



January 20, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 3

## ON WATCH

### The Most Important Thing

Don't let something that is not important become the most important thing. A wise woman in a former church used to say, "Don't major on the minor stuff." Too often, we take our attention away from the gospel story and give it to things that have no eternal significance.

How do we focus on what's important? First, we need to spend time reading our Bibles. The Bible isn't God or God's direct revelation. It is a shadow of God's revelation, and it points to the nature of God. Scripture is how we get to know God. As we get to know God, we get to know what is important.

Second, try to maintain some perspective. When something seems important, ask, "Is it really important?" It's easy to focus on things and let them become big to us, even if, in the grand scheme of things, they have no eternal significance. This is where reading good books and following trustworthy news sources can help. By staying informed, we can make sure we know about the really big events in the world. For example, consider the hardships Ukrainian people face the next time you look at something and think it's really important.

Third, don't take things for granted. Health, food, shelter, safety, friends, and many other aspects of life can fade in our expectations. They are always there. Until they're not. When facing an

### SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 25, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

What If Jesus Called You?

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Anthem:

*The Call* by Suzanne Toolan

### SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jen May

Ushers: Jackie Lockwood, Ronda Wiley

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



### Year-End Giving Statements

Year-end giving statements will be coming out this 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.

illness, especially an unexpected one, being grateful for good health becomes much more obvious. Before we need some stark reminder, we can count our blessings and remember all of the good things we have.

Finally, God's love for us and our calling to love God and love our neighbors is the most important thing. Everything else should come through that lens. Remembering God's love means putting it first. Loving God and loving our neighbors can help us let go of little things to give our attention to the bigger things.

Peace,  
Matt



#### Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tenant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News last week. 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)  
[Register here](#)

#### 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  
Luke Brown  
Leon & Nancy Castle  
David & Linda Hendon  
Larry & Lynn Martin  
Laura Martindale's parents  
Edith Parker  
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 21

9:00 Work Team  
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner  
6:00 *Hospitality Part 1*  
5:45 Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal  
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAY, January 23

5:30 Jazz Vespers

### SUNDAY, January 25

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study  
11:00 Morning Worship  
12:00 College Bagel Brunch  
4:00 MLK Community Celebration

### MONDAY, January 26

12:00 Missions Council Meeting

### TUESDAY, January 27

9:15 PACEM Setup  
6:00 PACEM  
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group  
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 100+ adult community choir and the children's community choir for this event. Celebratory speaker will be Dr. Alvin Edwards. Mark your calendars and plan to attend and support this community-wide event.



Join us this Wednesday, January 21 at 5:15 for dinner.

Following dinner at 6:00, we will have a program called *Hospitality Part 1*.

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

Our menu will be:  
*Chicken Brunswick Stew*  
*or Beef Chili*  
*Salad*  
*Cornbread*  
*Ice cream bars*



**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.

*University Baptist Church*  
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434-293-5106

Connect with us

