

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

May 4, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 65

“Insider/Outsider Language”

ON WATCH

Occasionally, I encounter reminders of the distinction between insiders and outsiders in the church. Before addressing these reminders, we remember that the pillars of our faith community know this church inside and out. They are the consummate insiders and know the secret passages and the appropriate circuit breakers for different outlets. They know how many manuals and documentation books we have (hint: lots!). They help us function and live out God’s calling. We are thankful for them because, if we didn’t have them, we would all be lost.

Today, I am thinking about how we draw new people (outsiders) into our family. When someone joins the church, our current onboarding process is informal. People hear about something and might ask about it. Or, someone realizes they don’t know and offers a further explanation. All of us could do a better job passing along institutional knowledge. Sharing what we know draws people in and helps them feel like they are a part of UBC life.

Recently, in our staff meeting, someone referenced “the old sandwich board.” We have a newer sandwich board and put it outside to advertise things like AQPTS (Aside: do you know what that acronym means? How about JARC or OIAM?). During the meeting, we realized that we planned to advertise two events at once and someone said, “We could always use the old sandwich board.” The old one is not in plain sight. The person who was trying to figure out how to put two signs on the new board had no idea that a second board existed and was available.

The sandwich board example is minor. It was easily resolved by telling everyone about it. What about documents? Our church has a Constitution, Bylaws, Leadership Manual, Deacon Manual, and Administrative Manual. These documents are

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

May 9, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:
“Silly Love Songs”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
John 15:9-17

Anthem:
"If Ye Love Me"
(Tallis)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, May 5

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

THURSDAY, May 6

10:00 Bible Reading
Group ([Zoom link](#))
7:00 Seekers Class (Zoom)

SUNDAY, May 9

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

MONDAY, May 10

helpful and serve a variety of purposes. For example, the Administrative Manual helps us avoid losing institutional knowledge when someone retires. Before it existed, almost all administrative information was in our long-tenured administrative assistant's head. After she retired, we began writing things down so we wouldn't have the same informational gap again.

The downside to formalized documents and extensive institutional knowledge is the insider/outsider disparity. Insiders know what is happening. Outsiders might happen upon the information. We can do better about drawing people in and including them as full members of our church family. Our documentation can help orient new folks to the UniBap culture—as long as we remember to share them.

To this end, the Nominating Committee is starting to work on filling the 2021-22 opportunities to serve. Volunteer to serve on a committee or team where you haven't served before. Your fresh eyes will help all of us learn how we can improve our information transfer. Try to look at our church as if you were a visitor and discover what obstacles keep you from feeling at home. Then, let's remove those obstacles.

Peace,
Matt

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

May 9: Sue Whitt

May 10: Bill Cromwell

May 13: Eddy Tennant, Michele Turner

May 15: Tom Mahone, Shelby Clements

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 Anne Wilkerson, after the death of her sister, Mary.



University Baptist Church

Community Blood Drive

Wednesday May 5th

10:00am to 4:00pm

1223 West Main Street, Charlottesville

In compliance with CDC Guidelines

APPOINTMENTS ONLY

Please either visit redcrossblood.org

Or call **1-800-Red Cross (800-733-2767)** for an appointment

Free COVID-19 Antibody Tests

Be A Life Saver!

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

Church Council Recap

At their meeting on Sunday, Church Council discussed several items about the life of the church. Church Council created a Ministry Transition Team that will seek input from the congregation this summer about the future of music and worship in our congregation, which will then be helpful when a Search Committee begins to seek our next Associate Minister for Music and Worship. Church Council also heard updates from our ministers and committees, discussing our continuing, gradual reopening from the pandemic, with all the challenges and opportunities this presents.

Operation Inasmuch - 2021 Edition

Although the pandemic forced us to make changes to our usual day of service, our congregation was busy serving our community during the month of April. Thank you to everyone who has participated. Of course, if you haven't been able to get involved yet, it's never too late to love our neighbors! If you have pictures and stories from your project, please share them with us for a future newsletter by emailing lwoodson@universitybaptist.org

Here are a few photos of Jen May and Martha Ballenger serving meals at Venable and Johnson Elementary Schools. They wrote, "We learned how to operate (sort of) a wheelchair elevator lift,

individually wrap pieces of fruit for children in record time, and enjoy meeting the hard working city school personnel. Plus, we assisted in packing breakfast and lunch meals for students at Venable. A most enjoyable OIAM morning!"



Know Someone Who is Homebound and Wants to Get Vaccinated?

UVA Health vaccinators have delivered “doses of hope” to more than 100 homebound patients so far and welcome referrals, so others can benefit from this special outreach program. To make a referral, contact the UVA COVID Vaccine Call Center at 434.297.4829 (4VAX). The call center is in operation Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. You can also email PFAVaxHelp@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu.

Our new College Ministry room is ready for finals!

Just in time for AQPTS and finals week, the first phase of work for the renovated College Ministry room is complete! Just a quick look at these before and after photos shows how much TLC went into the project, and our students are already enjoying the outcome. The next phase of work this summer will include mounting the TV on the wall, replacing light fixtures with dimmable ceiling lights, and adding in some artwork on the fresh and beautifully painted walls.



Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible, through financial donations to help purchase the sectional, through your purchase of items off of our [Amazon Wish List](#) (we still have a few items on here we need to finish things off!), and through snack donations to stock the room well! And special thanks to the Tuesday Work Crew who invested many hours into this renovation - our students are so blessed by your service.



Community Conversations - What Now?

Looking back at the first quarter of 2021, our staff feels like we have accomplished a lot. The feedback that Dr. Tennant gathered from everyone in the community conversations throughout the month of February has led to some great discussions in Church Council and Deacons meetings, as well as in our staff meetings. We feel like we have been able to set clear goals for ourselves as a congregation and we are taking steps to make those happen!

The information gathered from our conversations has been [added to our website](#). Additionally, we have posted the full 17-page, anonymized version of Dr. Tennant's notes from the meetings on this page, and they are also available to you [here](#). Moving forward, the notes and guidance from these conversations are helping Will and Val prepare to work with the ministry transition team this summer, and will continue to be a part of what guides our outreach into the Charlottesville community as we find new ways of being together in the coming months. As always, feel free to reach out to any minister if you have questions about this information or our Vision and Goals for 2021.

Flowers Bring Great Joy

With more people coming back into the sanctuary to worship, we would again like to provide live flower arrangements. If you would like to dedicate sanctuary flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, the 2021 Floral Calendar has been posted in the first floor hallway. Sign up on the calendar AND call or email Sarah Buchanan to reserve your special date. I will order the flowers from Plantscapes for \$60 unless you want to provide them yourself. (Plantscapes does have a new owner, and the price that we have paid for the past 15 years has gone up.) You can drop a check earmarked "sanctuary flowers" in the offering plate, or send it to the church office.

If you love flowers, enjoy arranging them, or want to learn how, please contact Sarah at 434-409-9064 or sarahbucha@gmail.com and join us on the Floral Team. Sometimes it can be as simple as taking an already-made arrangement out of the refrigerator and placing it in the sanctuary or water the live plants.



Ice Cream Time!

Every Wednesday, from 12-2, we will be serving soft serve ice cream on the side walk in front of the church. Everyone is welcome. Come on by if you can!

Flavors of the Week

Chocolate
Raspberry
Chocolate/Raspberry swirl

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.

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

