



May 26, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 21

ON WATCH

What Are You Praying?

When I reach out to people, I often ask, "How can I pray for you?" Prayer is central to our faith. It's our communication with God and our opportunity to be intentional in hearing God's communication with us. We pray because we care about God, and we want God to hear what we are thinking about. This is why Teresa of Avila said, "Prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God." She captures the informality and intimacy of a healthy prayer life.

When we think about God as all-knowing (omniscient), all-powerful (omnipotent), in all places (omnipresent), and in all times (omnitemporal), it's easy to think that our prayers don't matter. However, if, as we recognized on Pentecost, the Spirit is present and moving, God is still speaking. In his book *Prayer*, Hans Urs von Balthasar writes, "Prayer is first an act in which we learn that our halting utterance to God is but an answer to God's speech to us." Prayer is conversation.

So, what are you praying? Our prayers can be anything. We can tell God what we are thinking. We can go over the events of the day. We can give thanks for everything we see, experience, feel, smell, and touch. We could spend all our prayer life counting our blessings and "naming them one by one" (to quote a hymn). We can ask for God's help. We can ask God to heal, protect, watch, save, bless, preserve, guide, and be with

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, May 31, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Called in the Names of God"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Matthew 28:16-20

Anthems:

Thanks Be to God

by Christoph von Gluck

Let the Whole Creation Cry

arr. John Ferguson

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jimmy Li

Ushers: Mary Jo Hendricks, Shirley Clark

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.

Rev. Megan Sharp, our Associate Minister for Music and College Students, will be traveling in England for the next two weeks with Zephyrus, a community choir that she directs. We wish her a safe and productive trip.

someone. For every name we know. E.g., "God, be with ___ today. I don't know what she is going through, but you do. May your will be done."

In those situations, when I offer a *general* prayer for each name that comes to my mind, I have found that the prayers get more and more specific. As I name names to God, the details of what I'm praying start to fill in. Is the Spirit there? Is God guiding my prayers? The Apostle Paul seems to think so (Romans 8:26).

What are you praying? And, what can I pray for you?

Peace,
Matt

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. [Click here to view the job description.](#) If you know someone who might be a suitable candidate, please feel free to send them the job description. The committee has begun reviewing applications.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

June 6: Sarah Craddock, Arlene Propst

June 7: Jim Hallissy, Michael Mundell

June 8: Calvin Gregg



Summer schedule May - July
2X a month
Our next dinner will be
Wednesday, June 3

Contact the church office,
to make your dinner reservations.



Touch-A-Truck Thank You!

Heartfelt thanks to all of you who made our Touch-A-Truck event a success. The temperature and crowds may have been down a bit, but fun and smiles were in abundance!

Many parents expressed their appreciation in words and their children expressed it with their enthusiasm.

And on a personal note, watching my one-and-a-half-year-old grandson race from vehicle to vehicle as fast as he could go and looking at himself in the enormous tires was worth every moment of preparation. See you next year. I can't wait!!



Larry Johnson



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

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Ed & Betty Barker

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Michael & Beth Cheuk on the passing of Beth's mother, Ray Nell Lonvick

Johnny & Gail Ellen

Jim Guyton

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



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



**Annual UBC
Church Picnic**

Sunday, May 31

Join us at 3:00
for games and

swimming at Robby & Judy Gough's home. Then at 5:00 we will have fried chicken and drinks provided by the church. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.





CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, May 27

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PB&J Bible Study
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry

SUNDAY, May 31

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
3:00 Church Picnic

MONDAY, June 1

4:00 Theology Reading Group

TUESDAY, June 2

6:30 Search Committee Meeting
7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Meeting

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

The Nominating Committee is at work trying to fill positions on Councils and Committees within the church for the new church year which begins September 1.

Please think of where you would like to serve as there are positions on Church Council, Missions Council, Building and Grounds, Finance, Personnel, and the Stewardship Committee. Where does God want you to use your talents to help UBC do its work within the church and in ministries outside our doors?

Thank you for prayerfully considering where you might serve!

The Nominating Committee Members
Seth Kodikara
Jackie Lockwood, Chair
Tom Moore
Bill Murray
Glenna Ohlms



Ice Cream Ministry

Our ice cream ministry will begin 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. Chocolate and salted caramel this week.



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
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.

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

