



October 10, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 41

## ON WATCH

Dr. Tennant is away from the office this week and will return in time for the Jazz Vespers this Sunday. We pray for a restful time away for him and his family.

### You Are Welcome Here (Part 2)

Last week, I cited a [recent article from The Atlantic](#) by Jake Meador. In it, he writes about reasons millions of people have stopped going to church. Last week, I focused on the guilt trap that makes returning to worship awkward or hard. As a response, we can emphasize the welcome without expecting an explanation. This week, we will look at Meador's suggested response to the supreme reign of [workism](#) in America: ask more of people.

In an overworked, overwhelmed, and overstimulated culture, asking more of people might seem counterintuitive. However, Meador writes, "A vibrant, life-giving church requires more, not less, time and energy from its members. It asks people to prioritize one another over our career, to prioritize prayer and time reading scripture over accomplishment."

As people make a mass exodus from churches, asking more of them might seem like a tough sell, and we see evidence of this within our congregation. Consider the work of the Nominating Committee. Even though we try to avoid finding warm bodies who are unwilling to say no (note the distinction between "being unwilling to say no" and "called to serve"), it's impossible. There are just too many slots to fill. *Eureka!*

Maybe that's the problem. I have been unable to find reference to a single committee in the gospels. Our

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

October 15, 2023

11:00 AM

**Sermon:**

"Worship Your Earrings"

Rev. Val Fisk

**Scripture:**

Exodus 32:1-14

**Anthem:**

"Ubi Caritas"

Ola Gjeilo

## SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacon:** Raynell Stokes

**Ushers:** Jackie Lockwood, Shirley Clark

**Jubilate Dinner:** Annie Armstrong Circle

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, October 11

9:00 Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study

5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 Wednesday Night Program

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, October 12

7:00 Deacons' Meeting

organizational structure more closely mirrors our culture than the early church. Based on my understanding of faith practices in the twenty-first century and the current life in our congregation, we need to consider restructuring our organization. As Baptists, we have the opportunity to rewrite our future. No higher ecclesial authority (a bishop, synod, etc.) can dictate what we do next. We can deemphasize the organizational structure and place a greater emphasis on opportunities for service.

Meador writes, "A healthy church can be a safety net in the harsh American economy by offering its members material assistance in times of need." He cites feeding the hungry as one example. We've been doing that for years through the Venable food bags, and this year, we will prepare over 100,000 meals through Rise Against Hunger. During the winter, we host unhoused people through PACEM. Through the Small Jobs Team, members of our family of faith help other members of the family when they need something.

When we come together to work on projects, eat around communal tables, study God's word, and pray together, we grow as a family of faith. These shared experiences are vital in making us who we are. As we spend more time together, we get to know one another in a richer way. This personal knowledge through shared experiences helps us see one another as fellow sojourners and children of God.

You are always welcome here.

Peace,  
Matt



### Jazz Vespers

Our next Jazz Vespers will be Sunday, October 15, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary, featuring Calvin Brown on piano and John D'earth on trumpet. 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.

### SUNDAY, October 15

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting  
9:30 ESOL Class  
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study  
11:00 Morning Worship  
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal  
6:30 Jubilate Dinner  
7:00 Jazz Vespers

### MONDAY, October 16

10:30 Bible Reading Group  
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

### TUESDAY, October 17

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

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Anne Wilkerson

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

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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.

# 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.



October is Clergy Appreciation Month. UBC is blessed to call three very hard-working ministers our own, Matt, Val, and Susan. The work of a minister doesn't just happen on Sunday mornings but every day of the week. Their love for God and care for people is ever present, even though it may go unnoticed at times. This month, we pause to encourage and commend our faithful leaders who point us to God, pray for our souls, perform important ceremonies, and promote spiritual well-being for our families. We encourage you to let our ministers know how much you appreciate their diligence in whatever way you desire. Blessings to All,  
Personnel Committee



## 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.

## Thank You

Dear Friends,  
Thank you so much for the cards, calls, and hugs in the recent loss of my dear sweet sister, Judy. We miss her very much, and the outpouring of support we have received has been comforting.

In Christian love,  
Vicki & Brian Miller



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:

*Traditional Beef Chili*  
*Vegetarian Chili*  
*Baked Potato Bar*  
*Cornbread*  
*Mixed Green Salad*  
*Chocolate Cake*

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

Our program this week will be the second in a three-part presentation by Jim Moore entitled "The Joy of Generosity: Make generosity part of your spiritual journey." Session 2 is "Generosity and the Church." We hope you can attend and invite your friends.



## 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!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

- Oct. 20: Rob Cumbia, Linda Boston
- Oct. 21: Brian Miller, Laura Cromwell
- Oct. 22: Angela Li
- Oct. 24: John Brown



## Save the Date!

Our annual Homecoming Luncheon 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.

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## 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

