

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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How to Invite Someone to Church

Have you ever wondered how to invite someone to church? Maybe you memorized the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) in Bible School and thought about “making disciples.” One of the steps involves engaging with people who do not already participate in a faith community. The key phrase is “engaging with people.” It’s great when they magically show up, but most people who experience God begin that journey because someone invited them to church.

In our church, we talk about being welcoming, and we mean it. However, sometimes we have to do more than make people welcome when they happen to wander inside. All of us who profess to follow Christ can wrestle with how we live out our faith. We occupy different places on our individual spiritual journeys. If inviting someone to church seems like a foreign concept, that’s okay because even ministers struggle with it. If you want to invite someone to church but don’t know how, here are some suggestions.

Non-religious invitations

“I’m going to University Baptist for ice cream this Wednesday. Do you want to come?”

“Do you want to play softball with us on Friday? Our church has a team and we would love to have you join us.”

“I just heard that there’s a Beatles cover band rocking out in our church’s fellowship hall. Do you want to go with me to hear them?”

The direct approach

“Do you have a church? I was wondering how you all are approaching regathering.” [If the answer is no, then say] “Well, if you’re ever interested in checking one out, ours is pretty cool.”

ON WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

June 27, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:
“What Do You See?”
Rev. Val Fisk

Scripture:
Mark 5:21-43

Ushers: Shirley Clark, Herman Eaker

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, June 23

10:00 PBJ Bible Study
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, June 24

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

FRIDAY, June 25

7:00 UBC Softball Game at United Christian Academy

SUNDAY, June 27

11:00 Morning Worship
2:00 Youth Pool Party

MONDAY, June 28

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

“Can I pray for you?” [If the answer is yes and the person is receptive, then say] “Is it okay for me to share this with my small group so they can be praying for you too?”
“I’d love to have you check out our church.” [This works in the context of a conversation about churches, and I said it recently to the man cutting my hair.]

The book club that transforms into a small group

“Did you see that new book *America’s Peacemakers?* A group of us are going to read it. Are you interested?”
“I’m interested in ___ by ___ too. Do you want to read it together?”

Friends & Acquaintances

“I can’t meet on Sunday mornings because I’ll be at church. You are welcome to come and we can meet after.”
“One of our newer ministers is preaching this Sunday, do you want to come with me to help support her?”

The most important part of any invitation is sincerity. Mean what you say and believe that it’s important. If you don’t believe it or struggle to believe it, ask yourself why church is important to you. Think about what is meaningful and life-giving. Remember the most inspirational part of the faith community and the experience of being part of the family of God.

This list of ways to invite someone to church is not exhaustive. If you think of others, please share them with me. I look forward to meeting the people you invite to church.

Peace,
Matt

Thank-You Note

Thank you to my church family for all the meals, cards, and prayers. It has really helped me not to feel so alone. Really enjoyed seeing your smiling faces.

Thanks again,
Diane Woerner



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

June 27: Ray Nell Lonvick

June 29: Sam Lee, Carolyn Lowry



Flavors of the Week

Raspberry
Mango
Raspberry/Mango Swirl

***Follow us on Instagram @ubc_cville to vote on our story polls for Flavor of the Week every Monday!**



Beginning a New Program

I wanted to let you know about a new part-time project I'll be starting this fall. While continuing my regular duties at UBC, I will be starting a Doctor of Ministry program through Duke Divinity School. This three-year program takes place primarily online, with a few week-long sessions in Durham scattered throughout the first two years.

How will this affect my ministry at UBC? At the logistical level, not much will change about my work, aside from a few mid-week schedule adjustments. My responsibilities and three-quarter-time hours at UBC will remain the same. At a deeper level, though, my hope is that my experiences in this program will enrich my ministry at UBC and enable me to lead and serve this congregation more effectively. I'm excited about joining a cohort of fellow ministers to deepen my knowledge and skills in ministry, and I am confident Duke is an excellent place for undertaking this journey.

Now, I know some of you may be concerned about this, so let me reassure you right at the start: when it comes to ACC sports, my primary allegiance remains with the Hoos, though when the Blue Devils aren't playing UVA, I suppose I will be cheering for them now as well. :)

- Will

Let's Celebrate Grads!

We want to celebrate our 2021 graduates of UBC! If you or a family member graduated this year from high school, college, or an advanced degree, please submit a photo and information on the degree achieved & from what school to vfisk@universitybaptist.org by July 1.



Ministry Transition Team asks for your input

The Ministry Transition Team is tasked with gathering input from our congregation about the future of music and worship at UBC. The team's primary goal is to gather information about what kind of person the Search Committee should be seeking. There will be two primary ways for you to share your input in this process. First, **please complete this brief survey** sharing your anonymous thoughts on what qualities we are looking for in our next staff member. We will keep the survey available until July 2, and share a report on the results during later listening sessions.

Second, mark your calendar to attend one of the following listening sessions and share your thoughts in the group conversations:

Sunday, July 11, 9:30 AM - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, July 20, 7:00 PM - Zoom

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85092304562?pwd=UHZyRC90ZnhuU2RMNmRNQIFzTk5uQT09>)

Sunday, July 25, 12:15 PM - Fellowship Hall

If you are unable to attend these sessions, please reach out to a member of the Ministry Transition Team to share your feedback in another way.

UBC Work Team – Come Join Us

The work team has started meeting again each Tuesday morning, and we would love to have you come and join us. We gather a little before 9am in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, conversation, and sometimes a donut. Then we tackle a wide range of projects to maintain the building, set up for events such as PACEM, and anything else to be done until about noon. Our projects include painting, carpentry, and yard work. After taking a year off, our to-do list is long. Concerned that you do not have any skills? Not a problem! We have plenty of easy tasks, and we all work together to solve problems and learn from each other. If you cannot come on Tuesday but can work another day, we can find a small job for you. If you would like more information, contact our team leader, Robby Gough at rhgough@embarqmail.com or anyone that you know on the work team.



WMU Woodbrook School Supplies Project

Since 2008 the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) has collected money and purchased school supplies for the low-income children at Woodbrook Elementary School. This project is coordinated by Love INC in cooperation with city and county schools' Family Support Workers. The summer of 2020 UBC did not collect money for school supplies due to COVID 19 and the probability of schools not opening in the fall, our not having in-person worship attendance, and having some funds left from 2019. We did have enough money in the

school supplies account to provide the few things the Family Support Workers requested, but those funds are now depleted.

With hopes of schools fully reopening this fall, we are again asking you to donate to the Woodbrook School Supplies Offering. We will be collecting for this fund the entire month of July. The money we collect will help UBC to purchase school supplies all year long for these children. This money also helps occasionally with shoes, emergency clothing, hygiene needs, and healthy snacks for these same children during the school year. This year Woodbrook had 573 students on roll.

"Students on free or reduced-price lunch make up [67%] of the Woodbrook School population. This is an upward trend and higher than the average for Albemarle County. This comes as a shock to lots of people, because Woodbrook doesn't look or feel like a high needs school. I attribute this to a top-notch staff, active PTO, and the many resources (such as the school supplies program!) that are generously donated to our school. More than any other school I've worked in, kids here love coming to school every day because they get what they need, not just academically but physically, socially, and emotionally."

~Family Support Worker, Woodbrook Elementary

Please make checks or online gifts payable to UBC and earmark "school supplies."

Deacon Elections--LAST CHANCE TO VOTE!

Thanks to all who reviewed the membership list that was sent in May. That list was used to assemble a Deacon Election Ballot by removing those under age 18, Deacons Emeriti, current Active Deacons, and those who requested to be removed from consideration. Deacons are to be the spiritual leaders of the church and typically serve three-year terms. UBC members are now invited to vote for not more than seven candidates to begin service in September. You may vote online [here](#) or by calling the church office at 434-293-5106. Please submit your ballots by Today, Tuesday, June 22.

Want to Help with Ice Cream?

Do you love ice cream? Do you love our neighbors? Then we have the perfect opportunity for you! We are looking for a few people to help with ice cream distribution at UBC on Wednesdays. There are several ways to help. You might come and be a friendly face to greet folks walking by the church as we offer ice cream. You might come and be trained on how to operate the machine, so that you can help with setup and ice cream making. Or, you might come 2:00-3:00 to help wash the machine parts with dish soap--the behind-the-scenes work that makes ice cream outreach possible. However you'd like to participate, we'd love to have you! Please email Will at wbrown@universitybaptist.org to let us know how you'd like to be involved. Thank you!

Sunday Mornings

At this point in our regathering from the pandemic, UBC is *almost* back to business as usual in our Sunday worship services. After over a year on Zoom and YouTube, we are taking a break from our morning Bible study in order to enjoy some fellowship opportunities in the mornings over the summer. Look for announcements here in the newsletter as those coffee hours and community conversations are added to the calendar!

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.

Masks & Social Distancing

University Baptist Church trusted the recommendations of the CDC when they encouraged us to wear our masks and social distance, and we are continuing to follow the CDC recommendations as they are updated. At this time, that means that fully vaccinated people are welcome to attend church with or without a mask, and we request that any non-vaccinated people continue to wear a mask. We are continuing to social distance in our sanctuary, seating all attendees in every other pew.

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Connect with us

