



July 22, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 28



After three months of prayer, writing, service, and sacred rest, Matt Tennant's sabbatical journey is coming to a close. This week marks his final days at La Senda Verde in Bolivia, where he's spent the last month caring for animals, connecting with volunteers from around the world, and completing the final pages of his *Marine Theology manuscript*.

The jungle has been a holy classroom—teaching Matt about gentleness, responsibility, and the quiet power of daily acts of care. As he wraps up his volunteer work and prepares to return home, he is carrying with him more than stories. He returns with a renewed heart, a deeper listening spirit, and a fresh vision for life and ministry.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, July 27, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

So Where Do We Go From Here?

Rev. Tommy Deal

Scripture:

James 1:22-25 & 2:14-17

Anthem:

Music Camp Kids

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Peter Ohlms

Ushers: Mary Jo Hendricks, Ed Barker



*While our pastor, Matt Tennant, is away on sabbatical, we are grateful to have welcomed a series of guest preachers to our pulpit. This week we're pleased to welcome back **Rev. Tommy Deal** to wrap up our *Journey Together* series.*

Back in Charlottesville, we prepare to welcome him—not as the exact same person who left, but as someone transformed by the journey. He'll step back into our church family with new questions, deeper faith, and stories we have yet to hear.

How can we pray for Matt this week?

Pray for safe travels and a smooth transition. Pray that the Spirit will help him carry forward what has been planted during this time. And pray that he re-enters with peace, joy, and a renewed sense of call.

This week's spiritual challenge:

What have *you* learned through this journey? Whether you joined in prayer, followed along each week, or took on the weekly challenges—pause to reflect. Where have you grown? What might God be inviting you to carry forward?

Matt's sabbatical is ending, but our journey together continues. May we move forward as people transformed—not by distance, but by the Spirit.

Welcome Home, Matt!
Wednesday, July 30
Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m.

Matt's three-month sabbatical took him from the shores of Bonaire to the jungles of Bolivia—with a meaningful stop in between to celebrate his sons' college graduations and spend precious time with family following the death of his father. Now he's home, and we want to welcome him back with open arms.

Join us for a joyful "Welcome Home" party as we hear stories from Matt's journey—some adventurous, some tender—and reflect together on what God has been doing in far-off places and right here at UBC. We'll share a meal, share some laughter, and open our hearts to the season ahead.

Make your dinner reservations [here](#). Let's finish this journey together—with gratitude, hope, and a warm UBC welcome.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, July 23

9:00 Music Camp
9:00 Work Team
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry

THURSDAY, July 24

9:00 Music Camp

FRIDAY, July 25

9:00 Music Camp

SUNDAY, July 27

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, July 28

12:30 Missions Council Meeting

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



Our Pastor's Anniversary

It's Matt's Anniversary!!

This Thursday, July 24, is Matt's 8th anniversary as Senior Pastor here at UBC.

Take a moment, think about all that's been accomplished in those 8 years,

and on Wednesday, July 30 wish him a happy anniversary and thank him for leading us in ministry for the past 8 years.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

July 31: Ponyo Mulcahy

Aug. 3: Robby Gough



Second Quarter Financial Update

January-June 2025

Contributions: \$253,073.20

Expenses: \$353,765.18

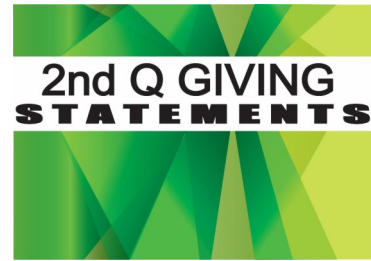


We're excited to announce *a new summer offering* for kids at UBC--**Mini Music Camp!**

Instead of our traditional VBS, we're hosting a three-day music experience filled with singing, instrument-playing, movement, and games. The theme is "**God, Our Protector,**" and we'll explore stories from the Bible about how God was present with people and kept them safe.

This is open to our church family and friends--*all are welcome!*

Come join us for joyful music-making and faith-filled fun.



Second quarter giving statements went out last week. If you did not receive yours (either through email or print) or you have questions, please let [Amanda](#) know.



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

Do you have an Act of Service to submit to help us reach our goal?

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](#).



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 vanilla & raspberry!***



WMU Woodbrook School Supplies Project

To begin school this coming school year 2025-26, the suggested supply lists listed on the Woodbrook Elementary School website have an average cost across all grades of over \$59 per student. Around sixty percent of the Woodbrook families are on public assistance and cannot afford to buy their children what they need. The financial hardships added by the pandemic and sky-rocketing inflation have compounded the needs of these children. In 2008, Love INC paired the UBC WMU with the Family Support Workers at Woodbrook Elementary. In the beginning we asked you to bring in a variety of school supplies that we sorted and delivered to the school. This method was pretty chaotic. For the last 17 years, we have asked you to donate money, we asked the Family Support workers what things they specifically needed, and then we purchased those supplies and delivered them to the school. The Woodbrook Family Support Workers were delighted with this more efficient method. We want to continue to meet the needs of the less fortunate children "... to give [them] hope and a future" - Jeremiah 29:11. Please make your checks or online donations payable to UBC and earmark "school supplies."

Pictures Needed

Preparations are well underway as we anticipate an important capstone event marking the celebration of our 125 years at UBC. Our banquet, which will be held October 11, will be a time of celebration and recognition as we share memories, interact with former church staff, and thank God for our time together as a congregation. Ed Smith (edsmithan-nesmith@comcast.net) and Seth Kodikara (seth.kodikara@gmail.com) are gathering photos which reflect our past. They are especially looking for photos taken during the last 25 years in order that we might also reflect on how UBC reacted to challenges such as 9/11, various events at UVA, Katrina, and the homeless needs within our community. We would love to hear from you, if you have pictures, you are willing to share.

Please contact Ed, Seth, or the church office, if you have pictures which you believe would be appropriate for the celebration or the church archives. Hard copies or electronic pictures sent via email will be greatly appreciated.



We will NOT gather tomorrow, but will meet again on Wednesday, July 30.

New Door Code System

Our new door code system has been installed. We are in the process of transferring door codes into the new system. If you currently have a door code, it will work, but with slight alterations. Your altered code will be the last four digits of your current code preceded by the # sign. We will get them transferred as quickly as possible. If you have any problems with the new system, let the office know.

Meet Our New Deacons

We are grateful to announce the election of five new deacons to serve a three-year term on the Deacon Council: Debra Bryant, 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.



We have a softball team!

UBC's softball team is part of the Charlottesville Church Softball League. They finished the regular season in second place!

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.

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

Edith Parker

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

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 - 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

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

