



June 2, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 22

ON WATCH

Erratum for Sunday's Sermon

As sharp listeners noticed on Sunday, I made an inaccurate, extemporaneous reference to a 1980s church musical. I was talking about the word "go" in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), and my point was the difficulty of being present where we are. I shared about a musical my church youth group presented in the late 1980s. In it, my brother sang a solo with the line, "I'd rather go to Africa than Cave Spring High."

The message of the song was how much easier people imagine it is to share our faith somewhere else, like a rural part of Africa, than it is to share it where we are. God calls us to be present and reflective of the divine love here—in Charlottesville, our places of work, school, or recreation, and our homes. Our first mission field is where we are right now. We do not need to travel halfway around the world to share God's love. When I made the reference, I asked if anyone remembered the musical. I thought it was from the musical *Friends Forever* and said so. I was wrong.

Nan Gurley, Jim Weber, and Billy Sprague wrote *Friends Forever*, and Word Music published it in 1988. As teenagers in different cities, both Melanie and I performed in the musical in our respective youth groups. The whole ritual of participating in putting something together in the church was part of the spiritual formation for a generation of young people. It was reflective of the

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, June 7, 2026

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Church, Praise Looks Good on You"
Dr. Robert Tennant

Scripture:

Psalm 33:1-14, 18-22

Anthems:

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song
To This Table by Marc Robinson

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Larry Johnson

Ushers: Ronda Wiley, Amy Song

Welcome Our Guest Preacher

Our guest preacher on Sunday, in case you haven't guessed, is Matt's brother, Rob. He and his wife Candy have three children, sons Igor (24) and Henry (19), and daughter Merone (17). Rob has a bachelor's degree from Emory and Henry College, a Master of Divinity from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Richmond, VA), and a Doctorate of Ministry from Palmer Theological Seminary (Eastern Baptist University in Philadelphia). Rob has been in ministry full-time since he graduated from Emory and Henry in 1992.

times, and many people, including me, had a positive experience with youth group musicals. However, *Friends Forever* did not include the song "I'd Rather Go to Africa." That song was from the musical *Surrender* by Claire and Curt Cloninger.

This passing reference to an experience from my teenaged years made me reflect on spiritual formation. What will people think about what we are doing now in 40 years? It doesn't have to be the same thing my church did in the 1980s. In fact, it should be different. Some of the things we did back then didn't age well. Rather than castigating the past, we look to the future. We can explore what we are doing now. And we can ask what impact we are having in our church life.

On Sunday, we gathered for the church picnic. One of the highpoints was the egg toss. Bobby Gregg and I were out in the early rounds. Others lasted much longer. Emily Haislip and her daughter Lilly won. It was a lot of fun. I watched the children laugh and various people provided running commentary. The experience wasn't life changing, but it contributed to the tapestry that will be our young people's experience of church. And it was fun.

Church should be fun, create memories, and help form us into the people God is calling us to be.

Peace,
Matt



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

June 11: Pam Dean, Gary Wood, Will Wagoner



Summer schedule May - July
2X a month
We will be having our
Wednesday night dinner this
week at 5:15 followed
by a program called
Celtic Evening Liturgy.

Menu:

Chicken & Veggie Stirfry with White Rice
Sesame Green Beans
Mixed Green Salad
Dessert TBD

Contact the church office,
to make your dinner reservations.

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 two weeks with Zephyrus, a community choir that she directs. Megan will return to the office on Wednesday, June 3.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, June 3

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

SUNDAY, June 7

8:30 Church Council Meeting
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, June 8

7:15 Women's Book Study

TUESDAY, June 9

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

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

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Ed & Betty Barker

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

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.

On May 25, Edith Parker celebrated her 95th birthday with family and friends.



SEARCH COMMITTEE

Search Committee Update

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.



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 has begun. 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 had over 100 people last week stop by for some ice cream. Come and share some love with our neighbors. Strawberry, vanilla, AND doughnuts this week.



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



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

