



August 5, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 30

WATCH God's Pleasures

Recently, my daily devotion opened, "When I come into your presence, O Lord, I know I am in the presence of my creator. You created me out of love. You even know the number of hairs on my head. Your presence, O Lord, is the greatest gift of all."

What makes God happy? Too often, our culture pushes the question, "What makes *me* happy?" If we pause from the busyness of daily life and reflect on being in God's presence, we might wander into the question, "What makes God happy?"

This simple question can lead us down a rabbit hole of exploration. According to Psalm 147:11, God is happy when we put our trust in the Lord. In John 10:10, Jesus said he came so we could have an abundant life, so God is happy when we explore and embody this "abundant life." In Romans 14:17, God's happiness connects with our aspiration to live righteous lives. The Bible is full of clues about God's happiness. Teasing out these clues can help us grow and consider our spiritual lives alongside everything else pulling and tugging on us, demanding our attention.

Seeking God's pleasures often leads to experiencing something good. For example, following Psalm 147:11, when we put our trust in the Lord, we stop trying to do everything on our own. We start to realize that we are God's children and can trust in a loving creator who cares for us. It's even possible that we might worry less as our faith increases. The second example, John 10:10, pointing to an "abundant life," provides ample

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, August 10, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Finding Faith

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Anthems:

Yesu Kwetu Ni Rafiki

arr. Mark Burrows

Keep Your Lamps

Trimmed and Burning

arr. Jay Althouse

Baptism:

We will celebrate the baptism
of Ingrid Flaherty

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Laura Morris

Ushers: Cindy Bryant, Shirley Clark

Jazz Sunday!

This Sunday, August 10, we will get to experience a taste of Jazz Vespers in the morning. The choir and congregational singing will be supported by a jazz quartet including Dean Tennant on piano, Bobby Gregg on saxophone, Dhara Goradia on bass, and Stephan LaRue on drums.

opportunity to explore both God's pleasures and our own.

Happiness is fleeting. It comes and goes. However, the "abundant life" of communing with the creator of all can lead to something deeper. By seeking God's pleasure, we grow in our spiritual lives. One of the biggest lessons I learned over the last three months of my sabbatical, especially during my time in Bolivia, is to appreciate everything we have. This lesson in gratitude will not last if I don't foster it. It also isn't exclusive to someone who has been away or spent a month in Bolivia. We can all develop our gratitude, and when we do, we grow in righteousness (Romans 14:17). Like trusting God and living an abundant life, growing in righteousness brings God pleasure.

Have you felt God's presence today? Have you experienced that notion of being created in love? "Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 107).

Peace,
Matt



For the last three years, Rev. Tommy Deal has blessed our church as the volunteer Education Coordinator. He helped kick-off Sunday Bible Study (SBS) in the fall of 2022 after our pandem-

ic hiatus. He organized events to help each small group start the new year. He checked in with teachers/facilitators, answered questions, offered suggestions for study materials, and arranged for substitutes when needed. His work had an impact on spiritual formation in our church family and words cannot capture our appreciation for his work.

Since this role of Education Coordinator didn't formally exist before Tommy started doing it, the Church Council is exploring what it will look like in the future. If you have any suggestions, want to volunteer for this role, or know someone who would be good at it, please share them with the Church Council chairperson Diane Mundell. For now, we celebrate Tommy's work and extend our deepest appreciation to him.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, August 6

9:00 Work Team
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Sabbatical Presentation
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, August 10

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

TUESDAY, August 12

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

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



Wednesday, August 6
Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m.

After dinner we will hear more from Matt about his sabbatical.

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars for some upcoming events in the life of the church. On Wednesday, August 20, we will have a town hall meeting at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall to hear about the work JARC has been doing to update our By-Laws and Constitution. Then on Wednesday, August 27, at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall, we will vote on these updates.



During this week's worship service we will also bless all children and youth as they prepare to begin classes on August 13.



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, strawberry, & grilled donuts!***

New Door Code System

Our new door code system has been installed. We are in the process of transferring door codes into the new system. If you currently have a door code, it will work, but with slight alterations. Your altered code will be the last four digits of your current code preceded by the # sign. We will get them transferred as quickly as possible. If you have any problems with the new system, let the office know.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Aug. 13: Diane Woerner, Betty Barker

Aug. 14: Kevin Wright, Galen Tackett

Aug. 15: Colleen Baber

Aug. 18: Theo Gregg

Aug. 19: Sam Hellings



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

Do you have an Act of Service to submit to help us reach our goal?

Take a picture of your Act of Service and then [fill out this form](#) to tell us about it. If you are having trouble with the form or need to turn in your information a different way, contact [Amanda](#).



A huge thank you to everyone involved with making our first ever Music Camp a wonderful success. The kids had a great time and were an awesome addition to our Sunday morning worship service.

Another huge thank you to everyone involved in making our combined choir experience with Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church and the United Gospel Choir from Besancon, France such a wonderful and meaningful experience. This was an event we will long remember and may lead to additional ministry opportunities in the future.



State Missions Offering

Each year we collect a special offering to support missions in the state of Virginia. This August, our missions emphasis will support the chaplain ministry at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for women. Our goal is \$3,000. You can give on our website or by mailing a check to the church. (Make the check

out to University Baptist Church and write State Missions in the "for" line). Here is some information from Chaplain Jerusha Tiller, whose ministry our offering will support.

Dear friends,

Due to "separation of church and state," GracelInside is a nonprofit Christian ministry that places chaplains inside Virginia's prisons so that lives may be transformed through the grace of Jesus Christ. As a GracelInside chaplain, I am dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of all residents of Virginia's state prisons. I currently serve in Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, providing one-on-one pastoral care, conducting worship services, and working with the Department of Corrections staff in offering rehabilitative programs. I am also responsible for scheduling all religious programs conducted by volunteers representing many faith traditions. In addition, I serve as the supervising Chaplain of Central Virginia, which includes Coffeewood, Beaumont, Buckingham, Dillwyn, CVC Unit 13, State Farm, Nottaway, and Virginia Correctional Center for women.

As the temperature gets cooler and the leaves change color, I am reminded that God's mercies are new every morning; God continues to work patiently in our lives, transforming us, and sanctifying us to the likeness of the image of God's Son, Jesus. What an honor it is to partner with the Savior bringing faith, hope, and love to incarcerated men and women, as Christ says in Matthew 25, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Bio: Chaplain Tiller is an ordained Baptist minister. She completed her master's degree in divinity and a doctorate degree in ministry at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. She majored in biblical studies and obtained a master's degree in theology at the Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. She taught World Religions as adjunct faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her doctoral project was in the field of grief and loss. She lives in Richmond with her eighteen-year-old daughter, a stage 4 cancer survivor, and her husband Martin Tiller and his daughter. Her grandparents were a major influence on her life. They retired from the Department of Corrections in India and told her bedtime stories of their work in Corrections. The stories took deep root in her impressionable heart and are the reason for her passion for prison ministry today.

Meet Our New Deacons

We are grateful to announce the election of four new deacons to serve a three-year term on the Deacon Council: 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.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Leon & Nancy Castle
Johnny & Gail Ellen
Ray & Nancy Gaines
David & Linda Hendon
Doc & Sarah Litchfield
Larry & Lynn Martin
Edith Parker
Kaylee Risell
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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.

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
Social Media Coordinator: Alaysia Toney - 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.

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Connect with us

