

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

August 2, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 31

“If you had a magic wand...”

ON WATCH

If you had a magic wand, what future would you create at church? The temptation might be to use this fictional magic wand to fix things in your life. However, I want to invite you to imagine using this power for God’s kingdom instead of yours. What would be the most amazing thing to see at UBC? An active senior adult group that takes trips together? A huge youth group? A vibrant pre-school or daycare? A bell choir? Our church being present at events in the community? Building a community garden? If you could wave a magic wand and create anything at UBC, what would it be?

By removing any obstacles, we can imagine what might be—instead of thinking about what might be possible. Our usual approach to the future emphasizes *what we can do*. When we focus on what we think is possible, we set God aside and rely on our abilities. After dreaming, and listening to the Holy Spirit, we always return to our own talents to figure out how to do what God called us to do. Part of visioning is setting aside the constraints, dreaming about the future, and then trying to discern if God’s voice could be in our dreams.

Asking, “What do you dream the church can be,” can help us shape our future. I invite you to start mulling over questions about the future in anticipation of our August 14 Town Hall meeting. After worship, we will go to the Fellowship Hall, put together a charcuterie board, and nibble while we dream.

I cannot wait to hear what you suggest. This doesn’t mean that we will pursue every idea. One of the best prayers for discernment came from a prayer warrior many years ago. I had just shared an idea with a group in a church, and, in response, this saintly woman prayed, “God, if this is your will, open the doors and help us make it happen. If not, let it quietly fade.”

We have an ambitious schedule planned for the fall. We want to put energy into our children’s ministry and small group Bible studies. We want to reach out to, and re-engage with, those who have drifted to the sidelines. We want to regain our focus and emphasize everything exciting God is doing here. And, we want to be the people God is calling us to be. Put on your thinking cap and come prepared to share your ideas on August 14.

Peace, Matt

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

August 7, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Strangely Warmed Hearts"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
Isaiah 1:10-20
Luke 12:32-40

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Daniel Harper, Lily Gregg
Ushers: Bob Gough, Sally Chewning

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, August 2

9:30 Staff Meeting
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

WEDNESDAY, August 3

9:00 Work Team
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, August 7

8:30 Church Council
9:40 Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

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

Thank you, Office Volunteers!

Over the past several months, we have had a rotation of help in the office from faithful volunteers. These folks filled in the administrative gaps while we were in between office personnel, especially helping us get our newsletter and bulletin mailed out to members each week. We are grateful for all of you!

Welcome, Linda Weirich!

Please help us welcome Linda Weirich, our new Office Coordinator! Linda will start working in the office at UBC on August 8. She comes to us with over 20 years of experience working in church administration. She will be in the office Monday through Friday from 9am to 1pm. Stop by to say hello and get to know her next week!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

August 9: Shirley Wagoner

August 10: Rachel Miller, Michelle Proffitt, Georgia Anne Wood

August 12: Gayle Eaker

August 13: Diane Woerner, Betty Barker

August 14: Kevin Wright

August 15: Freddie Willard, Colleen Baber

At this time, our soft serve ice cream machine is out of order. Thankfully, it is an easy fix! We have ordered a replacement part that will fix the machine and await its arrival soon. Stay tuned for when our machine will be back up and running.

Our new sanctuary piano was a beautiful addition to worship this Sunday! This photo shows our sanctuary choir warming up before worship. If you would like to listen again to Barbara's beautiful prelude, "How Excellent is Thy Name," (arr. Hayes), just [click here](#) to view the worship replay on Facebook!

Food Insecurity Series Wraps Up

Thank you for your donations and support of the Venable food bag packing this past Sunday! We had a large group of people stay after worship to help organize the donations and pack as many bags as we were able before running out of breakfast items. Remember, you can drop off donations for Venable in the children's suite on the second floor at any time.

Thank you also to everyone who participated in donating to Dinner with Andrew, the annual collection organized by Colleen Baber and the 5th Street Dominos in memory of Colleen's son, Andrew. This effort raised over \$5000 to address food insecurity for our neighbors here in Charlottesville!

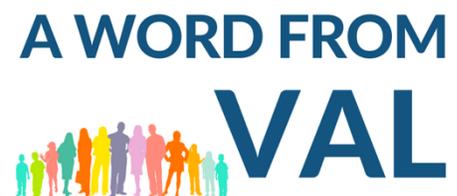
End of Summer Trips with Students

My favorite thing to do with our students is travel together. The time we spend driving together to a new destination, laughing at the playlist choices each person makes, and gathered together late at night to play games or watch movies while on a trip are the best way for us to bond together. Over the next two weeks, I'll be taking two trips with our students; in fact, by the time you read this, I will be in Nashville with a couple of our UVA students for the annual Selah Vie retreat with CBF!

This retreat is especially designed for students who are considering vocational ministry. Please join me in prayer for students who are asking big questions about God's call on their lives.

After returning from Nashville on August 6, our youth will be going to the Williamsburg/Virginia Beach area August 7-10. This trip is one final chance for our graduated seniors to be a youth participant before going off to whatever comes next, college or other adventures. Pray that our time together is a gift to these students, giving them a time of joy and celebration together before they enter into these years of big change and growth.

Remember, we will have a welcome back brunch for students on August 28 after church. If you can provide food, [please sign up here](#). You can also sign up now to provide a meal for youth group or for Jubilate throughout the fall semester! [Click here](#) to view that sign up sheet.



Donations ending for Afghan families

Thank you, UBC donors, for the many gifts of new and used items to support the recently settled Afghan SIV families in Charlottesville. It is impossible to calculate or overestimate the positive impact your generosity had in our community. Now that all have established homes in the area, we are closing the donation door. Annie Armstrong and Kittie Colvin Trail Circles may reach out to you in the future for specific donations, but for now, our home-start-up efforts are complete. Thank you so much for sharing with these lovely Afghan families. They feel blessed indeed!

ESOL Classes at UBC

After over a decade of faithful leadership, Jen May has decided to step down from her volunteer duties running the ESOL classes here at UBC. Jen, your years of service are so deeply appreciated! The many people who have come through the classes were certainly blessed by your caring instruction and loving presence in their lives. The life and ministry of the UniBap family is richly blessed to have you as a part of our community!

We would love to find someone to continue this important work in our community. If you are willing to discuss what it would mean to lead ESOL classes and work with immigrant learners in our community, please reach out to Dr. Tennant.

Town Hall Meeting & Charcuterie Party, Sunday, August 14

Please join us for a Town Hall Meeting in the Fellowship Hall after worship on August 14. This meeting will be focused on dreaming together about the next several years of life at UBC, events and projects we hope to complete, and ways we desire to see our congregation thrive as a presence in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Come with your imagination and thinking cap ready to jump into the discussion!

Please also bring one or two items to add to a charcuterie table for the event! Cheeses, cured meats, fruit, nuts, crackers, hummus - pick something you like and throw it on the table alongside everyone else's favorites. (Take a look at this photo of the charcuterie that Rev. Fisk built for Jubilate back in the spring if you need some ideas.)

Church Conference on August 24

We will have our next Church Conference on Wednesday, August 24 at 6pm after supper. Details about supper to follow.

At this Church Conference we will vote on the Nominating Committee Report, updates to our Constitution & Bylaws, and formally accept Will Brown's resignation. You can view a summary of the proposed updates to our [Constitution and Bylaws here](#), read over the full versions approved in 2018 [here \(constitution\)](#) and [here \(bylaws\)](#), and read through the full drafts including 2022 updates [here \(constitution\)](#) and [here \(bylaws\)](#). Significant changes in the proposed drafts include reduction of the number of Active Deacons from 21 to 15, insertion of new sections and numerous wording changes to incorporate provisions for electronic meetings, deletion of the provisions for absentee balloting, addition of a position description for the Church Administrator and inclusion of that position as a non-voting member of Church Council, and numerous other minor changes to improve the clarity and consistency of the documents. Anyone who would like to receive a printed version in lieu of these digital links can call the church office to request the documents be mailed, or can come in during regular office hours to pick up a copy.

Thank you to those who have served on the Joint Administrative Review Committee (JARC) over the past year, reviewing these documents and preparing for this update: Alan Hendricks, Jim Hallissy, Martha Ballenger, and Elizabeth Mulcahy.

Save the Date for Touch-A-Truck Saturday, September 24

We are bringing back Touch-A-Truck in 2022! The UBC deacons have already begun working on details for this event, gathering partners from the community to provide the trucks and other vehicles, finding food vendors and face painters, and planning for this to be a great outreach event to families in the community. Anyone who is willing to volunteer to help with the event should let Dr. Tennant know or reach out to a UBC deacon for more information.

The Post-Pandemic Church Bible Study

August 7 – Session 5.2, Imagine the Post-Pandemic Church – A Path Forward: (3) Leadership Lessons and (4) Conflict Resolution & Reform

Join this Sunday morning discussion group in the Fellowship Hall. It starts at 9:40 and follows the CBFVA Resource "The Post-Pandemic Church – Lessons from Ezra." [Download the handout here](#) or pick one up in the church office.

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.

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

