

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 15, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 12

Pick One Thing (Church
Work Day? Enneagram?)

WATCH

On Sunday, I invited everyone to pick one concrete step to demonstrate your faith to yourself. This invitation is not about proving your faith to anyone else. It's also not about earning one's salvation. We can all grow. This growth comes about in a variety of ways. As the weather improves and the covid numbers appear promising, my mind goes to tangible actions. Growth bears fruit. Thus, each one of us can pick something to make our focus for spiritual growth. Jesus bids us to follow him, and we respond to his summons in different ways. Of course, we do so when we truly believe. Yet, believing isn't the end. God calls us to live out our faith.

Our actions each day point to what we believe. How we spend our time indicates our priorities. Within our family of faith, many people already do multiple things that testify to their belief. For instance, as I write this, my mind races through examples of faithful living through the years: PACEM, quilting, prayer shawls, mission trips, intercessory prayer, circle meetings, Bible studies, work crew, ushering, reading in worship, singing in the choir, inviting friends and family, and more. If this list were exhaustive, there would be no room for anything else in the newsletter.

When I thought about Abram's response to God, I noticed his actions. Yes, he questioned *how* God would provide, but when God answered his question, he followed and lived out his faith. At the end of our worship service each week, we have a time to respond. The invitation to pick

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 20, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon

"Warnings from History"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Anthem:

"Lamb of God"
Arr. Reim

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: No Deacons

Ushers: Ron Tweel and
Sue Sears

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 16

8:30 Work Team Breakfast
9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)
12:00 Wednesday Treats
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice

THURSDAY, March 17

7:00 Seekers Class (Zoom)

SATURDAY, March 19

something is universal. We can all find a way to respond to what God does in our lives.

What we pick to make our focus can be simple or complicated. It can be small or large. In this newsletter, you will see an announcement of an upcoming church work day. Is it for you? Is God calling you to give a few hours of labor to your church? Or, have you considered attending the Enneagram seminar at UBC this Saturday? More details about the Enneagram seminar are in the announcement below. The answer about what you do is between you and God. Maybe the divine nudge is to do something else. Personally, I am looking forward to helping spread some mulch on the playground.

Regardless of what you decide or where you are on your journey, the warmer days and signs of safer regathering lift my spirit.

Peace,
Matt



Ukraine Relief

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine rages on, more refugees need our help. So far, our church has sent \$1,490 to help this effort, and we plan to send more. If you feel led to support this mission, designate your gift "Ukraine."

9:00 An Introduction to the Enneagram

SUNDAY, March 20

8:30 Finance Comm. Meeting
10:00 Sunday Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:15 Youth Group
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

MONDAY, March 21

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

TUESDAY, March 22

9:30 Staff Meeting
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal
7:00 Environmental Book Group (Zoom)

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

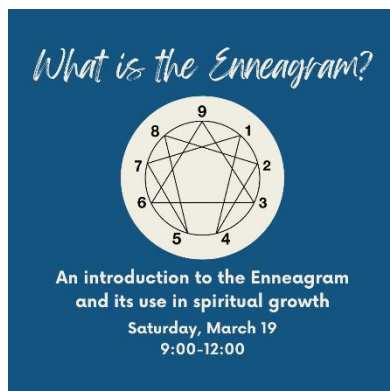
Join us in wishing some of our church family a Happy Birthday this week!

March 24: Sharron Leland

March 28: Linda Hendon and Alice Batten

An Introduction to the Enneagram

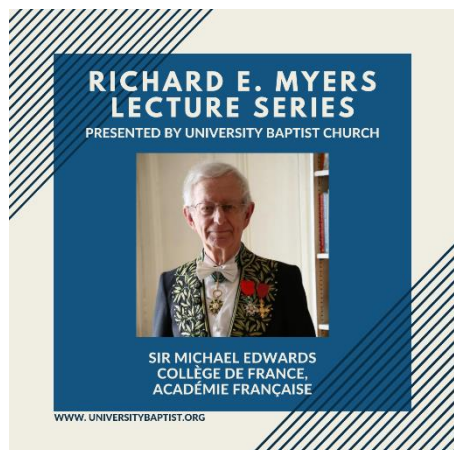
On Saturday March 19 from 9 AM to 12 PM, University Baptist will hold a seminar to introduce the Enneagram personality system to our community. Both Rev. Fisk and Rev. Brown have found this system to be a dynamic growth tool in their own spiritual journeys, providing an opportunity to examine one's own experience of the world, and how our experiences mold and shape our relationships with God and with one another. This first encounter with the Enneagram in March will lay the groundwork for further discussion groups later in 2022.



UBC Mini-Workday

Looking to get your hands dirty to help at UBC? We are planning a small work day on Saturday, March 26. The main project is to clean out the old, decaying mulch from the playground and spread new mulch. If we have enough volunteers, there are plenty of other projects around the church! For planning purposes, please let Will Brown know if you can attend: wbrown@universitybaptist.org

Can't come on Saturday? There are also opportunities to help the day before, on Friday, March 25. We could also use a few more wheelbarrows. Even if you aren't able to come to the workday, please let Will know if you can lend us a wheelbarrow for the day. Thanks!



Lecture Series

We have several copies of [Sir Michael Edwards's](#) book *Untimely Christianity*. In it, acclaimed poet and literary scholar Michael Edwards calls for a countercultural Christianity that recovers the Bible's radical otherness and renews our habits of attention to its message--to its revelation of a God who is not merely a set of doctrines but a person, someone we can know. Edwards's work is an eloquent, prophetic effort to recapture the revolutionary power of the Bible to transform the way humans view the world and how they live in it. Rich in theology, philosophy, poetry, biblical interpretation, and cultural criticism, *Untimely Christianity* invites readers of all kinds to encounter the Bible anew, as "a continuous questioning of the reader and a prodigious expansion of reality."

If you wish to borrow a copy, please contact the office. More information about the book is available [here](#).



Growing Spiritually Together

The best learning happens in community. Of course, each of us can take the time to study on our own, but something special takes place when we are learning together. Conversations with one another challenge us and clarify our thinking. We share our insights with others and learn from theirs. That is why I'm particularly excited about this Saturday's Enneagram seminar. While I've read books and listened to podcasts about the Enneagram, this will be my first time digging deep with a group. By using this tool to learn more about ourselves and others, we grow spiritually and grow closer as a community. I can't wait for the conversations, and I hope you will join us!

Lenten Worship Series

Two years ago this month, everything changed. March 2020 in Charlottesville began as a normal month and ended with the emergence of a global pandemic. Now, in March 2022, we look back on these two years of COVID-19 and all we have experienced alongside it: losses and grief, bitter national and state elections, nationwide conversations about race, and so much more. How have our lives changed during these two years? What have we learned? What has God been teaching us?

As a project for one of my Doctor of Ministry courses at Duke Divinity School, I (Will B) crafted a lectionary-based Lenten worship series that reflects on various aspects of the pandemic experience: mortality and control, our place in the created order, gathering and presence, work and the economy, racism and repentance, politics and power, and finally, hopefulness in the face of it all. We will be using this series as a guide for our Lenten sermons and worship services at UBC.



National Missions Offering

Each Spring UBC has participated in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's National Missions Offering. This emphasis helps support our missionaries right here in the US. UBC's offering supports the ministry of Scarlette Jasper, a CBF missionary working in southeastern Kentucky, where UBC has been partnered with missionaries for many years. Scarlette was commissioned by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as a field missionary in 2014, and now serves one of the poorest parts of the United States. There, she is the director of Olive Branch Ministries, Inc

(olivebranchministriesky.org) to address the needs of the local community. Some of the many needs that Scarlette helps address are: working with the homeless, coordinating childrens' literacy projects, rent and utility aid, assisting with transportation costs for distant medical appointments, providing heaters or propane in the winter, supporting local schools with supplies, and helping veterans get needed services. She maintains a small mission house that serves as an emergency shelter and place for pastoral counseling. You can see her most recent projects on her Facebook page, here: <https://www.facebook.com/Olive-Branch-Ministries-766161053487938>. Even through the challenges of the pandemic, Scarlette has remained active in her community to help with their needs.

Like the majority of our field missionaries, Scarlette must raise her own program and project support. Our goal this year is to raise \$3,000 to support Scarlette and her work in Kentucky. This year, please consider offering your thoughts, prayers, and financial support to our National Missions Emphasis. When donating online, specify "National Missions" to ensure that your offering is sent to Scarlette.

Lenten Bible Study

This Sunday, we will continue an in-person study for the season of Lent. Instead of a deep-dive Bible study, our focus will be more devotional. We will meet at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall and conclude by 10:30. Dr. Matthew Tennant will lead these conversations. [Click HERE](#) to download the study guide for March 20.

To enhance conversations among the participants, we will not offer an online option. For those who are unable to attend but still want to join a group, the Open Minds class does offer a hybrid option. Contact Debra Bryant or Ed Lowry for details. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Tennant.

Volunteer Opportunity - The Soft Serve Returns!

As we look at the weather warming up these next few days, we have pulled the soft serve machine out of its winter storage! If you'd like to help hand out ice cream on Wednesdays, we'd love to have your help. It's easy and fun, brightening everyone's day. All you need to bring is a smile (and maybe sunscreen). You can [sign up to help here](#).

Masks Now Optional at UBC Events

The CDC announced recent changes to their recommended masking policies, now including not just positive COVID-19 case numbers, but also strain on local hospitals in the equation. As of Thursday March 10, Albemarle County has been downgraded to the yellow/medium transmission range, which means that masks are now recommended only for those who are unvaccinated or at high risk of severe disease. University Baptist Church will continue to welcome all folks into our worship services, with or without a mask. We will continue to remain vigilant and attuned to changing needs over the coming months as far as masks are concerned. You can [view the updated CDC guidance and system here](#).

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Connect with us

