

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 7, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 79

Faith & Works

When was the last time you showed a stranger some grace?

Current events and an ongoing pandemic threaten to wear us down. Zoom isn't the same as in person meetings. Even though video conferences offer an upside, many people miss the enduring connection with others maintained by being in the same space. For days like these, we need to model the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5.22-23) more than ever.

On Sunday, I talked about the connection between faith and works, focusing especially on James 2.17, "Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." James didn't replace faith with works. What we do (i.e., our works) provide everyone we encounter with a window into our souls. If you want to know someone and understand what is important to that person, watch what they do. See how they spend their time and money. See how they treat other people, both their loved ones and complete strangers.

Driving, going to the grocery store, and interacting with people in public are opportunities to demonstrate what we believe. Coming to church and worshiping serve as opportunities to center ourselves in Christ. The centering and edifying experience in worship and Bible study nourish us for the daily journey. Sacred activities strengthen our spiritual lives so our daily secular activities reflect what we believe.

As we look to the future, the church in 2030 depends on us putting our faith into action now. When what we do reflects what we believe, we foster a sincere faith that is consistent whether we are in the sanctuary or the checkout line at the grocery store. Genuine faith is contagious and will sustain UBC in 5, 10, or 20 years.

Peace,
Matt

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

September 12, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Where Were You 20 Years Ago Yesterday?"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Proverbs 1:20-33

Deacons: Larry Johnson, Jackie Lockwood

Ushers: Ben Chenault, Daniel Harper

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, September 8

9:00 UBC Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)

12:00 Soft Serve on the Steps

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

7:00 Student Ministry- Midweek Small Group

THURSDAY, September 9

7:00 Deacon Meeting (Zoom)

SUNDAY, September 12

8:30 Church Council (Hybrid)

9:30 Student Ministry Bible Study

Flavors of the Week

- Pumpkin Spice
- Salted Carmel
- Pumpkin Spice and Salted Carmel Swirl



9:45 Sunday Bible Study ([Zoom](#) and Fellowship Hall)
11:00 Morning Worship
3:00 Harvest Picnic
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

MONDAY, September 13
8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))

10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)
6:30 Search Committee Meeting([Zoom](#))

TUESDAY, September 14
12:00 Annie Armstrong Circle
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

September 14: Nick Martindale

September 15: Anne Smith

September 16: Ed Smith, Lynne Gardner

September 17: Jo-Ann Averill, Barbara Moore

September 18: Caroline Centofante

Harvest Picnic: September 12

The UBC Deacons invite you to a special "Harvest Picnic," to be held on Sunday, September 12 at the home of Robby and Judy Gough. With the uncertainty of the pandemic, we don't know whether we will be able to host the traditional indoor Harvest Luncheon in November, so we invite you to join us in this outdoor meal while the weather is warm. Anyone who would like to bring an ice cream maker and ice cream is welcome to do so, though certainly not required.



What: Fellowship, swimming, and a catered meal provided by the Deacons

When: Sunday, September 12. 3:00pm for swimming, 5:00 for dinner

Who: You! Everyone is invited.

Where: The home of Robby and Judy Gough (If you need the address or need a ride, please contact the church office or one of our deacons.)

In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled.

We hope to see you there!

Deacon Ordination Input Requested

On Sunday, September 5, we ordained Lily Gregg and Daniel Harper as deacons. Because COVID-19 did not permit us to lay on hands in the typical way, we would like to collect the prayers and comments that people would have said if they had been able to do so. Please send a quick email to Will at wbrown@universitybaptist.org so that we can collect these short notes and present them to Daniel and Lily. Thank you for your participation this week, if possible.

Bible Reading Group Resumes (new time)

Interested in reading the Bible with some friends? Each week, a group of us meets on Zoom for 30 minutes, taking turns reading aloud from the Bible. No commitment and no prep required! Simply come and read with us when you can. Hope to see you on Mondays at 10:30!

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

Meeting ID: 853 8140 8096

Passcode: 954000

Building Use Update

In recent years we have come to recognize the many ways in which our building can be used to serve many ministry needs in our community. For example, prior to the pandemic, we were hosting numerous support groups for cancer survivors or those experiencing loss. Recently we have received a number of building use requests for needs coming out of the pandemic. For example, we will be hosting concerts by the UVA Glee Club and Women's Chorus in December. Starting next Sunday afternoon, a startup church for students sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention will be meeting in our Fellowship Hall. We are also continuing to host the Chinese Student Fellowship that worships on Friday evenings and the Hispanic Church that is supported by the Baptist General Assembly of VA on Sunday Evenings. If you encounter any of these groups, please welcome them to our building. If you have questions about our building use, please contact Alan Hendricks or another staff member.



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 Bible Study

On Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30, Will Brown is leading a discussion series on the book of Acts, considering lessons that our church can draw from the early church's story. Especially as we ponder church life in the context of a pandemic that has upended everything, our hope is that our time in Acts will draw us more deeply into our essential mission and identity as the Church.

There are two ways to join this study:

1. In person

For anyone who would like to participate in person, you can join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45. We will gather near the screen, so that we can see those joining us remotely.

2. On Zoom

For those joining remotely, you can log in with this Zoom information:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85381408096?pwd=MzdkVG9JZ2x0M2JFK01KNINjSWtqUT09>
- Meeting ID: 853 8140 8096
- Passcode: 954000



BibleProject

College & Youth Bible Studies are back in swing!

This week our college and youth groups both resumed meeting for weekly Bible study (masked, but in person!). Both groups are following the same study plan this fall, focusing on creating a broad understanding of the different books of the Bible, and what main themes and different kinds of literature are represented in the Bible. Each week, the groups watch a video from The Bible Project, starting in the **Old Testament Book Overview series**. Then, we are asking ourselves questions about what we hear, such as: *What is familiar or unsurprising? What did we hear that is new or unfamiliar? Why would people choose to write this down and then preserve this book for so many years?* Reach out to Rev. Val Fisk if you are interested in following along with what our students are learning this semester!

Alba's Retirement Celebration Postponed

Sadly, with the surging Delta variant of COVID-19, we will not be able to hold our celebration of Alba's ministry on September 26 as we had hoped. Our desire is for this to be a joyous celebration when we can do a lot of singing together, and it simply does not seem safe to plan such an event at this time. We will continue to watch the COVID situation carefully, and the planning team led by Carolyn Lowry will remain in touch with Alba and Pam to reschedule this event at an appropriate time. We will share details as they become available.

Sunday Mornings

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

