



August 19, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 32

## **ON WATCH** A Quiet Crisis of Faith

Looking around churches across the country, the number of people who attend each week is smaller than it was a few decades ago. People are leaving churches. It doesn't matter the theology, worship style, church structure, or anything else. One thing all faith communities share is a smaller number of participants than in the past. Our church is no exception.

For the most part, the people who used to be involved haven't died. They haven't moved abroad. They did not all join another church. In most cases, in most places, people quietly drifted away.

In one of my earliest conversations in ministry, a group of congregants asked, "What are you going to do to attract new people?" My answer was about community and transformation. If we build a vibrant community, invite others to join us, and all experience transformation in Christ, then we will be fine. God is bigger than the church. In fact, God doesn't need the church. We need the church because that's where we grow in faith, find opportunities to serve in God's name, and, most importantly, worship God.

Since the pandemic, more people have drifted away. This is where I look around today and wonder if people ever experience a *quiet crisis of faith*. Maybe they don't feel like they have given up on God or stopped believing. Maybe they retain some fondness for who the church is or what it has meant to them in the past. Yet they are no longer a part of it. Something about church,

## **SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP**

Sunday, August 24, 2025  
11:00 AM

### **Sermon:**

The Two Towers  
Dr. Matthew Tennant

### **Scripture:**

Hebrews 12:18-29

### **Anthems:**

*God's Going to Build Up Zion's Walls*  
arr. by John Carter  
*Hold On to the Rock*  
by Pepper Choplin

## **SUNDAY SERVICE**

**Deacon:** Jimmy Li

**Ushers:** Erin Eaker, Brian Guyton

**College Dinners:** Will resume on Aug. 31.

Click [here](#) to provide a dinner for our college students. (Or contact the church office at 434-293-5106).

## **Welcome Our Newest Member!**

Ingrid Flaherty was baptized and became a member of UBC on Sunday, August 10. Ingrid, an active member of our Sanctuary Choir, just graduated from Monticello High School and is heading off to Vanderbilt University to study music. Let's officially welcome Ingrid into our UBC family and wish her well as she leaves for Vanderbilt.

habits, schedules, structures, or other variables no longer motivate them to make participating in a faith family a regular part of their lives.

Why? This is the million-dollar question, and it's where we could have some interesting conversations. I would love to hear from people who used to be active. I want to learn how their faith has evolved. It would be great to discover what changed. What was different 10 or 20 years ago?

Any crisis of faith, no matter how big or small, is real. Though I don't have all the answers, I can listen and walk with you. Have you experienced this kind of crisis? Have you seen others experience it? Did you gain any insights? Do you have ideas about why active members of the church family flow away? Is it about belief? I would love to hear from you.

Peace,  
Matt

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### Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News last week. He appears on WINA once per month to provide some commentary on the news from a faith perspective. He talked about the importance of loving your neighbor and how an overseas trip this summer reminded him of the values of gratitude and generosity. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).

## Help to Welcome Our UVA Students Back!

UVA classes begin on Tuesday, August 26. To welcome our students back to town we are hosting a welcome event following worship on Sunday, August 24. We will offer students welcome gifts, serve lunch, and play outdoor games. We will also give the students a blessing for the new school year in worship. If you would like to help make this event a success, please consider these options to participate.

1. Loan your outdoor games to UBC for the day.
2. Be a welcome presence during the event.
3. Help clean up.

Please email [Megan](#) to offer your support.

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Wednesday, August 20  
Dinner starts  
at 5:30 p.m.

Our Menu will be:

*Fried Chicken*  
*Macaroni & Cheese*  
*Green Beans*  
*Tossed Salad*  
*Lemon Pound Cake*

After dinner we will have a Town Hall meeting to discuss JARC's work with updating the By-Laws and Constitution.

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

## Prayer Requests\*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill  
Tony & Patti Barretta  
Alba & Pam Beasley  
Clara Brown  
Leon & Nancy Castle  
Johnny & Gail Ellen  
David & Linda Hendon  
Sarah Litchfield & Family on the death of Hugh 'Doc' Litchfield  
Larry & Lynn Martin  
Edith Parker  
Kaylee Risell  
Barbara Weber  
Jack & Anne Wilkerson  
Martha Wood

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



### 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 orange and mango!***

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, August 20

9:00 Work Team  
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry  
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner  
6:00 Town Hall Meeting  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, August 21

7:00 Deacons' Meeting

### SUNDAY, August 24

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class  
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study  
11:00 Morning Worship  
12:00 Student Welcome Event

### MONDAY, August 25

12:30 Missions Council Meeting

### TUESDAY, August 26

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

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



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

**Aug. 19:** David Turner

**Aug. 28:** Val Fisk

**Aug. 30:** Jim Martindale

**Aug. 31:** Amanda Ohlms

**Sept. 1:** Wayne Bragg

**Sept. 2:** Jim Spence



## Book Drive

### Book Baskets of Charlottesville

The book drive for Book Baskets of Charlottesville, sponsored by the Seekers Class, starts this weekend and will go through September 14. Baskets for your book donations will be in the church beginning this Sunday, August 24. One basket will be in the first-floor hallway, one will be in the second-floor hallway, and one will be on the fellowship hall stage.

Book Baskets welcomes books for children from newborns to teenagers, with an emphasis on elementary school aged kids. New or lightly used books are accepted but 'lightly used' means clean enough to look new – no names or writing in them please. Non-fiction or science books need to be published since the year 2000.

In 2024, Book Baskets distributed 22,000 books to kids in our area. In the next few weeks, please find some time to spend in a bookstore or browsing through your own library to find some books to contribute to this mission. Let's help kids start their own libraries and let's encourage them to read.



We're having a church workday on Saturday, September 6 from 9:00 - 2:00. Come anytime and stay as long as you like. No special skills necessary, just a desire to help keep our campus and building looking great. There is something for everyone!



*"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

### 125th Anniversary Banquet

The 125th Anniversary Banquet Committee is collecting strings of white lights to decorate the Fellowship Hall for the October 11 dinner. Please bring any lights you would like to donate for the occasion and place them in the box outside of the church office.



### Help feed our college students this year!

Our Sunday night dinners not only feed Jubilate members at 5:30 each Sunday evening, but we also invite ALL college students to come eat dinner! Help us provide home-cooked and delicious meals for our group as UBC cares for our UVA neighbors. Sign up as a family, a Bible study group, or grab a friend to come help you with set up and clean up. Click [here](#) to pick your week.



## 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 an article published earlier this year about Chaplain Jerusha Tiller, whose ministry our offering will support.

## Sharing the Light

COVID hit institutions hard: schools, childcare programs, hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, and prisons were affected. At Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, we had additional challenges like staffing shortages of both officers and volunteers, and as a result, our religious programs were affected. Our program numbers dwindled as schedules shifted, older preachers refrained from entering the prison systems, and inmates struggled to find the strength to beat these challenges.

Life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful. In the summer of 2023, after the worst wave of COVID passed, 38 inmates recommitted their lives to Christ. Some accepted Jesus for the very first time. Both Protestants and Messianic Jews reached out to me to be baptized in the "pool" we have in the Chaplain's office. Today, 6 months later, looking at some pictures, I see Inmate Byrd who passed away last week after an illness. She testified to the saving grace of Jesus in her life while she was doing well. She gave her witness in our church of 100 inmates every time she was discharged from the hospital. He who began a good work in us, is faithful to complete it, in due season. Weeping may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

## 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.

We will ordain Eddy Tennant and install the other newly elected deacons this Sunday, Aug. 24, during worship. Please join us in giving thanks for these four individuals and praying for them as they begin this important work.

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## 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.

*University Baptist Church*  
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Connect with us

