



June 17, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 24



As Matt nears the final stretch of his sabbatical, an unexpected shift in plans has brought him from the open sea to a quiet cabin in the mountains. An injury to his arm has made sailing temporarily impossible, but the journey of rest and renewal continues—just in a different setting.

Surrounded by the stillness of the mountains, Matt is spending his days reading, reflecting, and writing. The slower pace and change of scenery offer new opportunities for listening to God's voice, for noticing the beauty of creation, and for nurturing the spirit in solitude.

This season has not been without its challenges. Plans have shifted, and expectations have had to adapt. Yet Matt remains faithful to the purpose of this sabbatical: to listen, to grow, and to create space for God's leading. His writing continues, shaped now by the quiet wisdom of mountain mornings and the unhurried rhythm of retreat.

One of the most meaningful aspects of this time has been freedom from noise—not just the sounds of daily life, but the inner noise we all carry. Whether on water or land, Matt is discovering that silence is not absence—it is invitation. A place where clarity emerges and God speaks.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, June 22, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Rev. Michelle Jones

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Anthem:

Fill-a-Me Up by Pepper Choplin

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Peter Ohlms

Ushers: Jackie Lockwood, Brian Guyton



Rev. Michelle Jones

*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. Michelle Jones.***

How can we pray for Matt this week?

Pray for healing of his arm, for continued inspiration in his writing, and for peace in this unexpected chapter of sabbatical.

This week's spiritual challenge:

Embrace the gift of silence. Take a few minutes each day to be still—without a screen, a task, or a soundtrack. Simply breathe and listen. Trust that God meets us in the quiet. As Matt listens for God in the mountains, may we do the same wherever we are. The journey continues—and so does the invitation to grow.



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.**



Michelle Jones had a passion for sharing God's love, even as a young child, practicing baptism and directing the choir in the kitchen with her grandmother. This passion grew as she traveled throughout Virginia and abroad as an Acteen Activator. She graduated from Duke Divinity School in 1996 with a Masters in Religious Education and later from Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in 2013. She worked in various roles from Children's Minister to Pastor while in the church and met Melanie, Matt, Dean and Eddie while at BTSR. Michelle is currently working as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, specializing in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Play Therapy. She appreciates the importance of walking with people as they move toward more meaningful lives.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, June 18

9:00 Work Team
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Journey Together Program
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, June 19

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, June 20

11:30 UBC Youth River Tubing

SATURDAY, June 21

11:00 Margaret Fitch Memorial Service
12:00 Reception

SUNDAY, June 22

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
3:00 Churchwide Picnic

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



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.



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 lemon and raspberry!*



We will gather tomorrow, June 18, in the Fellowship Hall for dinner at 5:30 followed by our continuing program of Journey Together.

Our menu will be:

Beef Ragu
Rigatoni
Roasted Asparagus
Mixed green salad
Dessert TBD

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

The Sanctuary Choir will rehearse at 7:00.



Our Journey Together

Join us this Wednesday night for the next leg of our Journey Together! We'll learn about the first disciples, men and women called to follow Jesus and serve others, using their gifts. Come for dinner and stick around for fellowship, conversation, and creativity! This intergenerational program will be followed by family choir rehearsal, then regular Sanctuary Choir rehearsal with childcare. See you there!

"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



78 Years Ago

On January 5, 1947, the bulletin carried Dr. Cook's observation that 1946 had been "a good year for us, and 1947 should be better...WE ARE OUT OF DEBT!" On February 9, 1947, a special service was held to rededicate the building and burn the mortgage note. Roy Thomas Sr. (Roy Thomas' grandfather) was the treasurer at the time and is shown in the above photo participating in the burning of the mortgage note. A photograph of the occasion appeared on the cover of *The Religious Herald* on February 27, 1947.



UBC will provide chicken and drinks. You are invited to bring a side and/or a dessert.

Please note the date change!



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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

June 27: Ray Nell Lonvick, Tyen Tackett, Jesse Dowdy

June 29: Carolyn Lowry

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

Friends & Family of Margaret Fitch as they make plans to celebrate her life.

David & Linda Hendon

Doc & Sarah Litchfield

Larry & Lynn Martin

Friends & Family of Mary Ella McCauley on her passing 6-5-25

Edith Parker

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

Friends and Family of Bill Wood on his passing 6-9-25

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



A memorial service for [Margaret Fitch](#) will be held Saturday, June 21, 11:00 at UBC with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. If you are able to help with food for the reception, please [click here](#).

Traffic Advisory: A full road closure will be placed on Barracks Road between Meadowbrook and Hilltop Roads between the hours of 7 AM - 7 PM, Saturday, June 21. Expect delays and follow posted detours.

Bill Wood and his wife Wendy were active UBC non-members for 20 years until Bill's health kept them from attending church. Bill passed away at Martha Jefferson Hospital on June 9. Arrangements for the service and burial are being handled out-of-town.



Collection for the University of Virginia Hospital Hospitality House

Through the month of June, the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle is 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.

The Hospitality House staff have sent a thank-you note for the first collection of items that were dropped off (see below). Thank you for your generosity!

Click [here](#) for an updated wish list and to read the thank-you note!



We have a softball team!

UBC's softball team is part of the Charlottesville Church

Softball League. They have a bye this week. 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.

2025 Deacon Election

Our 2025 Deacon Election is now concluded. Thank you to all of you who took the time to vote for your new deacons. After the votes are tallied and phone calls made, we will share the results with you.

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

University Baptist Church
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Connect with us

