



September 2, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 34

ONWATCH Rediscovering Some Perspective

No matter what happens today (or happened yesterday), there's always someone who had it worse. The lesson for us is based on the biblical principle of gratitude. "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). For me, seeing something terrible somewhere far away evokes compassion and sympathy for the people going through a tragedy, and it helps me see how good I have it.

Yesterday, an earthquake shook eastern Afghanistan. The per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Afghanistan was a little over \$400 in 2023 (compared to over \$66,000 in the U.S.). It is one of the poorest countries in the world. With poverty that is inconceivable to most of us, they just endured a devastating earthquake. As I write this, over 800 people are dead and 2,500 injured. In a population that has so little, the ground shook, people died, and lives exploded. It's hard to imagine what they are going through.

Hearing news of the earthquake broke my heart. The best way to help is to donate to reputable organizations providing emergency relief, like the [International Rescue Committee](#), [Save the Children](#), or [Médecins Sans Frontières](#). I wish we could do more, but like most of you, I am neither equipped nor called to go to Afghanistan to help. Even if I thought God was calling me there, the Taliban would probably not welcome a Christ-

Sunday, September 7, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

1,000 Steps

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Mark 14:26-31

Anthems:

But By Love by Dan Forrest

Christ, We See You by Ken Medema

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Alden Pinkham, Eddy Tennant

Ushers: Amy Song, Jackie Lockwood

College Dinners: Click [here](#) to provide a dinner for our college students.



Help feed our college students this year!

Our Sunday night dinners not only feed Jubilate mem-

bers at 5:30 each Sunday evening, but we also invite ALL college students to come eat dinner! Help us provide home-cooked and delicious meals for our group as UBC cares for our UVA neighbors. Sign up as a family, a Bible study group, or grab a friend to come help you with set up and clean up. Click [here](#) to pick your week.

follower from the U.S. who showed up to lend a hand.

When something like this happens, even as our hearts break for those who were hurt, it reminds me not to take our relative safety for granted. We have earthquakes in Virginia, but they are usually minor. This past Sunday, the earth under our sanctuary didn't shake. No one attacked us. Instead, we welcomed new and returning students, life-long members, and first-time visitors, and a large group for a holiday weekend. We raised our voices and thought about what it means to pray with our feet.

As we face the ups and downs of another week, I pray that we can maintain our sense of perspective. If you feel led to help the Afghans, do so. If not, that's okay. There are many ways for us to engage in helping people, including many in our community (e.g., the book drive organized by the Seekers Sunday Bible Study). As I write this, I am thankful for our beautiful and safe worship space. I am thankful for the cooler, sunny September days. And I am thankful for you.

Peace,
Matt

Prayer Requests from our Youngest Members

During Worship+Wonder the kids were asked about any challenges at school. Their answers are below so that we can pray for them as they start the school year.

Clara - Calendar activities are scary, and math is boring.

Harper - I don't want any more storms during the school day!

Seth - There are some wild kids in my class this year, and that's tricky.

Stella - Writing is hard, and I have too much P.E.

Russell - Other kids are arguing and being unkind, and I'm trying to ignore them and do the right thing.



Wednesday, September 3
Dinner starts at 5:15pm
(Note time change!)

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

Wednesday Night Schedule Changing

Starting this Wednesday evening our schedule will change slightly. The hope is to allow more time for conversation around the dinner tables, open a space in the weekly schedule for the Sanctuary Bells to resume rehearsals, and to allow those with young children who sing in the Sanctuary Choir to get home before bedtime.

This new schedule will begin on Wednesday, September 3

5:15-6:30-Dinner

6:30-8:00-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Beginning Wednesday, September 10, Sanctuary Bells will rehearse from 5:45-6:30 in the Sanctuary balcony. For more information about the Bell Choir, contact [Sheri Owen](#).

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.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Leon & Nancy Castle
Johnny & Gail Ellen
David & Linda Hendon
Larry & Lynn Martin
Edith Parker
Kaylee Risell
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson
Liz Wood & Family on the death of Martha Wood

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

Funeral Service

The service celebrating Martha Wood's life will be on Saturday, September 6. The family will have a viewing and visitation in the sanctuary starting at 10am. The service will be at noon, and there will be a reception in the fellowship hall after.

If you are able to help with the reception, please click [here](#) for the sign up genius or contact the church office.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, September 3

9:00 Work Team
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAY, September 6

10:00 Martha Wood Visitation
12:00 Martha Wood Funeral
1:00 Martha Wood Reception

SUNDAY, September 7

8:30 Church Council
9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Bagel Brunch
4:00 Jubilate Rehearsal
5:30 College Student Dinner

TUESDAY, September 9

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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



Jazz Vespers Returns

Come to Jazz Vespers on Friday, September 12 at 5:30pm. This casual worship experience will feature UBC musicians Dean Tennant on piano and Bobby Gregg on saxophone with local musicians Adam Kester on bass and Hares Ragub on drums. Childcare is provided during the service.



Book Baskets of Charlottesville

The Seekers Class is pleased to report that they have collected **257 books** for the book drive for Book Baskets of Charlottesville. Our UBC family has been very generous. Thank you to all who have been shopping or who have found clean used books to share. If you have not had a

chance to contribute, the baskets will be out for two more weeks. The collection baskets will be removed on Sunday, September 14, after church.

A volunteer from Book Baskets recently told us that a large percentage of their books get distributed to kids through Loaves and Fishes food pantry. Book Basket volunteers fill shopping carts with books and catch families as they leave the facility. They ask the age of kids in the homes and make sure each family leaves with appropriate books for all. So remember as you look for books, we are helping fill up baskets *and* shopping carts to get books in the hands of local kids.



"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

32 Years Ago

Following a series of events that began with the 1979 SBC Convention in Houston, the SBC began to move toward the right. By 1993, the SBC had essentially left UBC and other moderate Baptist churches by the way-side. At the April 28, 1993 Church Conference, the congregation voted to shift support from the SBC Cooperative Program to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Effectively on that date, UBC left the SBC.

125th Anniversary Banquet

The 125th Anniversary Banquet Committee is collecting strings of white lights to decorate the Fellowship Hall for the October 11 dinner. Please bring any lights you would like to donate for the occasion and place them in the box outside of the church office.

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 orange and vanilla!***

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Sept. 10: Georgina Main

Sept. 11: Jordan Johnson, Leon Castle, Desteny Bonilla, Alba Beasley

Sept. 12: Randy Whitlow

Sept. 14: Nick Martindale

Sept. 15: Anne Smith

Sept. 16: Ed Smith, Lynne Gardner



We're having a church workday on Saturday, September 13 (**note the date change**) from 9:00 - 2:00. Come anytime and stay as long as you like. No special skills necessary, just a desire to help keep our campus and building looking great. There is something for everyone!

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.

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Connect with us

