



April 14, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 15

ON WATCH

Who Are We?

After that first Easter, the people who had been following Jesus had to figure out who they were. At first, they proclaimed the fulfillment of Jewish prophecies. They didn't set out to start a new religion. In many ways, this same activity of figuring out one's identity in Christ happens repeatedly throughout history. At this moment in history, as Christ-followers, we must once again decide who we are.

Our situation is nothing new. In 1917, the Russian Orthodox Church had a close kinship with the Tsarist state. Liberals and revolutionaries criticized church officials for being inward-focused, resistant to reforms, and preoccupied with doctrine and ritual over social conditions. The Bolsheviks satirized religious officials to delegitimize their authority. Earlier, Vladimir Lenin wrote, "Religion is a sort of spiritual booze, in which the slaves of capital drown their human image, their demand for a life more or less worthy of man [sic.]" (in "Socialism and Religion," 1905). The idea, often attributed to Lenin or Trotsky, is that the bishops measured the proper length of candlesticks while the Bolsheviks prepared the revolution.

As our country continues to supply massive amounts of military ordinance to wars around the world, what are we doing? Are we praying for peace? Are we calling or writing to our representatives? We have a voice, and God calls us to

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 19, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"God's Instrument of Justice"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Habakkuk 1:5-11

Anthems:

We Are Singing for the Lord
Is Our Light arr. Hal Hopson
Creation of Peace by Mark Miller

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: TBD

Ushers: Jackie Lockwood, Amy Song

College Dinner: Jim & Pam Hallissy

Jewelry Exchange and Tea

Saturday, April 18, 2:00
in the Fellowship Hall



Clean out your jewelry boxes and bring jewelry to the church in a zip lock bag with your name on it. We'll enjoy tea and pastries first, then you will have an opportunity to select jewelry from others' collections. We will collect a \$10 donation per person with all proceeds going to National Missions. Leftover jewelry will go to the Children's Christmas Shoppe in December. Contact [Sylvie Moore](#) for more information.

use it. Each of us has opportunities to stand for what is right. We can advocate for diplomacy. We can engage with our elected officials. We can mobilize public support and utilize social media to express our discontent with violence.

Jesus was with the people. He engaged with those with whom he disagreed. For example, see John 3 and his conversation with Nicodemus, and bear in mind that Nicodemus was a religious official. He was part of the establishment that ultimately killed Jesus. Following Jesus means living our faith. In Russia of 1917, it might mean setting aside debates about the proper height for candles and telling Lenin, Trotsky, and the other Bolsheviks about who Jesus really is. Perhaps, Matthew 25:31-46 would have been a good place to start with them. For warmongers in 2026, Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers..." would be a better place to start.

Before we can testify about who Jesus is, we must decide who we are. Will we be like Pope Pius XII who held [secret negotiations with Hitler](#)? Or will we be like Oscar Romero? On the day before an assassin killed him, he [said in a radio address](#), "I would like to make an appeal especially to the men of the army... No soldier is obliged to obey an order against the law of God." He called on the military to stop carrying out orders that killed and destroyed people. He paid for his statement with his life.

Let all people of faith pray for peace.

Peace,
Matt



Welcome Our Newest Member

On Easter Sunday, Luna Ohlms came forward to become a member of UBC. Luna is a sophomore at Charlottesville High School and has been

attending UBC since birth but has now made that important decision to join the church and be baptized. When you see Luna on Sunday, acknowledge this milestone with a special welcome.



Jubilate Spring Concert Sunday, April 26, 2:00pm

Mark your calendars for Jubilate's Spring Concert. Following the concert, we will have a reception in the Fellowship Hall. If you are able to help with the reception, [click here](#).



June 22-26
Rainforest Falls
[Register here](#)



Exam Care Packages

If you know of a college student who would like an exam care package, please let [Megan](#) know. Exams are coming up fast, so deadline for names and addresses is Monday, April 20.



Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed for Children's Church. We're looking for people who are interested in joining a rotating group of people who lead Children's Church or assist as a second adult. You'll get to spend 30 minutes with some of the younger members of our church family, share a short lesson related to the week's message, or teach a craft, hear about the highs and lows of their week, and, most important of all to the kids - and some adults, too - snacks!

If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to [Melanie Tennant](#) or [Susan Hellings](#).



First quarter giving statements are coming out this week. If you do not receive yours (either through email or print) or you have questions, please let [Amanda](#) know.



Voces Laetae Spring Concert

Voces Laetae Spring Concert is Tuesday, April 21, 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Come out to hear some great music and support our youth!

Search Committee Update



SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee is close to finalizing the job description for an Associate Minister for Education and will be posting it in the upcoming week. Susan Hellings has been named the chairperson and Judy Gough the secretary.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

A FREE EVENT FOR FAMILIES
SATURDAY, MAY 9th 2026

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!

Save the Date!

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Leon & Nancy Castle
David & Linda Hendon
Larry & Lynn Martin
Bill & Barbara Murray
Edith Parker
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!

Apr 22: Kelly Wells
Apr 23: Jane Anderson
Apr 24: Gail Ellen, Steve Mahone
Apr 25: Beth Cheuk, Lauren Cooper
Apr 26: Roy Thomas
Apr 27: Bob Bryant, Rebecca Jolin, Julia Yates, Linda Weirich
Apr. 28: Chandler Proffitt
Apr. 29: Jen Bates

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, April 15

8:00 Work Team Breakfast @The Villa
9:00 Work Team
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner
5:45 Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal
6:00 UBC 101: Session 2
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, April 16

7:00 Deacons' Meeting

SATURDAY, April 18

2:00 Jewelry Exchange and Tea

SUNDAY, April 19

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Bagel Brunch
12:00 2-Way Radio Training
2:00 Wedding Shower
4:00 Jubilate Rehearsal
5:30 College Dinner

MONDAY, April 20

4:00 Theology Reading Group

TUESDAY, April 21

6:30 Search Committee
7:30 Voces Laetae Concert

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



Ice Cream Ministry

It's almost that time again!
Time to begin offering ice cream to our friends and neighbors on Wednesdays at noon. Check your calendars and see if you can be part of putting a smile on someone's face just by handing them an ice cream cone.

CBF Offering for National Missions

We did it! Our goal for the National Missions offering to support Scarlett Jasper was \$3000. We've had \$3705 donated which is 124% of our goal! We say a big thank you to all of you who have helped us exceed our National Missions offering goal!



UBC 101 meets Wednesday evenings, 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall to discuss what it means to be a Baptist at UBC. We'll look at what Baptists believe, how UBC's leadership and volunteers are organized, what we believe about baptism and communion, and the many ministry opportunities here at the church. Even if you've been a member of UBC for years, we think you'll discover something you never knew about us. Join us for our second session, April 15, 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall as we look at *Practical Matters*.



You're Invited to a Wedding Shower for Dean and Hadessah

April 19, 2026
Drop in 2–4pm
Fellowship Hall

Questions? Contact

Rachel.nottingham.miller@gmail.com

You're Invited!!

You are cordially invited to the
wedding of

Hadessah Johnson
and
Dean Tennant

JUNE
SAT 6 4 PM
2026

University Baptist Church
1223 W Main St,
Charlottesville, VA
22903

Reception to follow

DETAILS

Reception Information

Join us after the wedding in the fellowship hall!

food • speeches • dances

06/06/2026 beginning at 5:00 PM

Please note that this is an alcohol-free event.

Attire

Semi Formal:

Polished and elegant attire such as suits, button down/khakis and midi-length dresses. Feel free to embrace cheerful summer colors.

For more information, see:

[https://www.zola.com/wedding/](https://www.zola.com/wedding/hadessahanddean)

[hadessahanddean](https://www.zola.com/wedding/hadessahanddean)

Please RSVP

[here](#) by Saturday, April 25

Their registry can be found on their wedding website [here](#).



deCycles Freedom Ride 2026

The *deCycles* mission for the past 56 years is to provide an opportunity for youth to uniquely experience the principles of a Christ-centered life; glorify God and practice kindness.

Their mission trip this summer is a challenging 1500-mile journey from Indiana to the east coast to celebrate the 250th birthday of America in Washington, DC on July 4 and later commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11 in New York City.

This 20-member youth group will be spending the night here at UBC on Wednesday, July 1.

Any teen or young adult who can ride a bike is welcome to join the trip roster. Beginner cyclists are welcome. For more information, contact their director, [Norman Houze](#).



Join us for dinner tomorrow, Wednesday, April 15, 5:15, in the Fellowship Hall. Following dinner at 6:00, we will discuss UBC 101: Session2: *Practical Matters*

Menu:

Build your own Greek Bowl:

Lemon Herb Chicken

Falafel

Garlic Rice

Hummus

Tzatziki

Cucumber-tomato Salad

Red Onions

Feta Cheese

Pita Crisps

Chickpeas

Greek Vinaigrette

Mixed Greens

Kalamata Olives

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

Staff Contact Information:

Senior Minister: Dr. Matthew Tennant - matt@universitybaptist.org

Associate Minister for Music and College Students: Rev. Megan Sharp - megan@universitybaptist.org

Voces Laetae Director: Will Cooke - wcooke@universitybaptist.org

Office Coordinator: Linda Weirich - linda@universitybaptist.org

Financial Coordinator: Amanda Ohlms - aohlms@universitybaptist.org

Communications Coordinator - Kayla Riley - socialmedia@universitybaptist.org

Church Administrator: Alan Hendricks - ahendricks@universitybaptist.org

Organist: Barbara Moore - call the church office at 434-293-5106

Maintenance Assistant: Hunter Cooper - call the church office at 434-293-5106

Sunday Morning 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.

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

Connect with us

