



September 30, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 38

ON WATCH What Do You Say to a Mass Shooter?

Each person who commits a horrific act of violence existed before they became known as “the shooter.” They had conversations. People knew them. They interacted with people, and they consumed news, entertainment, social media posts, and public signage. What happened? What series of events leads a person to become a mass shooter?

On Sunday, a [gunman opened fire at a church in Michigan](#). At least 4 people are dead. The gunman allegedly set the building on fire, too. I cannot imagine the words that could comfort those who are struggling with this senseless violence. We repeatedly say this happens too often in our country, yet we as a population do nothing to stop it.

As I thought about this latest act of violence, I thought about the shooter. Before Sunday, what was going through his mind? What interactions did he have? If one of us were speaking with him, what would we say? Of more significance, because we could encounter a future mass shooter, what do we say in the interactions we have? Is it possible to say something that might redirect the course of “the shooter’s” life? Is it possible to do it in such a way that the person does not become “the shooter”?

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, September 28, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Chesapeake Requiem

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 16:19-31

Anthems:

Set Me As a Seal by René Clausen

Poor Man Lazarus

African-American Spiritual

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Ray Gaines, Peter Ohlms

Ushers: Jimmy Li, Amy Song

College Dinner: Jackie Lockwood

Click [here](#) to provide a dinner for our college students.



Help feed our college students this year!

5:30 Sunday night college dinners are for Jubilate

members and UBC college students. Help provide delicious meals for students as a way to care for our UVA neighbors. Sign up as a family, a Bible study group, or grab a friend to help you with set up and clean up. There are now separate sign ups for providing food and/or hosting. Click [here](#) to pick your date.

I don't know the answer to these questions, and it would be preposterous to think anyone does. Here's what we do know though. Jesus said to be the "salt" and "light" (Matthew 5:13-14). He also said, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9). In our epistle lesson from Sunday, Paul reminds us that there is no law against the fruits of the spirit. "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Would being the salt and light, reminding people "Blessed are the peacemakers," or embodying the fruits of the spirit stop a shooter? Maybe. I don't know.

If, instead of judging or telling people how they fall short or don't belong, every person who professed to follow Christ tried to be the salt and light, the world could have a different impression of Christianity. I don't know if it would stop the violence, but it couldn't hurt. Rumi, the great Sufi poet, once said, "Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself." I don't know if we can stop the violence but trying to be the salt and light might be a good place to start.

Peace,
Matt



Come to Jazz Vespers on Friday, October 3 at 5:30pm. This casual worship experience will feature UBC musician Bobby Gregg on saxophone with local musicians Dhara Goradia on bass, Stephan Larue on drums, and Eric Franzen on piano. Childcare is provided during the service. This is a great event to invite a friend or neighbor to attend.



UBC City of Promise Partnership

For a number of years, UBC has sponsored a food ministry to Venable, now Trailblazer, Elementary School. This year we are beginning a partnership with City of Promise, a non-profit organization whose "goal is to make a positive impact on generational poverty and support a culture of achievement through child-centered, dual generation family self-sufficiency initiatives in Charlottesville."

City of Promise partners with the City Schools and is beginning a program this year to reach Trailblazer students, specifically the Westhaven community. UBC is excited to begin this journey as we learn how best to serve these students by providing weekend meals for them and their families. We will shop for shelf-ready food, and City of Promise will add eggs, bread, and other fresh food items to the bags.

We hope you will support this ministry by praying, donating money, and helping to fill bags at our 125th Anniversary Day of Service on October 4th!

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.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Judy Shah

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



UBCKids Choir

UBCKids Choir is happening on Sunday mornings this fall. Sheri Owen is leading the elementary children in a time for music on Sunday mornings as part of their Bible Study. They will sing seasonal songs and songs that coordinate with the Bible stories they are learning. The children will offer some of their songs in worship when they are ready. A huge thank you to Sheri for offering her time and talent.



Day of Service - October 4
10:00 - 12:00 noon
UBC Fellowship Hall

As part of our **125 Acts of Service**, we invite you to join us for a hands-on morning of service and fellowship. Together, we'll make a difference for our community and beyond by working on several meaningful projects:

- **Create toiletry kits** for Fluvanna Correctional Center for women
- **Assemble food bags** for Trailblazer school
- **Write encouraging note cards** for UBC members
- **Bring toys** to be delivered to UVA Children's Hospital

Toy Donations for UVA Health Children's
UVA Children's welcomes **brand-new toys** only. Please note that they cannot accept:

- Used toys or books
- Waterbeads
- Handmade items
- Items that promote violence (e.g., plastic guns or swords)
- Gift-wrapped items

Some great donation ideas:

- Play-Doh
- Coloring books
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Card games
- Individual Lego kits
- Bubbles
- Chapter books

To make giving even easier, UVA Children's has an **Amazon Wish List** of items used almost every day:

[UVA Children's Hospital Wish List](#)

Come ready to serve, share, and celebrate our church's 125th Anniversary by blessing others in our community.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, October 1

9:00 Work Team
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner
5:45 UBC Bells Rehearsal
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, October 3

5:30 Jazz Vespers

SATURDAY, October 4

10:00-12:00 Day of Service

SUNDAY, October 5

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
4:00 Jubilate Rehearsal
5:30 College Student Dinner

MONDAY, October 6

4:00 Theology Reading Group

TUESDAY, October 7

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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



Wednesday, September 30
Dinner starts at 5:15pm
UBC Bells Rehearsal at 5:45
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal at 6:30

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).



With only a couple weeks left before we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the founding of University Baptist Church, the planning committee is hard at work preparing for a ceremony filled with memories. Previously, Ed Smith and Seth Kodikara had requested photos to be sent that document life in the last 25 years of University Baptist Church.

Ed and Seth would now like to offer their sincerest thanks for the many materials that have been shared over the last months. Moreover, they would like to request that no more photographs be sent so that they can focus all their efforts on editing and finalizing the presentation of these memories.

Please be sure to keep up with The Word, where links to the resulting collection of pictures will be shared after its initial presentation at the 125th Anniversary Celebration!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Oct. 8: Ed Barker
Oct. 9: Brett Turner, Pam Hallissy
Oct. 10: Tom Stephens
Oct. 12: Theresa Guyton
Oct. 13: Joyce Martin
Oct. 14: Greg Proffitt

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
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

