



April 5, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 15

What does your faith
cost you?

ON WATCH

Since Stephen died in Acts 7, martyrs have given their lives to follow Christ. Today, ambivalence, indifference, and cultural acceptance form some of the biggest obstacles in our faith journey. If we proclaim the love of Christ, no one feels threatened, and no one responds with violence. Culture warriors try to create enemies, but they usually feel contrived or disingenuous.

Someone recently asked me if we have any college students in our church. I was pleased to say, "Yes! We do." The person responded with surprise. "Really? I thought everyone at UVA was an atheist, or, at least they all teach that." I pointed out that over twenty-thousand students probably represent a wide variety of viewpoints.

Even that encounter was mild. There was no hostility. Yet, Christians around the world do not enjoy such security. Conversations about martyrs and threats against Christians bring up the "persecuted church." Last year, *Christianity Today* published an article, "[The 50 Countries Where It's Most Dangerous to Follow Jesus in 2021](#)." Topping the list are North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Libya. Countries with authoritarian demagogue leaders (e.g., North Korea) or countries without a functioning government (e.g., Somalia) have other, arguably far worse, problems than freedom of religion.

Open Doors describes the way [the Taliban persecutes Christians](#). Voice of the Martyrs claims to help [4 million persecuted Christians](#) each year.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

April 10, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon

Dr. Matthew Tennant
"Triumphant?"

Scripture:

Luke 19:28-40

Anthem:

"Ride On King Jesus"
Arr. Hogan

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Jackie Lockwood and Herman Eaker

Ushers: Cindy Bryant and Ben Chenault

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, April 6

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)
11:00 Wednesday Treats
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice

SATURDAY, April 9

11:00 Jubilate Alumni Board

SUNDAY, April 10

9:30 ESOL Classes
10:00 Sunday Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

Cru [states](#), “Right now 200 million people face persecution for believing in Jesus...” The Esther Project [says](#) “322 Christians are killed for their faith” each month. A [2014 resource](#) from the CBF outlines the daily persecution facing several missionaries in the Middle East.

Because I have never experienced such persecution, I have lots of questions. The evangelistic zeal of some of these ministries conflates violence with a persecution complex. Voice of the Martyrs has a recent history of child abuse accusations ([here](#), [here](#), & [here](#)), which shines a negative light on their organization. According to a [2017 survey](#), white evangelicals think Christians face more discrimination than Muslims. In fact, Muslims face [more discrimination](#) than Christians and just about any other religious group in the U.S. However, my questions do not undermine the existence of persecution. And, a CBF resource titled “[In the Face of Persecution](#)” holds more credibility for me than the others since they are part of our ecclesiastical family.

This trip down the rabbit hole prompts me to think about the [cost of discipleship](#). What do we do with our freedom to gather? How do we respond to the lack of persecution? It’s so easy to take it for granted. Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, “Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for... Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ.”

When there is no cost, is there grace? Have we, in this time and in this beautiful place, grown so complacent that we miss the invitation to discipleship? We are fortunate to not live under the thumb of Kim Jong-un in North Korea. We are blessed to have order in our streets, unlike the poor people of Somalia. We are lucky to not experience the shelling and bombardment in Ukraine. Instead, we live in or near Charlottesville and can do almost anything we want. What are we doing with this freedom and these blessings?

Peace,
Matt

12:15 Youth Group (Cancelled for Spring Break)

5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

MONDAY, April 11

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

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

TUESDAY, April 12

9:30 Staff Meeting

12:00 Annie Armstrong Circle

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

7:00 Environmental Book Group

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!

April 14: Pete Whitt

April 16: Carter Groff

April 17: Laura Faye Groff

April 18: Jim Moore and Larry Groves



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly.

Join us for Holy Week in person or virtually - you are welcome and wanted here!

Spy Wednesday | April 13 at 12 PM

Good Friday | April 15 at 12 PM

Maundy Thursday | April 14 at 7 PM

Easter Sunday | April 17 at 11 AM

We seek to be an authentic community of Christians who love and care for each other as a family, and openly welcome and include all people regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or background.

1223 W Main Street, Charlottesville, VA | www.universitybaptist.org

Easter Service Parking

Easter is likely to be our highest attendance Sunday in a couple years, so the Greeters would like to encourage those with accessible parking permits to make use of the three on-street Sunday-only parking spaces in front of UniBap Park. The last time we had a full crowd for Easter (in 2019), both church parking lots filled up, but two of those three on-street spots remained empty.

Memorial Lilies for Easter

Easter will be April 17, and we would like to decorate our sanctuary with an abundance of lilies. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Dani Sharkey in the church office <dsharkey@universitybaptist.org> to let her know the wording that you would like to appear in the Easter bulletin. The cost of each lily will be \$12. You can mail a check, drop it in the offering plate, or pay online earmarked "Easter Lilies." The last day to order is Monday, April 11. You may pick up your lilies after the 11:00 Easter service.

Sarah Buchanan, Chair of the Floral Team



Caring for Grieving Hearts

There are many ways that we build community as a congregation. It's always fun and exciting to have large events like cookouts and service days, and these are important ways to grow closer. Yet some of the most important ways we draw closer are the quiet, gentle acts

of care and concern that we show to one another.



As you've seen in the Word, there have been several losses in the past few weeks that have left members of our congregation grieving. In response, our Bereavement Team, a part of our Deacon-led Circle of Caring ministry, has been actively engaged in finding ways to offer comfort and support during a painful time for members of our church family. This is a work that they faithfully do, week in and week out, usually out of sight and outside the awareness of most of us. Yet even

though it is seldom seen, it is profoundly important, part of what makes us a church family. So thank you to our team: Colleen, Alice, Sarah, Laura Faye, Margie, Sylvie, Tom, Raynell, and Michele. Your ministry is a valuable part of how we serve God and love one another.



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 the conversation this week. [Click HERE](#) to download the study guide for April 10th.

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.

Scoper Lecture Series

The Inaugural Scoper Lecture Series Featuring Dr. Kate Bowler

Online Premiere of Kate's Lecture
Thursday, April 7 - Details TBD

Theological Horizons Website
www.theologicalhorizons.org/katebowler

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](#).

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, Charlottesville and Albemarle have been assessed a green/low Community Level, which means the CDC is not recommending people wear masks. Masks are now optional at UBC events. Of course, individuals are welcome to continue wearing masks if they feel more comfortable doing so, and University Baptist Church will continue to welcome all folks into our worship services, with or without a mask. As we monitor the COVID case levels in our area, we will release updates notifying the congregation of any changes.

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Connect with us

