



May 13, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 19



This week, Matt Tennant is back in Charlottesville for a brief but meaningful time at home. After three weeks in Bonaire soaking up rest, beauty, and inspiration, Matt now shifts into a different kind of renewal—one rooted in family and celebration.

Both of Matt and Melanie’s sons are graduating this week: Eddy from Piedmont Virginia Community College and Dean from the University of Virginia. These milestone moments are both joyful and reflective, marking years of growth and hard work. In between family gatherings and graduation ceremonies, Matt is organizing his notes and continuing to write. He’s reviewing what he learned and experienced in Bonaire and shaping those insights into the chapters of his books.

Even in the busyness of this week, Matt is creating space for prayer and listening. He’s keeping the rhythm of the sabbatical alive—pausing, reflecting, and giving thanks.



SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, May 18, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

The Fruit of the Spirit -- Love, Joy, and Peace

Rev. Dr. Jerusha Tiller

Scripture:

John 15:12-17

Anthems:

Set Me As a Seal by René Clausen

Let Us Love One Another

by Mark Sirett

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Shirley Clark

Ushers: Gayle Eaker, Erin Eaker



Rev. Dr. Jerusha Tiller

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. Dr. Jerusha Tiller.

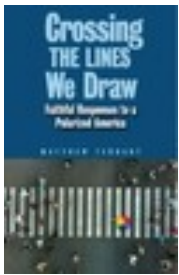
How can we pray for Matt this week?

Pray for meaningful time with family as they celebrate these important life transitions. Pray for Matt as he continues his writing—may his reflections from the sea stay fresh in his mind and heart as he prepares for the next phase of the journey.



This week's spiritual challenge:

Take a moment to celebrate something good in your own life or in someone else's. Celebrate intentionally—with prayer, gratitude, and presence. Let celebration be a spiritual practice, a way to remember God's faithfulness in every season.



And here's another challenge:

While Matt begins writing *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. Dr. Jerusha Tiller is the Supervising Chaplain of central VA and the institutional chaplain at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women—the largest, maximum security women's prison in Virginia. A graduate of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and the Union Presbyterian Seminary, Jerusha has also taught world religions at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her daughter Meesha's Stage 4- high risk-cancer fight, at 3 years of age, has taught her that life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful! Jerusha is grateful for the gift of second chances as she cherishes her greatest blessing—the gift of family: husband Martin Tiller, daughters Rachel and Meesha, who love to play with the talkative, ten-year-old pet cat Maple.

Dear Church Family,

When we hired Elizabeth Dowdy as our Associate Minister for Children and Youth, it was for a one-year term, with the option for Elizabeth to be considered for this permanent ministry position. After prayerful discernment, Elizabeth has decided to withdraw her candidacy from consideration. She plans to fulfill her covenant with the church through the summer.

Elizabeth has exciting plans for our children and youth in the coming months, and as always, she needs and would warmly welcome volunteers to help bring these activities to life. Please be on the lookout for more information about these opportunities for fun, connection, and fellowship.

Later this summer, the Personnel Committee will begin the process for appointing a search committee for the called position of Associate Minister of Children and Youth.

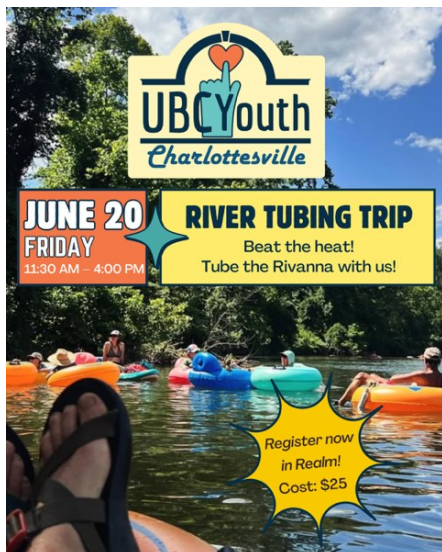
On behalf of University Baptist Church, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the good work Elizabeth has done and the ministry she will continue to offer this summer. We trust that God has meaningful work ahead for Elizabeth as she steps faithfully into her next chapter of ministry.

Bill Cromwell
Chair, Personnel Committee

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
Mary Ella McCauley
Barbara Moore & Family on the passing of her mother
Edith Parker
Melvin & Mildred Spicer
Bob & Joyce Tennant
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



Click [here](#) to register.

The United Gospel Choir is Coming!

Who? This summer, in partnership with Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church, we will have an opportunity to host a visit from the United Gospel Choir of Besancon, France.

When? The choir is coming to Charlottesville on Wednesday, July 16 and departing on Wednesday, July 23.

What? During their visit we will create a combined choir with the United Gospel Choir, UBC choir members, and Mt. Zion FABC choir members.

Where? We will give one or two performances and sing in worship at UBC on Sunday, July 20.

How to help? If you are interested in offering space in your house to host one or more of the visiting choir members, please contact [Megan](#). There also will be opportunities to help with meals and transportation during their visit.

Please save the dates-July 16-23!



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 vanilla and orange!***



87 Years Ago



Following the sale of the church building in December 1937, the church met the rest of the month with First Baptist and St. Paul's churches. In January, the congregation met at the Virginia Public Service (now Dominion Energy) building at 300 West Main Street (pictured). The church demonstrated that it was and is more than a building.

On July 1, 1938, Dr. Cecil Cook, at age 67, began his ten-year ministry to University Baptist Church. One of his first acts was to persuade the UVA Board of Visitors to allow UBC to meet in the University chapel.



Click [here](#) to link to our 125th Anniversary webpage!!

We will not have a Wednesday night dinner or program this week. Join us again next Wednesday, May 21 for another step in our summer journey together.



Our Journey Together so far...

During these weeks of sabbatical, Matt is not the *only one* on a journey. As a church of people from all walks of life, part of our purpose is to journey together on life's paths.

Throughout this spring and summer, we are following a path together to learn more about how we can trust God, follow Jesus, grow in our faith, and be a community together. Sometimes the trail may seem challenging. We might not always be sure where we are going. But we journey on this path—together. To prepare and equip us for our journey, last Wednesday night we began making **hiking sticks**. We also started making **charms**, one to symbolize each week of the journey and the stops we visit along the way. So far, our journey has included:

1. A Knapsack – To kick off our journey, Tommy preached “Are We There Yet?” He reminded us that thoughtful journeys begin with plans, preparations, packing—and prayer.

CALENDAR

2. The Number “66” – In “A Library of Stories,” Pastor Anna reminded us of the stories, songs, and wisdom that come in the 66 canonical books of our Bible.

3. A Book – “God’s Word Is for Everyone” – This week, on Wednesday night and Sunday morning, we will continue to learn how the Bible equips each of us for life’s journeys.

Ahead on the journey, we will learn more about the Fruit of the Spirit, the Disciples, the Church, and the World.

Whether you join us in stages or for every step along the way, we look forward to journeying together with you.



WEDNESDAY, May 14

9:00 Work Team

12:00 Ice Cream Ministry

THURSDAY, May 15

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

SUNDAY, May 18

8:30 Finance Meeting

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

2:45 UBCYouth End-of-Year Party

TUESDAY, May 20

7:00 Voces Laetae Concert

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



UBCKids & UBCYouth Summer Plans Q&A

Monday, June 2, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Elizabeth will host a Q&A session on Zoom about summer plans for UBCKids and UBCYouth for parents, teachers, chaperones, volunteers, and anyone interested!

Watch for an email from Elizabeth with the Zoom link.



Collection for the University of Virginia Hospital Hospitality House

Through the month of June, the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle will be collecting items for the UVA Hospital Hospitality House. The Hospitality House, located on 14th Street, offers overnight rooms at a very reduced rate to people from out-of-town having out-patient treatment at the hospital and the families of patients in the hospital. The Hospitality House has 20 bedrooms and 8 kitchenettes for the guests to use, but they have a hard time keeping them stocked.

If you have a few things you no longer need, toiletries you have collected during your travels, individual snacks, paper goods, or forks and spoons leftover from a picnic, please bring them to the collection boxes in the 1st floor lobby.

Requested items:

- forks and spoons, real or plastic (they have hundreds of butter knives)
- bowls, real or paper
- plastic storage containers (the disposable kind food comes in from the store is fine)
- individual-sized shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, or soap
- detergent pods - All free and clear preferred
- fabric sheets - All free and clear preferred

Many thanks for helping us support this vital community ministry.



We have a softball team!

UBC's softball team is part of the Charlottesville Church Softball League. Their next games are Friday, May 16, 8:00 and 9:00 at McIntire 2. If you are interested in playing softball with a fun group of people in a Christian atmosphere, contact Coach George Martin at cva2011@aol.com.



**TRE
NEW** THE GREEN VBS™
Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.

**July 21-25, 2025
9AM-Noon**

University Baptist Church



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

May 21: Bonnie Fitzgerald, Tina Cromwell, Vidar Hageman

May 25: Edith Parker

May 20: Jimmy Li

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 - 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.

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

Connect with us

