



October 3, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 40

## ON WATCH

### You Are Welcome Here (Part 1)

In a [recent article in The Atlantic](#), Jake Meador writes about reasons millions of people have stopped going to church. The sharp decline in religious participation is bad for our country. He writes, "Participation in a religious community generally correlates with [better health outcomes and longer life](#), [higher financial generosity](#), and [more stable families](#)—all of which are desperately needed in a nation with rising rates of loneliness, mental illness, and alcohol and drug dependency."

The biggest reason people don't attend worship services is the structure of American life in the twenty-first century. Our culture isn't structured to foster the mutuality described in the communal life of Acts 2. The materialism and consumerism reigning supreme gives little space for altruism, caring for one another, or entering a common life. Instead, our culture emphasizes individualism, especially individual accomplishments and professional and financial successes. This ethos leaves little space for anything that doesn't increase one's professional prospects. Meador writes, "[Workism](#) reigns in America, and because of it, [community in America](#), religious community included, is a math problem that doesn't add up."

In his article, Meador uses examples of an overworked professional and parents of young children. For the professional, even if she wakes up one Sunday and thinks about going to church, she dreads the inevitable questions about where she's been. She doesn't want to say, "I skipped church to go to brunch with a friend." The young parents don't want to admit, "I was too tired to come last

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

October 8, 2023

11:00 AM

**Sermon:**

"Who Cares About the Game-Winning Shot?"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**

Philippians 3:4b-14

**Anthem:**

"Our Great Savior"

arr. Jay Rouse

## SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacon:** Jen May

**Ushers:** Gail & Johnny Ellen

**Jubilate Dinner:** Larry & Debby Johnson

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, October 4

9:00 Work Team

5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 Wednesday Night Program

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### SUNDAY, October 8

9:30 ESOL Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

6:30 Jubilate Dinner

week and just enjoyed a quiet Sunday morning at home.” This dreaded conversation can make it harder to come to worship than to skip one more Sunday.

To those, and anyone else, I want to say, “It’s okay. You are welcome here. No excuses are necessary.” I learned early in my ministry that when I say, “We missed you,” people hear, “Where were you? Why weren’t you here?!” I demand an explanation.” I used to try to stop people when they started explaining where they were or why it was impossible to be at church. Conversations like those make me wonder if the words I thought I was saying were different from what was in my head. I think, *I’m sure I just said, ‘We missed you.’ Did I actually say something else?*

You are missed because you are part of a family, and families like seeing each other. Instead of explanations or excuses, we cherish shared experiences and seek opportunities to lift one another up. You can see this in our communal prayers and the blazing speed meal-sign-up-geniuses appear in times of need.

In a world full of time and soul sucking busyness, we are a family of faith and here for you.

Peace,  
Matt



### Rise Against Hunger with UBC

We had a great packing event on Saturday, September 23. We packed a record 20,280 meals. We have now packed a total of 88,104 meals toward our goal of 100,000!

Next Packing Event  
Saturday, October 21  
10:00 - 12:00  
in the Fellowship Hall

Click [here](#) to find out more about Rise Against Hunger (RAH). This is a fun and intergenerational mission event. There’s something for all ages.

Go to our [website page](#) to view all the packing dates and to sign up to help us meet our goal of 100,000 meals!

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### Myers Lecture Series

The Myers Lecture Series scheduled for this month has been postponed until the Spring. We will let you know as soon as we have the new dates.

### MONDAY, October 9

Church Office is closed  
10:30 Bible Reading Group  
7:30 Youth Council & Parents' Meeting

### TUESDAY, October 10

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle  
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group  
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

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### Prayer Requests\*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Linda Hendon

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Barbara Newlon

Chris Owens

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Anne Wilkerson

Condolences to Donna & Forrest Marshall & Family on the death of their son, Forrest III

Condolences to Laura Faye Groff & Family on the death of her sister-in-law

Condolences to the Family & friends of Sally Chewing on her recent death. A graveside service at Oakwood Cemetery will be on Tuesday, October 10, at 10 am.

\*In order to respect privacy, limited information is included here.



## Jazz Vespers

Our next Jazz Vespers will be Sunday, October 15, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary. If you have somewhere, like your place of work, to put a poster letting people know about this event, please stop by the church office, and we can provide one for you.

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## A WORD FROM VAL



### Youth Monthly Activities

October is our month for a fun event! Join us on Sunday, October 29, for bowling at Bowlero in Charlottesville. After church, please feed your youth lunch and drop them off at Bowlero at 1:30 pm. We will have an hour and a half of bowling, ending around 3:00 pm. UBC will cover the cost of the bowling and shoe rental, and our students will get unlimited drinks at the bowling alley. As always, friends are welcome to join us! Please let [Val](#) know by October 15 how many youth will be coming.

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### Youth Bible Study Sunday mornings @9:45

On Sunday mornings our youth gather on the third floor at UBC for their Bible study and formation time. This year the youth Bible study is being taught by Brian Mulcahy, and I am pleased to announce that Christina Mundell has offered to join the leadership of this class as well! Our students are using a curriculum called Teen Text, which is a resource created by [Progressive Christianity](#). You can look at the curriculum for October by [clicking here](#). I will continue to send out the materials for each month going forward, so that parents can easily discuss the youth study with their kids at home as well!



## Welcome to Our Newest Member!

On Sunday, October 1, we welcomed Christina Mundell into membership. Christina has been attending for quite some time with her husband Andrew and their son, Cecil. Offer her an "official" welcome when you see her!

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Wednesday night dinners are back. Come for dinner at 5:30, program at 6:00, and Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 7:00.

We're asking you to RSVP if you plan to attend the dinner. If you pay in cash, please use one of the envelopes on the side of the wooden box, and put your name on it, so we can credit it to the right person.

Tomorrow's menu will be:  
*Slow braised chicken with mushrooms*  
*Glazed carrots*  
*Buttery egg noodles*  
*Mixed green salad*  
*Apple crumble for dessert*

Click [here](#) to RSVP by Tuesday at noon.

Our program this week will be the first in a three-part presentation by Jim Moore entitled "The Joy of Generosity: Make generosity part of your spiritual journey." Session 1 is "How is generosity part of our faith?" We hope you can attend and invite your friends.

## Youth Council Monthly Check-Ins

Beginning in October, we will start holding a monthly check-in for youth parents and members of our youth council. The agenda for these meetings will be to discuss upcoming events, share ideas for youth mission projects, and review how events have gone in the previous month. My hope is that these monthly Zoom calls will be a short meeting that helps improve our communication flow! Our first meeting will be Monday, October 9, 7:30 pm. Going forward, these meetings will occur on the first Monday of each month at 7:30. The zoom information below will be the same for every call.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83168620405?pwd=ek5sT3lTb0FEeGp3UFNFk2EydU1DQT09>

Meeting ID: 831 6862 0405

Passcode: 745554



### HOMECOMING LUNCHEON

#### Save the Date!

Our annual Harvest Luncheon and Homecoming meal is **Sunday, October**

**22**, in the Fellowship Hall, following our 11:00 worship. Our theme this year is "Past to Present". We would like to highlight generations of UBC families through photos. If you have pictures of past and/or current members and are willing to share, please identify the members in the photos and provide either digital or printed copies. Digital pictures may be emailed to our Social Media Assistant, Alaysia Toney, at [socialmedia@universitybaptist.org](mailto:socialmedia@universitybaptist.org). Printed copies may be dropped off in the church office. Please send us your pictures by October 15 in order to have them included.



#### Handbells Are Back!

If you would like to ring handbells, please join us on Wednesday evenings, 6:00 pm, in the balcony of the Sanctuary.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

**Oct. 12:** Theresa Guyton

**Oct. 13:** Joyce Martin

**Oct. 14:** Greg Profit

**Oct. 16:** Stella Gregg

**Oct. 17:** Vicki Miller, Ben Chenault

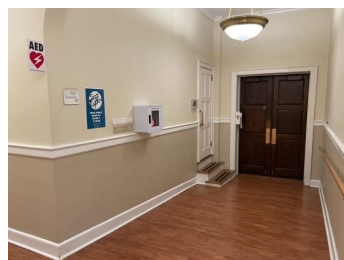
### Bible Reading Group is Restarting!

Would you like to start off your week with God's Word? Join the Bible Reading Group, restarting on Monday, Sept. 25! We meet Monday mornings from 10:30 - 11:00 AM on Zoom. Each week, we read together a couple of Old Testament and New Testament chapters, as well as a Psalm. We will be picking up with Judges 1, Psalm 87, and 2 Thessalonians 2. Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact [Ben Chenault](#).

Zoom info:

Meeting ID: 916 0543 0566

Passcode: 219720



### New Defibrillator

Previously the church has had only one

defibrillator located in the Fellowship Hall, which we carried to the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. We now have a second defibrillator located in the hallway immediately outside of the Sanctuary doors on the non-organ side.



## Venable School Food Bags Ministry

UBC has partnered with Venable Elementary School since the 2017-2018 school year to provide weekend food bags for children identified as food insecure. We are now delivering 30 bags every other week. Each bag costs approximately \$8.50, an increase from \$7.00 last school year. This means that monthly we need \$510 to keep the program funded throughout the school year. Vicki and Brian Miller shop for the food and buy in bulk. We ask members and friends of the church to help fund this ministry by designating their monetary gifts for this purpose. We are no longer accepting food donations as we have more purchasing power buying in bulk with your donations. You may click the link [here](#) to donate.

Currently we have four people who deliver the bags to Venable every other Thursday. Please contact [Jackie Lockwood](mailto:jackielockwood46@gmail.com) at jackielockwood46@gmail.com, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer to pack or deliver the food bags.

Remember Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink....".

## 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

