

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

February 22, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 8

You Are Awesome!

ON WATCH

I was talking with someone last week, and this person said last week's column "made me feel less than stellar." I apologize to anyone who felt "less than stellar" after reading it. It was an invitation. My point last week and this week is to say to everyone, "Hey! It's awesome being together but it would be even awesome-er with you!" I pray this invitation lands that way for someone. Every person who reads this is part of our church family, and we miss the members of the family who we don't get to see.

Seeing so many of you this past Sunday was an amazing blessing. That's because you are the reason I am in ministry. It's exciting to see more people in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, and I can't wait to see even more people! My intention is to invite—not shame.

Now is a good time to come back to UBC. The reasons include a growing call to live with the coronavirus, efficacy of masks at preventing the spread of disease, and ample space in our sanctuary to practice social distancing. We can safely worship together by continuing to wear masks and practice social distancing. (Caveat: the live stream will continue. We see those who are physically unable to come to the sanctuary or are feeling unwell as full members of our fellowship.)

Getting back to church requires us to shift our outlook. In the early days of the pandemic, we did not know much. Clorox wipes were impossible to source, some people cooked their mail, and for unknown reasons, there was massive demand for toilet paper. As we learned more about COVID-19, masks became a part of daily life. Thanks to tireless work from researchers around the world, we have [effective vaccines](#). Even

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

February 27, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon

"A Different Kind of Mountaintop"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 9:28-36

Anthem:

"We Shall Overcome," arr.
Shelton Ridge Love

Deacons: Daniel Harper

Ushers: Daniel Harper and Ben Chenault

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 23

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ (Zoom)
12:00 Wednesday Treats
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice

SUNDAY, Feb. 27

8:30 Missions Council Meeting
10:00 Sunday Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

MONDAY, Feb. 28

8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))

though they remain high, [according to the CDC](#), Charlottesville's case numbers are down 40% in the last 7 days.

When we look around, we see people regathering. [Austria](#), [England](#), [Germany](#), [Switzerland](#), and more are lifting covid restrictions. A number of states are also [lifting their restrictions](#). Closer to home, some groups in Virginia, including churches, have been gathering, singing, praying, and worshipping together for months. While we don't want to follow anecdotal evidence or take our cues from super-spreader groups, the tide is changing.

There are good reasons to come back to the sanctuary if you can. We have a quality live stream and dedicated group of volunteers bringing the service to Facebook and YouTube, and we appreciate them. Yet, we miss things when we only worship online. People have informal conversations in the aisles before and after worship. You might see someone who you haven't seen in a long time and get the chance to catch up with one another. Even waving at someone across the sanctuary can be a meaningful connection. Being in the sanctuary brings many blessings—seeing the stained glass, hearing the live sound of the pipe organ, joining laughter at a joke (whether intentional or not), and more.

Although now seems like a good time, not everyone might feel that way. There are no concrete changes indicating *this moment* is better than next week or next month. For those who are still working through living with the coronavirus, we love seeing your comments on the live stream. Keep engaging. When the time is right for you, we look forward to seeing you.

I hope to see you soon.
Peace,
Matt

10:30 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom](#))
TUESDAY, Mar. 1
9:30 Staff Meeting
7:00 Kittle Colvin Trail (Zoom)

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

Prayer Needs

Sympathy to [Alba and Pam Beasley](#) after the death of Pam's mother, Dotty Blevins, on February 8.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

March 3: Martha Ballenger

March 5: Tom Leland

March 8: Gerald Brown

March 9: Ewing Minor



Super Bowl of Caring

In worship on Super Bowl Sunday, we heard a video with members of our youth group promoting the Souper Bowl of Caring. All proceeds support the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. Many of you have responded to their invitation, and we've received \$285 so far. If you haven't yet had a chance to

contribute, it's not too late. You can mail a check to the church office or give online at universitybaptist.org/give

It is a stark reminder of the brokenness of our world that we have neighbors who do not have enough to eat, even in a wealthy community in a wealthy nation. Our contributions to the food bank do not solve the problem, but we hope they will improve the lives of a few people for now. You will hear more this year from our deacons about another new initiative to address hunger locally. For now, though, we thank you for your support in the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

Ministers available for
the imposition of ashes

Front porch

7:30-9:00 AM

12:00-2:00 PM

Worship Service

Sanctuary

6:00 PM

Ash Wednesday Service

It seems almost unbelievable that it has been a whole year since our ministers were driving from home to home, visiting church members to impose ashes while standing on your front porches. This year, we will be offering the imposition of ashes on the front porch of the church from 7:30 to 9:00 AM and 12:00 to 2:00 PM, in addition to our Ash Wednesday service of worship that will take place at 6:00 PM. (Sanctuary Choir will rehearse at their usual 7:00 time after this service.)

An Introduction to the Enneagram

On Saturday March 19 from 9 AM to 12 PM, University Baptist will hold a seminar to introduce the Enneagram personality system to our community. Both Rev. Fisk and Rev. Brown have found this system to be a dynamic growth tool in their own spiritual journeys, providing an opportunity to examine one's own experience of the world, and how our experiences mold and shape our relationships with God and with one another. This first encounter with the Enneagram in March will lay the groundwork for further discussion groups later in 2022.

Bible Study Resuming

This Sunday, and throughout the month of February, we will resume a (slightly) shorter in-person study. Instead of a deep-dive Bible study, our focus will be more devotional. We will meet at **10am** in the Fellowship Hall and conclude by 10:30 to reduce the risk of spreading covid by shortening the time we are together.

Our study for February will be the prophet, Micah. You can get the handout by clicking [here](#). Dr. Matthew Tennant will lead this study.

February 6 – Intro & Micah 1

February 13 – Micah 2-3

February 20 – Micah 4-5

February 27 – Micah 6-7

To enhance conversations among the participants, we will not offer an online option. For those who are unable to attend but still want to join a group, the Open Minds class does offer a hybrid option. Contact Debra Bryant or Ed Lowry for details. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Tennant.

Voces Laetae!

A NEW Vocal Ensemble for Youth Ages 14-19

Voces Laetae! will rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM beginning February 22, 2022, with culminating concerts to be given in May 2022. There is no participation fee. CDC masking guidelines will be followed. Further questions may be sent to voceslaetae@gmail.com.

2022 Missions Discretionary Fund

Thank you for entrusting the Missions Council with a discretionary fund that we can use to address needs that arise during the year. In the past three years almost 80% of the discretionary fund has been designated to address needs for various organizations right here in the Charlottesville area. Earlier this month, we were made aware of a particular need for The Bridge Ministry to raise support for their participants. The Bridge is a community service ministry that works with troubled, incarcerated, and newly released men by helping them get back into their community to live productive lives. The Bridge provides a proven program for personal growth, gaining life management skills, and job training to help these men become productive members of society. The executive director, William Washington, preached at UBC on February 2, 2020, and if you would like to watch his sermon, click [here](#). The Missions Council voted to send \$500 to the Bridge.

Writing Leave for Senior Minister

The UBC Personnel Committee recommended and the Church Council approved an additional six-week leave for Senior Minister Matthew Tennant, DPhil, in 2022. From April 25 through June 5, Matt will take time away from UBC to complete a book he has been writing for several years (*Freedom and Existence: The Existentialism of Liberation Theology*). The Personnel Committee and Church Council recognize the additional challenges in leading UBC during the pandemic, and we anticipate that Matt's rest and rejuvenation during these weeks away will boost his return to ministry at UBC.

Val Fisk and Will Brown will share pulpit duties with Reverend Kim Bunns, who has preached at UBC previously. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to the chairpersons of the Personnel Committee (Jen May) or Church Council (Peter Ohlms).

Sunday Mornings

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin 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.

Masks & Social Distancing

University Baptist Church continues to follow the recommendations of the CDC as they are updated. At this time, that means that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, should wear a mask for all in-person gatherings in the church building. As we monitor this next wave of COVID cases related to the Delta and Omicron variants, we will make announcements as our policies are adjusted.

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Connect with us

