



July 8, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 26



Matt Tennant has arrived at *La Senda Verde*, a wildlife refuge nestled along Bolivia's Yungas Road—a winding, mountainous path that leads straight into the jungle. For four weeks, this animal sanctuary is home base for the final stretch of his sabbatical journey. And the work is nothing like pastoring a church.

Each morning begins early with physical, muddy, exhausting labor: feeding monkeys, macaws, and Andean bears, cleaning enclosures, hauling supplies, and working alongside international volunteers. Every animal has a story of trauma—and now, healing. In many ways, it's a quiet metaphor for ministry itself: small, faithful acts of care that slowly restore what was broken.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, July 13, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Knock, Knock!

Rev. William Deal

Scripture:

Philippians 4:4-9

Anthem:

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Dewar & Forrest

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon:

Ushers: Jimmy Li, Amy Song



Rev. William Deal

*While our pastor, Matt Tennant, is away on sabbatical, we are grateful to welcome a series of guest preachers to our pulpit. Each one brings a unique voice and faithful perspective to our shared journey. This week we're pleased to welcome **Rev. William Deal**.*

Evenings bring a change of pace. As the jungle hums around him, Matt finds a patch of quiet to reflect, pray, and write by head-lamp. He's making steady progress on *Marine Theology* and beginning to gather the threads of what God has revealed through this sabbatical.

The days are full—body, mind, and spirit. And that's the point. Matt's time in Bolivia isn't about stillness anymore. It's about service.

How can we pray for Matt this week?

Pray for strength and safety in the work. Pray for joy in the small, often hidden moments. Pray for clarity and inspiration as he writes and reflects. And pray that he continues to experience grace through the community of volunteers and creatures around him.

This week's spiritual challenge:

Practice hidden service. Do something for someone else without expecting recognition—clean something that's not your job, leave an anonymous note of encouragement, or quietly meet a need. Let your love show in the small, selfless acts. Matt is giving himself fully to the work before him. May we do the same, wherever we are.



While Matt continues to write *Overcoming Differences*, consider revisiting his earlier book, *Crossing the Lines We Draw: Faithful Responses to a Polarized America*. It's a powerful reflection on how we can live

with love and conviction in divisive times--and it offers the perfect foundation for what's to come. **Limited copies are available for purchase from the church office for \$10 each.**

Rev. William Deal lives in Forest, VA with his wife, Mary Kate, and their 9-year-old twin daughters, Adeline and Dorothy. William holds degrees from Samford University and McAfee School of Theology. Additionally, he completed 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education through Hamilton Medical Center. William serves as Director of Pastoral Care at Westminster Canterbury of Lynchburg. His role blends his love for preaching, teaching, and leading in worship with his passion for clinical spiritual care. He is a Certified Dementia Practitioner and a Certified Specialist in Pastoral Thanatology (death and dying). He is also a die-hard fan of the Atlanta Braves and the University of Alabama Crimson Tide.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, July 9

12:00 Ice Cream Ministry
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Journey Together Program
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, July 10

9:00 Work Team
1:30 Personnel Committee Meeting
7:00 Deacons' Meeting

SUNDAY, July 13

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

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



We have a softball team!

UBC's softball team is part of the Charlottesville Church Softball League. For

the team's schedule, contact Coach George Martin at cva2011@aol.com.



We're excited to announce *a new summer offering* for kids at UBC--**Mini Music Camp!**

Instead of our traditional VBS, we're hosting a three-day music experience filled with singing, instrument-playing, movement, and games. The theme is "**God, Our Protector,**" and we'll explore stories from the Bible about how God was present with people and kept them safe.

This is open to our church family and friends --*all are welcome!*

Come join us for joyful music-making and faith-filled fun.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

July 9: Lynda Tweel

July 12: Jen May, Doc Litchfield, Andrew Mundell

July 13: Amy Cumbia

July 14: Pam Beasley, Donna Ballard

July 18: Brian Mulcahy

July 20: Tina Stephens

July 21: Ismael Moubossy, Luke Brown

Hosts Needed

The United Gospel Choir of Besançon, France will be in Charlottesville July 16 through July 23. They are excited to meet you and learn more about the city and people of Charlottesville. On Sunday, July 20, they will sing in worship at UBC and on Tuesday, July 22, they will give a concert at Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church. Together with the members of Mt. Zion FABC we have a great opportunity to provide hospitality to our guests. Please contact [Megan](#), if you are willing to host or if you have questions about hosting one or more choir members.

Please save the dates-July 16-23!



"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40



75 Years Ago

The UBC Sunday School was large enough to fill the fellowship hall in 1950. At least one of the children in this photo is still a member of UBC, and the children of several others are still members.



We will gather tomorrow, July 9, in the Fellowship Hall for dinner at 5:30 followed by our continuing program of Journey Together.

Click [here](#) to sign up for dinner.

The Sanctuary Choir will rehearse at 7:00.



Our Journey Together

Our Journey Together continues tomorrow with another wonderful Wednesday night! Come for dinner and stick around for fellowship, conversation, learning, and creativity. We'll tune into our five senses to experience how the church's many people, with many different gifts, all together form the **one body of Christ**. This intergenerational program will be followed by **Intergenerational Choir** rehearsal, then regular **Sanctuary Choir** rehearsal with child-care. See you there!

Pictures Needed

Preparations are well underway as we anticipate an important capstone event marking the celebration of our 125 years at UBC. Our banquet, which will be held October 11, will be a time of celebration and recognition as we share memories, interact with former church staff, and thank God for our time together as a congregation. Ed Smith (edsmith@comcast.net) and Seth Kodikara (seth.kodikara@gmail.com) are gathering photos which reflect our past. They are especially looking for photos taken during the last 25 years in order that we might also reflect on how UBC reacted to challenges such as 9/11, various events at UVA, Katrina, and the homeless needs within our community. We would love to hear from you, if you have pictures, you are willing to share.

Please contact Ed, Seth, or the church office, if you have pictures which you believe would be appropriate for the celebration or the church archives. Hard copies or electronic pictures sent via email will be greatly appreciated.

Volunteers Needed



It's that time again! Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday. Click [this link](#) to add your name and join us any time between 11:00 and 12:00 to help set up and/or between 12:00

and 2:00 in the narthex to serve the ice cream. This is a very popular outreach ministry of the church. ***This week is cherry & mango!***



Puerto Rico Mission Trip in November

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia is building a partnership and long-term presence with

teams, churches, and efforts in Puerto Rico. Several teams from Virginia have traveled to the island in the past year, and they'll be sending another team in November.

If you would like to travel and serve with a team from CBF Virginia to Puerto Rico, please save the date of November 3-7, 2025. They will plan to take up to 8 volunteers on this mission trip.

During this trip, they plan to provide hands-on assistance and financial support to relocate the electrical generator at Iglesia Bautista de Quebrada, Inc., enabling them to rebuild classrooms and offices damaged by Hurricane Maria.

A secondary but important effort is to continue to cultivate relationships with churches in Puerto Rico and to identify opportunities for collaborative partnerships.

If you are interested in joining this trip in November, please reach out to Megan. It would be great to send a UBC group to Puerto Rico.

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.



WMU Woodbrook School Supplies Project

Since 2008 the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) at UBC has collected money and purchased school supplies for the economically disadvantaged children at Woodbrook Elementary School.

This project is coordinated by Love INC in cooperation with city and county schools' Family Support Workers.

We will be collecting for this fund during the month of July. The money we collect will help UBC purchase school supplies all year long for these children. This money also helps occasionally with shoes, emergency clothing, hygiene needs, and healthy snacks for these same children during the school year. This year Woodbrook has approximately 522 students on roll.

Over the years, the percentage of Woodbrook students who have relied on the free or reduced-price lunch program has varied between 60 and 85%. School supplies lists that families are asked to provide at the beginning of the school year have been around \$60 for each child (and that doesn't include a backpack or tennis shoes that are required for physical education classes). Just imagine if you are an out-of-work parent with three or more children.

Your gifts enable the Woodbrook Family Support Workers to provide the needed school supplies for these less fortunate children.

Please help us make these children's school experience meaningful and productive by making checks or online gifts payable to UBC and earmark "school supplies".



Gratitude for Elizabeth Dowdy's Ministry

This Sunday marks Elizabeth Dowdy's final Sunday on staff at UBC, and we give heartfelt thanks for the many ways she has blessed our congregation over the past year. As our Interim Associate Minister for Children and Youth, Elizabeth has brought energy, warmth, and faithfulness to every aspect of her work—from Sunday morning lessons and Wednesday night activities to retreats, special events, and personal connections with our families. Her care for our children and youth has been a true gift.

As Elizabeth moves on to the next chapter of her journey, we want to send her with our deepest gratitude and prayers for all that lies ahead.

If you would like to offer an expression of thanks, there will be a basket at the front of the Sanctuary this Sunday where you can leave a card or note for Elizabeth. At the conclusion of worship, there will also be a time to speak with her personally.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for your faithful ministry and your loving presence among us!

Dinner with Andrew

One of the members of our church family has been raising funds to address food insecurity every year since July 2001. On January 1, 2001, Colleen Baber's son Andrew choked on a gummy candy and did not survive. He had been working at Domino's Pizza at the time, and his coworkers wanted to do something to honor his memory. They chose a food drive which fit well with honoring Andrew because few people liked to eat more than he did. Thus, "Dinner with Andrew" began.

This year is the twenty-fifth year Colleen has been collecting donations in Andrew's memory. In 2020, she switched from collecting and sorting food to taking donations for food gift cards. She gives these cards to families in extreme need through The Jefferson Area Food Bank, The Salvation Army, The Emergency Food Bank, and ARC. We can help address food insecurity and be the hands and feet of Christ by supporting this ministry. You can contribute directly [through this link](#), or you can send a check to the church or give online with "Dinner with Andrew" in the memo line.

Church Building Improvements

Early next week we will have two maintenance activities going on in the building:

1. A new door access system will be installed. The new system will have additional features, resolve repair issues with obsolete parts, and be more flexible for scheduling and general system administration. This upgrade is being funded with income from renting space in our building for concerts, recitals, and other community events.
2. The floors in the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and Music Suite will be cleaned and polished.

Thank you for working around the disruption these improvements will cause for a few days. Late in the week we will need helpers to move chairs and tables back into their spaces. To volunteer, or for any questions, contact [Alan Hendricks](#).

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Doc & Sarah Litchfield

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

Meet Our New Deacons

We are grateful to announce the election of five new deacons to serve a three-year term on the Deacon Council: Debra Bryant, Lily Gregg, Jen May, Scott Miller, and Eddy Tennant. These faithful leaders will help guide and support the life of our church in meaningful ways.

Deacons are elected and ordained to be the lay ministerial leaders of the congregation. They help provide spiritual support, care for the church community, and work alongside staff and church leadership to help guide the mission and ministry of the church.

We will ordain Eddy Tennant and install the other newly elected deacons during worship one Sunday in August—more details to come. Please join us in giving thanks for these five individuals and praying for them as they begin this important work.

Staff Contact Information:

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

Interim Executive Minister: Rev. Susan Deal - susan@universitybaptist.org

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

Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Rickert Dowdy - elizabeth@universitybaptist.org

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

Office Coordinator: Linda Weirich - linda@universitybaptist.org

Financial Coordinator: Amanda Ohlms - aohlms@universitybaptist.org

Social Media Coordinator: Alaysia Toney - socialmedia@universitybaptist.org

Church Administrator: Alan Hendricks - ahendricks@universitybaptist.org

Education Coordinator: Rev. Tommy Deal—call the church office at 434-293-5106

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

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

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

