



March 25, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 12

Ordination

N WATCH

What is the process by which God calls ministers in our tradition? Many of you are probably familiar with it. Others might have been to ordination services but don't know about the journey to that point.

Baptist churches are autonomous. We have no ecclesial (or church) authority above our local congregation. We don't have a bishop, presbyter, or conference. We join with other Baptist churches as a fellowship because we can do more together than we can do apart. However, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship holds no authority over our congregation.

Thus, when Christ-followers feel God calling them into ordained ministry, in our tradition, their first step is to share this good news with their church. When we first started talking with Megan Sharp about coming to serve as our Associate Minister for Music and College Students, I asked her if she ever thought about the ordination for ministry.

My question arrived long after the Holy Spirit had been working in her life. Her journey began when she was a child, and God has been using her throughout her adolescence and adult life. Her previous roles in music ministry were not typically held by ordained clergy, so coming to UBC brought her to new territory.

As she began her ministry at UBC, she began praying about God's leading in her life, and she asked the question, "Am I called to ordained ministry?" She and I talked about it. She met regularly with the

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 30, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

The Way Home

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 15:11b-32

Anthems:

Pilgrims' Hymn by Paulus

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
arr. Thomson

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jimmy Li

Ushers: Jackie Lockwood, Shirley Clark

College Dinner: Amanda Ohlms

UBCKids
Charlottesville
Indoor Pool Party!
Smith Aquatic Center

Saturday
April 12
1:00-4:00 PM

1000-A Cherry Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22903
\$6 per person at the door

Rev. Susan Deal and prayerfully considered whether to pursue ordination.

Megan read and they discussed Walter Shurden's book [The Four Fragile Freedoms](#). As part of this process, Megan wrote reflection essays on: (a) her sense of God's calling, (b) Bible freedom, (c) soul freedom, (d) church freedom, and (e) religious freedom. Then, in January, she told me she felt God calling her to ordained ministry.

Following the guidelines in the UBC bylaws, we discussed her sense of calling with the deacons and assembled an Ordination Council. The Ordination Council is Kevin Adams (moderator & ordained chaplain), Jaden Bernard (college student), Diana Brawley (ordained Presbyterian minister and longtime friend), Gary Dalton (UBC member and ordained minister), Laura Davis (CBFVA co-coordinator), Ingrid Flaherty (choir member), Ray Gaines (deacon chair & choir member), Lily Gregg (search committee chair and choir member), Hadessah Johnson (college student), Larry Johnson (choir member), Carolyn Lowry (choir member), Alden Pinkham (deacon and choir member), Roy Thomas (UBC member and ordained minister), and Ellie Weikle (longtime friend).

We met with Megan on Thursday, March 20, at 7pm. We had a wonderful discussion, and the Ordination Council voted unanimously to recommend Megan for ordination to the gospel ministry of Jesus Christ. At the conclusion of our worship service on March 30, we will have a called Church Conference to vote on the recommendation of the Ordination Council. If the congregation votes to approve Megan's ordination, we will plan an ordination service for Saturday, April 5.

Seeing God at work is such a privilege, and ordaining someone into ministry is something to celebrate. I hope this brings you as much joy as it brought me.

Peace,
Matt



Mark Your Calendars!

Another opportunity
to attend Jazz Vespers!

Join us on the fourth Friday of the month (March 28) at 5:30 in the Sanctuary for Jazz Vespers.

We will be offering extended childcare that will cover the service plus an additional 90 minutes to allow parents to go out and grab a bite to eat.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Gary & Karen Dalton on the passing of Karen's mother

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Family & Friends of Thomas Hill

Doc Litchfield

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, March 26, for dinner at 5:30 and then beginning at 6:00, we will look at a devotion from our Lenten Series, while the children enjoy UBCKids Choir.

Childcare is always available.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Following the service, at 7:00 you are invited to sing with the Sanctuary Choir as they rehearse in the Music Suite.



Walk With Us Through Lent

The 2025 McCall Lenten Devotional, themed "Hope, Justice & Relationships," invites us to reflect deeply on God's Word through the lens of Jeremiah 29:7 & 11, which calls us to seek the peace and prosperity of our communities while trusting in God's good plans for our future.

Written by a diverse group of CBF family and friends, these devotions offer thoughtful insights that inspire deeper faith and action.

This year's devotional features an expanded "Justice Notes" section, providing key justice statistics and resources to help readers go deeper. It also includes recommended readings, a conversation starter guide and a self-care inventory, as well as excerpts from Maya Angelou and Amanda Gorman.

Click [here](#) for a digital copy of this resource. Contact the [church office](#) if you need a hard copy.



Sanctuary Flowers

Would you like to reserve sanctuary flowers in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion? Sunday flowers can be reserved for birthdays, anniversaries, or to commemorate other special occasions.

Please submit your request to include your name, the bulletin message, and the desired reservation dates to the [UBC office](#). A member of the Floral Committee will be in touch to confirm your dedication.



Scarlette Jasper discussing winter relief plans with ministers in Corbin, KY

CBF Offering for National Missions Organizing Churches to Embrace the Impoverished

We are continuing to collect donations for the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship offering for National Missions. Our UBC Missions Council has chosen to send our offering directly to the Reverend Scarlett Jasper who serves the people of southeastern Kentucky and eastern Tennessee.

The CBF program *Together for Hope*, a rural development coalition to combat poverty, now serves 301 of the poorest counties in the United States. Scarlett serves ten of those counties, expending her energy to alleviate poverty's dismal destruction by organizing churches to embrace the homeless by providing, among many other things, clothing, hot meals, shelter, free health clinics, and weekend food bags.

Scarlette's home is in Somerset, Kentucky where her husband Brian was born and raised. When Jasper was commissioned as field personnel in 2014, her commissioning stipulated that she had to raise her own support including salary and project and programming funds. "My husband provided my needs." This offering now helps fund the salaries, benefits, and housing for field personnel who must still raise support for their project and programs. Not long after the CBF's funding model changed, in 2019, her husband Brian died. Her son Roger is a Baptist minister in Somerset. She still has a daughter at home and three grandchildren.

Our goal here at UBC is to contribute \$3,000 toward the larger CBF goal. You can do so by check, noting that it is for National Missions, or online [here](#).



100 Years Ago

From Honey Taylor's Spiritual Autobiography:

"When the High Street Baptist

Church was started, it was within walking distance. Dr. Northern, from Four Mile Creek in Richmond, preached a revival there, and 28 people were baptized, including me. The church meant so much to so many, and our faith grew very strong there. My favorite Sunday School teacher at that time was Mrs. W. H. Sadler. I learned more from her than from anybody else except my mother and father." "Years later, many of us helped found the University Baptist Church. I can still remember the excitement as we saw the building go up."



Save the Date: UBC's 125th Anniversary Celebration

Join us for a special Anniversary Celebration Weekend on October 11-12, 2025.

[Click here](#) to link to our 125th Anniversary webpage!!

Don't forget to purchase your special 125th Anniversary T-shirts in the office for a suggested donation of \$10!



2025 VBS
July 21 - 25

The United Gospel Choir is Coming!

Besancon, France is one of the sister cities of Charlottesville. This summer we have a special opportunity to partner with Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church to host a visit from the United Gospel Choir from Besancon, France. The choir is coming to Charlottesville on Wednesday, July 16 and departing on Wednesday, July 23. During their visit we will create a combined choir with the United Gospel Choir, UBC choir members, and Mt. Zion FABC choir members. We will give one or two performances and sing in worship at UBC on Sunday, July 20. We will also have opportunities to spend time with the visiting choir at shared meals and outings.

If you are interested in offering space in your house to host one or more of the visiting choir members, please contact Megan. If you are unable to host, but would like to help out, there will be opportunities to help with meals and transportation during their visit.

Please save the dates-July 16-23!

Please remember that we can park in the 14th Street Garage on Sunday mornings. Just show your bulletin when you leave, and



you will not be charged. This allows our older and less mobile church members and guests to park in our parking lots close to the church. This is a small thing we can all do to bless someone else and make it easier for them to attend church.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 26

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study
5:30 Wednesday night dinner
6:00 Lenten Series
6:00 UBCKids Choir
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, March 28

5:15 UBCKids Dinner & Movie
5:30 Jazz Vespers

SUNDAY, March 30

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 Church Conference
12:00 College Bagel Brunch
12:00 Nominating Committee Meeting
4:30 Jubilate Rehearsal
6:00 College Dinner

TUESDAY, April 1

7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle Meeting

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



The American Red Cross will be in the UBC Fellowship Hall on Friday, March 28, from 9:00 - 2:00. Donors can sign up through the blood donor app, by calling 1-800-REDCROSS, or online by going to www.redcrossblood.org and searching 22903.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

- April 2: Forrest Marshall
- April 4: Catherine Cooper
- April 7: Laura Morris
- April 8: Mitch Russell

Staff Contact Information:

Senior Minister: Dr. Matthew Tennant - matt@universitybaptist.org
Associate Minister for Music and College Students - Megan Sharp - megan@universitybaptist.org
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Rickert Dowdy - elizabeth@universitybaptist.org
Intentional Interim Minister of Music: Rev. Susan Deal - susan@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
Education Coordinator: Rev. Tommy Deal—call the church office at 434-293-5106
Organist: Barbara Moore - call the church office at 434-293-5106

Sunday Mornings

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

