



May 5, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 18

## ON WATCH

### What Did Jesus Say?

For centuries, Christ-followers have tended to remember John 15:12 incorrectly. Too often, in churches, organized religion, and other formal religious structures, we remember John 15:12 as saying, "This is my commandment, that you believe right doctrines." If that doesn't sound right to you, that's great! If you are reading this and feeling a tinge of protest, let me clarify. We don't articulate John 15:12 by saying the "right doctrines" part. We live like it.

In John 15:12, Jesus was speaking with his eleven remaining disciples. Judas left the group during the last supper (John 13:30). The eleven were still with him. In John 14-17, Jesus taught them and prayed for them. At the beginning of John 15, he talked about being the "true vine" and told them about the importance of "abiding in him." The lessons from this section of John are essential for understanding what it means to *be* a Christ-follower.

In John 15:12, John writes that Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." When we think about what it means to live a Christ-like life, the most essential ingredient is love. It's not setting up the right religious framework or being able to articulate a clear Christian doctrine. It's love. We are supposed to love one another, and the world is to know us by our love.

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, May 10, 2026

11:00 AM

**Sermon:**

"God as Our Mother"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**

Isaiah 66:5-13

**Anthems:**

*If Ye Love Me* by Thomas Tallis

*Psalms 23* by Bobby McFerrin

## SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacon:** TBD

**Ushers:** Jackie Lockwood, Court Van Clief



## Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant 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.

They discussed AI, how young people are engaging in faith, the unhoused, and the events in the middle east and his advice on how we should respond. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).

If we were to ask people in our community, "How are we known?", what would they say? If the answer isn't love, then we have work to do.

Peace,  
Matt

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### Childcare Task Force Update

Church Council established a task force to study the feasibility of starting a Childcare ministry at UBC. Those on the task force were Matt Tennant, Judy Shah, Judy Gough, Larry Martin, Jim Moore, Alan Hendricks, and Linda Weirich.

Much information was gathered and examined resulting in the following recommendation.

With several other additional and less expensive alternatives for families to consider for their childcare needs and looking at the investment needed to create a childcare ministry, their recommendation to Church Council is not to pursue this ministry at this time.

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### Search Committee Update



#### SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has finalized the job description for an Associate Minister for Education and has begun posting it in a variety of places.

It is also available on our website. If you know someone who might be a suitable candidate, please feel free to send them the job description. The committee will begin reviewing applications in a few weeks.

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June 22-26  
Rainforest Falls  
Register [here](#)



Join us for dinner tomorrow, Wednesday, May 6, 5:15, in the UBC parking lot for our annual Church Cookout. (Note: We will move to our twice-a-month summer schedule for May-July.)

Menu:

Hamburgers & Hotdogs  
(There is no charge for the cookout!)

Contact the church office, to make your dinner reservations.

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Mark your calendars for our annual Church Cookout in the UBC parking lot on Wednesday, May 6, 5:15pm. There is no charge for the Cookout!

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## Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed for Children's Church. We're looking for people who are interested in joining a rotating group of people who lead Children's Church or assist as a second adult. You'll get to spend 30 minutes with some of the younger members of our church family, share a short lesson related to the week's message, or teach a craft, hear about the highs and lows of their week, and, most important of all to the kids - and some adults, too - snacks!

If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to [Melanie Tennant](#) or [Susan Hellings](#).

## TOUCH-A-TRUCK

A FREE EVENT FOR FAMILIES  
SATURDAY, MAY 9th 2026

9am-12pm



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH  
1223 West Main Street

Join us to see fire trucks, police cars, construction vehicles, and more! Free shirts for all kids. Other activities include face painting, ice cream, a bouncy house, and more!

**This Saturday 9-12!!**

**We still need additional volunteers.  
If you can volunteer to help with this outreach ministry, call the church office.**



In May, the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle is collecting items for AIM (the Alliance for Interfaith Ministries) for Welcome Baskets. These baskets typically go to folks who are formerly homeless and moving into an apartment with absolutely nothing but their clothes and no money to buy these things. There is a collection bin on the first floor outside the church office. See below for a list of needed items:

- Shower curtain and/or shower curtain liners
- Shower curtain hooks
- Trash bags
- Tissues
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Toilet scrub brush
- 1 towel, 1 washcloth, 1 hand towel
- Pop up wipes
- Glass cleaner
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush (individually wrapped)
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Laundry detergent
- Bath mat
- Small bathroom size trash can



## 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.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

**May 13:** Eddy Tennant, Michelle Turner, Claire Turney

**May 15:** Shelby Clements

**May 16:** Glenna Ohlms, Jacob Morris

**May 17:** Barbara Weber, Laurie Pallini, Bill Murray

**May 19:** Mildred Spicer

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, May 6

9:00 Work Team

10:00 PB&J Bible Study

11:00 Ice Cream Ministry

5:15 Church Cookout

5:45 Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal

6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### SATURDAY, May 9

9:00 Touch-A-Truck

### SUNDAY, May 10

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

### MONDAY, May 11

7:15 Women's Book Study

### TUESDAY, May 12

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

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



## Ice Cream Ministry

Our ice cream ministry begins this Wednesday! Please click [here](#) to volunteer for this ministry. A lot of people in the community look forward to this, and we don't want to disappoint them by not having any volunteers to make it happen. We're known as "the ice cream church"! That may not sound like much, but it means "we're known"! Come and share some love with our neighbors. This week is vanilla and orange cream.



## Blood Drives

UBC is working with the American Red Cross to provide space for their blood drives. Other groups are sponsoring the drives but don't necessarily have the space to hold the drive. On Friday, April

24, we hosted a large blood drive in our Fellowship Hall, and we received a note of thanks from their Donor Recruitment Manager, Jason Krech. [Click here](#) to read the note.



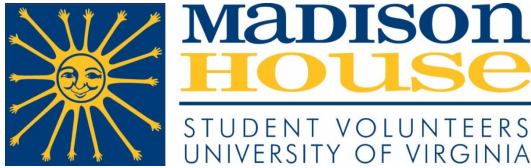
## deCycles Freedom Ride 2026

The *deCycles* mission for the past 56 years is to provide an opportunity for youth to uniquely experience the principles of a Christ-centered life; glorify God and practice kindness.

Their mission trip this summer is a challenging 1500-mile journey from Indiana to the east coast to celebrate the 250th birthday of America in Washington, DC on July 4 and later commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11 in New York City.

This 20-member youth group will be spending the night here at UBC on Wednesday, July 1.

Any teen or young adult who can ride a bike is welcome to join the trip roster. Beginner cyclists are welcome. For more information, contact their director, [Norman Houze](#).



## Tax Aid

UBC also provides space for Tax Aid in the Fellowship Hall from February to the middle of April. Madison House at UVA provides free tax services for people in our community. [Click here](#) to see a note from Martha Trujillo, their Director of the Tax Assistance Program, sharing the magnitude of people who are helped through this program.



## Star Words

If you didn't get a star word and would like one, they are available in the church office.

### Staff Contact Information:

Senior Minister: Dr. Matthew Tennant - [matt@universitybaptist.org](mailto:matt@universitybaptist.org)  
Associate Minister for Music and College Students: Rev. Megan Sharp - [megan@universitybaptist.org](mailto:megan@universitybaptist.org)  
Voces Laetae Director: Will Cooke - [wcooke@universitybaptist.org](mailto:wcooke@universitybaptist.org)  
Office Coordinator: Linda Weirich - [linda@universitybaptist.org](mailto:linda@universitybaptist.org)  
Financial Coordinator: Amanda Ohlms - [aohlms@universitybaptist.org](mailto:aohlms@universitybaptist.org)  
Communications Coordinator - Kayla Riley - [socialmedia@universitybaptist.org](mailto:socialmedia@universitybaptist.org)  
Church Administrator: Alan Hendricks - [ahendricks@universitybaptist.org](mailto: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.

**Do you have something to submit to our weekly newsletter?  
Suggestions must be submitted to [linda@universitybaptist.org](mailto:linda@universitybaptist.org)  
by Monday at noon.**

*University Baptist Church*  
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Connect with us

