



February 27, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 9

ON WATCH

Love Them Where They Are

One of the most useful pieces of advice someone ever gave me is, "Love them where they are." Don't love people where they should be. Don't love them where you wish they were. Don't love them if they deserve it. Love people where they are. That's what God does with each one of us, and it's a good thing.

When I first heard these words, I had just started serving in my first church, Hickory Baptist Church, in rural Whitakers, NC. The congregation and I did not have much in common. Before moving to the parsonage, Melanie and I had been living on our sailboat in Puerto Rico. Most of the members of the church were farmers. We had lived in several different places (Tuscaloosa, Washington, Newport, Chicago, and Luquillo). Most of the members of the church were from the area and had never lived anywhere else. They were hunters. We were hikers. This list of differences could go on. Yet, I felt God calling me to serve them.

Another pastor in the area told me to love them where they are. I thought about those words and realized that Jesus loves me where I am. He and I do not have much in common. The cultural and temporal differences of six thousand miles and two thousand years are massive. Still, the bigger difference between Jesus and me is that he is perfect, and I am not. But he loves me as I am, where I am, and for who I am. This is how God loves each one of us. God loves us where we are.

Our calling is to move from where we are to where God wants us to be. However, even when we are slow or

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 3, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Dr. Jerusha Tiller

Scripture:

Matthew 16:13-20

Anthem:

Upon This Rock

Pepper Choplin

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Shirley Clark, Sheri Owen

Ushers: Ian Pallini, Ed Barker

College Dinner: No dinner. Spring Break.

Sign up to provide college dinners this semester!

Our Sunday evening dinners are a great way to support our UVA students as well as a great way to get to know them! Dinner is served at 6:30pm, and our group size runs between 20-30 students each week. You can [sign up at this link](#) for a week. This is a great opportunity for a Bible study group, or a group of friends, to work together to provide a meal and support our college students! The next two Sundays are spring break for the students. Dinners will resume on March 17.

unwilling to move, God still loves each one of us. As Christ-followers, we mimic this love and try to love our neighbor as ourselves. Since we try to follow God's example, we try to love people where they are.

We don't always succeed, but we keep trying. Each time we actually love someone where they are on their journey, we get a little more comfortable with it. The actions become familiar and start to feel like we own them. "This is who I am," we think to ourselves, "I'm someone who loves people where they are."

Then, when we fall again, we can remind ourselves that God loves us where we are. We get up. We try again. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

Those words were great advice 20 years ago, and they still ring true today.

Peace,
Matt



Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News, February 26. He appears on WINA once per month to provide some commentary on the news from a faith perspective. This month he joined the program to discuss issues within the unhoused population and how the faith community can help, plus much more. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).



An Update from the Music Minister Search Committee

At the beginning of February, Matt attended *Polyphony*, an annual conference for Music Ministers, where he had an opportunity to do some recruiting. Since then Matt and Susan continue to pursue candidates who would be a great fit for UBC, and the Search Committee looks forward to hearing from these candidates. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the members of the committee: Robby Gough, Lily Gregg, Larry Johnson, Joyce Martin, Rachel Miller, Brian Mulcahy, Diane Mundell, and Sheri Owen



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Mar. 8: Gerald Brown

Mar. 9: Ewing Minor

Mar. 10: Sarah Buchanan, Diane Mundell

Mar. 12: Johnny Ellen



Sanctuary Flowers

Would you like to reserve sanctuary flowers in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion? Sunday flowers can be reserved for birthdays, anniversaries, or to commemorate other special occasions.

Please submit your request to include your name, the bulletin message, and the desired reservation dates to the [UBC office](#). A member of the Floral Committee will be in touch to confirm your dedication.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

David & Linda Hendon

Jess Lamberty

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, February 28

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study
5:15 Handbell Rehearsal
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Growing Young Study
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, March 3

8:30 Church Council Meeting
9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, March 4

10:30 Bible Reading Group
1:00 Theology Reading Group
8:00 Youth Council

TUESDAY, March 5

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

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



Join us on Wednesday evenings! Come for dinner at 5:30, program at 6:00, and Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 7:00!

Tomorrow's menu will be:

*Brioche Buns
Pulled Pork BBQ
Red Beans and Rice
Coleslaw
Mixed Green Salad
Triple Chocolate Fudge Brownies*

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

This week, at 6:00, we will continue our study of the book [Growing Young](#) from the Fuller Youth Institute. It lists six strategies for helping young people discover and love our church. This book can help us reinvigorate our ministries to young



Saturday, March 16
5:00 pm

Under the direction of Susan Deal, the Virginia Baptist Women's Chorale presents, "**I Sing for I Cannot Be Silent**," a program celebrating the power of music in our lives. Repertoire for this program includes the music of Joseph Martin, Eric Whitacre, John Rutter, Moses Hogan, Craig Courtney, and Mark Hayes.



Volunteer Opportunities

We are in the process of forming a Stewardship Committee and need a few more people. If you are passionate about the ministries of our church, you are the right person for this service opportunity. The committee will focus on promoting ways people can give their time and talent to help further God's Kingdom through UBC.

We also have an opening for a Librarian. We are blessed with a wonderful collection of books. They need to be organized, and we need to let people know what we have. If you love books and want people to have the opportunity to enjoy the books we have or if you are just great at organizing, this may be just the spot for you.

If interested in either of these opportunities, please email Matt or call the church office.



CBF Offering for National Missions Ministering to Devastating Poverty

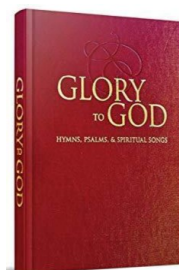
Through the month of March, we will be collecting donations for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship offering for National Missions. Our UBC Mis-

sions Council has chosen to send our offering directly to CBF field personnel The Reverend Scarlett Jasper who serves the people of Appalachia. The CBF commissioned Jasper as a field personnel in 2014. She subsequently earned a Master of Divinity degree from Baptist seminary of Kentucky with a concentration in pastoral care and counseling, sharpening her skills for a lifelong call to ministry.

Scarlett has been serving an area that covers south-central and southeastern Kentucky, and eastern Tennessee. It encompasses about 10 counties of persistent poverty, where the median family income has remained below the U.S. poverty level for more than 30 years.

Our goal here at UBC is to contribute \$3,000 toward the larger CBF goal. You can do so by check, noting that it is for National Missions, or online [here](#).

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*"
Matthew 16:24



Dedicate a Hymnal

If you would like to donate a hymnal in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the order form, which is available [here](#) and in the Narthex and return it to the church office.



The Kittie Colvin Trail Circle will be collecting items for AIM (the Alliance of Interfaith Ministries). AIM is requesting basic items not covered by SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). SNAP covers only food. On your next shopping trip please pick up an extra item or two from the list below. Also, as you clean out your linen closet; bed linens, pillows, towels, and wash clothes are always needed. Collection boxes will be located in the first-floor lobby.

The Alliance for Interfaith Ministries is a 501c3 tax-exempt charitable nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to help residents of Albemarle County and Charlottesville attain self-sufficiency and stability. They help local residents navigate the "safety net" of social programs in our area, and directly through AIM programs such as housing stability assistance, eviction prevention, utility assistance and disconnection prevention, and crisis assistance.

The requested items are: Small bottles of all-purpose cleaner such as:

PineSol and Mr. Clean

Laundry detergent pods

Paper towels

Toilet paper

Hand soap

Dish soap

Hand sanitizer

Kitchen size trash bags

Bleach wipes

Sponges

Deodorant

Shampoo

Conditioner

We will be collecting until the end of February.

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

