



May 14, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 20

God's
Direction

ON WATCH

Last week, I wrote about "[God's Radical Love](#)," and the week before, I wrote about "[God's Promises](#)." If God loves us and has promised us something, what do we do with it? While we can use our creativity and dream directions for the future, our best course involves seeking God's direction. What does God want us to do with the sense of being loved and promised a future?

When we seek God's direction, the challenge becomes discerning God's voice from our own. Each one of us, just like everyone else, has opinions, and we are naturally susceptible to hearing our own voice and conflating it with the divine. For example, I love seeing new places and meeting new people, so if I hear God saying, "Go to St. Croix and preach my good news," I had better be sure it is really God saying to go to a beautiful Caribbean Island with fantastic scuba diving and sailing. (N.B., I'm aware that God hasn't called me to St. Croix, but I did have a wonderful vacation there in March).

In Judges 6:36-40, Gideon wanted to make sure he understood what God was telling him. He thought he understood God to be telling him to lead the Israelite troops to defeat the Midianite and Amalekite invaders. Gideon blew his trumpet and gathered troops. However, he wanted to be sure he was hearing God's direction and not his own desire. When a foreign power invades, the natural reaction is to fight back. I can imagine Gideon *wanting* to hear God say, "Drive out the Midianites and Amalekites!"

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, May 19, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

What Did the Spirit Say to You?

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Acts 2:1-21

Anthem:

When Speaking Has Ceased
Craig Courtney

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Erin Eaker, Jimmy Li

College Dinner: Will resume in August

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.

To make sure it was God's direction he was following, he prayed and asked God to confirm the directions. He said to God, "I am going to lay a fleece of wool on the threshing-floor; if there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said" (Judges 6:37). It was so.

Once more, Gideon wanted to confirm the voice he heard was the Lord's, so he "set his fleece before the Lord" a second time. "Then Gideon said to God, 'Do not let your anger burn against me, let me speak one more time; let me, please, make trial with the fleece just once more; let it be dry only on the fleece, and on all the ground let there be dew.'" (Judges 6:39). It was so.

As we look to the future, we may feel that we know where God is leading us. As Baptists, we speak with a collective voice, recognizing the priesthood of all believers. Where is God leading University Baptist Church? What's next for us?

This is the point where my 'On Watch' column moves from the unidirectional distribution of my thoughts to a dialogical question about the future. You get to respond. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Don't keep it a secret. Let me know and we can "set our fleece before the Lord" together.

Peace,
Matt



Don't miss
our next Jazz Vespers,
this Sunday, May 19, 7:00 pm
with UVA Jazz Piano Instructor,
Calvin Brown on piano,
JoVia Armstrong
on percussion and electronics,
and Sam Reed on vocals.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, May 15

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

THURSDAY, May 16

7:00 Deacons' Meeting

SUNDAY, May 19

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting
9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
7:00 Jazz Vespers

MONDAY, May 20

12:00 Missions Council Meeting
1:00 Theology Reading Group

TUESDAY, May 21

7:00 Voces Laetae Concert

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

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Lynne Gardner

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Jeanne Nye

Kaylee Risell

Melvin & Mildred Spicer



Choir Concert

Voces Laetae Concert

Voces Laetae will have their final concert of the spring season on Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 pm in the Music Suite. All are invited to come enjoy the music and support our youth.



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

Click [here](#) to RSVP by Tuesday at 5:00.

Our menu tomorrow will be:
Buffet with a large selection of delicious entrees.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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



- May 23:** Skylar Haskiell
- May 25:** Leah Miller, Edith Parker
- May 28:** Debby Johnson, Scott Morris

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

Mission to the World's Ministry in Sofia, Bulgaria

John Grant, a UVA student and a member of Jubilate, will be sharing about his mission trip to Sofia, Bulgaria during our Mission Moment on Sunday. John has felt a calling to serve on the mission field during his summers and to work with Mission to the World. He covets our prayers during this time, and our Missions Team has pledged to support him financially as well.



If you have lost something that you've been unable to find, please stop by the church office. We have a growing collection of lost & found items.

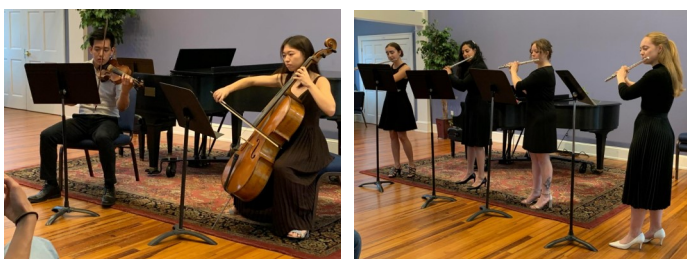


Pentecost Sunday is a Christian festival that celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and the beginning of the church's global mission. It is considered to be the birthday of the Church. Pentecost is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter. It's the only Sunday of the church year that the cloths on the pulpit and the communion table are red. It's customary for those in the congregation to wear red.

Our Outreach to the Community

As we continue to work to reach out to the community around us, we have hosted numerous ministry, musical, and other groups. These groups are appreciative of a space that is conveniently located. We are currently hosting several cancer support groups and will soon start hosting a writing workshop for cancer patients and survivors.

Last weekend we hosted the Medical School Chamber Music Society for their first concert and fundraiser. We also hosted the Intervarsity One-Way Christian student group last weekend. See the pictures below of the Medical School group.



UBC Softball

Schedule:

May 17	Towe 2	6:00 & 7:00
May 24	Towe 3	6:00 & 7:00
May 31	McIntire	8:00 & 9:00
June 7	Towe 2	6:00 & 7:00

If you're interested in playing or just finding out more information, contact [George Martin](mailto:cva2011@aol.com) at cva2011@aol.com.



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

Click [here](#) to register.



On the Move Together for Hope: Virtual Walk-Run-Ride-Swim-Go! For Poverty Alleviation in 338 Counties of Persistent Poverty

13.1, 26.2, 50, 75, 100, 140.6 miles or more this summer. Set your own goals, choose your place and days. Walk, ride, run, swim (row, paddle, trail hike, trail run, exercise) and dog walking.

New This Year: Exercise Time (log your time: yoga, weightlifting, aerobics, etc.). Get there any way you can!

Log your miles May 15 through August 15, 2024. Support the good work of Together for Hope (TFH) and the Together for Hope partner or friend of your choice. Set a goal and get moving this summer and earn a really cool t-shirt. Log your miles or time each week on the Runsignup website. Register by July 15 to get the cool t-shirt. Register [here](#) for the UBC team.

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 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

