

# THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 13, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 71

## UBC 2030: What is the future of the church?

## WATCH

A few months ago, we conducted a number of community conversations. In each one, I asked participants various questions about the future. Our primary focus was the post-pandemic church. We seemed to all agree that we miss the sense of community which came from being together in person.

Now, as we regather in worship and look forward to restarting Wednesday night programming, we must begin looking beyond the immediate post-pandemic future and think about the future of the church. The decisions we make now are not for us. The decisions we make are for the church in 5, 10, or 20 years. Imagining the church of 2041 is challenging because we don't know what the world will be like in 20 years. Will we have flying cars? If so, where will we park during worship? Maybe we should focus on where God is calling us in 2030.

In 2019, we felt like God was leading us to grow. We were so convinced that God has big things in store for us that we voted to call a fourth minister. When we had our community conversations earlier this year, every person felt the Holy Spirit leading us to grow. We even said that we are willing to endure some discomfort and expect some changes to grow.

Over the next few months, I will be exploring ideas about the future of the church in this weekly column. You will find questions, information about conversations the ministers and lay leaders are having, and a challenge to be engaged in this journey. The focus of UBC 2030 is not inward; it is all about looking outward and listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying.

My priority is Jesus calling us to build the kingdom of God. We as a church can be *more* life-giving, spirit-focused, and engaged

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

July 18, 2021  
11:00 AM

**Sermon:**  
"Habitat for Divinity"  
Rev. Will Brown

**Scripture:**  
2 Samuel 7:1-14a  
Ephesians 2:11-22

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**Deacons:** Shirley Clark

**Ushers:** Ian Pallini, Ron Tweel

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## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, July 14

9:30 Youth Trip to King's Dominion  
12:00 Soft Serve on the Steps  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, July 15

7:00 Seekers Class (*Zoom*)

### SUNDAY, July 18

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting  
11:00 Morning Worship  
12:00 Tonsler playground and Splash Park

### MONDAY, July 19

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

in doing God's work. To thrive, we must be relevant. When people check us out, I want them to see Jesus in our midst and feel like they want to get involved. Future changes might include how we are organized, conduct our business, or count members. There's no set agenda for the future, which is why we must all pray and listen together. Some changes can start small and start now. Others will take more time. In either case, God calls us to get moving.

According to a Pew Research study, people are leaving churches in droves. But those people still have spiritual needs. People are not making a theological decision that favors atheism over God. People are leaving the institutional church. They are leaving the church structure. We need to evaluate how we do what we do and ensure that our church reflects Jesus above everything else. The thousands of people who walk by our building every day have spiritual needs. How is God calling us to meet those needs?

For now, I challenge you to pray for God's guidance in the future, and I am asking you to ask God what you are called to do. Every person in our congregation has a part to play. What is yours?

Peace,  
Matt

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

**TUESDAY, July 20**

9:00 UBC Work Team



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

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

**July 18:** Brian Mulcahy

**July 20:** Barbara Newlon

**July 21:** Luke Brown

**July 23:** Diane Caton



### Flavors of the Week

Watermelon

Strawberry

Watermelon/Strawberry Swirl

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

### Save the Date: September 26

Join us for a day of music, worship, and celebration of Alba Beasley's retirement.

\*More information to come in the upcoming weeks.





## UBC Kids and Families!

This Sunday, 7/18, bring a picnic and join us after church at the Tonsler playground and splash park for some food, fun, and fellowship with church friends!

## End of Summer Youth Retreat Thursday-Sunday, August 5-8

Pack your boots, boys and girls - we're going to Tennessee! We have a cabin booked in Sevierville, nestled in the Smoky Mountains and right down the road from...DOLLYWOOD! That's right, we're going to the greatest place on earth and hanging out with Dolly Parton for the day - or at least riding the rollercoasters and enjoying her homemade cinnamon bread recipe!



We will leave Thursday afternoon, spend Friday at Dollywood, and spend Saturday hanging out at our cabin, which includes a private hot tub and access to a community pool, as well as checking out the shops and walking trails around Gatlinburg.

The cost per student is \$175 and includes our housing & transportation, Dollywood park ticket, 7 meals, and snacks at the cabin. Students will need spending money for lunch at Dollywood and meals on the road as we travel down and back. **Please let Val know ASAP if your student plans to go - the final cut off for registration is THIS FRIDAY, July 16. And we still need one more chaperone to go with us! If you are willing to spend a weekend hanging out with a bunch of cool teenagers, get in touch with Val for more details.**



## Please Share Your Thoughts

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. Please help us out by filling out this quick survey. Thank you!

Thank you to all who participated in last Sunday's listening session, pictured here. If you were unable to attend, we hope you will join us for one of the other two sessions:

Tuesday, July 20, 7:00 PM - Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85092304562?pwd=UHZyRC90ZnhuU2RMNmRNQlFzTk5uQT09>

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



## WMU Woodbrook School Supplies Project

To begin school this coming school year 2021-2022, according to the Woodbrook Elementary School website, the suggested supply list for first graders will cost \$38.13 (and those are the Walmart back-to-school sale off-brand prices). Sixty-seven percent of the Woodbrook families are on public assistance and cannot afford to buy their children what they need. The financial hardships added by the COVID 19 pandemic have compounded the needs of these children.



In 2008, Love INC paired the WMU with the Family Support Workers at Woodbrook Elementary. In the beginning, we asked you to bring in a variety of school supplies that we sorted and delivered to the school. This method was pretty chaotic. For the last 13 years, we have asked you to donate money. We then asked the Family Support Workers what things they specifically needed, purchased those supplies, and delivered them to the school. The Woodbrook Family Support Workers were delighted with this more efficient method.

We want to continue to meet the needs of the less fortunate children *“...to give [them] hope and a future”*  
~[Jeremiah 29:11](#).

Please make your checks or online donations payable to UBC and earmark “school supplies.”

## Staff Vacations

During this summer season, our staff members have been taking some vacation time to rest and rejuvenate. Thanks to Diane Mundell for directing the choir while Will Cooke is away. We look forward to his return to direct Sanctuary Choir in worship on the 18th.

## Soles 4 Souls

Our Soles 4 Souls box is still here! Please bring any clothing and shoes you would like to donate. Donations assist in disrupting poverty worldwide. Help us serve those in need, create opportunities and protect the environment! The box is emptied about once per month. To learn more, click [here](https://soles4souls.org/) or visit <https://soles4souls.org/>.



## Alfie, Carl, Gertie, Henrietta, and their Siblings are Ready for Adoption

Our steadfast family of Palms have served us well through the COVID pandemic. They are now ready for adoption. The choir is back in the choir loft, the pulpit furniture has returned to the podium, and fresh flowers are returning to the sanctuary. So, if your family has room in your heart and home for a well-behaved, housebroken Palm or two, come to the Children’s Suite on the second floor, meet our sweet plants, and take one or a few with you to their forever home. There is no fee for these adoptions.

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## 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.

*University Baptist Church*  
1223 West Main Street  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
434-293-5106

Connect with us

