

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 28, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 82

Out of the Box

Doing anything over and over again can create a rut. Ruts are a habit or pattern of behavior that has become dull and unproductive but is hard to change. Once we get into a rut, getting out of it can be a challenge. Ruts can occur anywhere in life—work, recreation, relationships, and even at church. Finding a rut is easy. Changing things up takes work.

While I haven't seen evidence of widespread dull or unproductive patterns within our congregation, a little preventative maintenance helps us avoid finding a spiritual rut. So, on Sundays in October, we are going to try some new ways of worshiping. You might like some things we do. In fact, you might love some, and you probably won't like others.

When we try something new, it can feel like we have entered a foreign territory called Discomfort Land. Don't worry. We will not build houses and stay in Discomfort Land forever. Even within any given worship service in October, one part might feel off to you, but if you stay with it, the next part should feel more familiar. Then, in November, we will return to what you know and love about worship at UBC.

Since our foray into Discomfort Land isn't based on the element of surprise, I want to share our plans with you:

- October 3 (Job 2.1-10) – We will borrow from high church liturgies and use a number of readings. We will wrestle with the question from Job 2, “Can we believe in God without looking for rewards and fearing punishments?”
- October 10 (Hebrews 4.12-16) – It's all about faith and action. We will hear some new music, change things around with a familiar tune, and explore how God's word is living and active.
- October 17 (Isaiah 53.4-12) – The service will be contemplative with candles and times for reflection. We will

ONWATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

October 3, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:

“No Disinterested Faith”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Job 2:1-10

Ushers: Charlotte Bailey, Ron Tweel

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, September 29

9:00 UBC Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)
12:00 Soft Serve on the Steps
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, October 3

8:30 Church 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

MONDAY, October 4

look at our own mortality and have opportunities for congregational movement.

- October 24 (Mark 10.46-52) – What is so subversive about our faith? Some of the music will be atonal. Some will have familiar words with unfamiliar tunes.
- October 31 (Ruth 1.1-18) – We will invite you to think about God’s family and how it does not fit in the box of cultural norms. We might even hear some familiar television theme songs as we think about what it means to be a family of faith.

When we follow the same routine week after week, year after year, we face the temptation to take something for granted. At church, worship can become a ritual. When this happens, each week, we go through the motions but miss God’s presence and the little nudging of the Holy Spirit. Transformation in Christ becomes a distant light on the horizon. I hope that trying a few new things will help us appreciate God’s presence both during the out-of-the-box visit to Discomfort Land and our subsequent return to normal.

Routines can be comforting. As we try something new, think about how it speaks to you. Pray about how God can use it to help you grow. Let us know what you think. If you love something, we want to know about it. If you hate it, tell us. We invite your participation in worship on all levels, from planning to evaluating the experience. Worship is who we are, and if it doesn’t speak to you, then we want to hear from you.

Peace,
Matt



Flavors of the Week

- Mango
- Watermelon
- Mango and Watermelon swirl

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

10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)

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

For our most up-to-date calendar, [click here](#).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

October 4: Javaneh Brown, Margaret Fitch, Tom Mundell

October 6: Nolan Minor

October 7: Tony Barretta

October 8: Ed Barker

October 9: Brett Turner, Pam Hallissy

Prayer Concerns

Pam Hallissy

Sue Sears

Sally Chewning

Sympathy to Johnny Ellen in the passing of his stepmother, Sara Frances Ellen, on September 16, 2021.

Free Laundry for College Students!

You read that correctly - FREE LAUNDRY!! If you are currently living in a place where you have to pay for your laundry - stop it! No more hunting for quarters! Bring your laundry over to the church and wash it for free while you hang out and study.

In order to prevent multiple people from lugging baskets of laundry to the church at the same time, please reserve slots on [the SignUpGenius linked here](#). You can sign up for a spot up to 20 days in advance, and take as many slots as you need. **You must remain in the building while your laundry is running.**

Tide pods and Bounce dryer sheets are already in the room for your use. Feel free to bring your own preferred detergents as well, but please refrain from using bleach in the washer in order to protect everyone's clothes!

Need a code to access the building outside of regular office hours, or a parking pass for your car when you come to use the study room or laundry? Just ask! Email Val at vfisk@universitybaptist.org.

Church Database Upgrade

We will soon be making some upgrades to our Realm database and mailing lists. If you 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 that lives may be transformed through the grace of Jesus Christ. As a GracelInside 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

