

# THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 20, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 72

## UBC 2030: Where are we starting?

Before the pandemic, we averaged around 170 people attending worship each week. However, this summer, we have had about 50-80 people in person each week. Our Facebook and YouTube live streams appear in the feeds of a few hundred people each week, averaging a few dozen individuals watching a significant portion of our services each week.

The pandemic taught all of us the value of remaining connected while we are apart. In the future, we will continue to share our worship service live on the internet and try to be as inclusive as possible with the viewers. Yet, we have not been able to truly engage viewers in the same way we can with people who come to the sanctuary.

The way people attend church is changing. Years ago, active church membership meant attending a worship service between 3-4 times per month. Now, according to [David Odom](#) at Duke University, many active participants attend once a month. To achieve the same in person attendance as twenty years ago requires three times as many congregants, and we have to figure out how to better engage our virtual congregants.

As we look to the future and imagine church in 2030, we start from an uncertain position. There are fewer people who are worshipping in person than before the pandemic. Some of the trends, especially disengagement with organized religion, have accelerated during the pandemic. When we look to the future, we do not start from some point in the past. We start where we are right now.

As a family of faith, we face some financial headwinds and the normal challenges of an aging congregation. We aspire to have more students and young people, and we wish for greater diversity. But that's not who we are yet.

Right now, we are seeking to follow God into the future. Gathering together in person allows us to get to know one another better. We can read nonverbal cues and have informal conversations before and after worship. To reach our community more effectively, we need to

## ON WATCH

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

July 25, 2021  
11:00 AM

### Sermon:

"What Can Jesus Overcome for You?"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

### Scripture:

John 6:1-25

### Anthem:

"Come with Shouting"  
(Williams, Nolan)

**Deacons:** Martha Ballenger, Jen May

**Ushers:** Charlotte Bailey, Ron Tweel

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, July 21

10:00 PBJ Bible Study  
12:00 Soft Serve on the Steps  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### SUNDAY, July 25

8:30 Missions Council Meeting  
11:00 Morning Worship  
12:15 Listening Session  
6:00 Youth Movie Night

grow in person gatherings, yet we value and recognize the necessity of online worship too. Finding a balance between them will be part of discerning where God is calling us.

We have faith and a vibrant hope for the future. We have resources to overcome some financial obstacles. And, we are gaining clarity in our sense of who God is calling us to be.

Peace,  
Matt

**MONDAY, July 26**  
8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))

**TUESDAY, July 27**  
9:00 UBC Work Team  
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group  
7:00 Ministry Transition Team Meeting



### Happy (Staff) Anniversary!

This Sunday we celebrate the anniversary of Dr. Matthew Tennant. Thank you to Dr. Tennant for 4 wonderful years!



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

**July 29:** Aimee Marshall, Bobby Gough

**July 30:** Lily Pallini

### Flavors of the Week

Chocolate  
Raspberry  
Chocolate/Raspberry swirl

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



### THIS SUNDAY!

### 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

## Haiti Update

The country of Haiti has drawn attention once again for sad reasons. After the assassination of President Moïse, the country, especially Port-au-Prince is in disarray. In the north, things are calm but remain tenuous. We hear encouraging reports for Monel and Joselie, and Bertram Rubens sent some pictures. They were taken after a recent worship service. We have been supporting Pastor Rubens for several years, and he sent the following message:

*"I am praying for you and your church and for my responsibilities. Thank you for what you are doing for me for God. God bless you."*



## Newly Elected Deacons

Thanks to all who voted in the annual deacon election process. The following folks will begin their 3-year terms as Active Deacons in September: Debra Bryant, Sarah Buchanan, Gary Dalton, Lily Gregg, Daniel Harper, Jackie Lockwood, and Jennifer Wagoner.

## WMU Woodbrook School Supplies and So Much More

In addition to purchasing more than \$1000 worth of school supplies each fall, the WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) has also used your donations to supply gift cards for winter coats, buy dozens of backpacks, provide packages of new underpants, and second-hand pants for the school's emergency clothes closet, bought many pairs of tennis shoes, belts, soap, and deodorant, and individually packaged snack items for the Woodbrook Family Support Workers to give to students when needed. We check back with them in January to see if there are other things they may need. One winter, we provided gallons of hand sanitizer during a severe flu season. Please help us provide for the most underprivileged children in our community. Make your checks or online donations payable to UBC and earmark "school supplies."



## 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.

## 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

