

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 21, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 81

Resituating Priorities

Isn't it strange when someone's action upsets us? I do not mean

our thirst for justice when we hear about someone doing something harmful to another person. I am talking about the people who have much in common with us, but with a slight variation. Churches that have a higher (too liturgical) or lower (too loosie-goosy) worship style are not wrong. They are different.

In Mark 9:38-41, John complained to Jesus about some people casting out demons in Jesus' name. John even confessed to trying to stop the exorcism because the exorcist wasn't part of the club. Cue Jesus planting his face in his palm. He responded to John, "Don't stop him... whoever is not against us is for us."

The world presents us with opportunities to join John and criticize how other people practice their faith. This one is too loud. That one is too abrasive. Another isn't assertive enough. This one doesn't have enough passion about their beliefs. If we join John's chorus of disapproving commentary, we find the logical conclusion: *everyone needs to be like me*. No! God calls us to be like Jesus.

The temptation to disparage other Christ-followers is a stumbling block. When we miss the good in others' faith journeys, we are poorer. When we add negativity, we build up the stumbling blocks. In Mark 9:42, Jesus says, "If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea."

His words sound harsh because he takes the faith journey so seriously. Disrupting or tearing down someone else's journey is terrible. It's bad for the victim. It's bad for the one doing the tearing. And, it's bad for the kingdom of God.

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

September 26, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Resituating Priorities"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Mark 9:38-50

Deacons: Herman Eaker, Jackie Lockwood

Ushers: Ben Chenault, Daniel Harper

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, September 22

9:00 UBC Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)

12:00 Soft Serve on the Steps

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, September 26

8:30 Missions Council (Zoom)

9:30 Student Ministry Bible Study

9:45 Sunday Bible Study

(Zoom and Fellowship Hall)

11:00 Morning Worship

5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

6:00 Youth Group

The challenge is to see the world through God's eyes. Instead of letting the way someone practices their faith bother us, we can trust the Holy Spirit to do the correcting. We don't have to say anything. We can give thanks for the diversity of faith practices and make our own spiritual journey our top priority.

This Sunday, we will look at Mark 9.38-50 and hear a story about how we can see the world in a new way. To get ready, read the passage and ask yourself, "How can I be like John sometimes?" What is most important to you on your faith journey? When you have an answer, ask, "Is my priority the same as God's priority?"

Peace,
Matt



Flavors of the Week

- Watermelon
- Mango
- Watermelon/Mango Swirl

Church Database Upgrade

We will soon be making some upgrades to our Realm database and mailing lists. If have any issues receiving the newsletter or other church information, please notify Lexi at lwoodson@universitybaptist.org. If you have any updates to your contact information, this is a good time to provide those changes. You will continue to receive the newsletter by either email or postal mail as you have previously chosen.



State Missions Offering

Each fall we collect a special offering to support missions in the state of Virginia. This September, our missions emphasis will support the chaplain ministry at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. Our goal is \$3,000. You can give on our website or by mailing a check to the church (Make the check out to University Baptist Church and write State Missions in the "for" line.). Here is some information from Chaplain Jerusha Moses, whose ministry our offering will support:

Dear friends, Due to "separation of church and state," GracelInside is a nonprofit Christian ministry that places chaplains inside Virginia's prisons so

MONDAY, September 27
8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))
10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

September 26: Nichole Dawson
September 28: Al Holliday
September 29: Patti Barretta
September 30: Sandy Manning

Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to John and Sarah Buchanan in the passing of John's brother, Hal Buchanan, on September 17, 2021.

that lives may be transformed through the grace of Jesus Christ. As a GraceInside chaplain, I am dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of all residents of Virginia's state prisons. I currently serve in Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, providing one-on-one pastoral care, conducting worship services, and working with the Department of Corrections staff in offering rehabilitative programs. I am also responsible for scheduling all religious programs conducted by volunteers representing many faith traditions like Islam, Messianic Judaism, Wicca, Buddhism, Seventh Day Adventism, and Protestantism.

As the temperature gets cooler and the leaves change color, I am reminded that God's mercies are new every morning; God continues to work patiently in our lives, transforming us, and sanctifying us to the likeness of the image of God's son, Jesus. What an honor it is to partner with the Savior bringing faith, hope, and love to incarcerated men and women, as Christ says in Matthew 25, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Bio: Chaplain Moses is an ordained Baptist minister. She completed her masters degree in divinity and a doctorate degree in ministry at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. She majored in biblical studies and obtained a masters degree in theology at the Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. She taught World Religions as adjunct faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her doctoral project was in the field of grief and loss. She lives in Richmond with her fourteen-year-old daughter, a stage 4 cancer survivor. Her grandparents were a major influence on her life; they retired from the Department of Corrections in India and told her bedtime stories of their work in Corrections. The stories took deep root in her impressionable heart and are the reason for her passion for prison ministry today.

Sunday Mornings

Sunday Bible Study

On Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30, our ministers are leading a discussion series on the book of Acts, considering lessons that our church can draw from the early church's story. You can join us in person in the Fellowship Hall, or via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85381408096?pwd=MzdkVG9JZ2x0M2JFK01KNINjSWtqUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 8140 8096

Passcode: 954000

The Open Minds Class is also meeting on Zoom at this time.

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin 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 continues to follow the recommendations of the CDC as they are updated. At this time, that means that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, should wear a mask for all in-person gatherings in the church building. As we monitor this next wave of COVID cases related to the Delta variant, we will make announcements as our policies are adjusted.

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Connect with us

