



March 19, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 12

ON WATCH

Staying the Course Despite Headwinds

We often use the word “headwinds” to describe challenges facing the church. When I arrived nearly seven years ago, I heard people use it to explain factors pushing us back as we try to follow God’s calling. As a sailor, I was already familiar with the term. A headwind refers to the gusts that blow directly against the boat’s bow (front). These winds can be a significant impediment to forward progress.

Our church faces many headwinds. We are not unique. Every single church in the U.S.A. has faced challenges in this same period. Some faced more. Some faced less. Across the country, fewer people attend religious services than did just a few years ago. According to a [2023 Gallup Poll](#), “In the four years before the pandemic, 2016 through 2019, an average of 34% of U.S. adults said they had attended church, synagogue, mosque or temple in the past seven days. From 2020 to the present, the average has been 30%.” [Pew Research](#) writes, “Asked directly whether they now attend religious services more or less often than they did before the pandemic, more Americans indicate that their attendance habits have declined than risen.” The Pew researchers paint a complicated picture because 20% say they are attending *in person* less often. Meanwhile, 7% of the respondents reported attending in person more often. In other words, some people come to church less frequently, and a smaller number come more often.

Within our church family, these trends are harder to spot, because people do not self-report attending

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 24, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

A Confusing Celebration

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

John 12:12-16

Anthem:

Hosanna!

Craig Courtney

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jen May

Ushers: Ian Pallini, Ed Barker

College Dinner: Susan Hellings

**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 6:30 pm, 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!

worship services less often. We can look around the sanctuary and picture the faces of people we saw a few years ago and wonder where they are. Some moved. Some passed away (Since 2017, we have had 63 deaths in our church family). Others have joined another church, and there are some who do not go to worship anywhere on Sundays.

Even though our struggles are not unique, we have incredible potential within our church. I would argue that we have greater potential and many other churches that face the same headwinds. We have no debt. Our buildings are in good repair, and thanks to the Work Crew, they continue to be a beautiful space. Our endowment means that we can continue seeking to be a faithful family of faith. Finally, there's a positive vibe that we might miss if we focus on the headwinds.

Recently, someone who has just started attending our worship services wrote the following, "I feel very comfortable when I come to this church, and I also feel everyone's enthusiasm." Last fall, at a Church Council meeting, someone said, "We do a bad job of celebrating our victories."

Both the new attender and the person who commented at the Church Council meeting were right. Our ice-cream-outreach will start its fourth year in a few weeks. People recognize us and look forward to it. We prepared 106,086 meals with Rise Against Hunger in 2023. We provided heat, chickens, and other supplies to a Ukrainian Baptist Church. We housed over 40 people during PACEM this winter. Our Venable food program continues to serve children who live in food insecure homes. Voces Laetae, Jazz Vespers, and Sunday evening college dinners bring our mission field into the building. There's incredible potential all around us. What we do with this potential is up to us. We can stay the course and continue trying to share God's love with our community. We can keep following Christ and seeking to be God's hands and feet, despite the headwinds. Or not.

Peace,
Matt



Voces Laetae Concert

Voces Laetae will present their Spring Concert on Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 pm (tonight!) in the Music Suite. All are invited to come enjoy the concert and support our youth.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Mar. 28: Linda Hendon, Alice Batten

Apr. 2: Forrest Marshall



Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday
March 24,
12:00 pm

We will meet in the Fellowship

Hall after service for a pizza lunch and then egg hunt. Families will be given a map of locations throughout the church where they will find members of the congregation ready to distribute eggs.

The hunt will wrap up in the Sanctuary where participants will search for hidden eggs. The hunt is open to ages Pre-school through Middle School.

In order to be sure we have enough eggs, please RSVP [here](#) by Wednesday, March 13.

The Children's Ministry Team

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 20

9:00 Work Team
5:15 Handbell Rehearsal
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Program (Growing Young)
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, March 24

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 Easter Egg Hunt
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal
6:30 College Dinner

MONDAY, March 25

10:30 Bible Reading Group
12:30 Missions Council Meeting

TUESDAY, March 26

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group
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.

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

Tomorrow's menu will be:

Cheeseburgers
Hotdogs
Macaroni Salad
Roasted Zucchini and Squash
Assorted Cookies for dessert

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 people.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Kaylee Risell

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

It has come to our attention that Mary Jo Licero, who has been living in Florida for several years, passed away on November 17, 2023.



Congratulations to Gary Wood and Jenny Schlack on the birth of Nathan Todd Wood on March 4. Nathan joins sisters Georgia Anne and Maisie.



New HVAC for Children's Suite

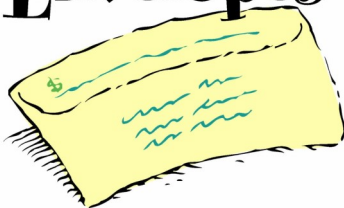
Last Fall the HVAC system in our Children's Suite on the 2nd Floor reached the end of its life. The original Water Source Heat Pumps

installed in the Children's Suite ceiling in about 2000 when our building was remodeled are uneconomical to replace due to difficulty in accessing their locations. Such is life when adding HVAC to an old building. After a long study of alternatives with our vendor, Riddleberger Brothers, we will soon be installing a ductless mini-split system as the most cost-effective alternative replacement. We appreciate the patience of everyone while we have studied this issue. The cost of this installation is \$26,000.

As many of you are aware, most of our HVAC equipment is now 25 years old. We have a long path to replace units (there are about 50 HVAC units in the church) over the next few years that will require continued effort and funding. Your contributions to our budget are greatly appreciated as we care for our building and fund our ministry efforts.

If you have questions about our HVAC, please contact [Alan Hendricks](#). For questions about our finances, contact [Larry Martin](#) or other members of the Finance Committee.

Offering Envelopes



If you would like some offering envelopes, please notify the [church office](#), and we will print some off for you.



Rev. Scarlette Jasper, CBF field personnel serving 10 counties in southeastern Kentucky and eastern Tennessee

CBF Offering for National Missions- Domestic Violence, Homelessness, Medical Crises, Bats, and More

Through the month of March, we will be collecting donations for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship offering for National Missions. Our UBC Missions Council has chosen to send our offering directly to the Rev. Scarlette Jasper who serves the people of southeastern Kentucky and eastern Tennessee.

Scarlette has been involved in nonprofit work with disadvantaged communities for more than 27 years, serving in leadership positions locally and nationally for various organizations. She was commissioned by the CBF in 2014. Now, Scarlette is the Director of Olive Branch Ministries, which serves individuals and families in crisis, including individuals experiencing homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, families in financial and medical crisis, hunger, home repairs, and even a bat infestation.

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, 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

Qualified Charitable Distributions

Are you familiar with Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)? A QCD might reduce the taxes you owe while helping your church. Here's how it works:

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are over 73, you are required to take a distribution from that IRA each year based on the value at the end of the previous year and your age. This is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and generally the distribution is fully taxed as ordinary income. The form of the distribution may be in cash or securities.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian to a qualified charity. This direct transfer can be in cash or securities, and it counts toward satisfying your RMD for the year. A QCD reduces your taxable income by the amount of such distribution since it is not included in your income.

Charitable giving is not about taxes. However, the tax benefit from a QCD encourages charitable giving and could enable you to give more money to what you love. With the recent increase in the Standard Deduction, many taxpayers will find that charitable donations no longer have any tax benefit. A QCD can restore some significant tax benefits for your charitable donations.



This Easter we would like to decorate our Sanctuary with an abundance of Easter lilies. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, please see the insert in your bulletin or contact the [church office](#) to let us know the wording that you would like to appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. The cost of each lily will be \$12. You can mail a check, drop it in the offering box, or pay online and earmark your gift "Easter Lily." The last day to order is Thursday, March 21. You may pick up your lily after the 11:00 am Easter Service on Sunday, March 31.

Sunday Mornings

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service begins 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

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

