



July 21, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 29

ON WATCH

Hearing God Speak

What is God saying to you? How do you know? How do you recognize God's voice in the middle of the clutter of the world?

These might seem like tough questions. Or they might feel like questions that are too deep for a humid Tuesday in July. However, as a faith community, God calls us to ask and wrestle with these questions on a regular basis. We don't need to resolve them or find a definitive answer. By asking and wrestling with these questions, we can grow in faith.

When Moses was watching his father-in-law Jethro's sheep, he encountered God in a profound way. He saw a bush that was on fire but not being consumed. The sight grabbed his attention. He had to check it out. Once he was examining this strange situation, God spoke to him (Exodus 3:1-12).

I've been guilty of asking why God doesn't show me a burning bush. Then, I realize that God has been speaking to me all along. It's the same thing for you. God is speaking to you right now, too. What's God saying? Love your neighbor (Matthew 22:39). Be kind (Ephesians 4:32). Honor God (Exodus 20:3). Do justice (Micah 6:8). Welcome foreigners (23:9). This list of moral and ethical edicts from scripture is long, but each example is rooted in loving God and loving our neighbors.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, July 21, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Justice is God's Transformative Reign"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Anthems:

As the Wind Song
by Swee Hong Lim
Be Thou My Vision
by Tom Trenney

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Jackie Lockwood, Court Van Clief



On Sunday, August 9, we will have a special back-to-school blessing for our children, youth, and teachers. Please plan to attend worship for this special day.

Beyond scripture, God speaks through people. Wise words of advice from a trusted friend could be the Holy Spirit communicating. The friend who needs a call, the person who needs our prayers, and the one who is frustrated, tired, and bored—these are all people to whom God is calling you to minister. Together, shared wisdom and opportunities to serve are both God's voice calling in the world.

Recognizing God's voice in scripture, people, and the world around us means developing a sacred attunement. Listen. Be open. Trust that God is moving and speaking. And you will hear God speak today.

Peace,
Matt

Sermon Manuscripts Available

People have asked if Matt's sermon manuscripts are available, and the answer is, yes. If you would like to receive them, contact [Linda](#) in the church office, and we will add you to the list.



It's Matt's Anniversary!!

Friday, July 24, is Matt's 9th anniversary as Senior Minister here at UBC. Take a moment, think about all that's been accomplished in those 9 years, and wish him a happy anniversary and thank him for leading us in ministry for the past 9 years.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Aug. 3: Robby Gough, Seth Kodikara

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, July 22

9:00 Work Team
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Wednesday Night Program
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, July 26

9:30 Seekers Bible Study
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, July 27

12:00 Missions Council Meeting

TUESDAY, July 28

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group
7:00 Bible & Brews Bible Study

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



Second Quarter Financial Update

January - June 2026
Contributions: \$245,516.69
Expenses: \$313,126.88



Second quarter giving statements are coming out this week. If you do not receive yours (either through email or print) or you have questions, please let [Amanda](#) know.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Ed & Betty Barker

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Gary & Karen Dalton

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

Una Wright, Kevin Wright's mother

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

Lillie Johnson's daughter, Cheri Schramel, passed away in March. Her obituary is available [here](#).



On Sunday, August 16, 3 - 6, we will have our annual ice cream social at the Marshall's house. Swimming starts at 3:00 and ice cream will be served at 5:00. You can bring home-made ice cream, or brownies or cookies to go with it. See you there!



Dinner with Andrew

One of the members of our church family has been raising funds to address food insecurity every year since July 2001. On January 1, 2001, Colleen Baber's son Andrew choked on a gummy candy and did not survive. He had been working at Domino's Pizza at the time, and his coworkers wanted to do something to honor his memory. They chose a food drive which fit well with honoring Andrew because few people liked to eat more than he did. Thus, "Dinner with Andrew" began.

Colleen continues this ministry with the support of Domino's Pizza, without whom this ministry could not continue to go forward. This year is the twenty-sixth year she has been collecting donations in Andrew's memory. In 2020, she switched from collecting and sorting food to taking donations for food gift cards. She gives these cards to families in extreme need through The Jefferson Area Food Bank, The Salvation Army, The Emergency Food Bank, and ARC. We can help address food insecurity and be the hands and feet of Christ by supporting this ministry. You can contribute by sending a check to the church or give online with "Dinner with Andrew" in the memo line.

New Deacons for 2026-2029

In our recent Deacon election, we elected 5 new Deacons. One is now unable to serve, so our 4 new Deacons are Theresa Guyton, Alan Hendricks, Jim Moore, and Barbara Murray. Deacon ordination and installation will be Sunday, August 16 during worship.

Children's Church

Children's Church will be taking a break for the month of July and will resume on Sunday, August 2. During the month of July there will be a table with activities in the Sanctuary for the children during the sermon.

Search Committee Update



SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has been busy and is making good progress. After speaking with three candidates, they chose to move forward with one and will be

making arrangements to speak more with that candidate in the coming weeks. Additionally, the committee is interviewing three additional potential candidates via zoom this week.



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 the importance of taking action to put good in the world amidst the different challenges in our community. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here.](#)

Disclaimer: We recognize the error in combining *My Fair Lady* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* during the interview.



Woodbrook School Supplies Ministry (and so much more)

In addition to purchasing more than \$1500 worth of school supplies each fall, our UBC Missions Council members have also used your donations

to supply gift cards for winter coats, to buy dozens of backpacks, to provide packages of new underpants and second-hand clothing for the school's emergency clothes closet, and to buy many pairs of tennis shoes, belts, soap and deodorant, and individually packaged snack items for the Woodbrook staff to give to students when needed.

We check back with them throughout the school year to see if there are other things they may need. For example, one winter, we provided gallons of hand sanitizer during a severe flu season.

Please help us provide for the most underprivileged children in our community. Make your checks or online donations payable to UBC and earmark "school supplies."



Summer schedule May - July
2X a month

Our next dinner will be this
Wednesday, July 22, 5:15pm
followed by Celtic Evening
Liturgy.

Menu:

Honey peach glazed chicken
Lemon herb orzo
Roasted green beans
Sweet corn, cucumber
and tomato salad
Bread
Dessert TBD

Contact the church office,
to make your dinner reservations.



Ice Cream Ministry

Please consider volunteering to help set-up, serve, or clean-up ice cream during a week in July or August, so our devoted friends will have ice cream. Sign up [here](#) or call the church office. Vanilla and pistachio this week.



We will have another blood drive at UBC, sponsored by UVA medical students, on Tuesday, August 18, from 12- 6. Click [here](#) to sign up.



August 12: Church Conference in the Fellowship Hall, 6:00

August 16: Ordination and Installation of new Deacons

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
Social Media Coordinator: Hadessah Johnson Tennant - socialmedia@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 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
by Monday at noon.

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Connect with us

