



March 7, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 10

Life With God

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 12, 2023

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"That Old Shoe"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Colossians 3:12-17

Anthem:

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us" (arr. Shackley)

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Peter Ohlms

Ushers: Bob Gough, Sally Chewing

Youth Lunch: Sign up at
bit.ly/31VptYc.

Youth Second Adult: Sign up at
bit.ly/31VptYc.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 8

9:00 Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study

5:15 Handbell Rehearsal

5:30 Dinner

6:00 Wednesday Program

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, March 9

7:00 Deacon's Meeting

The hymn refrain, *Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me*, reminds us of God's unfailing faithfulness. The melody is beautiful. The words are familiar. And many of us can sing the hymn with our eyes closed and focus our attention on worshipping God. However, if we close our eyes, shut out the world around us, and focus exclusively on God, are we doing what God has called us to do? Does God expect more from us? James 2:14 connects faith and works and concludes by asking the question, "Can faith save you?"

Of course, the answer is "Yes, we have a relationship with God through faith in Christ Jesus!" We can cite many different verses from the Bible to support our *yes* answer, but before we rest our case, we should consider James' point.

A few verses later, James writes "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead" (2:26). This does not raise works above faith or even place works alongside faith. The thesis James puts forth is simply *we must live our faith*.

The things we do matter. What we say matters. They matter to God and to other people. When we act in an unkind manner, we separate ourselves from God. This isolation hurts our inner self—that part of us no one sees. We can sense it when we raise our voice to sing "Great is thy faithfulness." The words are there. The melody is still beautiful, but there's something missing. It is missing, because we have polluted our inner self—we know it, and God knows it.

The things we do also matter to other people. When we act in an unkind manner, we hurt other people. This can be done locally through something we say or do, or it can be done collectively through participation in sins with other people

(e.g., no one person is responsible for systemic oppression, climate change, or racism).

It is easy to forget how our actions impact other people. Society tells us to *look out for number one*. This means forgetting other people. James also has a word for this type of behavior. Unlike other places in scripture where the verse is corrective about something someone does wrong, James is positive. For an alternative, corrective example, Jesus is pretty harsh on scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:13-36. On the other hand, James 1:27 says "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God is to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

We do not live our life alone with God. "*Jesus and me*" might be a nice bumper sticker, but it is not what the Christian life is like. Our life with God is one in which we sing hymns like "Great is thy faithfulness" together with other Christ-followers. James says, "Consider it nothing but joy when you face trials" (1:2), and "Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up" (1:9).

We do not face trials alone. We are not lifted up out of our distress alone. We do not lift our voices in praise alone. We sing together. And, when we lift our voices together, the sound is beautiful. We also lift one another up. We remind each other of God's unfailing love. We face trials together. This is what our life with God looks like—we grow together.

Peace,
Matt



Wednesday Night Dinners

For the next four Wednesdays, Dr. Scott Spencer will lead our program at 6:00, "Passions of the Christ." Note the plural. He will explore the Passion story in each of the gospels and emphasize the four distinctive narratives. If you've never heard Scott speak before, check it out. You're in for a treat. He's a dynamic speaker and has a wealth of biblical knowledge. Come for dinner at 5:30 and bring a friend. Dinner will be catered by Mona Lisa Pasta (meat lasagna/baked cheese ziti, bread, salad, and dessert).

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

SUNDAY, March 12

8:30 ESOL Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:15 Youth Group
12:15 Personnel Committee
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

MONDAY, March 13

10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)

TUESDAY, March 14

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group
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

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Gail Ellen

Ron Kingston

Clara Brown

Catherine Cooper

Judy Scruggs & Family on the passing of Randy

Memorial service for Jim Sivley will be Thursday, March 9, 11:30 am at Christ Episcopal Church.

Children's Activity Bags

Children are an important part of our church, and we love worshiping with them. In the narthex you will find some children's activity bags, designed to help children engage in worship in their own way. Each bag contains a children's

A WORD FROM VAL



Rise Against Hunger at UBC

On April 15 and 29, UBC will host our first of many meal packing events with Rise Against Hunger! Over the next several weeks, you'll see more information coming out about this partnership, as we strive to pack 100,000 meals at UBC this year, matching the 100,000+ meals being packed by other [CBF Virginia](#) churches in 2023. Our partnership with Rise Against Hunger will be unique. It is rare for them to have one organization host so many events in a single year. And we have already had other groups in Charlottesville and student organizations reach out asking to participate!

Please start inviting your neighbors, friends, and family members to join us for these events. We need at least 50 people in the room to help pack meals at each event. Sending [THIS LINK](#) is a great way to help folks understand what we are doing, where the meals are going, and what kind of impact this can make! One box of meals packed here at UBC can feed one child for a full year of school at one of RAH's partners.



March 12 - Youth Group, 12:15-2:00 (meal & adult volunteer needed)
March 17-19 - CBF Virginia Mission Madness (no youth group on 19th)
March 26 - Youth Group, 12:15-2:00 (meal & adult volunteer needed)
April 2 - Palm Sunday - Youth Group, 12:15-2:00 (meal & adult volunteer needed)
April 9 - Easter Sunday - no Youth Group

bulletin based on that Sunday's sermon text and other activities. Please feel free to take one for your child(ren). At the end of the service, keep any artwork you'd like and leave the bag/clipboard on your pew.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Mar. 17: Kathy Wilson

Mar. 18: Thomas Hendricks, Ingrid Flaherty

Mar. 19: Anne Wilkerson, Karen Minor

Mar. 20: Audrey Miller, Matthew Smith

Mar. 21: Melanie Tennant, Courtney Bonilla

Disruptive Assistance Team

As a downtown church, we have a long history of all kinds of different people checking out our church. This is great! We can use our location in many positive ways. One aspect of our location is a bit more complicated. We have some people who join us with mental health or substance abuse needs. Taking James 2:1-7 to heart, we want to include everyone in worship and minister to everyone's needs as best we can. The Church Council is revising our "Disruption in Worship" policy and invites your input. A small group calling itself the "Disruptive Assistance Team" will meet at 5pm on Wednesday, March 8, to discuss how we can be Jesus' hands and feet.

AED & CPR Training and Health & Wellness Ministry

Would you like to receive training on how to use our church's AED or how to perform CPR? Getting more people trained will keep all of us safer. If you are interested, please let Linda know in the church office. She will keep a list and will let you know when we schedule the training. If you are interested in getting involved in the Health and Wellness Ministry, please let Linda know that, too.



Children Are Important to Jesus & to Us

"Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world." Glenna Ohlms so beautifully reminded us of this during the Sunday, February 19th Children's Sermon. It encourages us to remember that children are important to Jesus and, thus, to us.

Each Sunday morning our very youngest are lovingly and warmly greeted by Judy Gough, Diane Woerner, and Catherine Cooper. They provide space in which our children begin to learn of God's love for them through play, music and Scripture. The children sense that God does love and care for them as evidenced by these wonderful teachers. Assured of their good care, parents and siblings are in their classes and worship services to continue their own spiritual growth.

I try to walk around each Sunday to check in with leaders of all age-groups and to observe the wonderful things going on in Sunday Morning Bible Study. I can assure you that we are blessed with wonderful facilities, but more importantly, wonderful Christians leading our children. Hear what two reported to me just recently:

"I have been playing music CDs during the Sunday School and church time. This past week the boys actually looked up and danced and moved around. So finally, it is working!" Judy Gough.

"Stella and I are learning about how God is everywhere." Catherine Cooper.

There is a place for everyone here at UBC. Why don't you make Sunday Bible Study a habit for your family?

"Come and grow with us. We have a place for you!"

Tommy Deal - Education Coordinator

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

