



May 6, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 18



As Matt Tennant wraps up his final days in Bonaire, the rhythm of his sabbatical continues to center around rest, prayer, reading, and writing. These last few days on the island are especially focused, as he digs deeper into his two writing projects: *Overcoming Differences* and *Marine Theology*. The ocean, ever-present in his daily walks and swims, continues to inspire theological reflection—reminding him of God’s boundless love, washing over the world like baptismal grace.

Matt shared that he’s been especially struck by how silence and beauty work together to awaken new ideas. He’s journaling daily and beginning to outline sections of his upcoming books, grateful for the space to listen without hurry. As he prepares to return briefly to Charlottesville next week, this time in Bonaire has been a true gift.



SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, May 11, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Rev. Dr. J. David Turner

Scripture:

Psalm 119:103-105

Anthem:

You Are There - UBCKids
I Just Come from the Fountain
by Undine Smith Moore

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jimmy Li

Ushers: Gayle Eaker, Erin Eaker



Rev. Dr. J. David Turner

*While our pastor, Matt Tennant, is away on sabbatical, we are grateful to welcome a series of guest preachers to our pulpit. Each one brings a unique voice and faithful perspective to our shared journey. This week we're pleased to welcome **Rev. Dr. J. David Turner.***

How can we pray for Matt this week?

Pray for clarity as he transitions from this period of retreat back into a week at home with family and a new rhythm of work and celebration. Pray that what was planted in rest will take root in the days ahead.



This week's spiritual challenge:

As Matt reflects on how we journey through difference and division, take a moment to examine your own relationships. Where might God be inviting you to listen more deeply, to extend grace, or to see another's perspective with fresh eyes?

Don't forget!

This Wednesday night marks our first inter-generational gathering in our "Journey Together" series! Join us as we explore what it means to grow in faith across generations. We may be in different places—like Matt on an island and us here in town—but we are still journeying together in Christ.



And here's another challenge:

While Matt begins writing *Overcoming Differences*, consider revisiting his earlier book, *Crossing the Lines We Draw: Faithful Responses to a Polarized America*. It's a powerful reflection on how we can live with love and conviction in divisive times--and it offers the perfect foundation for what's to come. **Limited copies are available for purchase from the church office for \$10 each.**

David Turner, a Hospice Chaplain working in Charlottesville, is a seasoned Baptist minister with more than two decades of pastoral leadership experience. During his tenure as Senior Pastor of Central Baptist Church in Richmond, he also held leadership positions within the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship at the state, regional, and national levels. David and his wife, Rev. Christy Haga Turner, pastor of Crozet United Methodist Church, reside in Crozet, Virginia, with their two sons, Sam and Ben, both currently pursuing higher education.

Dear Church Family,

When we hired Elizabeth Dowdy as our Associate Minister for Children and Youth, it was for a one-year term, with the option for Elizabeth to be considered for this permanent ministry position. After prayerful discernment, Elizabeth has decided to withdraw her candidacy from consideration. She plans to fulfill her covenant with the church through the summer.

Elizabeth has exciting plans for our children and youth in the coming months, and as always, she needs and would warmly welcome volunteers to help bring these activities to life. Please be on the lookout for more information about these opportunities for fun, connection, and fellowship.

Later this summer, the Personnel Committee will begin the process for appointing a search committee for the called position of Associate Minister of Children and Youth.

On behalf of University Baptist Church, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the good work Elizabeth has done and the ministry she will continue to offer this summer. We trust that God has meaningful work ahead for Elizabeth as she steps faithfully into her next chapter of ministry.

Bill Cromwell
Chair, Personnel Committee

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Doc & Sarah Litchfield

Larry & Lynn Martin

Mary Ella McCauley

Edith Parker

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Wellford Tiller

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

May 15: Shelby Clements

May 16: Glenna Ohlms, Jacob Morris

May 17: Barbara Weber, Lauri Pallini, Bill Murray

May 19: Mildred Spicer, Portia Papagni

May 20: Jimmy Li

The United Gospel Choir is Coming!

Who? This summer, in partnership with Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church, we will have an opportunity to host a visit from the United Gospel Choir of Besancon, France.

When? The choir is coming to Charlottesville on Wednesday, July 16 and departing on Wednesday, July 23.

What? During their visit we will create a combined choir with the United Gospel Choir, UBC choir members, and Mt. Zion FABC choir members.

Where? We will give one or two performances and sing in worship at UBC on Sunday, July 20.

How to help? If you are interested in offering space in your house to host one or more of the visiting choir members, please contact [Megan](#). There also will be opportunities to help with meals and transportation during their visit.

Please save the dates-July 16-23!



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 chocolate and raspberry.***



125 Acts of Service

"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

IDEAS FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS LARGE AND SMALL

- Take a meal to a sick or stressed family
- Help with voter registration
- Contact Shelter for Help in Emergency and respond to their needs
- Collect children's books and coloring books for Ronald McDonald House
- Donate time and/or food to Loaves and Fishes
- Collect magazines for men's prison

Your own ideas are welcomed!!

Take a picture of your Act of Service and then [fill out this form](#) to tell us about it. If you are having trouble with the form or need to turn in your information a different way, contact [Amanda](#).

This Wednesday is our first intergenerational gathering in our "Journey Together" series! Join us as we explore what it means to grow in faith across generations while we enjoy our UBCKid's Choir End-of-Year Program.

You can register to attend [here](#).



Our Journey Together so far...

During these weeks of sabbatical, Matt is not the *only one* on a journey. As a church of people from all walks of life, part of our purpose is to journey together on life's paths.

Throughout this spring and summer, we are following a path together to learn more about how we can trust God, follow Jesus, grow in our faith, and be a community together. Sometimes the trail may seem challenging. We might not always be sure where we are going. But we journey on this path—together. To prepare and equip us for our journey, last Wednesday night we began making **hiking sticks**. We also started making **charms**, one to symbolize each week of the journey and the stops we visit along the way. So far, our journey has included:



CALENDAR

1. A Knapsack – To kick off our journey, Tommy preached “Are We There Yet?” He reminded us that thoughtful journeys begin with plans, preparations, packing—and prayer.

2. The Number “66” – In “A Library of Stories,” Pastor Anna reminded us of the stories, songs, and wisdom that come in the 66 canonical books of our Bible.

3. A Book – “God’s Word Is for Everyone” – This week, on Wednesday night and Sunday morning, we will continue to learn how the Bible equips each of us for life’s journeys.

Ahead on the journey, we will learn more about the Fruit of the Spirit, the Disciples, the Church, and the World.

Whether you join us in stages or for every step along the way, we look forward to journeying together with you.

WEDNESDAY, May 7

9:00 Work Team

12:00 Ice Cream Ministry

5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Journey Together Series

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, May 8

1:30 Personnel Committee Meeting

7:00 Deacons' Meeting

SATURDAY, May 10

9:00 Touch-A-Truck

SUNDAY, May 11

8:30 JARC Meeting

9:30 Mothers' Day Breakfast

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

TUESDAY, May 13

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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





Custodial Update

As we continue to appreciate the good work that Thomas Hill did for many years maintaining our building, we are tackling how to continue that work. We have contracted with Buenos Dias Cleaners to do the daily cleaning, trash collection, etc. They will also provide other services such as waxing floors as needed.

We have recently hired Hunter Cooper to assist with maintenance. Hunter is a student at PVCC, and his family are all contributors to the life of UBC. We welcome him in this new role. Hunter is focusing on outside maintenance such as leaf removal, mulching, bush trimming, and general cleanup. Hunter is also assisting with preparing for events such as when tables need to be set up.

We remain conscious of our custodial budgets, and additional tasks are being handled by the work team and the staff, and we can always use volunteers for special projects. Two projects for this summer are to paint the railings around the building and shampooing carpets. Please contact [Linda](#) or [Alan](#) if you would like to help or have maintenance concerns.



We have a softball team!

UBC's softball team is part of the Charlottesville Church Softball League. They open on Friday, May 9 against Trinity at 8:00 and 9:00 on McIntire 1. 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.

THE GREEN VBS™
Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.

July 21-25, 2025
9AM-Noon

University Baptist Church



2024 Missions Discretionary Fund

For the past six years, the Missions Council has included a Missions Discretionary Fund in our missions budget to allow us to address needs that come up during the course of the year, both in our neighborhood and around the world. We spend time in each of our monthly meetings discussing ideas for how the money could be used. Sometimes the money is sent to help with needs of an ongoing nature, but at other times an opportunity presents itself to do something right now that can have an immediate impact. Thank you for the opportunity to share with the following organizations on your behalf in 2024.

- A. \$4,286.69 to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Disaster Response Fund to assist with the relief efforts needed as a result of Hurricane Helene.
- B. \$500 to Baptist News Global, an independent faith-based e-newsletter (that anyone can sign up to receive via email).
- C. \$500 to help support John Grant, one of our Jubilate students, in his mission work in Bulgaria last summer.
- D. \$240.71 to purchase supplies to fill toiletry kit bags during our family mission project last summer. The toiletry kits went to the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, and Chaplain Jerusha Tiller was able to join us that evening as we packed the bags.
- E. \$72.60 went to our prayer shawl ministry group to help purchase supplies for their projects.

As we are considering uses for the 2025 Missions Discretionary Fund, we invite you to share any ideas or suggestions that you have with any member of the council (Diane Mundell, Jen May, Sarah Buchanan, Jackie Lockwood, Colleen Baber, Theresa Guyton, Judy Shah)

Staff Contact Information:

Senior Minister: Dr. Matthew Tennant - matt@universitybaptist.org
Interim Executive Minister: Rev. Susan Deal - susan@universitybaptist.org
Associate Minister for Music and College Students - Megan Sharp - megan@universitybaptist.org
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Rickert Dowdy - elizabeth@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.

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Connect with us

