



March 10, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 10

ONWATCH

The Christian Ethic
and United States Foreign Policy

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 15, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Seeing As God Sees
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Anthems:

Jesus, Good Shepherd
by Bradley Ellingboe
Open Thou Mine Eyes
by John Rutter

This was the title of the Fall Lecture Series, December 3-5, 1965, at University Baptist Church, Charlottesville. Dr. Paul Geren delivered the lectures as he was preparing to go to Libya with the U.S. Department of State. He served in World War II as an intelligence officer and was awarded the Bronze Star. He held various academic and public service positions.

I wish his lectures had been published or preserved. As the United States embarks on another Middle Eastern war, we need more learned voices articulating a Christian ethical response. According to Military.com, an anonymous member of the U.S. armed forces informed the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) that non-commissioned officers were told that the Iran war is part of God’s plan and that President Donald Trump was “anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire in Iran to cause Armageddon and mark his return to Earth.” The MRFF has logged more than 200 similar complaints across 50 installations encompassing every branch of the military.

Is the Iran war part of God’s plan? In Matthew 24:36, Jesus said, “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” What would Dr. Geren say about proclamations of a Middle Eastern war as part of God’s plan? What is the Christian ethic

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: TBD

Ushers: Cindy Bryant, Shirley Clark

College Dinner: Barbara Murray

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



Looking back on the last year, our focus was on engagement and making a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Here you will see how, through your involvement and sacrifices, that was accomplished. This is the story of God at work among us. In these pages you will find pictures and stories from our congregation in 2025. It is not an exhaustive list, as we are a busy church. Our hope is that as you review these memories, you will see evidence of God's hand at work in the life of this family of faith. Let's celebrate!



The 2025 Year in Review is now available! Click [here](#) to see a copy online or pick one up at church.

at times like this? Unlike Dr. Geren, I am not a political theorist, so I cannot offer any commentary on politics or government policy. My training is in theology. So, I turn to scripture and theologians. Specifically, in considering this moment of war, I turned to Thomas Merton's essay, "The Root of War Is Fear."

Merton suggests that war begins in the human heart. Fear fuels aggression, and the contemporary world amplifies fear. He wrote this essay in 1961 during the Cold War, and he pointed out the hypocrisy of putting "pray for peace" on postage stamps while spending a "fabulous amount of money" on weapons. This incongruity is an affront to God. Merton writes, "Only love—which means humility—can exorcise the fear which is at the root of all war."

Merton ends his essay by suggesting that we need to realign what we think is peace, and instead of loving our own concept of peace, we need to love other people and love God. He concludes, "If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed—but hate these things *in yourself*, not in another."

Peace,
Matt



Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News yesterday. He appears on WINA once per month to provide some commentary on the news from a faith perspective. They discussed the questions that people ask faith leaders when there are significant military conflicts in the world. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here.](#)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Mar. 18: Ingrid Flaherty

Mar. 19: Anne Wilkerson (90 years young!), Karen Minor

Mar. 20: Audrey Miller, Matthew Smith, Ellis Mundell

Mar. 21: Melanie Tennant, Courtney Bonilla

Mar. 22: Peggy Lawrence, Lynn Martin

Mar. 24: Sharron Leland, Patrick Watson, Elizabeth Dowdy



Puerto Rico Missions

The mission trip team has returned safely home after five days in Puerto Rico. Megan Sharp, Eddy Tennant, Phoebe Fant, and Hadessah Johnson travelled to Puerto Rico to install a cement pad for Iglesia Bautista de Quebrada. The pad created a new and safe location for their generator. We were hosted by Xiomara Reboyras from CBF Florida and financially supported by UBC and CBF Virginia. On Sunday, March 15, the team will give a testimony about their time in Puerto Rico. Come hear about their experience and the spiritual growth that can happen when we connect with Christians from different cultures.



A link to daily Lenten devotionals is posted on the homepage of our

[website](#). Check it out and enrich your Lenten journey.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Leon & Nancy Castle
David & Linda Hendon
Larry & Lynn Martin
Bill & Barbara Murray
Edith Parker
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



Join us for dinner tomorrow, Wednesday, March 11, 5:15, in the Fellowship Hall. Following dinner at 6:00, we will have the third week of our Lenten Series: Celtic Evening Liturgy entitled *Softening Stubborn Hearts* based on John 7:14-18; Psalm 81:1-3, 11-13.

Menu:

Roasted Herb Chicken Leg Quarters
Spring Vegetable Pasta
Garlic Bread
Mixed Green Salad
Dessert TBD

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 11

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PB&J Bible Study
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner
5:45 Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal
6:00 Program
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, March 12

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

FRIDAY, March 13

5:30 Jazz Vespers

SUNDAY, March 15

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Bagel Brunch
4:00 Jubilate Rehearsal
5:30 Student Dinner

MONDAY, March 16

4:00 Theology Reading Group

TUESDAY, March 17

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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



Souper Bowl of Caring

Our UBC Missions Council voted to use the funds (\$800) from Souper Bowl of Caring to provide food for the UVA Cavalier Food Pantry where Val (Fisk) Hassard is the Basic Needs Care Coordinator. Click [here](#) to see a list of the actual items purchased.

CBF Offering for National Missions

Scarlette Jasper has been involved in non-profit work for over 30 years. She has an M.Div. from Baptist Seminary of Kentucky with a concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling. Besides being a CBF field personnel, Scarlette is the director of Olive Branch Ministries, a non-profit organization, founded on the belief that every person deserves to experience the peace and tranquility of Christ's love. They, like CBF's Together for Hope Initiative, serve among the homeless population, the working poor, families in medical or financial crisis, survivors of domestic violence, and the elderly and disabled.

One of the programs she works with through Olive Branch Ministries and First Baptist Church of Corbin (KY) is the White Flag Cold Weather Relief Ministry which is much like our PACEM. They provide shelter for the homeless on the coldest nights of the year and a hot meal at the end of the day.

Christmas Boxes for Appalachia



Another project, organized by Scarlette, CBF, and Olive Branch Ministries, is the filling of Christmas Boxes for Appalachia. These Christmas boxes are filled by volunteers and are fun and practical gift packages creat-

ed for children, teens, and seniors in the Appalachian communities. Participants fill shoeboxes with new toys, hygiene items, clothing (hats/gloves), gift cards, and school supplies. This year Scarlette helped deliver 4,675 boxes to neighbors in Appalachia allowing thousands to experience the love of Christ in a tangible way.



Our goal here at UBC is to contribute \$3,000 toward Scarlette Jasper's ministries. Please help us reach that goal by sending a check to University Baptist Church, noting that it is for National Missions, or donating online [here](#).

You're Invited!!



DETAILS

Reception Information

Join us after the wedding in the fellowship hall!
food • speeches • dances
06/06/2026 beginning at 5:00 PM
Please note that this is an alcohol-free event.

Attire

Semi Formal:
Polished and elegant attire such as suits, button down/khakis and midi-length dresses. Feel free to embrace cheerful summer colors.

For more information, see:

<https://www.zola.com/wedding/hadessahanddean>

Please RSVP
[here](#) by Saturday, April 25

Their registry can be found on their wedding website [here](#).



This Easter we would like to decorate the 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 complete an order form. Forms will be available from

the church office, in the bulletins on Sunday, and online [here](#). Deadline is Sunday, March 29.



Blood Drive sponsored by Madison House – UVA Health
UBC Fellowship Hall
Thursday, March 20
10:00am – 3:00pm
Schedule an appointment online with the QR code below or call 1-800-RED CROSS

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
Communications Coordinator - Kayla Riley - 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.

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

Connect with us

