



April 9, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 15

ON WATCH

You Are Welcome (Redux)

In October and November 2023, I wrote a seven-part 'On Watch' series titled "You Are Welcome" ([part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#), [part 5](#), [part 6](#), and [part 7](#)). I began the series by citing [an article from *The Atlantic*](#) about reasons millions of people have stopped going to church. The biggest reason people don't attend worship services is the structure of American life in the twenty-first century. Week after week, I kept pushing the question: when we say, "You are welcome," what do we mean?

We can take our answers in many directions. Some people might interpret the question to mean welcoming those who have been hurt by church in the past. Others draw the conclusion that welcoming means keychain leadership (which is a concept we've been exploring on Wednesday nights). At the conclusion of my previous series, I suggested considering a structural change to help us focus more on being a family of faith and less on being an institution. The goal was to strip away some of our remaining layers of bureaucracy while retaining the ability to operate God's church.

My proposal sounded radical to some, and I can understand why. However, my goal is to build God's kingdom and create space for our church family to follow the Holy Spirit. It's about being born of the Spirit and deemphasizing earthly concerns.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 14, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

What Did You Do?

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Obadiah 5-9

Anthem:

My God is a Rock

arr. Daniel Kalliman

Virginia Women's Chorus

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Gayle & Herman Eaker

College Dinner: UBC Deacons

Our Newest Member



We welcomed Kevin Adams into membership during worship on Sunday, April 7. When you see Kevin, take a moment to welcome him into our family of faith.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). Each of us has internal tension between *our* world and *God's* world. If a church is "born of the flesh," it will reflect the flesh. In other words, when being an institution takes more of our attention than being God's family, we, like Nicodemus, miss Jesus' point. He says, "You must be born again," and we repeat Nicodemus' question, "How can that be?"

Instead of asking why people stopped going to church, we could ask why they started. Were they part of the movement toward cultural Christianity stemming from the Great Awakening? If so, did they experience transformation in Christ, or did they go to church because that's just what people did? These questions are not meant to judge, but to enlighten. If someone never experienced transformation, then we have no reason to expect them to continue showing up?

When we say, "You are welcome," we mean, God says, "Here is your life. You might never have been, but you *are*, because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here's the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you" (*Wishful Thinking* by Frederick Buechner, p. 39).

How do we live out the radical, inclusive love of Christ?

Peace,
Matt



Volunteers Needed

Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday! Click [this link](#) to add your name and join us any time between 10:30 and 11:30 to help set up and/or between 11:30 and 1:30 on the front steps to serve the ice cream. This is a very popular outreach ministry of the church.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, April 10

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

THURSDAY, April 11

7:00 Deacons' Meeting

SATURDAY, April 13

11:00 Jubilate Alumni Association

SUNDAY, April 14

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

MONDAY, April 15

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

TUESDAY, April 16

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal
For our most up-to-date calendar, [click here](#).

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Kaylee Risell

Melvin & Mildred Spicer



Join us on Wednesday evening for dinner at 5:30 and a program beginning at 6:00.

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

Our menu tomorrow will be:
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Roasted Garlic Brussels Sprouts
Garlic Bread
Mixed Green Salad
Assorted Cheesecake Squares

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.



Coming Soon!
Save the Date
VBS 2024
June 17- 21
9:00 - noon
We are going to Camp!

Jubilate Spring Concert

Jubilate's Annual Spring Concert will be held Sunday, April 28, 2:00 pm in the UBC Sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. If you can provide help for the reception, please click [here](#) to view the online signup sheet.

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Apr. 17: Laura Faye Groff

Apr. 18: Jim Moore, Larry Groves

Apr. 19: Linda Smith, Russell Pinkham

Apr. 20: Hunter Cooper, Hannah Guyton

Apr. 21: Mattie Tomlin, Mary Ella McCauley

Apr. 23: Jane Anderson

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

A FREE EVENT FOR FAMILIES
SATURDAY, MAY 11th 2024

9am-12pm



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH
1223 West Main Street

Join us to see fire trucks, police cars, construction vehicles, and more! Free shirts for all kids. Other activities include face painting, ice cream, a bouncy house, and more!

Touch - A - Truck 2024

UBC is looking for volunteers to assist with the Touch-a-Truck Event to be held on Saturday morning, May 11 from 9 - 12 in the parking lots of University Baptist Church. Please consider how you and your family and friends can help make this event a success for others in our community! Please review the available slots [here](#) and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!



Virginia Women's Chorus at UBC this Sunday!

The Virginia Women's Chorus, UVA's oldest women's music organization, is committed to excellence in the performance of classical, contemporary, and diverse music from the challenging choral literature for treble voices. The Chorus seeks to inspire and enrich others through the choral art form. The Chorus is unique in that it is a student-run organization with a hired professional conductor. It is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students from numerous degree programs. Several singers from the Charlottesville community have participated in the Chorus as well.

They will be joining us for our Sunday morning worship service on Sunday, April 14 to sing *Ubi Caritas*, *My God is a Rock*, and *Jazz Alleluia*.

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

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Connect with us

