



October 31, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 44

## ON WATCH

### You Are Welcome Here (Part 5) & the Saph's Invitation

Did someone say JARC? Last week, I wrote that in 2024 the Joint Administrative Review Committee will evaluate our structure and suggest any necessary changes. By June 1, 2024, the Deacons and Church Council will nominate a group of people to perform this function. Looking at organizational structures might not be the most exciting task in UBC life in 2024, but it's an incredible opportunity. JARC can codify changes that promote being a more welcoming and life-giving family of faith.

Last Sunday, I asked my Sunday school class what gave them the most joy in their faith. Here are some of their answers: prayer, reading daily devotions and scripture, worship, being together in our class, visiting church members, spending time together, and singing familiar hymns. No one mentioned committee meetings or church conferences. Is there a way that we can make the institutional part of *being church more efficient?*

I submit the answer is, "Yes!" What if, instead of over 70 slots to fill (committees, councils, deacons, officers, etc.), we reduced it to 29? Currently, some people fill multiple slots, not because they love meetings, but because they know there is work associated with being a family of faith. What would it be like if we had 12 deacons, 12 members of church council, and 5 people on a nominating committee? The congregation could elect deacons (like we currently do), and the deacons choose the nominating committee (like it is now). Then, the nominating committee's only responsibility would be to choose 4 new

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

November 5, 2023

11:00 AM

**Sermon:**

"When You're Weary Feeling Small"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**

Psalms 43

**Anthem:**

"None Like You"

Craig Courtney

## SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacon:** Larry Johnson

**Ushers:** Cindy Bryant, Ben Chenault

**College Dinner:** Kittie Colvin Trail Circle



### Welcome Our Newest Member

On Sunday, October 29, we welcomed Jeanette Mills into membership. Be sure to introduce yourself and make her feel at home.

members of the church council each year. Like the deacons, they could be on a three-year rotation with a year off between cycles. The new church council would assume the current responsibilities of committees and some councils and officers.

There are still lots of details to work out, though the goal remains the same. We want people to feel welcome. We want to feed the parts of the church that are the most life-giving. And, our prayer is for people to find joy and fulfillment as part of this body of believers. Connecting the dots between being more welcoming and some restructuring might seem like a stretch. However, JARC is an opportunity to make changes that foster growth and new life.

On Sunday, I talked about my great-grandparents' journey to First Baptist Church, Royal Oak, MI. This was part of our celebration of All Saints' Day and remembering those who came before us. On Sunday afternoon, I asked my father why Nana and Gramp Galvin visited First Baptist in the first place. Without hesitation, he said, "The Saphs invited them." They were my great-grandparents' friends and invited them to check out their church. If you joined UBC as an adult, how did you find the church? Did someone invite you?

Being more welcoming goes beyond structural changes. It's up to us. We all know people, and if we look for the opportunities, we can invite the people in our orbit to join our family of faith.

Peace,  
Matt



### Called Church Conference

A Church Conference is being called for Wednesday, November 1, 6:00 pm to consider the purchase of new hymnals and any other matters relating to such purchase.

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, November 1

9:00 Work Team  
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner  
6:00 Handbell Rehearsal  
6:00 Wednesday Night Program  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### SUNDAY, November 5

8:30 Church Council Meeting  
9:30 ESOL Class  
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study  
11:00 Morning Worship  
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal  
6:30 College Dinner

### MONDAY, November 6

10:30 Bible Reading Group  
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group  
7:30 Youth Council (Zoom)

### TUESDAY, November 7

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal  
7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle

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



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

**Nov. 8:** Martha Wood, Jeanette Mills  
**Nov. 9:** Mary Sheler  
**Nov. 12:** Melvin Spicer  
**Nov. 13:** Wellford Tiller, Vittorio Pallini, Matteo Pallini

# A WORD FROM VAL



## Annual Friendsgiving Dinner Thursday, November 16

UBC will be hosting Friendsgiving Dinner for the college students from UBC, the Wesley Foundation, and UKirk on Thursday, November 16, 6:30 pm. Our very own Larry Johnson will prepare the main parts of our

dinner here at UBC. Folks from our three churches will come together to provide side dishes and desserts, as well as set up and cleanup crews! Please click [here](#) to view the sign-up genius for this event and to add your name to the list of volunteers. Email [Val](mailto:Val) with any questions.



## Rise Against Hunger with UBC We did it!

Thank you for helping us reach our goal. We set out to pack 100,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger in 2023, and as of Saturday, October 21, we packed 106,056 meals! We reached this goal in 7 packing events over the year. If anyone would still like to contribute, the cost per meal is \$0.40. So, for \$40, you could pay for 100 meals.

We also want to express our deep gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this ministry this year. On behalf of the starving people who will receive the meals we packed, thank you.

Note: We will not have a packing event in November.



## Jazz Vespers

Our next Jazz Vespers will be Sunday, November 19, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary, featuring Calvin Brown on piano and John D'earth on trumpet. If you have some-

where, 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.

## Prayer Requests\*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Robby Gough

Linda Hendon

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Barbara Newlon

Chris Owens

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

Bob & Jane Whitworth

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



Come for dinner at 5:30, program at 6:00, and Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 7:00!

Tomorrow's menu will be:

*Jambalaya*

*Roasted Mixed Vegetables*

*Country Bread*

*Mixed Green Salad*

*Apple Cake*

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

Our program this week will be our Called Church Conference.

## 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

