

October 13, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 40

ON WATCH

Cultivate Your Mission Field

At the end of the gospel of Matthew, we find the familiar words of the Great Commission. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

For many people, these words function as a *modus operandi* for faith. It's not something we keep. It's something we share. At the conclusion of the gospel, and the end of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances in Matthew, Jesus tells his followers to "go" and "make disciples." In the parlance of twentieth-century American Christianity, this translated into "Grow your church!" However, it seems much closer to Matthew 5:15, "Don't hide your light under a basket. Let it shine for everyone to see." Being a Christ-follower isn't a secret.

So how do we do it? Pray for opportunities to share your faith. Ask God to lead you into circumstances in which you can tell someone about your beliefs without turning them off. By seeking these opportunities, and asking for the Spirit to guide your path, we find them. The Matthew 7:7 adage, "Seek and you shall find," plays out repeatedly throughout life.

We begin by praying about it. Then, we open our eyes and trust the Spirit to guide us.

The next step is to cultivate your mission field. This isn't about evangelistic zeal or *winning converts*. It's about having something worth sharing and being confident enough to share it. Cultivating your mission field means looking around at who is in your orbit. Sometimes it begins at home with our family. This doesn't mean bludgeoning our loved ones with the Roman Road to Salvation. It can mean praying for them and loving them where they are. The old saying "Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words" seems to apply here.

When we open ourselves to divine appointments, they happen. When we look for opportunities to share our faith, we find them. I was talking with several neighbors recently, and we were talking about Christmas music. I talked about our choir, organ, and other instrumentalists. Then, I asked if anyone liked to sing. Several people said yes, so I invited them to come and sing with us. They might come. They might not. Either way, the first step in the Great Commission is "Go." Maybe that's the hardest step of all, but it's one that all people of faith can take.

Peace,
Matt

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, October 18, 2026
11:00 AM
Sermon:
Struggling With the Wrong Thing
Dr. Matthew Tennant
Scripture:
Matthew 22:15-22
Anthems:
Ancient Words
Lynn DeShazo
Show Us How to Love
Mark Miller

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Raynell Stokes
Ushers: Cindy Bryant, Colleen Baber
College Dinner: No dinner this week.
Sign up here to provide a dinner.



Third quarter giving statements are going out this week. If you do not receive yours, either through email or print, or you have questions, please let **Amanda** know.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Oct. 17: Vicki Miller
Oct. 20: Linda Boston
Oct. 21: Brian Miller
Oct. 25: Christian Proffitt
Oct. 26: Raynell Stokes, Amy Song

Visioning Prayers Update
October 8

We had 8 people in attendance for our Visioning Prayers session last week. Matt opened with a meditation called Sacred Space. Scripture shared: Luke 11:5-13 followed by communal prayer. Ideas shared: Look more closely at our surrounding neighborhood to know how to serve them; be supportive of our new minister and help her grow her area; better advertise our church events and outside events to the community.

You're invited to join on zoom any Thursday morning from 10:00-10:15. Zoom link.

Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News yesterday. He appears on WINA once per month to provide some commentary on the news from a faith perspective. They discussed the concerns older church members have about recruiting the next generation as well as whether or not people truly have hope in the midst of difficult times. In case you missed it, you can **hear the interview here.**

Next week there are two blood drives here at UBC in the Fellowship Hall.
Tuesday, October 20 from 12:00 - 5:00 sponsored by the UVA Nursing School and Thursday, October 22 from 10:00 - 4:00 sponsored by UVA Club Tennis.
Click **here** to sign up for a time slot.

Young Adults Group

The Young Adults Group will begin meeting at various homes every other Monday evening at 6:30 beginning October 19. Contact **Dean** or **Hadessah** Tennant for more information.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, October 14
9:00 Work Team
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Wednesday Night Program
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, October 15
10:00 Visioning Prayers

FRIDAY, October 16
1:30 Stewardship Committee Meeting
5:00 Jubilate Retreat

SUNDAY, October 18
8:30 Finance Committee Meeting
9:30 Seekers Bible Study
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Bagel Brunch

MONDAY, October 19
4:00 Theology Reading Group
7:15 Women's Book Study

TUESDAY, October 20
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

For our most up-to-date calendar, click here.



Ice Cream Summer Ministry

Our ice cream summer ministry is over for this year, although there are occasional special events where we bring out the ice cream machine during the year. We are looking for people who are willing to serve on the Ice Cream Team. It's not difficult or complicated, but it's very popular, a lot of fun, and involves eating ice cream. If you are interested, please contact **Larry Johnson**.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Ed & Betty Barker

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Margie Howell

Renfro & Sandy Manning

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Amy Teachey

Barbara Weber

Jane Whitworth

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

Congregational Activities Google Calendar

Support UBC's young people by attending their extracurricular activities like plays, concerts, sporting events, and more. Let Amanda know if you want to be added to the Congregational Activities Google Calendar, so that you can be informed about upcoming events. And if you or your young person has an activity coming up, let us know so that we can add it to the calendar.



Come for dinner tomorrow evening, Wednesday, October 14, 5:15pm followed by Celtic Evening Liturgy at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall, and Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 6:30 in the Music Suite.

Menu:
Pastor's Vegetarian Chili
Salad
Bread
Dessert
(No charge for dinner this week!)

Call the church office to register.

SPARC
SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS RESOURCE COUNCIL

The Suicide Prevention Awareness Resource Council is holding a 5K Walk and Run on Saturday, October 17 at 9am at East End Farm in Louisa, VA. University Baptist Church has created a team for participants. To sign up, click this link and choose the University Baptist Church team. This event is free, but you can buy the t-shirt for $25 and they welcome donations.
100% of event proceeds go to local suicide prevention efforts through SPARC, a group of concerned citizens, professionals, and partner agencies who convene with a common goal of reducing the number of suicides in our area.

Cavalier Food Pantry Collection

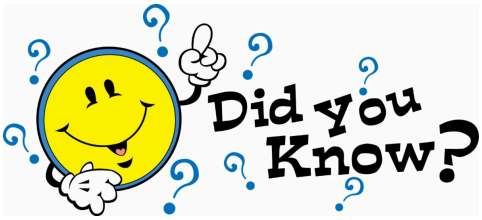
When University Baptist Church moved to its current location near the University Corner in 1929, our founders did so (even renaming the church) as a commitment to serving the University of Virginia community. We continue that mission today with our student ministry, etc.

Our own Val (Fisk) Hassard, as Basic Needs Case Manager at the Cavalier Food Pantry, deals daily with students whose needs for food and other items go unmet when budgets are stressed too thin to buy basic necessities including food and hygiene products. The Cavalier Food Pantry exists to meet those needs.

UBC's Kittie Colvin Trail Circle has decided to collect items on behalf of the Cavalier Food Pantry during the month of October. There is a bin in the 1st floor hallway outside of the church office to collect these items. Below is a list of some of the most needed items.

- Canned or Pouched Tuna
- Canned or Pouched Chicken
- Pantry Staples (such as flour, sugar, dried spices, salt & pepper)
- Snacks
- Spaghetti/noodles
- Feminine Hygiene Items (Pads & Tampons)
- Hygiene Items (such as shampoo, soap, shower gels, deodorant)
- (Pads & Tampons)
- Hygiene Items (such as shampoo, soap, shower gels, deodorant)

Please consider donating some of these items so that our University student neighbors can concentrate on their education and not how to afford the basics. If you prefer, you can order the items on Amazon using their **Wish List** and indicate "UBC drive" as additional info. These items will be shipped directly to the Cavalier Food Pantry.





Did you know that UVA offers Nia Moving to Heal classes free for cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, and staff, both online and in-person, led by certified Nia master teacher Susan Tate. Their in-person classes are held here at UBC in our Fellowship Hall monthly on Mondays at 12:00 pm.

Nia is a holistic movement practice blending dance, martial arts, and mindfulness. The Moving to Heal format is designed to be non-impact, adaptable to all abilities, and done barefoot, using 52 simple moves to connect body, mind, emotions, and spirit.

The picture above is a celebration they had last week to commemorate nine years of classes here at UBC.

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
Church Administrator: Alan Hendricks - ahendricks@universitybaptist.org
Communications Coordinator: Hadessah Johnson Tennant– socialmedia@universitybaptist.org
Organist: Barbara Moore - call the church office at 434-293-5106
Maintenance Assistants: Hunter Cooper & Jay Hendricks - 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 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.

Do you have something to submit to our weekly newsletter?
Suggestions must be submitted to linda@universitybaptist.org by Monday at noon.

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
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434-293-5106

Connect with us