



February 17, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 7

ON WATCH

Journeying to Resurrection

Wednesday is special. Some people get excited about Wednesdays in general because it is “hump day.” For people who work from Monday to Friday, Wednesday marks the midpoint of the work week. But it is also Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is the 40-day period (not including Sundays) before Easter. For many people, it is a period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial. However, these activities are not the purpose of Lent. The purpose is preparing for Easter and the joy of celebrating Jesus’ resurrection.

In Matthew 6:16, Jesus says, “Whenever you fast, do not look dismal like the hypocrites.” Hypocrites fast for the purpose of fasting. They fast to make sure everyone knows they are fasting. Jesus warns against the hypocrisy of doing things for show. In our faith journeys, everything we do should have a reason. Doing something so that other people see us doing it is exactly what Jesus warned people about.

Lent is not about the fasting, moderation, or self-denial. Ash Wednesday is not about getting a little ashy cross on our foreheads. The season and the day that begins the season is about the glory of Easter. To get to Easter, we prepare. One way we can do this is by fasting. Fasting helps us take our eyes off the things of this world and focus on God. Moderation is always a good practice.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

6:00 PM

Homily:

The Penitent Ambassador
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Anthem:

Create in Me, O God

Sunday, February 22, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Don't Blame Eve. Thank Her.
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Matthew 4:1-11

Anthems:

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

arr. by Wallace Hornibrook

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

arr. by Moses Hogan

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Lily Gregg

Ushers: Erin Eaker, Gayle Eaker

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

During Lent, it is especially meaningful because it serves as a reminder of our commitment to God.

The ashes of Ash Wednesday are not about the outward sign. They are not intended to be a banner to show others that we went to church on Ash Wednesday. They remind us of our mortality. "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). We begin Lent with the reminder that our bodies are mortal. This reminder marks the beginning of the journey to the death on a cross and the power over death symbolized by the empty tomb.

This year, join us on Ash Wednesday to begin your Lenten journey. Be reminded of our mortality. Think about Jesus' call to die to the self (Mark 8:35) and self-sacrifice. In Lent, there are steps along the way. Each one makes the subsequent steps sweeter, richer, and more profound.

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. He talked this month about poverty, generation Z, and more. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).



Lenten Devotionals

We will be posting on the homepage of the website and on Facebook a daily Lenten Devotional beginning on Wednesday, February 18 (Ash Wednesday). Check it out and enrich your Lenten journey.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Feb. 25: McKenzie Taylor, Laura Martindale, Santiago Pinto

Feb. 26: Jay Hendricks

Feb. 29: Shelley Payne

Mar. 1: Laura Centofante

Mar. 2: Suzanne Smith

Mar. 3: Martha Ballenger



AIM Needs Volunteers

AIM needs volunteers at their Emmett St. office (1807 Emmet St. N. #6A). Volunteers can work as few or as many hours as they like, Monday-Thursday from 9-2. AIM has various programs to help the disenfranchised, those living in poverty, or victims of domestic abuse. Contact AIM at 434-972-1704 for more information.



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

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.



You'll have many opportunities in the coming year to 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.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, February 18

9:00 Work Team

5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Ash Wednesday Worship

6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, February 20

Jubilate Retreat through Sunday

SUNDAY, February 22

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

12:00 College Bagel Brunch

5:30 College Dinner

MONDAY, February 23

12:00 Missions Council Meeting

7:15 Women's Book Study

TUESDAY, February 24

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

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](#).



Join us on Friday,
February 27, 5:30
in the Sanctuary
for our Jazz Vespers

Paint Survey

Be a part of our Fellowship Hall paint survey! You can access the survey by [clicking here](#). Please visit the Fellowship Hall to see the paint samples on the wall near the kitchen before voting. Voting will be open until Monday, February 23, 2026. Thank you for participating in this decision.

Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza

On Saturday, February 28, 10:00 am - 1:30 pm, the American Guild of Organists is presenting "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza, a program for student pianists (4th grade - high school), who are invited for an organ demonstration, lunch, and an opportunity to play the organ. The event will take place at Christ Episcopal Church, 120 W. High St. Our organist, Barbara Moore, will be there and invites any interested young people to participate. The cost is \$15. Click [here](#) for the registration form.

MLK Community Celebration Sunday, March 1, 4:00 pm at PVCC

UBC partnered with Mt. Zion this past summer to host a visit from the United Gospel Choir from Besancon, France. We are again partnering with Mt. Zion FABC, along with other community churches, to present the MLK Community Celebration. Rev. Megan Sharp is working with the 100+ adult community choir and the children's community choir for this event. Mark your calendars and plan to attend and support this community-wide event.

Missing Maps!

A set of maps that were on an easel in the Open Minds classroom (Room 120 - Conference Room) have been missing for awhile. If anyone knows where they might be, please notify the [church office](#).



Join us for dinner tomorrow, Wednesday, February 18, 5:15, in the Fellowship Hall. Following dinner at 6:00, we will have our Ash Wednesday worship service in the Sanctuary.

Menu:

Hawaiian Teriyaki Chicken
Coconut Rice
Sweet Chili Carrots
Mixed Green Salad
Dessert TBD

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).



The 2026 Souper Bowl of Caring, themed "Small Gifts, Big Impact," mobilized communities nationwide to fight hunger, raising thousands of food items and dollars for local food charities.

The campaign encouraged individuals to contribute even modest donations, such as a dollar or a food item, during the Super Bowl weekend, turning the excitement of the Big Game into meaningful support for neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Here at UBC we raised \$792 for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you!

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

