



April 8, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 14

Lent & Our
Journey Together

ON WATCH

As we approach the end of this Lenten season, Holy Week, and Easter, we are about to embark on another journey together. After Easter, the church has graciously and generously given me a sabbatical. I will be away until the end of July. While I am away, I will focus on rest and rejuvenation, praying and listening to God, and working on two writing projects. The two writing projects, which I intend to publish as books, have the following working titles: *Overcoming Differences* and *Marine Theology*.

Overcoming Differences is a follow up to my 2020 book *Crossing the Lines We Draw: Faithful Responses to a Polarized World*. In this book, I use stories to develop Christ-like ways to respond to ideological or philosophical differences with other people. *Marine Theology* looks at the ocean as God baptizing the world. Building on the universalism of Colossians 1:20 and the “world” in John 3:16, God loves the world, and transformative faith means taking care of it, including the oceans.

For those who want to know where I will be spending my time, my sabbatical will have three parts. First, Melanie and I will visit Bonaire. This will be a chance to have some space away from daily demands. I plan to run, swim, dive, and visit the [Donkey Sanctuary](#). Second, I (with various other folks) will spend some time sailing. My plans are open right now, but we might sail down to the Bahamas and back. Third, I will volunteer at [La Senda Verde](#), an animal refuge in Bolivia.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 13, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

The Other Way

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 19:28-40

Anthems:

This Is the Day by Joseph Martin

Lift High the Palms! by Joseph Martin

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jimmy Li

Ushers: Tom & Sylvie Moore

College Dinner: Will Cooke

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

In each place, I will rest, write, pray, and read. It's going to be amazing to me to see what God has in store for me while I am away and for the church when I return. While I am gone, the church will go through a program called "Journey Together." Rev. Susan Deal will be serving as the Interim Executive Minister while I am away, and my column next week will explore more about the church's journey during my sabbatical.

I am incredibly grateful to you for this time away. It's an amazing gift that not every pastor gets to have. Each one who has had a sabbatical describes it as reinvigorating for the ministry. I'm looking forward to my time away but can't wait to return and share my experience with you.

Peace,
Matt



This Easter we would like to decorate our Sanctuary with an abundance of Easter flowers. If you would like to purchase a flower in honor or in memory of a loved one, please pick up a form in the narthex or contact the [church office](#) to let us know the wording that you would like to appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. The cost of each flower is \$15. You can mail a check, drop it in the offering box, or pay online and earmark your gift "Easter Flower." The last day to order is Sunday, April 13. You may pick up your flower after the 11:00 Easter Service on Sunday, April 20.



2025 VBS
July 21 - 25



An Update on Worship+Wonder

Even for our youngest worshippers, the Lenten season is a time to prepare for the joyous mystery of Easter. To mark Lent's beginning, we put our "Alleluia"

away in a purple box so it will be extra special when we take it out and say and sing it again. As the Lenten journey unfolds, the children are using the symbols from all the stories we've told so far to make connections between the events in the life of Jesus and his unusual kingship, death, and resurrection. As they make those connections to and within the Gospel story, they are also connecting themselves to God's sacred story.

Looking ahead, Worship+Wonder will enjoy getting to know Jesus in a new way in Easter, through his post-resurrection appearances. Then on June 8, we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday (and finally find out why it is always HOT!!!).

Beginning on June 15, Worship+Wonder will take a break for the summer, but our youngest worshippers will continue their journey of learning and discovery—just in a new space. Instead of leaving the sanctuary, the children will be invited to gather in a special space *in the sanctuary* for a time of creative response to their experience of worship. We need your help! You can help our youngest worshippers in one or more of the following ways:

Now through June 8:

- Volunteer to serve as an Assistant for a session of Worship+Wonder. It's not too late to come see what we are doing!
- Volunteer to sit with the kids in the sanctuary for the first half of the worship service to help guide them through the worship experience.

June 15 through August 10:

- Volunteer to help set up and/or tidy up the children's worship space in the sanctuary.
- Volunteer to attend to the children while they worship in their special space in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. If you are interested in helping with our wonderful and worshipful kids, please email elizabeth@universitybaptist.org.



Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, April 9, 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.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Doc Litchfield

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

George Payne & Family on the passing of George's mother

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



Congratulations to Andrew & Christina Mundell on the birth of their son Ellis Lee on March 20. Ellis weighed in at 12lb. 3oz. and was 22.5 in. long. Proud brother is Cecil Mundell and proud grandparents are Tom & Diane Mundell.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

12-1PM April 16 | Spy Wednesday

7-8PM April 17 | Maundy Thursday

12-1PM April 18 | Good Friday

11-12PM April 20 | Easter Sunday



UNIVERSITYBAPTIST.ORG

New Signage

Back in February, the U.S. District Court of Maryland issued a ruling that blocks ICE (and all Department of Homeland Security agents) from entering houses of worship to carry out enforcement operations unless they have first obtained a warrant signed by a judge or there are exigent circumstances. This ruling is limited to the named plaintiffs in the lawsuit. This includes all CBF partner churches, the Sikh Temple Sacramento and six Quaker Meetings. This decision effectively restores the sensitive location policy that had been revoked by the interim secretary of DHS, ensuring that houses of worship remain free from warrantless government raids. It means that CBF congregations like ours can now continue to worship and minister without the fear of unexpected enforcement actions. The ruling validates the longstanding Baptist commitment to religious liberty, local church autonomy, and the separation of church and state. To notify enforcement agents, the University Baptist Church's Church Council voted to place signage at each of our entrances. If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Church Council or one of the ministers.



Volunteers Needed

It's that time again! Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday beginning Wednesday, April 23! 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.



96 Years Ago

The first services were held at University Baptist Church in July of 1929, and the church was formally dedicated on August 11. Rev. Northen's sermon topic at the dedication service was "It Cannot Fail".

The accompanying photo is of the church building in the early years. The lampposts beside the front step were removed in the early 1980s.

-From A People Called: The University Baptist Church and its Predecessor, High Street Baptist Charlottesville, Virginia 1900-2000 by Howard Newlon.



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!



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!



Thank you to Jen May and Pam Hallissy for planting the lovely pansies in front of the church.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, April 9

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

THURSDAY, April 10

1:30 Personnel Committee Meeting
7:00 Deacons' Meeting

SATURDAY, April 12

1:00 UBCFamilies Indoor Pool Party

SUNDAY, April 13

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Bagel Brunch
3:30 UBCYouth Holy Week Escape Room
4:30 Jubilate Rehearsal
6:00 College Dinner

MONDAY, April 14

4:00 Theology Reading Group

TUESDAY, April 15

9:00 Stewardship Committee Mtg.
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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





We have a softball team!

UBC's softball team is part of the Charlottesville Church Softball League. The start of their season is only a month away. They play their games at McIntire or Darden Towe and always welcome new players. If you are interested in playing softball with a fun group of people in a Christian atmosphere, contact Coach George Martin at cva2011@aol.com.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

April 16: Carter Groff

April 17: Laura Faye Groff

April 18: Jim Moore, Larry Groves

April 19: Linda Smith, Russell Pinkham

April 20: Hunter Cooper, Hannah Guyton

April 21: Mattie Tomlin, Mary Ella McCauley

April 22: Kelly Wells

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

Maintenance Assistant: Hunter Cooper - 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

