



August 12, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 31

WATCH

Who Are You Going to Call?

I often use this space (& the pulpit) to talk about our church as a family of faith. On several occasions this year, I have had the privilege of being around my extended family. It's been great to see cousins and aunts and uncles. We reminisce, share stories, and talk about our families and what everyone is doing. My extended family does not have a standing annual reunion. There have been a few one-off reunions. However, we most often gather at weddings or funerals.

A few years ago, after a gathering, I thought, "Why wait?" So, I texted 12 of my first cousins. Over the years, I have been checking in with them every few months. Sometimes it leads to a longer exchange or phone call. Other times, the check in is a simple back and forth (e.g., "You good?" "Yessir").

If the church is a family, then we should check in with each other. Sometimes it can be very simple. For instance, if you're up to your eyeballs in work and family life, hearing from a fellow congregant doesn't need to be added to your to-do list. If all you can handle is a quick "I'm good. See you Sunday!", that's enough. However, there are those *other times*. These are the times when you are waiting. People might be waiting to hear from someone when you reach out. They could be waiting to find someone to tell their news, share their tears, or celebrate something exciting.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, August 17, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Our Obvious God
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Jeremiah 23:23-29

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Jimmy Li, Amy Song

Welcome Our Newest Member!

Ingrid Flaherty was baptized and became a member of UBC on Sunday, August 10. Ingrid, an active member of our Sanctuary Choir, just graduated from Monticello High School and is heading off to Vanderbilt University to study music. Let's officially welcome Ingrid into our UBC family and wish her well as she leaves for Vanderbilt.



Ice Cream Social

Come enjoy some homemade ice cream and a time of fellowship on **Sunday, August 17**, at the Gough'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.

We are a family of faith. Any member of the family has every right (or a divine calling) to reach out to any other person in our UBC family. Perhaps thinking about it as a calling instead of a right might be helpful. As a calling, we foster the growth of our faith family when we reach out and check in with other folks. It can be as simple as, "I was thinking of you and wanted to call to see how you're doing."

So the question for each of us is, "Who are you going to call?" Make it a priority to reach out to 5 people this week. Ask how they are doing. Tell them you will pray for them. And lift their name (and concerns or celebrations, if you know them) to God.

What will happen if everyone reaches out to 5 people? Is this a magical incantation? No. It's not an incantation, and praying changes us, not God. However, the outcome could appear magical. As we reach out to one another, we grow closer together as a family of faith. Then, like gatherings with my extended family, when we see each other, we are closer. We know more about each other. We have history and a future.

As the old AT&T commercials used to say, "Reach out and touch someone."

Peace,
Matt



Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News yesterday. He appears on WINA once per month to provide some commentary on the news from a faith perspective. He talked about the importance of loving your neighbor and how an overseas trip this summer reminded him of the values of gratitude and generosity. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).

Help to Welcome Our UVA Students Back!

UVA classes begin on Tuesday, August 26. To welcome our students back to town we are hosting a welcome event following worship on Sunday, August 24. We will offer students welcome gifts, serve lunch, and play outdoor games. We will also give the students a blessing for the new school year in worship. If you would like to help make this event a success, please consider these options to participate.

1. Help prepare food for lunch.
2. Help serve food.
3. Help set up outdoor games.
4. Loan your outdoor games to UBC for the day.
5. Be a welcome presence during the event.
6. Help clean up.

Please email [Megan](#) to offer your support.



Wednesday, August 13
Dinner starts
at 5:30 p.m.

After dinner we will hear more from Matt about his sabbatical. Click [here](#) to see last

week's presentation.

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars for some upcoming events in the life of the church. On Wednesday, August 20, we will have a town hall meeting at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall to hear about the work JARC has been doing to update our By-Laws and Constitution. Then on Wednesday, August 27, at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall, we will vote on these updates.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Leon & Nancy Castle
Johnny & Gail Ellen
Ray & Nancy Gaines
David & Linda Hendon
Sarah Litchfield & Family on the death of Hugh 'Doc' Litchfield
Larry & Lynn Martin
Edith Parker
Kaylee Risell
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, August 13

9:00 Work Team
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Sabbatical Presentation
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, August 14

1:30 Personnel Committee Meeting

SATURDAY, August 16

1:00 Hugh 'Doc' Litchfield Funeral
2:00 Funeral Reception

SUNDAY, August 17

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting
9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Bagel Brunch
3:00 Church-wide Ice Cream Social

MONDAY, August 18

4:00 Theology Reading Group

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



Volunteers Needed

It's that time again! Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday. Click [this link](#) to add your name and join us any time between 11:00 and 12:00 to help set up and/or between 12:00 and 2:00 in the narthex to

serve the ice cream. This is a very popular outreach ministry of the church. ***This week is lemon and raspberry!***

Funeral and Reception

On Saturday, April 16, 1:00 pm in the UBC Sanctuary we will celebrate the life of Hugh 'Doc' Litchfield. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. If you can help with the reception, please click [here](#).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Aug. 20: Daniel Harper, Alexis Haskiell

Aug. 22: Dan Pinkham

Aug. 26: Morgan Klewer



Book Drive

Book Baskets of Charlottesville

The Seekers Bible Study Class would like your help in supporting a local organization called Book Baskets of Charlottesville whose goal is to get books in the hands and homes of all kids in our area. They are committed to giving new or lightly used books to those children locally who might not otherwise have books of their own. To get the books in children's hands, they work through school programs and through organizations like Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Charlottesville Free Clinic, International Neighbors, City of Promise, Ronald McDonald House, Community Dental Clinic, and Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry just to name a few.

In 2024 they donated over 22,000 books. Many of the books for this mission are purchased at a deep discount from the First Book and Scholastic Book programs. In addition, they get grants from the local benefactor BAMA WORKS, and national organizations such as Dollar General, and they also receive thousands of free books from our local publisher, McMillan. The majority of their funding however, comes from generous supporters who donate each year to keep their mission alive - or who host book drives for them.

That's where we come in!! And we need your help!! The Seekers Class will be hosting a book drive for Book Baskets for three weeks, beginning the last week of August. There will be baskets around the church waiting for any book donations you would like to make to this mission. Book Baskets distributes books to children from newborns to teenagers, with an emphasis on elementary school aged kids. New or lightly used books are accepted but 'lightly used' means clean enough to look new - no names or writing in them please. Non-fiction or science books need to be published since the year 2000.

So, sometime during this month, could you find some time to spend in a quiet bookstore or browsing through your own library and find some books to put in our baskets for Book Baskets of Charlottesville? Let us be a part of instilling the love of books and encouraging reading! Help us donate baskets full of books to this mission!!



"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40



52 Years Ago

In the fall of 1972, under the leadership of Minister of Music Carl Beard, UBC began its longest running ministry to the University of Virginia community with the establishment of a "Student Choral Ensemble", which quickly became Jubilate. The first concert took place on March 15, 1973. For many years, Jubilate would go on tour during UVA's spring break, giving concerts in churches and other appropriate venues around the eastern U.S. The ensemble has enjoyed ministry together for 52 years, and has Alumni living all over the world.



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. You can give 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). Here is some information from Chaplain Jerusha Tiller, whose ministry our offering will support.

Dear friends,

Due to "separation of church and state," GracelInside is a nonprofit Christian ministry that places chaplains inside Virginia's prisons so that lives may be transformed through the grace of Jesus Christ. As a GracelInside chaplain, I am dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of all residents of Virginia's state prisons. I currently serve in Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, providing one-on-one pastoral care, conducting worship services, and working with the Department of Corrections staff in offering rehabilitative programs. I am also responsible for scheduling all religious programs conducted by volunteers representing many faith traditions. In addition, I serve as the supervising Chaplain of Central Virginia, which includes Coffeewood, Beaumont, Buckingham, Dillwyn, CVC Unit 13, State Farm, Nottaway, and Virginia Correctional Center for women.

As the temperature gets cooler and the leaves change color, I am reminded that God's mercies are new every morning; God continues to work patiently in our lives, transforming us, and sanctifying us to the likeness of the image of God's Son, Jesus. What an honor it is to partner with the Savior bringing faith, hope, and love to incarcerated men and women, as Christ says in Matthew 25, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Bio: 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 eighteen-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.

Meet Our New Deacons

We are grateful to announce the election of four new deacons to serve a three-year term on the Deacon Council: Lily Gregg, Jen May, Scott Miller, and Eddy Tennant. These faithful leaders will help guide and support the life of our church in meaningful ways.

Deacons are elected and ordained to be the lay ministerial leaders of the congregation. They help provide spiritual support, care for the church community, and work alongside staff and church leadership to help guide the mission and ministry of the church.

We will ordain Eddy Tennant and install the other newly elected deacons during worship one Sunday in August—more details to come. Please join us in giving thanks for these five individuals and praying for them as they begin this important work.



For the last three years, Rev. Tommy Deal has blessed our church as the volunteer Education Coordinator. He helped kick-off Sunday Bible Study (SBS) in the fall of 2022 after our pandemic hiatus. He

organized events to help each small group start the new year. He checked in with teachers/facilitators, answered questions, offered suggestions for study materials, and arranged for substitutes when needed. His work had an impact on spiritual formation in our church family and words cannot capture our appreciation for his work.

Since this role of Education Coordinator didn't formally exist before Tommy started doing it, the Church Council is exploring what it will look like in the future. If you have any suggestions, want to volunteer for this role, or know someone who would be good at it, please share them with the Church Council chairperson Diane Mundell. For now, we celebrate Tommy's work and extend our deepest appreciation to him.

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.

This year is the twenty-fifth year Colleen 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 directly [through this link](#), or you can send a check to the church or give online with "Dinner with Andrew" in the memo line.

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

