

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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What is discipleship?

If God is everywhere, and the Holy Spirit is present in every interaction, does everything qualify as discipleship? A disciple is the follower of a teacher. Discipleship is intentionally equipping people to follow a teacher. In the case of the Christian faith, discipleship means preparing people to follow Jesus. Thus, even though God is always present (cf. Psalm 139.5-12), not everything trains someone to follow Jesus. Discipleship includes intentionality.

Christian life is multifaceted. It includes both study and doing, or faith and action (James 2.14-17). Recently, I spoke with a man who had drifted away from the church. He described how he no longer felt guilty about not coming to church. He also referenced a divine scorecard and assumed that his lifelong attendance had earned him enough points to get to heaven. In practical terms, his approach to salvation reflected Pelagianism. This heresy subscribes to a works-based salvation. Like my interlocutor, Pelagians believed they could achieve salvation without divine grace.

Though the Council of Carthage condemned Pelagianism as a heresy in 418, the idea of earning a relationship with God remains attractive to some people. Discipleship in contemporary churches can help people understand why God's grace is so amazing. It runs counter to cultural Christianity and demonstrates the radical nature of following Jesus.

I struggle with the lack of discipleship in churches today because it leads to cheap grace. Without a rich, deep discipleship, following Jesus can mean whatever one wants it to mean. When we sit in a circle and only ask one another what we think it means to follow Jesus, we toss two millennia of "faith seeking understanding" (Anselm) down the drain. If only my opinion of what counts as orthodoxy or orthopraxis

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

November 14, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon

"Hannah's Struggle"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Deacons: Laura Martindale,
Jackie Lockwood

Ushers: Ben Chaunalt, Shirley
Clark

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, November 10

9:00 UBC Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, November 11

7:00 Deacons Meeting

SUNDAY, November 14

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, November 15

matters, then what do I care about the gospels or Paul? How can we reflect Jesus if we don't regularly study his life?

When we don't occasionally take a deep dive into scripture, we become tempted to start recreating God in our own image. It's easy to find God agreeing with us rather than God challenging us. If the Bible doesn't challenge our world view (at least occasionally), we're not paying attention to what it says.

Following Jesus requires everything we have. Even though God's grace is a free gift (Romans 6.23), and is available to everyone, when Jesus calls someone, he says, "Deny yourself and take up your cross" (Luke 9.23). In his book *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, "Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

Discipleship gives life and provides meaning. It is part of the tapestry of the Christian life. Discipleship doesn't take the place of fellowship or service. Instead, it adds to the richness of each experience. Through discipleship, a Christ-follower can better understand why we do what we do. With edifying discipleship, we baptize fellowship into sacred moments even if we don't speak of God or open the Bible. Discipleship helps us remember that Jesus is our common denominator.

Peace,
Matt

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

10:30 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom](#))

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

November 16: Ji Song, Seth Brown

November 19: Jackie Lockwood

November 20: Jane Thomas

Prayer Concern

Sympathy to [Tom and Alice Mahone](#) and family after the death of their son [Scott Mahone](#) on October 27.

Note from Bob and Cindy Bryant

Cindy and I are pleased to announce that we both are on the mend from our recent medical issues. On top of all that, we experienced the sad loss of our beloved nephew, Christopher, in October. The consoling Christian messages sent from you all in the form of cards and phone calls really helped guide us through this most difficult period. Many thanks from both of us and we are looking forward to seeing you all in the near future.

-Bob and Cindy Bryant

Note from Alexis Haskiell

Hi Everyone!

On behalf of AFROTC, thank you SO MUCH for letting us use the fellowship hall for our blood drive yesterday. It was a huge success. We had 43 people sign up (out of 46 slots) to donate and 36 donors who showed up. Of the 36 who came to donate, 34 had successful donations, meaning we collected 34 units of whole blood. This surpassed the Red Cross's goal of 28 units of whole blood! Overall, the blood collected yesterday will help approximately 102 people in need (3 people are helped by each donation). Thank you again for your kindness. None of this would have been possible without you! I CC'd the cadets who played a role in setting this up on our end!

-ALEXIS O. HASKIELL, C/Col, AFROTC



Thank you to the church members who donated blood. This was also Colleen Baber's 100th donation!

Church-wide Christmas Card!

Without our usual Christmas Post Office this year, we are trying something new. We will send out a giant Christmas Card to every family in the church. This card can contain a personalized greeting from you! For instance, "Wishing you a Christmas season filled with joy and laughter! -Love, Will, Erin, Luke, Seth, and Caleb. :)"

Because our usual Post Office is a great fundraiser for missions, we don't want that to slip away. We ask everyone submitting a greeting to also make a donation to missions, as large or small as you are able-- consider donating the postage you save. To list your greeting in this giant card, please do two things. 1) Fill out [this form](#) or contact the church office to give us the wording for your greeting by **December 10**. 2) Donate to our Offering for Global Missions, either by mailing a check to the church office or by [giving online](#).

Of course, you are still welcome to mail cards to your church family if you'd like, using the USPS. But if you'd rather save some postage, this Church-wide Christmas Card gives you an easy way to reach everyone. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Missions at UBC

Christmas Dinner in a Bag – The Covid Version

Twelve or so years ago our WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) realized that all of our missions efforts, other than the Global Missions Offering, were over and done by Thanksgiving, leaving a bit of a void. We called Love INC to see what their needs were, and were told that while lots of organizations did Thanksgiving dinners, no one gave Christmas dinners. We agreed on a grocery list and this fun, personal, hands-on ministry was born. In 2019 we delivered 46 bags of non-perishables and a \$15 gift card (from the WMU budget) with each bag intended to be used for the main dish.

December 2020, after several conversations with Susan Shellito, Love INC's Clearinghouse Coordinator, we learned that due to COVID 19 and Love INC's limited office hours, it would be more prudent to provide grocery store gift cards for \$30. Last Christmas we were able to give Christmas dinner to 90 families.

For this Christmas Mrs. Shellito has again asked that we provide gift cards rather than groceries. We realize that everyone is asking for money at this time of year, so we're asking that you donate only what you would have normally spent on bags of groceries.

Due date is Sunday, December 12. Please make checks and online donations payable to UBC and earmark "Dinner in a Bag."

CANCELED: UBC Missions Post Office due to COVID concerns. We will again, as we did last year, be organizing a church-wide Christmas card to be mailed to all our members. You will be hearing more about this from Rev. Will Brown.

CBF Global Missions Offering

During the month of December, we will be collecting donations for the CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) Global Missions Offering. You will be hearing much more about that in the weeks to come. UBC's goal is \$2000.

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

