run from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and you must make an appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-733-2767. No walk-ins will be allowed due to current CDC guidelines. All who donate will receive free COVID-19 antibody tests with their donation.

**MONDAY, April 19**

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!

**April 17:** Laura Faye Groff

**April 18:** Jim Moore, Larry Groves

**April 19:** Audrey Garnett

**April 20:** Hunter Cooper

**April 21:** Mary McCauley

**April 24:** Gail 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

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### Volunteer Request

After nearly 20 years of faithful service, Rev. Alba Beasley announced his retirement effective May 30, 2021. In an abundance of caution, we will delay gathering to celebrate his ministry until after his last day, to a date later this year. The Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers to form a Committee to Celebrate Alba's Ministry. Carolyn Lowry has agreed to serve as the chairperson of this ad hoc committee. If you would like to join her, please notify one of the members of the Nominating Committee.

Melanie Tennant, Chairperson  
Judy Gough  
Jackie Lockwood  
Ed Lowry  
Karen Minor  
Raynell Stokes

## Your Missions Dollars at Work

Two weeks ago, when our contact from Venable Elementary School picked up the weekly food bags we provide for children in need, she mentioned another need in our community. Several Covid vaccination clinics are being held in our city's housing projects, intended to vaccinate at-risk members of our community. Looking ahead to the clinic to be held at Friendship Court, she wondered aloud whether we might be able to provide some small items that people could pick up when they come for their vaccine. We began to envision a small table with free toiletry items, a small gesture to encourage and support the residents participating in the vaccination clinic.

Our UBC Missions Council quickly responded to this need, devoting \$250 from our Missions Discretionary Fund to purchase toiletries, household cleaning supplies, and similar items. Now, just two weeks later, our contributions have supported 50 families who attended the clinic. Thank you, UBC, for the offerings that make this ministry possible!

### Alliance of Baptists, Annual Gathering 2021

Within our community conversations this winter, one of the points that arose was a need to clarify UBC's affiliations with networks and denominational groups, as a part of clarifying and communicating our identity as a progressive Baptist congregation. One way we are putting these words into action is by exploring joining the Alliance of Baptists. Our ministers have already personally participated with the Alliance at varying degrees, and we are looking forward to growing the relationship between UBC and the Alliance in the years to come!

Our very own Dr. Matthew Tennant will be participating in the 2021 Annual Gathering of the Alliance by leading a workshop titled, "Engaging People With Whom We Disagree," pulling from his own lived experiences and his book *Crossing the Lines We Draw*. Dr. Tennant's workshop will take place at 11:30am on April 24, as a part of the virtual gathering on April 23 and 24, featuring worship sessions with keynote speakers Aurelia Dávila Pratt, Robert P. Jones and Naomi Washington-Leapheart.

UBC community members who would like to participate in the Annual Gathering are encouraged to [visit the Alliance website](#) for a full schedule and to register online.





## Please Join UBC for 2021's Operation Inasmuch Reimagined

Operation Inasmuch (OIAM) is University Baptist Church's own local mission outreach effort. The UBC Missions Council has committed April 2021 as a whole month of OIAM. We would like for you 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. You can find the OIAM 2021 sign-up sheet with previous projects and new suggestions [here](#). If you would like to see the full descriptive article from the past few editions of the WORD [click here](#).

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  
434-403-9064

*And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, in as much as you did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you did it unto 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](http://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 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.

# 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](https://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 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.

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Connect with us



