



March 17, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 11

ON WATCH

Finding Joy

God is with us. We find this affirmation over and over again in the Bible. We read people’s testimonies of God’s presence throughout history. Many of us may have experienced God in our own lives.

More than just a divine presence, God is also within us, giving us our existence. The air we breathe, the water and food we consume, the shelter and clothes for protection—everything can be traced back to God.

Dwelling in God’s life-giving presence resituates our priorities. Instead of seeing the short-term ups and downs, we can take the long view. We can consider the idea of God moving in history.

Consider an example from the Book of Ezra. Did God move Cyrus’ heart in Ezra 1:1? Or, did the Hebrew chronicler retroject God’s initiative into something Cyrus already was going to do? In either case, the outcome in Ezra (rebuilding the temple) brought glory to God. Thus, seeing God at work can mean answering yes to both questions. Yes, God moved Cyrus’ heart, and, yes, Cyrus decided to let the ancient Israelites rebuild.

Seeing God’s presence and activity in the world can bring us joy. Seeking to find God at work helps us see God’s presence. If we look for it, we will find it.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 22, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

It Ain’t Over

‘Till the Dead Bones Dance

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Anthems:

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

arr. Lloyd Larson

All Night, All Day

arr. Greg Gilpin

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: TBD

Ushers: Cindy Bryant, Shirley Clark

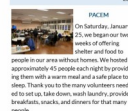
College Dinner: Click [here](#) to provide a dinner for our college students.



2025 Year in Review

University Baptist Church
1229 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903

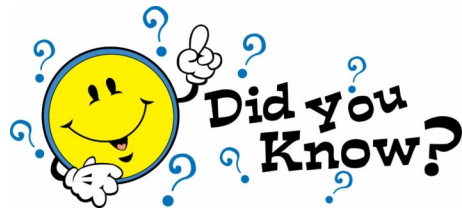
Looking back on the last year, our focus was on engagement and making a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Here you will see how, through your involvement and dedication, that was accomplished. This is the story of God at work among us. In these pages you will find facts and stories from our congregation in 2025. It is not an exhaustive list, as we are a busy church. Our focus is that as you review these memories, you will see evidence of God’s hand at work in the life of this family of faith. Let’s celebrate!



The 2025 Year in Review is now available! Click [here](#) to see a copy online or pick one up at church.

These days, there's a lot to steal our joy. We don't have to let it. God's grace transcends this moment and can abide with us through whatever we encounter.

Peace,
Matt



Why do we take communion by intinction?

Liberty and human agency are central beliefs of being University Baptist Church. Instead of handing each worshipper the elements of our Lord's Supper, we invite people to move. Each one is free to come to God's table as they feel led. No usher indicates the right time to move. After the words of institution, all are invited by God to God's table.



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. They discussed the questions that people ask faith leaders when there are significant military conflicts in the world. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here.](#)



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

Mar. 28: Linda Hendon, Alice Batten



June 22-26
Rainforest Falls
Register [here](#)



Puerto Rico Missions

The mission trip team has returned safely home after five days in Puerto Rico. Megan Sharp, Eddy Tennant, Phoebe Fant, and Hadessah Johnson travelled to Puerto Rico to install a cement pad for Iglesia Bautista de Quebrada. The pad created a new and safe location for their generator. We were hosted by Xiomara Reboyras from CBF Florida and financially supported by UBC and CBF Virginia. On Sunday, March 15, the team gave a testimony about their time in Puerto Rico. If you missed it, [click here](#) and hear about their experience and the spiritual growth that can happen when we connect with Christians from different cultures.



A link to daily Lenten devotionals is posted on the homepage of our [website](#). Check it out and enrich your Lenten journey.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Leon & Nancy Castle
David & Linda Hendon
Larry & Lynn Martin
Bill & Barbara Murray
Edith Parker
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



Join us for dinner tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18, 5:15, in the Fellowship Hall. Following dinner at 6:00, we will have the fourth week of our Lenten Series: Celtic Evening Liturgy entitled *God Help Me* based on Matthew 9:27-31 & Psalm 146.

Menu:

Roasted Citrus & Herb Pork Loin
Roasted Baby Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Mixed Green Salad
Dinner Rolls
Angel Food Cake with Berries & Cream

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 18

9:00 Work Team
10:00 Childcare Task Force Meeting
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner
5:45 Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal
6:00 Program
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, March 20

10:00-3:00 Blood Drive

SUNDAY, March 22

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Bagel Brunch
4:00 Jubilate Rehearsal
5:30 Student Dinner

MONDAY, March 23

12:00 Missions Council Meeting

TUESDAY, March 24

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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



Souper Bowl of Caring

Our UBC Missions Council voted to use the funds (\$800) from Souper Bowl of Caring to provide food for the UVA Cavalier Food Pantry where Val (Fisk) Hassard is the Basic Needs Care Coordinator. Click [here](#) to see a list of the actual items purchased.



Jewelry Exchange and Tea

Saturday, April 18, 2:00
in the Fellowship Hall

Clean out your jewelry boxes and bring your jewelry in a zip lock bag with your name on it to the church. \$10 per person donation to benefit National Missions. Contact [Sylvie Moore](#) for more information.

CBF Offering for National Missions



On the night of May 16, 2025, an unimaginable tragedy struck southeastern Kentucky where Scarlett Jasper, a CBF field personnel works. A

massive EF-4 tornado tore through three counties leaving a nearly 60-mile-long path of destruction and heartbreak and 19 fatalities. All other projects that Scarlett and Olive Branch Ministries had on their calendar for the next few months were shelved and they were fully engaged in relief and recovery efforts.



Donations and volunteers poured into the area. Volunteers cleared debris, tarped roofs, and began stabilization work. Siding, roofing, and underpinning repairs were underway. Donations allowed them to purchase

more than \$8,000 worth of new windows for every salvageable mobile home in a trailer park. Donations provided Walmart cards, new clothing, and shoes for families who lost everything. They supplied gas cards to both displaced families and to those making daily trips to be with injured or ill loved ones in the hospital in Lexington, KY. They continued to provide drinks and ice to both survivors and volunteers who were working hard under difficult conditions.

Some of the people that Scarlett was already working with lived in a rehab facility that was destroyed. One of these clients was the first to text and check on Scarlett after the tornado hit. Even though this individual had just lost everything, her first thought was to make sure Scarlett was safe.

Scarlette is important to so many lives in this part of Appalachia. If you haven't had a chance to donate towards her ministries, please help us reach our \$3,000 goal by sending a check to University Baptist Church, noting that it is for National Missions, or donating online [here](#).

You're Invited!!



DETAILS

Reception Information

Join us after the wedding in the fellowship hall!

food • speeches • dances
06/06/2026 beginning at 5:00 PM

Please note that this is an alcohol-free event.

Attire

Semi Formal:

Polished and elegant attire such as suits, button down/khakis and midi-length dresses. Feel free to embrace cheerful summer colors.

For more information, see:

<https://www.zola.com/wedding/hadessahanddean>

Please RSVP
[here](#) by Saturday, April 25

Their registry can be found on their wedding website [here](#).



This Easter we would like to decorate the Sanctuary with an abundance of Easter flowers. If you would like to purchase a flower in honor or in memory of a loved one, please complete an order form. Forms will be available from the

church office, in the bulletins on Sunday, and online [here](#). Deadline is Sunday, March 29.

Google Calendar for Congregational Activities

We now have a calendar for congregational activities outside of the church. If your child (or you) has a sporting event, a play they are participating in, or a musical performance, this is where we would post it, so others can attend and support them. This calendar is only visible to those who request to view it. If you have an event to add to the calendar or would like to be able to view the calendar, contact [Amanda Ohlms](#).



Blood Drive sponsored by Madison House – UVA Health
UBC Fellowship Hall
Thursday, March 20
10:00am – 3:00pm
To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS



UBC 101 begins Wednesday evening, April 4, as we join together and discuss what it means to be a Baptist at UBC. We'll look at what Baptists believe, how UBC's

leadership and volunteers are organized, what we believe about baptism and communion, and the many ministry opportunities here at the church. Even if you've been a member of UBC for years, we think you'll discover something you never knew about us.

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
Communications Coordinator - Kayla Riley - 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

