



July 7, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 27

ONWATCH

Caritas = Love/Charity/Inclusion

On Sunday, in [my sermon](#), I focused on welcoming people, especially people who are hard to welcome. Then, on Sunday afternoon, I was reading Edward Schillebeeckx's book *World & Church*, and a section about *caritas* struck me. It felt like Schillebeeckx took what I was saying and pushed it further. *Caritas* is the Latin word for love, but in Christian parlance, people associate it with charity. For Schillebeeckx, it's about the 'other'. He writes, "In *caritas*, people are turned toward other people—each makes the other, as a person, the object of care and disinterested service."

When we ask how we can be more welcoming, I wonder how the idea of "disinterested service" fits in. To me, "disinterested service" means "serving others because God calls us to do it, not because we hope for reward or recognition." Living for other people might be the closest thing we can do to imitate Christ.

Over the years, I have seen countless examples of people performing acts of "disinterested service." Here are a few examples from our church family: visiting, taking food to someone, swinging a hammer, creating a spreadsheet, singing, and so much more. Once, someone washed dishes on a Wednesday night when the dishwasher didn't show up. On a regular basis, people invest time and love in the children of the church. This list

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, July 12, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Freedom to Be God's Hands & Feet"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Romans 8:1-11

Anthem:

Look at the World by John Rutter

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jimmy Li

Ushers: Tom & Sylvie Moore



**New Social Media
Coordinator**

Hadessah Johnson Tennant is our new Social Media Coordinator. She recently graduated from the University of Virginia with a master's degree in chemistry. If Hadessah looks familiar, it's because she has been attending UBC since 2022. We welcome her as our newest staff member.

barely scratches the surface of ways people embody Christ and *caritas* in our church.

When we give ourselves to others, we offer God's love through our actions. Schillebeeckx writes, "In this, the outward activity of rendering assistance is the 'instrument' of our effect on the other, the *sacrament* of our effective love." These "outward activities" bring about God's love in a concrete way. They are a lived faith.

Picking up where we left off on Sunday, who are you welcoming? What are the obstacles to welcoming the other? How do we overcome those obstacles?

Peace,
Matt

Sermon Manuscripts Available

People have asked if Matt's sermon manuscripts are available, and the answer is, yes. If you would like to receive them, contact Linda in the church office, and we will add you to the list.



LTR Ministries, Inc. is offering a beginner's guide to conversations about race. Five weekly sessions, 1.5 hours each, will be offered each week at the same time, beginning Tuesday, July 7, 8:00 PM. Each session includes:

- 15-20 min. of discussion
- 45-50 min. of teaching
- another 15-20 min. of discussion

There is minimal homework between sessions. This will be a safe space for honest, and possibly hard, conversations about race. Click [here](#) to register.



Summer schedule May - July
2X a month
Our next dinner will be this
Wednesday, July 8, 5:15pm
followed by
Celtic Evening Liturgy.

Menu:

Roasted Pork Tenderloin
Roasted Baby Potatoes
Charred Summer Succotash
Tomato Cucumber Salad
Rolls/Bread
Lemon Blueberry Loaf with
White Chocolate Drizzle

Contact the church office,
to make your dinner reservations.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, July 8

8:00 Work Team Breakfast @The Villa
9:00 Work Team
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Wednesday Night Program
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, July 9

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

SUNDAY, July 12

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, July 13

7:15 Women's Book Study

TUESDAY, July 14

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

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

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Ed & Betty Barker

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



Summer Schedule for Sunday Bible Study

Adult classes meeting this summer:

Seekers will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays in G14

New Life will meet each week in Room 120

All adults are invited to attend either of these classes.

College class will be meeting for breakfast at Bodo's.

Youth class and Children's class will be taking a break for the summer.



Ice Cream Ministry

Notice anything missing from this picture? That's right. No ice cream! We can't serve anything but cones without your help. Please consider volunteering to help serve during a week in July or August, so our devoted friends will have ice cream in their cones. Sign up [here](#) or call the church office. Vanilla and orange cream this week.

Thank You to Our VBS volunteers!!

We had 22 children here with us Monday through Friday enjoying the experience of getting to know God and having fun doing it with singing, crafts, Bible stories, science experiments, and games.

Seeing the enthusiasm of the children and the VBS Band in worship on Sunday was an uplifting experience.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our VBS week such a success!



Children's Church

Children's Church will be taking a break for the month of July and will resume on Sunday, August 2. During the month of July there will be a table with activities in the Sanctuary for the children during the sermon.

Search Committee Update



SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has been busy and is making good progress. They received quite a few resumes from prospective candidates and have narrowed

them down to three, have had initial interviews, and now follow-up interviews have been completed.

2026 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly

Do you remember that feeling when you returned home from summer church camp? You felt tired, but full of the Spirit of God. You felt energized by the love of Jesus and renewed by a week of making new friends and setting time apart from the daily responsibilities and routines of life at home. That is how I felt when I returned from the CBF General Assembly.

The theme this year was a call to be the bold type. We were encouraged to find our own path to boldness through creativity, action, thoughtfulness, and all the many ways that the Spirit can move us. I enjoyed meeting other CBF pastors and lay leaders, networking with ministers of music and those who minister to young adults and students, and celebrating the diversity of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. CBF supports the work of justice, addresses issues of hunger and inclusion, and uplifts women in ministry. Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about CBF and gather with other CBF church leaders.

Blessings,
Megan



UBC's Woodbrook School Supplies Ministry

To begin school this coming school year 2026-2027, the suggested supply lists listed on the Woodbrook Elementary School website have an average cost across all grades of at least \$75 per student. Around fifty-six percent of the Woodbrook families are on public assistance and cannot afford to buy their children what they need. The financial hardships, added to by sky-rocketing inflation, including the rising cost of fuel in recent months, have compounded the needs of these children. In 2008, Love INC paired UBC through our Missions Council with Woodbrook Elementary. You may remember that in the early days of this partnership, we asked you to bring in a variety of school supplies that we sorted and delivered to the school. This method was chaotic to administer and didn't necessarily provide the types and quantities of items most needed. So, for the last several years, we have asked you to donate money instead. We then ask the Woodbrook teachers and counselor what things the children specifically need, purchase those supplies and deliver them to the school. The Woodbrook staff was 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."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

July 18: Brian Mulcahy

July 20: Tina Stephens

July 21: Ismael Moumbossy, Luke Brown

This is a picture of the deCycles 2026 team who spent the night here at UBC on July 1. They captioned their photo with: *Thanks sooo much for your gracious hospitality!*

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

Church Administrator: Alan Hendricks - ahendricks@universitybaptist.org

Social Media Coordinator: Hadessah Johnson Tennant - socialmedia@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 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.

Do you have something to submit to our weekly newsletter?
Suggestions must be submitted to linda@universitybaptist.org
by Monday at noon.

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

