



January 27, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 4

ON WATCH

Making Sense of the World Right Now

According to Hebrews 13:14, the world is not our home. People of faith live with a post-Easter awareness, and we “trust in the Lord” while “not leaning on our own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). Yet there are times when the litany of woes in the world stacks up and overwhelms our ability to continue mustering deeper faith. Blowing up boats off the Venezuelan coast, shooting people in the water, abducting the President of another country, defunding programs to help the least of these, and shooting Rene Good and Alex Pretti—things are bad right now. How do we make sense of it all?

Clinging to the “everlasting arms” of verses like Deuteronomy 33:27 might sound simplistic. However, going to scripture could be just what we need. The Bible is formational. Karl Barth described it as the shadow of God’s revelation. The Bible isn’t God nor is it God’s revelation itself. Scripture points to God. It is a witness to God’s presence, and during times of trouble, people of faith can turn to scripture to find meaning, comfort, guidance, and a path forward.

So much of the news can lead to anger, frustration, discouragement, and fear. These are all natural reactions, and I feel them, too. When trying to make sense of everything and thinking about what to say, I turn to scripture. I’m embarrassed to admit this, but I was almost surprised at how helpful various verses were. Exodus 23:9

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, February 1, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Justice? What Justice?

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Matthew 5:1-12

Anthems:

What Does the Lord Require?

by Eric Nelson

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

by H. Walford Davies

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Ray Gaines

Ushers: Erin Eaker, Gayle Eaker

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



**Year-End
Giving Statements**

Year-end giving statements went out last week. You would have received 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.

reminds me of how God wants us to treat foreigners. Matthew 5:1-12 lays out a framework for how to be in this world. Galatians 5:22-26 provides a pithy list of aspirational responses to the vitriol, hatred, bullying, and negativity we see so often right now.

The vast collection of bad news isn't the end of the story. It never is. God always has the final word. When the news brings you down, don't repress your feelings. Be honest. It's okay to feel anger, frustration, discouragement, fear, and much more. But don't live in those feelings. Turn to scripture as a formational reflection of God's presence. Turn to your church family. Encourage one another. Send someone a positive note. It might sound self-serving, but the act of lifting another person can help lift your spirit.

Where do you find encouragement? One thing that helps me is watching my dog Kai's joy with the world. Whether we are taking a walk or throwing the frisbee in the snow, her unadulterated delight can be contagious, and it can provide a little perspective. God is God, and we are not.

Peace,
Matt



Church Conference Scheduled

On Wednesday, January 28, 6:00 **via zoom**, we will have a **Town Hall Meeting** to discuss the new 2026 budget. Click [here](#) for a copy of the budget. Click [here](#) to join the meeting.

Then on Wednesday, February 4, 6:00 in the Music Suite, we will have a **Church Conference** to vote on the 2026 budget.

PACEM at UBC Has Begun!

Because of the weather forecast, on Saturday, January 24, a few days earlier than planned, we began our two weeks of offering shelter and meals to people in our area without homes. We are hosting 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
Paul Blincoe on the death of his brother
Clara Brown
Luke Brown
Leon & Nancy Castle
David & Linda Hendon
Larry & Lynn Martin
Laura Martindale & Family on the passing of her father
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 28

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PB&J Bible Study
5:15 Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal **has been canceled**
6:00 Town Hall via zoom
6:00 PACEM Overnight
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal **has been canceled**

THURSDAY, January 29

PACEM Overnight

FRIDAY, January 30

PACEM Overnight

SATURDAY, January 31

PACEM Overnight

SUNDAY, February 1

8:30 Church Council Meeting
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Bagel Brunch
4:00 MLK Community Celebration
6:00 PACEM Overnight

MONDAY, February 2

4:00 Theology Reading Group
6:00 PACEM Overnight

TUESDAY, February 3

12:00 Security Task Force Meeting
6:00 PACEM
7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Meeting
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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



June 22-26
Rainforest Falls
(note change in dates)
[Register here](#)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Feb. 6: Cecil Mundell

Feb. 8: Lou Marshall

Feb. 9: Luna Ohlms

MLK Community Celebration

Sunday, February 1, 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.



We will NOT have our usual Wednesday night dinner while we are hosting PACEM.

Our next dinner will be Wednesday, February 11, 5:15.

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

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

