

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

October 19, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 845

Connecting Some Disparate Dots **ON WATCH**

In January, we adopted a **vision** for the new year. At the time, many of us believed the pandemic was almost over. People were getting vaccinated and I felt hopeful about regathering. At the time, we looked ahead at a post-pandemic church. The other ministers and I embarked on a number of listening sessions. Then we distilled what we heard into “Community Conversation Insights and Action Plans for 2021.”

Several actions grew out of both our vision and the community conversation insights. We bought a cart and soft-serve ice cream machine, and we started giving away ice cream in front of the church every Wednesday. We also took a long look into the future with UBC2030. Of these two actions, one exceeded our expectations. The other failed to gain much traction. Most people like ice cream. Thus, making Wednesdays into Ice-cream-day wasn't difficult. Yet, imagining the church in a decade stretched our fatigued minds, and UBC2030 will occupy the backburner for now.

The seeds for an intermediary step germinated in my mind as I thought about the future and how similar our worship services are each week. I shared my idea with the other ministers as the “Out of the Box” series of worship services. Your church staff (Will B., Val, Will C., Barbara, Lexi, Marcus, Alan, and Thomas) worked tirelessly to put my vague description of an “Out of the Box” series into action. So far, many of you loved some parts of the new services, and some of you are looking forward to getting back to normal in November.

To those who have shared their feedback on this “Out of the Box” visit to Discomfort Land, thank you for letting us know what you think. To those who haven't said anything, please tell one of us what you think.

Today, I want to invite you to try and see stream of common themes connecting each disparate dot in UBC life. Our vision was about spiritual growth, coming together, putting our faith in action, welcoming others, and looking to the future. Our community

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

October 24, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon

“Subversive Faith”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Mark 10:46-52

Deacons: Lynda Tweel

Ushers: Ed Barker, Ron Tweel

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, October 20

9:00 UBC Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)

12:00 Soft Serve on the Steps

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, October 21

7:00p Seekers Class Zoon

SUNDAY, October 24

8:30 Missions Council Meeting

9:30 Student Ministry Bible Study

9:45 Sunday Bible Study

(Zoom and Fellowship Hall)

11:00 Morning Worship

5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

conversations highlighted the longing to be back together with a sense of community. They also reemphasized a desire to grow in all its forms, especially with outreach. Besides giving away ice cream, our outreach will include t-shirts, mugs, stickers, and more events. During the community conversations, people told me they felt like UBC should be bold and maintain a “why not?” attitude. This led to the “Out of the Box” series. Finally, people told me they are willing to endure some discomfort to grow, as long as we remain faithful to who God called us to be.

What’s next? Among the staff, we try to hold one another accountable and avoid throwing new ideas against the wall to see what sticks. Even though it might not always be obvious, our goal is to be consistent. We want to be the church God is calling us to be, and we don’t want to limit God’s vision through our desire for safety, stability, and full coffers.

If what we’ve done this year seems unrelated or random, then I have not done a good job explaining the reasons we do what we do. Let me know when you have a question or wonder how something connects to the vision. As we engage with one another more, we will learn from each other and grow together. Ask questions. Make suggestions. Listen with an open mind, and extend grace to the other members of your church family.

I am optimistic about the future because God is more powerful than anything we face. Where we are going, God is already there preparing a place for us. I can’t wait to see the fruit of what we’re doing now, whether we see it next year or in a decade.

Peace,
Matt

Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to Brian Miller and family at the death of his brother, Charles Miller.

Sympathy to Shelley Miller and family at the death of her son, Chris Ward.

Sympathy to the family of Ellis Frazier, who died on October 1.

6:00 Youth Group

MONDAY, October 25

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!

October 22: Angela Li, Sara Simoneau

October 24: John Brown

October 25: Christian Proffitt

October 26: Zach Martindale, Ed Lowry, Raynell Stokes, Elizabeth Mulcahy

October 28: Jeanne Nye

October 29: Caroline Wagoner, Molly Lowry

October 30: John Buchanan



Flavors of the Week

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



Here are a couple of pictures from our worship service on October 17. Many thanks to all who participated and made this service possible.

Search Committee Update:

The Associate Minister for Music and Worship Search Committee has been hard at work. We have advertised widely and eight people have applied for the position so far. We are prayerfully reviewing each applicant and listening for God's direction. Please keep each member of the committee in your prayers, and pray for the person God is leading to join our ministry team. If you know someone who might be interested, please tell them to send a cover letter and resume to search@universitybaptist.org. Thank you for your support!

Debby Johnson, chairperson
Ben Chenault
Robby Gough
Lily Gregg
Larry Johnson
Laura Martindale
Peter Ohlms
Caroline Wagoner

Christmas Hygiene Kit and Greeting Card Ministry for FCCW

Last fall UBC received a note from Ron and Nancy Switzer, the coordinators of the Christmas hygiene kit and greeting card ministry to the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (FCCW), saying that because of the COVID 19 pandemic they would not be collecting these items to send to FCCW. "Sadly, this [was] the first year we've missed since 1998, the year the correctional center opened."



After missing last year, we're happy to report that the Christmas Hygiene Kit and Greeting Card Ministry is back on track for Christmas 2021. Sponsored through GraceInside, Virginia's Prison

Chaplain Service, and administered through Effort Baptist Church, the program is supported by your item donations and monetary gifts.

UBC's collection effort will go through Sunday, November 7, but monetary gifts are welcome any time during the year. Each inmate at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women receives the gifts listed below. You can give a complete bag or single items.

Please note that the correctional center does not permit ANY substitute or additional items.

Hygiene Items (place in a gallon zip lock bag)

1. One individually wrapped toothbrush (must be in original container)
 2. One tube of toothpaste, 6 oz. (must be in original container, and as close to 2.6 oz. as possible but no larger)
 3. One deodorant stick, 2.6 oz. (no spray or roll-on, as close to 2.6 oz. as possible but no larger)
 4. One bottle of shampoo, 15 oz. (as close to 15 oz. as possible but no larger)
 5. One bottle of lotion, 15 oz. (as close to 15 oz. as possible but no larger)
- No additions or substitutions.



Greeting Cards and Stationery Items

1. Christmas and Hanukkah cards and greeting cards for all occasions. All cards are sorted by an Effort Baptist Church team of volunteers after they're received. Please try to avoid purchasing cards that contain foil on the card or envelope flap.

2. Stationery items – writing paper of any size and envelopes either 3 5/8 x 6 1/2" or 4 1/8 x 9 1/2"

3. Forever postage stamps -- used to send donation

acknowledgment letters. Please place them in a separate zip lock bag).

4. Wooden pencils (unsharpened)

UBC's Collection Due Date is Sunday, November 7. Make checks and online donations payable to UBC and earmark "Hygiene kits." Item collection boxes will be located on the stage in the fellowship hall and in the first floor lobby.

Quarterly Statement

Quarterly statements have been mailed and should be expected within the next few weeks. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please email Lexi Woodson at lwoodson@universitybaptist.org or call the office at 434.293.5106.

From the Personnel Committee...

October is Clergy Appreciation Month. The Apostle Paul is thought to have first suggested clergy appreciation in 1 Timothy 5:17, when he stated, "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching." That teaching helped inspire the start of Clergy Appreciation Month in 1992 to recognize pastors.

Let us show our pastors how extremely fortunate we are to serve alongside such quality ministers at UBC! Pray for them, write them a note, send them an email, post thanks on your favorite social media, or thank Matt, Will B. and Val in person for the many gifts (leadership, compassion, stewardship, and faith) they generously share with us all year round!

- Personnel Committee



Bible Reading Group finishes Mark!

Our Bible Reading Group meets each Monday morning to read the Bible aloud together. Each week we read a couple chapters from the Old Testament, one psalm, and a couple chapters from the New Testament. This week we finished Mark, the third book we've completed together (after Matthew and Genesis). If you'd like to join us, we meet on [Zoom](#) each Monday morning at 10:30. We'd love to have you!

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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