



January 13, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 2

ON WATCH

Reaching Out

What can we do to reach out to our neighbors? Lots of people come through the doors of the church each week. Some come for worship services or other UBC-scheduled events. Others come for Nia, a community group using our church for a meeting, blood drives, and concerts. In one sense, our mission field often comes to us. Even though my opening question is about reaching out, we don't always have to go somewhere else to reach new people. We can reach out to new people right here within the church.

How do we reach out to people within the building? There are two parts to the answer to this question. First, there are the actions we can take as individuals, and, second, there are the actions we can take as a congregation.

As individuals, reaching out to the people in the building means being here. We can't do it if we never come to church. Once we are here, we can smile, welcome people, and introduce ourselves to anyone we don't know. This mission rests on hospitality. It's okay to tell someone, "I'm glad you are here," or to ask, "Have you found everything you need?" Anything we can do to help people feel comfortable when they are here is one way to make it more likely they will come back.

As a congregation, we can make decisions to help people want to learn more about us. The Church

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 18, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

A Light For the Nations

Dr. Jerusha Tiller

Scripture:

Isaiah 49:1-7

Anthem:

The Lamb of God by John Reim

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Peter Ohlms

Ushers: Jimmy Li, Amy Song

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



Rev. Dr. Jerusha Tiller is the Supervising Chaplain of central VA and the institutional chaplain at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women—the largest, maximum security women's prison in Virginia. A graduate of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and the Union Presbyterian Seminary, Jerusha has also taught world religions at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Tennant will be in Chapel Hill celebrating his nephew's ordination as a deacon and preaching at Hillside Baptist Church.

Council has had one idea on their agenda for several months: murals. By hiring a good artist to create an interesting mural, someone who is coming through the space might think, "Who are these people? I'd like to get to know them better." Another form of outreach is the way we take care of our building. The Building and Grounds Committee is exploring freshening up the Fellowship Hall. This will likely involve new colors. Stay tuned. Both murals and new paint are about reaching new people.

What else? What can we do to welcome our neighbor? If you have any ideas, please share them. I want to know.

Peace,
Matt



Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tenant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News today. He appears on WINA once per month to provide some commentary on the news from a faith perspective. He talked this month about UBC's PACEM ministry and our need to view our neighbors as people who deserve to be loved and cared for. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).



June 22-26
Rainforest Falls
(note change in
dates)

PACEM at UBC Begins This Month!

On Tuesday, January 27, we will begin our two weeks of offering shelter and meals to people in our area without homes. We will host approximately 40 guests each night, providing them with a warm dinner and a safe place to sleep.

We need your help! Below are links you can use to sign up for volunteer opportunities (help set up in Fellowship Hall, wash kitchen towels, take down/clean-up) or to donate specific items (McDonald's gift card, breakfast & snack items, hot chocolate, fruit).

[Volunteer Sign-up](#) (or contact the office)
[Donation Sign-up](#) (or contact the office)

Additionally, we will be collecting donations:
Toothbrushes (individual, no multi-packs)
Toothpaste (travel packs)
Tissues (travel packs)
Chapstick
Shaving cream (travel size)
Men's razors
Hand lotion (travel size)
Combs
Deodorant
Foot powder
Hand warmers
Mints & cough drops
Playing cards
Colored pencils
Journals/notebooks
Heavy, dark socks (adult men)
Winter hats
Underwear (men's L, XL, or 2XL)
Plain white T-shirts (men's L, XL, or 2XL)
Adult sized sturdy backpacks or duffel bags (new or gently used)
Bath towels & washcloths (new or gently used)

If you'd like to learn more about the work PACEM does in Charlottesville, click [here](#).

Thank you for your generosity as we care for and love our neighbors.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Laura Martindale's parents

Edith Parker

Nadine Roddy

Barbara Weber

Jane Whitworth on her brother's battle with cancer

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



You'll have many opportunities in the coming year to join together and discuss what it means to be a Baptist at UBC. We'll look at what Baptists believe, how UBC's leadership and volunteers are organized, what we believe about baptism and communion, and the many ministry opportunities here at the church. Even if you've been a member of UBC for years, we think you'll discover something you never knew about us.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, January 14

9:00 Work Team

10:00 PB&J Bible Study

5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 *Developing a Spiritual Plan for the Year*

5:45 Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal

6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, January 18

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting

8:30 JARC 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, January 19

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, January 20

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

Ways you can SERVE

Looking for Helpers

If you are willing to help with various small tasks, that don't involve a ladder or hammer, associated with the office and/or our worship space, please contact [Linda](#) in the church office. We'd like to create a team that we could send these small task requests to and then anyone who is available and willing to help with that particular task could respond.

Thanks for considering to serve in this way.

Stewardship Committee Pledge Status

Thank you to all of you who have made a pledge to our 2026 budget. We have a total of 60 pledges (85% of last year's number) totaling \$469,852 (85% of last year's total). If you haven't yet done so, you can still do that by emailing [Amanda](#) or calling her at 434-293-5106 with the amount and frequency.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Jan. 21: Larry Martin
Jan. 25: Brad Groff
Jan. 26: Debra Bryant

MLK Community Celebration

Sunday, January 25, 4:00 pm

Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church
105 Lankford Ave.

UBC partnered with Mt. Zion this past summer to host a visit from the United Gospel Choir from Besancon, France. We are again partnering with Mt. Zion FABC, along with other community churches, to present the MLK Community Celebration. Rev. Megan Sharp is working with the adult and children's community choirs for this event. Mark your calendars and plan to attend and support this community-wide event.



Join us this Wednesday, January 14 at 5:15 for dinner.

Following dinner at 6:00, we will have a program called *Developing a Spiritual Plan for the Year.*

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

Our menu will be:

French Onion Chicken

Mashed Potatoes

Honey-Glazed Carrots

Mixed Greens Salad with Cucumber and Cherry Tomatoes

French Dinner Rolls

Spice Cake w/Glaze



Year-End Giving Statements

Year-end giving statements will be coming out next week. You will receive it electronically, unless you have already been receiving quarterly statements in the mail. If you would prefer a paper copy of your 2025 statement, please let [Amanda](#) know, and she will be happy to print it for you.



Embracing Neighbors:
Nurturing Hope
CBF Global Missions 2025-2026

We have received \$4,400 toward our \$3,000 goal which represents 147% of our goal! Thank you to everyone who helped us to exceed our 2025-26 goal for Global Missions!!

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

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

