



August 18, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 32

ONWATCH

Come Teach Us: The Gift of showing Up

Every Sunday, something remarkable happens in our church. Children and youth gather to ask questions, tell stories, laugh, wonder, and learn what it means to follow Jesus. And, perhaps more importantly, they discover that the church is a place where they belong.

That doesn't happen by accident.

It happens because adults show up.

Teaching children or youth Sunday Bible study isn't about having all the answers. In fact, some of the best teachers are the ones willing to say, "I don't know—what do you think?" Our young people don't need perfect teachers. They need adults who will listen to them, love them where they are, take their questions seriously, open Scripture with them, and help them discover that faith is something we explore together.

You don't have to be a biblical scholar. You don't need a degree in education. You don't even need to be particularly good at crafts. What you need is a willingness to show up, learn alongside our children and youth, and share a little of your time and your faith.

The church promises to be a community where people of every generation can grow together. When we teach our children and youth, we aren't simply passing information from one generation

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, August 23, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Why Everything Grows Dull
Dr. Matt Tennant

Scripture:

Lamentations 4:11-16

Anthems:

Shall We Gather at the River
arr. John Carter
When Storms Arise
by Adolphus Hailstork

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Jackie Lockwood, Court Van Clief



Our Newest Member!

Hadessah Johnson Tennant became our newest member on Sunday, August 16. Hadessah is no stranger to UBC. She recently graduated from UVA with a master's degree

in chemistry and has been attending UBC since her undergraduate days. She was also recently married in June to Dean Tennant in UBC's sanctuary. And if that wasn't enough change for one year, she is the newest addition to our staff as UBC's Social Media Coordinator.

to another. We are building relationships. We are creating memories. We are helping young people discover that they have a place in God's story—and that they have a place in this church.

And you may discover something, too.

Sometimes the best questions come from a ten-year-old. Sometimes a teenager sees something in a familiar Bible story that we have completely missed. Sometimes teaching becomes an unexpected way of deepening our own faith.

Come teach us. Come learn with us. Come be part of the community that helps our youngest members discover that church is not simply somewhere they go. It is a family where they belong. So, if you've ever thought, "Someone should really teach our children or youth," perhaps that someone is you. If you are thinking about it, or if this interests you, please let me know.

Peace,
Matt



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 engaging college students in community and faith, the low barrier shelter and homelessness, and how to help those who are processing grief. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here.](#)

Sermon Manuscripts Available

People have asked if Matt's sermon manuscripts are available, and the answer is, yes. If you would like to receive them, contact [Linda](#) in the church office, and we will add you to the list.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Ed & Betty Barker

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

Barbara Fuller on the death of her sister

David & Linda Hendon

Renfro & Sandy Manning

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Brett & Michele Turner

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

UBC Building Upgrades

Last week the flooring in the choir loft was re-finished to prevent damage to the wood from the wear and tear to the finish of the last 30 years, and the wood flooring was extended to the front of the Sanctuary platform.

Soon, we will be replacing the floor tile in the two stairwells. We have a combination of tiles that are broken, have come loose, and some that curl up in the winter, creating a safety hazard. In the fall, we hope to install railings on the Sanctuary steps to make it easier to walk up to the pulpit during worship.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, August 19

9:00 Work Team
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Wednesday Night Program
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, August 21

5:30 Jazz Vespers

SUNDAY, August 23

9:30 Seekers Bible Study
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Student Welcome Cookout
3:00 Ice Cream Social

TUESDAY, August 25

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group
7:00 Bible & Brews

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



Note revised date!

Come enjoy some homemade ice cream and a time of fellowship on **Sunday, August 23**, at the Marshall's. Bring your homemade ice cream or ice cream toppings or cookies or brownies, a chair, and your bathing suit.

We will begin at 3:00 with swimming and then enjoy some ice cream at 5:00.



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.

Colleen continues this ministry with the support of Domino's Pizza, without whom this ministry could not continue to go forward. This year is the twenty-sixth year she 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 by sending a check to the church or give online with "Dinner with Andrew" in the memo line.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Aug. 28: Val Hassard

Aug. 30: Jim Martindale

Aug. 31: Amanda Ohlms

Children's Church

Children's Church will be taking a break for the months of July and August and will resume on Sunday, September 13. During this time there will be a table with activities in the Sanctuary for the children during the sermon.

Search Committee Update



SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has been busy and is making good progress. After interviewing three new candidates, they are now arranging for in-person interviews.



Come for dinner tomorrow evening, Wednesday, August 19, 5:15pm followed by Celtic Evening Liturgy at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 6:30 in the Music Suite.

Contact the church office, to make your dinner reservations.



Ice Cream Ministry

Please consider volunteering to help set-up, serve, or clean-up ice cream during a week in August or September, so our devoted friends will have ice cream. Sign up [here](#) or call the church office. Mango and rasp-

berry this 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.

Chaplain Tiller is an ordained Baptist minister. She completed her master's degree in divinity and a doctorate degree in ministry at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. She majored in biblical studies and obtained a master's degree in theology at the Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. She taught World Religions as adjunct faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her doctoral project was in the field of grief and loss. She lives in Richmond with her nineteen-year-old daughter, a stage 4 cancer survivor, and her husband Martin Tiller and his daughter. Her grandparents were a major influence on her life. They retired from the Department of Corrections in India and told her bedtime stories of their work in Corrections. The stories took deep root in her impressionable heart and are the reason for her passion for prison ministry today.

You can give to this mission project 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.

Young Adults Group

UBC is putting together a group for young adults in their 20s, married or single, who are working, in grad/law/medical school, or in other situations. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact [Hadessah](#) or [Dean](#) Tennant for details.



**Help feed our college students
this year
beginning Sunday, August 30.**

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.



We will have another blood drive at UBC, sponsored by UVA medical students, on Tuesday, August 18, from 12-6. Click [here](#) to sign up.



Let's Talk Race (LTR) is offering two new classes. The *Beginner's Guide to Conversations About Race* looks

at the biblical, historical, and societal impacts of race and racism in America.

Conversations About the Latin American Experience looks at history, immigration, and current day impacts of race and racism on Latin Americans.

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
Church Administrator: Alan Hendricks - ahendricks@universitybaptist.org
Social Media Coordinator: Hadessah Johnson Tennant - socialmedia@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 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.

Do you have something to submit to our weekly newsletter?
Suggestions must be submitted to linda@universitybaptist.org
by Monday at noon.

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

Connect with us

