

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

May 24, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 21

Being Baptist in 2022

On Sunday evening, I received a message from a friend that read, "How are you today with the SBC report coming out?" My response was honest – I avoided reading any of the **288 page report** until Monday. The independent investigation into the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's response to sexual abuse allegations details decades of mismanagement, with sex abuse claims being denied, stifled, and outright ignored by leaders in the denomination who should have protected and loved them. My heart has broken over and over again as I imagine the pain of these survivors who experienced not only the trauma of initial abuse, but also the pain of being gaslighted into believing nothing could be done to help them, and now again reliving the pain of those traumatic experiences as their names become public in this report.

I am proud to say that we are a congregation in fellowship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which created a **Clergy Sexual Misconduct Taskforce** in 2016 in partnership with Baptist Women in Ministry. This task force has resulted in the creation of best practices guidelines and educational resources for churches, focused on preventing and addressing abuse between adults. But friends, we are not immune. We here at University Baptist Church carry the name and legacy *Baptist* with us, and we must be aware that when people outside of our own immediate UBC community hear that title, they are more likely to think of the SBC sex abuse scandal than they are the CBF task force and resources.

Over the past two months, I have spent three nights a week working with the Charlottesville High School production of *Bring It On: The Musical* (shows run tonight through Friday! **Grab a ticket!**). There is a throwaway line in the musical about teenagers flirting, in which a young girl says, "No one has ever said that to me before – with the exception of a hobo, once, and my youth pastor." Every time we run that scene, the students giggle and look my way. They tell me that they know I'm not *that* kind of youth pastor, but a lot of these kids do associate church with sexual misconduct, or bigotry, or racism or...or...or...

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

May 29, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon
Rev. Will Brown
"Liminal Joy"

Scripture:
Luke 24:44-53

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons:

Ushers: Sally Chewning, Shirley Clark

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, May 25

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study
12:00 Wednesday Treats

FRIDAY, May 27

6:00 & 7:00 Softball Games

SUNDAY, May 29

9:30 ESOL Classes
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, May 30

UBC OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, May 31

9:30 Staff Meeting

Friends, the Church across the USA and across the world has inflicted a lot of harm and abuse upon vulnerable people. The report this week is only one example, and we have to learn to sit in the grief and lament with those who have been hurt. But let us not grow weary in doing good! (Gal. 6:9) Perhaps the many hours I have spent with those CHS theater kids has helped to change their perspective on youth pastors just a little bit. Perhaps the time we spend on our front walk handing out ice cream cones helps UVA students see us as a bit more welcoming than they thought Christians might be. Perhaps the ways we reach out into our community can help to heal the damage, giving people positive associations with the word *Baptist*. How can you participate in adding positive associations to the reputation of Christians? How can we at UBC work to be agents of healing in the midst of this swirling scandal?

With love and hope,
Val

Wednesday Cookout CANCELED

Please note, we will not be having a dinner or program this Wednesday night. We may reschedule this event for later in the summer.

New Sanctuary Piano

As we prepare for the arrival of our new sanctuary piano in June, we want to extend a hearty *thank you* to all those who have made the purchase of this piano possible! The total cost of the new-to-us Steinway Model B piano is approximately \$90,000. We are blessed to be able to purchase this piano without diverting any of our 2022 annual budget toward the cost. The largest portion of the funds are coming from individual donors in our congregation who pledged directly toward this project. Another \$15,000 has been pledged by the Jubilate Alumni Association. The remaining funding, approximately \$30,000, will be drawn from the Harry Clause Trust, donated to UBC in 2018.

As we look toward the arrival of the new piano, we are pleased that Barbara Taylor Moore has agreed to arrange a small concert later this summer to show off what the new instrument can do! (Date to be announced soon.) We hope that this concert will be an opportunity for many of the musicians in our congregation to share their talents with us through a wide variety of musical genres. If you are a pianist who is willing to share a piece in this concert, please reach out to Barbara.

Save the Date - Town Hall June 22

Please mark your calendars for a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, June 22 at 6:00 PM. The purpose of this meeting will be to update the congregation on progress concerning JARC (the periodic review of our Constitution and Bylaws), the Music Minister Search Committee, and to hear a brief report from Matt about his writing leave this spring.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

June 2: Jenny Price

Prayer Concerns

Georgia Anne Wood is recovering from heart surgery at UVA.

Bob Badgett, former Associate Minister for Education at UBC, is recovering in a hospital in Georgia after a heart attack this weekend.

Volunteers Needed

Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday! Click [this link](#) to add your name and join us between 12:00 and 2:00 PM on the front steps at UBC. Contact Will Brown if you have any issues with the link.

Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School registration is open! VBS will be held Tuesday-Friday, June 14-17, from 8:30 until 12:00 each day. Children age 4 through fifth grade are welcome to register [HERE](#). Please share this like with your family and friends! If you'd like to volunteer with VBS, please talk with Erin Brown.

Soles for Souls Program End

After several years of hosting the Soles for Souls donation bin next to our playground, the Soles for Souls organization has ended their collection of shoes and clothing in Virginia. While we are sad to see this program end, we thank you for your donations for what was a very successful program for our community.

Office Staff Changes

As we make adjustments in the office due to the departure of our Financial Secretary, we will have a group of volunteers assisting with answering the phones and handling day to day tasks. Thank you to everyone who has jumped in to help already! Anyone else interested in signing up to help in the office can contact Val Fisk for a link to the sign up sheet.

Please email correspondence about financial matters to Richard Vaughan at treasurer@universitybaptist.org. Please email general correspondence to office@universitybaptist.org and the appropriate staff person will respond to you. Articles, updates, and announcements for the newsletter can be directed to Val Fisk vfisk@universitybaptist.org.

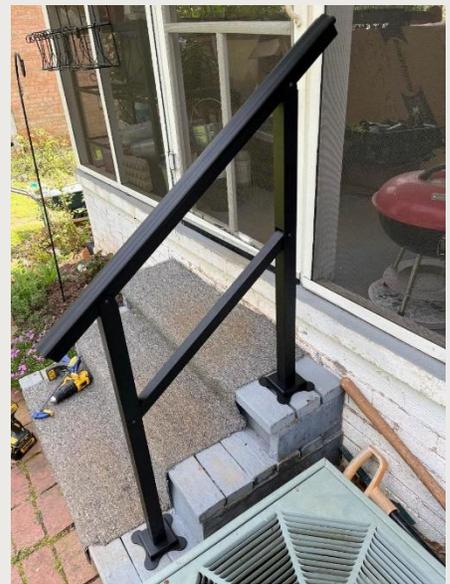


Circle of Caring:

Small Jobs and Transportation Team

For years, the deacon-led Circle of Caring ministry has provided support and care to members of our

congregation and the wider community. Often this ministry happens behind the scenes, so we would like to highlight some of their stories in the newsletter. For instance, the Small Jobs and Transportation Team provides exactly what the name implies: help with small jobs around the house and transportation to church, doctor's appointments, etc. Pictured here is a railing recently installed by Team member Larry Johnson at the home of Jeanne Nye. Do you have a need around the house that could be addressed by one of our volunteers? Please talk to a minister or contact the church office. If you'd like to join the team, you can reach out to the Team Leader, Daniel Harper, or speak with our church staff. We'd love to have you join in this ministry!



A Week at Duke

Last week I (Will Brown) spent the week in Durham as part of my Doctor of Ministry program at Duke Divinity School. It was an intense but stimulating week, filled with reading, lectures, worship, and conversation with other ministers about the challenges and opportunities of our contexts. After pivoting to Zoom in January because of the omicron wave, this was the first time back in person since the program began in August. Sharing this experience in person was such a joy. The upcoming summer semester's classes will include a course on Strategy and Vision, a Spiritual Formation seminar, and a history course entitled, "Ecclesial Leadership, An Historical Perspective: From Ambrose of Milan to Martin Luther King, Jr." Thank you, UBC, for supporting me in my studies, as I seek to bring insights from this program into my ministry here in Charlottesville.



Deacon Election

It is that time of year once again to elect Deacons to serve as leaders in our church, ensuring spiritual health and well-being. A draft ballot was emailed out on Sunday, May 15 - if you did not receive a copy, please contact Val Fisk to get one. If your name is listed and you are unable to serve as a Deacon, please contact the church office by tomorrow, May 25th to have your name removed. Likewise, if your name is missing and you are willing to serve as a Deacon, we apologize for the mistake and ask that you also let the church office know to add your name.

Flowers Bring Great Joy

If you would like to dedicate sanctuary flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, the 2022 Floral Calendar is posted in the first floor hallway. Sign up on the calendar AND email Sarah Buchanan sarahbucha@gmail.com to reserve your special date. She will order the flowers from Agape Florist for \$60 unless you want to provide them yourself.

Please make checks and online donations payable to UBC and earmark "sanctuary flowers." Available dates are:

5/29

6/5, 12, 19, 26

7/17, 24, 31

8/14, 21

If you love flowers, enjoy arranging them, or want to learn how, please contact Sarah at 434-409-9064 or sarahbucha@gmail.com and join us on the Floral Team. Sometimes it can be as simple as taking an already made arrangement out of the refrigerator or silk arrangement and placing it in the sanctuary.

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 yellow/medium Community Level, which means the CDC is recommending masks for people at high risk. Masks are currently 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

