



April 29, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 17



SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, May 5, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

A Library of Stories

Pastor Anna Rullan-Garcia

Scripture:

1 Timothy 3:16-17

Anthem:

Ancient Words

arr. By Craig Courtney

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Ray Gaines, Rachel Miller

Ushers: Shirley Clark, Ed Barker

Matt Tennant remains in Bonaire this week, continuing the intentional work of resting, reading, praying, and writing. After the initial days of unplugging, he's now diving deeper—both spiritually and literally! Matt has been swimming and scuba diving in the clear Caribbean waters, enjoying the island's natural beauty while pondering the sacredness of creation.

This week, he's immersing himself in theological reflection, exploring the themes of ecological responsibility and universal grace through his reading. His writing on *Marine Theology* is beginning to take shape as he considers the ocean not just as a vast ecosystem, but as a metaphor for God's love and cleansing grace—baptizing the whole world, renewing it again and again. He's also journaling and praying, listening closely for what God might be saying in this season of stillness.



**Pastor Anna
Rullan-Garcia**

*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 **Pastor Anna Rullan-Garcia**.*

Meanwhile, back in Charlottesville, we're continuing our journey, too. While Matt is surrounded by sea and sky, we are surrounded by neighbors, family, coworkers, and church friends—each offering us opportunities to live out our faith in ordinary but powerful ways.

How can we pray for Matt this week?

Pray that his creative energy would flow freely, that the Spirit would guide his words as he writes. Pray that he continues to feel refreshed and grounded as he spends extended time in nature and solitude.



This week's spiritual challenge:

After scuba diving at the "1000 Steps" dive site in Bonaire, Matt was inspired to share a video sermon, describing watching a school of scad fish swimming tightly together—moving as one body to protect each other and thrive. This vision led him to reflect on how the metaphor of "walking with Christ" can sometimes fall short—and how "swimming with Christ" might better capture the beauty of community and shared direction.

This week, consider: Are you swimming with Christ—and with your community of faith—or swimming against the current? How can you encourage unity, support others, and move in step with the Spirit? Read 1 John 2 and reflect on what it means to know Jesus by doing what he taught, even when it requires staying connected to the group. Dive deeper and watch Matt's sermon for deeper insight: [Swimming with Christ](#). Together, we journey on—strengthened by Christ, swimming in the same direction, and listening for God's voice.

Pastor Anna is a native of Dallas, Texas. Her history of service includes higher education institutions, parachurch organizations, and churches. She is passionate about the intersection between theology, race, and the body. Anna has a Master of Higher Education Administration from Texas A&M University-Commerce and Master of Divinity degree from Baylor University's Truett Seminary. She enjoys coffee shops, reading, salsa dancing, cooking, and exploring national parks and museums with her two sons and husband, Jose, in Washington, DC.



Custodial Update

As we continue to appreciate the good work that Thomas Hill did for many years maintaining our building, we are tackling how to continue that work. We have contracted with Buenos Dias Cleaners to do the daily cleaning, trash collection, etc. They will also provide other services such as waxing floors as needed.

We have recently hired Hunter Cooper to assist with maintenance. Hunter is a student at PVCC, and his family are all contributors to the life of UBC. We welcome him in this new role. Hunter is focusing on outside maintenance such as leaf removal, mulching, bush trimming, and general cleanup. Hunter is also assisting with preparing for events such as when tables need to be set up.

We remain conscious of our custodial budgets, and additional tasks are being handled by the work team and the staff, and we can always use volunteers for special projects. Two projects for this summer are to paint the railings around the building and shampooing carpets. Please contact [Linda](#) or [Alan](#) if you would like to help or have maintenance concerns.



The United Gospel Choir is Coming!

This Wednesday is our annual Church-wide Cookout in the front parking lot. In case of rain, we will eat in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend. The menu will be hamburgers, hotdogs, and sides. You can register to attend [here](#).

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
Melvin & Mildred Spicer
Bob & Joyce Tennant
David Waters on the passing of his brother
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

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 pineapple with mango!***

New Signage

Back in February, the U.S. District Court of Maryland issued a ruling that blocks ICE (and all Department of Homeland Security agents) from entering houses of worship to carry out enforcement operations unless they have first obtained a warrant signed by a judge or there are exigent circumstances. This ruling is limited to the named plaintiffs in the lawsuit. This includes all CBF partner churches, the Sikh Temple Sacramento and six Quaker Meetings. This decision effectively restores the sensitive location policy that had been revoked by the interim secretary of DHS, ensuring that houses of worship remain free from warrantless government raids. It means that CBF congregations like ours can now continue to worship and minister without the fear of unexpected enforcement actions. The ruling validates the longstanding Baptist commitment to religious liberty, local church autonomy, and the separation of church and state. To notify enforcement agents, the University Baptist Church's Church Council voted to place signage at each of our entrances. If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Church Council or one of the ministers.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

May 8: Richard Vaughan, Rozelia Dowdy

May 9: Sue Whitt

May 10: Bill Cromwell

May 11: Michael Cheuk

May 12: Vicki Tackett

May 13: Eddy Tennant, Michelle Turner, Claire Turney



125 Acts of Service

"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

IDEAS FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS LARGE AND SMALL

- Plant a tree
- Read to an elderly or disabled friend/neighbor
- Donate blood
- Collect used eyeglasses for donation
- Volunteer at the SPCA (ages 14+)
- Donate to the UVA Community Food Pantry

Your own ideas are welcomed!!

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](#).



Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News. He appears on WINA once per month to provide commentary on the news from a faith perspective. This month he joined the program to discuss our Holy Week services and more. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).



We have a softball team!

UBC's softball team is part of the Charlottesville Church Softball League. They open on Friday, May 9. They play their games at McIntire or Darden Towe and always welcome new players. 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.



88 Years Ago

On December 8, 1937, the church building at 1223 West Main Street, which was valued at \$200,000 was sold in foreclosure at auction to First and Merchants National Bank for \$60,000.

The sale took place at the church. It was made clear that the congregation would not be able to rent the building or remove anything from it. A request by the congregation to remove the communion table was denied. "It is of significance that the single request was for the symbolic table about which the church gathered".

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, April 30

- 9:00 Work Team
- 12:00 Ice Cream Ministry
- 5:30 Church-wide Cookout
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, May 4

- 8:30 Church Council Meeting
- 9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
- 9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
- 11:00 Morning Worship
- 12:00 College Bagel Brunch

TUESDAY, May 6

- 1:00 125th Banquet Planning Mtg.
- 7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Meeting
- 7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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





2024 Missions Discretionary Fund

For the past six years, the Missions Council has included a Missions Discretionary Fund in our missions budget to allow us to address needs that come up during the course of the year, both in our neighborhood and around the world. We spend time in each of our monthly meetings discussing ideas for how the money could be used. Sometimes the money is sent to help with needs of an ongoing nature, but at other times an opportunity presents itself to do something right now that can have an immediate impact. Thank you for the opportunity to share with the following organizations on your behalf in 2024.

- A. \$4,286.69 to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Disaster Response Fund to assist with the relief efforts needed as a result of Hurricane Helene.
- B. \$500 to Baptist News Global, an independent faith-based e-newsletter (that anyone can sign up to receive via email).
- C. \$500 to help support John Grant, one of our Jubilate students, in his mission work in Bulgaria last summer.
- D. \$240.71 to purchase supplies to fill toiletry kit bags during our family mission project last summer. The toiletry kits went to the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, and Chaplain Jerusha Tiller was able to join us that evening as we packed the bags.
- E. \$72.60 went to our prayer shawl ministry group to help purchase supplies for their projects.

As we are considering uses for the 2025 Missions Discretionary Fund, we invite you to share any ideas or suggestions that you have with any member of the council (Diane Mundell, Jen May, Sarah Buchanan, Jackie Lockwood, Colleen Baber, Theresa Guyton, Judy Shah)

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
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Charlottesville, VA 22903
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Connect with us

