



January 31, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 5

Wednesday Night Dinners Returning
Join us on Wednesday, February 8, 5:30 for dinner and a special program.
See article below for more details.

Why is there suffering?

WATCH

Recently, I was rereading an old book: *Why O Lord? The Inner Meaning of Suffering* by Carlo Carretto (Maryknoll: Orbis 1986). There is suffering in the world, and people often want to know the reason. This is an area of theology called theodicy. Theodicy is the question or problem of evil. In *Why O Lord?* the author directs readers to approach suffering in a spiritual sense. He offers the challenge to appreciate any spiritual growth produced by suffering. We don't have to appreciate suffering itself, but we can be thankful for any good that comes from bad things.

The book opens with Carretto's speech to a group of handicapped individuals. In his speech, he recognizes his own brokenness. His words drew me into a deeper appreciation of what it means to be human. We are all connected. Someone else's suffering can be my suffering, and we can walk down the path together.

Carretto organizes the book into twelve short, readable chapters. The text is approachable and does not require any technical theological language. He often quotes scripture, seems to use it well, and does not misuse the Bible. The first chapter sets up the way he approaches suffering. Then, in chapters two through eight, he develops a theology of suffering, relating God to each moment of each day. In chapter nine, he shifts away from God engaging with humanity to martyrdom and the human element of reciprocally engaging with God.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

February 5, 2023
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Act As If"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Anthem:

"Bless the Lord!" (Johnson)

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Larry & Debby Johnson
Ushers: Ian Pallini, Sue Sears

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, February 1

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)
6:00 Church Council/Deacons' Meeting
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, February 5

8:30 Church Council Meeting
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:15 Youth Group
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

Chapter ten is somewhat problematic, because he proffers God as the initiator of suffering. His approach in chapter ten reflects a reformed theology and, to my reading of scripture and the Christian tradition, misses the role of freedom. However, the following chapters are more pastoral and less deterministic about the cause of suffering. The final chapter is a guide for a short, three-day prayer retreat. There is also an appendix calling for people to remain in community rather than seeking solitude in their faith journey.

It might seem strange to review a book from 1986. New books come out every year. With so much new material, old gems can get swept under the rug. I encourage you to check out *Why O Lord?* It might have a dingy cover and only be available in the used-book section, but it is a quick read and well worth the time spent.

Peace,
Matt

*This is my 200th "On Watch", and I want to thank everyone who reads this column each week. For those who have emailed me over the years to compliment, question, or comment, thank you all. Your engagement tells me you are reading it, and I appreciate your time. Your readership is the only reason I write these words each week. If they do anything to help further your walk with Christ, I am blessed to be part of it. May God be with us as we continue on this journey together.



Our New Budget **Budget Presentation Timeline**

On Wednesday, February 1, 6:00, in the Fellowship Hall, Larry Martin will present the 2023 budget to the Church Council and Deacons. On Wednesday, February 8, 6:00, it will be presented to the church, and on Wednesday, February 15, 6:00, there will be a Church Conference to vote on the 2023 budget.

MONDAY, February 6

10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

TUESDAY, February 7

7:00 Kitty Colvin Trail Circle (Zoom)
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

Prayer Requests

Barbara Newlon

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Jim Sivley

Nettie Chewning

Bob Badgett on the loss of his wife Patti. Patti was an active member of UBC, singing in the choir and teaching children's Sunday School.

On Saturday, February 18, 1:00 pm, we will have a memorial service for Lu Overbeck with reception to follow.



Wednesday Night Dinners

Wednesday night dinners will resume on February 8 with a budget presentation. Dinner at 5:30 will be rotisserie chicken, mixed vegetables, rolls, and cake followed by our discussion at 6:00.

Afterwards, at 7:00, everyone who would like to sing can join Will Cooke and the Sanctuary Choir in the Choir/Lecture Suite.

A WORD FROM VAL



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Feb. 8: Lou Marshall

Feb. 9: Luna Ohlms

Feb. 11: Douglas Caton

Feb. 13: Geo Bonilla

Feb. 14: Jane Whitworth

PACEM at UBC

We have wrapped up our two weeks of hosting PACEM for 2023. We are so grateful to each of you who made and served dinner, washed laundry, made cards, moved mats and cots, cleaned, and shopped. We appreciate the donations of snacks, breakfast items, gift cards, clothing, and toiletries. Thank you for sharing your time and talents to continue supporting PACEM and their work to meet the needs of people without safe places to live and sleep. This effort doesn't happen without your help. Thank you!

Laura, Jennifer, and Katherine



Snow Tubing at Wintergreen Resort Saturday, February 25

UVA students, grab your friends and join us for a

day of winter fun! UKirk at UVA and The Wesley Foundation will be partnering with UBC to offer an afternoon of snow tubing in Wintergreen, Virginia. The afternoon will include a 90-minute session of tubing followed by a meal in the home of a generous couple who live near the resort. RSVP to Val by February 19 to sign up.

Save the Date! Registration now open CBF Virginia Mission Madness March 17-19, 2023, Newport News

Join with hundreds of youth from across Virginia for this exciting mission experience! UBC Youth will travel to Newport News March 17-19 to serve alongside of other 6th-12th grade students. We will spend the night in a hotel, go out to do service projects throughout the community on Saturday, and participate in worship and fun alongside other church groups.

Cost per person is \$110 (scholarships available). Registration and fees due by February 17. We will leave UBC at 5:00 pm on Friday and return by 12:30 pm on Sunday.

Shoes for Hope Follow-Up



In December, we fulfilled an urgent request from the Children's Hospital for space in our Fellowship Hall for the Shoes for Hope project where over 100 pediatric oncology patients, coaches, and athletes worked together to paint shoes to raise funds for cancer research. On Saturday, January 28, a group of pediatric patients and athletes were recognized at the basketball game for this fundraiser.

Our participation in ministries such as this is made possible by your generosity in supporting our church, our staff, and our building to be able to minister to our community in this way.

AmazonSmile Being Discontinued

AmazonSmile, a way for customers to support their favorite charities, will be discontinued as of February 20, 2023. To help charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with this transition, Amazon will be providing them with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022 through the program. If you have been supporting UBC through this program in the past, we thank you for your participation.

Year-End Giving Statements

Year-end giving statements were mailed last week. If you do not receive yours or have any questions, please contact Amanda Ohlms at aohlms@universitybaptist.org. (Ignore the incorrect name that might be at the bottom of your form. We were saving paper and using up old forms.)

Beginning in 2023, we will be using Realm to track contributions. We are working on implementing electronic access to your individual giving statements later this year.

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.

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Connect with us

