



September 29, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 38

ONWATCH

Listening to God

I would like to invite you to join me in listening to God. A small group of us will start meeting this Thursday, October 1, at 10am on Zoom. The meeting will last no more than 15 minutes. The upper time limit is designed for working people for whom time is a premium. We will pray together, although there's no pressure on anyone to speak or pray out loud if the Spirit doesn't lead them to do so.

The purpose of these weekly prayer meetings is to listen to God for the future direction of the church. During these meetings, we will pray through various questions, like, "What is God leading us to do next?" or "Is God calling us to reach out to our neighbors? If so, how?" We will also reserve some time during these meetings for some holy brainstorming. Mostly, we will listen.

Why now? The last 5-6 years have carried significant changes for the church, both universally and specifically our congregation. We went through a worldwide pandemic. We've watched the general decline in participation in organized religion accelerate at an alarming rate. We've seen the number of clubs and organizations on UVA grounds explode, so students' attention is split into smaller bits. In our own church family, we have seen the retirement of a beloved minister and several other staff members have moved on to new ventures. Staff changes always impact

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, October 4, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

God's Glory in Creation
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Psalms 19

Anthems:

Come Before the Table
Karen Marroli
Let's Sing unto the Lord
Carlos Rosas

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Theresa Guyton, Jim Moore

Ushers: Herman & Gayle Eaker

College Dinner: Call the church office to sign up.



Ice Cream Ministry

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

churches. However, we have had 79 deaths in our congregation since January 1, 2020. Finally, on Sunday, we voted to call a new Associate Minister for Education. Together, these factors paint a picture of opportunity. We can either lament the changes and mourn how things are not the way they used to be, or we can look to God for directions for what's next. The Bible is very clear about which one we should choose (hint: look to God).

It's always a good time to pray. As we embark on a new chapter with a new addition to our ministerial staff, we can bathe our vision in prayer. This group plans to meet weekly for six months. This last scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, April 1, 2027. I don't know where these sessions will lead. It might lead to a new visioning process. It might mean starting a new program or investing in a ministry. It could lead to ending something that we've been doing for a long time. I don't know. I'm looking forward to hearing what God says through this group, and I want you to be part of it.

If you have any interest in joining these weekly zoom meetings, please let me know, and I will send you the link. If, for whatever reason, you are not able to join us on zoom, please take time from 10:00-10:15 on Thursdays, wherever you are, to pray for UBC and God's direction.

Peace,
Matt



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Oct. 7: Tony Barretta

Oct. 8: Ed Barker

Oct. 9: Brett Turner, Pam Hallissy

Oct. 12: Theresa Guyton

Oct. 13: Joyce Martin



New Associate Minister for Education

On Sunday, September 27 at a Called Church Conference following the 11:00 worship service, Rev. Allison Benfield, by a unanimous vote of the congrega-

tion, was called to be UBC's Associate Minister for Education. Her first Sunday with us will be November 1.

If you haven't already met her, click [here](#) for an introduction.

We want to thank our Search Committee, Susan Hellings, Erin Eaker, Alden Pinkham, Colleen Baber, Judy Gough, Arlyn Burgess, Peter Ohlms, and Kevin Adams, for their many months of hard work to bring us to this point. We appreciate their wisdom and perseverance to find the right person to become part of UBC's future.



We presented Bibles to 4 children and 4 youth during worship on Sunday.



CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, September 30

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, October 2

1:30 Stewardship Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, October 4

8:30 Church Council Meeting
9:30 Seekers Bible Study
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, October 5

4:00 Theology Reading Group

TUESDAY, October 6

7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle

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



Star Words

If you didn't get a star word and would like one, they are available in the church office.

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

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Renfro & Sandy Manning

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Barbara Weber

Jane Whitworth

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



Come for dinner tomorrow evening, Wednesday, September 30, 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.



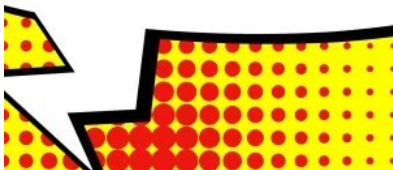
Young Adults Group

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

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.



Baptist News Global

Baptist News Global just published an op-ed written by our senior minister, Matt Tennant, entitled *Bold Conversations on Hot Topics*. Click [here](#) to read the article.

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, November 1



Menu:

*Pulled Pork
Smoked Chicken
Tofu burnt ends
Mac & Cheese
Stewed Green Beans
Cole slaw*

Call or email the church office to register for the luncheon by October 15. Please indicate the number of adults and number of children.



SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS RESOURCE COUNCIL

The Suicide Prevention Awareness Resource Council is holding a 5K Walk and Run on Saturday, October 17 at 9am at East End Farm in Louisa, VA. University Baptist Church has created a team for participants. To sign up, click this [link](#) and choose the University Baptist Church team. This event is free, but you can buy the t-shirt for \$25, and they welcome donations.

100% of event proceeds go to local suicide prevention efforts through SPARC, a group of concerned citizens, professionals, and partner agencies who convene with a common goal of reducing the number of suicides in our area.

Cavalier Food Pantry Collection

When University Baptist Church moved to its current location near the University Corner in 1929, our founders did so (even renaming the church) as a commitment to serving the University of Virginia community. We continue that mission today with our student ministry, etc.

Our own Val (Fisk) Hassard, as Basic Needs Case Manager at the Cavalier Food Pantry, deals daily with students whose needs for food and other items go unmet when budgets are stressed too thin to buy basic necessities including food and hygiene products. The Cavalier Food Pantry exists to meet those needs.

UBC's Kittie Colvin Trail Circle has decided to collect items on behalf of the Cavalier Food Pantry during the month of October. There is a bin in the 1st floor hallway outside of the church office to collect these items. Below is a list of some of the most needed items.

- Canned or Pouched Tuna
- Canned or Pouched Chicken
- Pantry Staples (such as flour, sugar, dried spices, salt & pepper)
- Snacks
- Spaghetti/noodles
- Feminine Hygiene Items (Pads & Tampons)
- Hygiene Items (such as shampoo, soap, shower gels, deodorant)

Please consider donating some of these items so that our University student neighbors can concentrate on their education and not how to afford the basics. If you prefer, you can order the items on Amazon using their [Wish List](#) and indicate "UBC drive" as additional info. These items will be shipped directly to the Cavalier Food Pantry.

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
Communications Coordinator: Hadessah Johnson Tennant - socialmedia@universitybaptist.org
Organist: Barbara Moore - call the church office at 434-293-5106
Maintenance Assistants: Hunter Cooper & Jay Hendricks - 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

