

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 1, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 9

The Blessing of Being Together

WATCH

On Sunday, a crowd of people gathered in the sanctuary and worshiped God. We prayed, sang, heard Bible stories, and focused on being Christ-followers. The highlight for many, myself included, was the anthem. Over 70 students from Charlottesville High School choirs joined Jubilate and the Sanctuary Choir to sing "We Shall Overcome." We put the need to combat racism alongside our desire for peace in Ukraine. We celebrated Black History Month and prayed for an end to Russia's invasion.

More than just the music, I found the experience of being together in God's house moving. Gathering together in a world that is full of apathy toward matters of faith is an act of defiance. We defy those who do not care and come together to offer mutual support and encouragement. This is defiance at its best. While some people tear one another down, we build each other up. The CHS students and their parents and family members witnessed this positive expression of faith, and their presence enriched everyone's worship experience.

When I think about the future and imagine where God is calling us, last Sunday serves as a glimpse of what we can be. Once we come together around a desire to follow wherever God leads, there's no limit to what God can do through us. We must continue to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and available to go where God leads.

The blessing of being together did not end last Sunday. Looking ahead, there will be more opportunities to draw people into the meaningful and life-giving work of our church. We can get ready for those future opportunities now. If there are visitors, then we need greeters to tell

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 2, 2022
6:00 PM

Sermon

"I'm Sorry. Now What?"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Anthem:

"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God," Arr. Carl F. Mueller

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 6, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon

"Not Stuff, But Good Stuff"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Anthem:

"The Gift To Be Free,"
Arr. Dillworth

ASH WEDNESDAY

Deacons: Lily Gregg

people about the 14th Street Garage. As more people come to worship, we will need more bulletins. When people show up for the first time, they will sit in your pew (and, let me add a BIG “thank you” to everyone who found someone in their pew and didn’t ask our guest to move). The blessedness of being together can bring some discomfort with it. When you have trouble finding a parking place, a vacant pew, or bulletin, give thanks to God for all of the people gathered to worship.

This Sunday, I do not anticipate as many people as last Sunday. Though I wonder if anticipating a lower number reflects my sense of realism or a lack of faith—pray for me and our church. It’s okay if fewer people come to church this Sunday. We’re on a journey, and last week’s foretaste of the future can encourage us to keep inviting, reaching out, and telling people about the meaningful experiences available at UBC. The blessing of being together is real and open to everyone.

Peace,
Matt



Since being uploaded to the Jubilate-at-UVA Facebook page on Sunday, the video of our anthem this week has been shared by over 40 people and viewed more than 4100 times! [Check it out here.](#)

CDC Mask Recommendation Update

This past week, the CDC announced changes to their recommended masking policies, now including not just positive COVID-19 case numbers, but also strain on local hospitals in the equation. As of now, Albemarle County is still in the high community transmission range, and masks are recommended for all people. University Baptist Church will continue to require masks for all people in our building as recommended. You can [view the updated CDC guidance and system here.](#)

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Debra Bryant, Diane Mundell

Ushers: Ian Pallini and Sue Sears

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 2

7:30 Ashes available on front porch
9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ (Zoom)
12:00 Wednesday Treats & Ashes available
5:00 Ash Wednesday Choir Supper
6:00 Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice

SUNDAY, March 6

8:30 Church Council Meeting
10:00 Sunday Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, March 7

8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))
10:30 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom](#))
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group (Zoom)

TUESDAY, March 8

9:30 Staff Meeting
12:00 Annie Armstrong Circle (hybrid)
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

March 10: Sarah Buchanan, Diane Mundell

March 12: Johnny Elle

Lenten Series begins on Sunday

Two years ago this month, everything changed. March 2020 in Charlottesville began as a normal month and ended with the emergence of a global pandemic. Now, in March 2022, we look back on these two years of COVID-19 and all we have experienced alongside it: losses and grief, bitter national and state elections, nationwide conversations about race, and so much more. How have our lives changed during these two years? What have learned? What has God been teaching us?

As a project for one of my Doctor of Ministry courses at Duke Divinity School, I (Will B) crafted a lectionary-based Lenten worship series that reflects on various aspects of the pandemic experience: mortality and control, our place in the created order, gathering and presence, work and the economy, racism and repentance, politics and power, and finally, hopefulness in the face of it all. We will be using this series as a guide for our Lenten sermons and worship services at UBC.

The season of Lent is a fitting time to engage in reflection and introspection. We hope you will come and worship with us, whether in person or remotely, as we reflect together on what God may be saying to us now, two years into this pandemic.

Volunteer Opportunity

If you'd like to help hand out coffee and hot chocolate on Wednesdays, we'd love to have your help. It's easy and fun, brightening everyone's day. All you need to bring is a smile (and maybe a coat). You can [sign up to help here](#).



New Book Study Underway

Last week a new UBC group met for the first time on Zoom. Erin Eaker is leading a book study looking at environmental issues through a theological lens. Nine people attended the first session and had a great conversation. If you would still like to join, reach out to Erin Eaker or email me (Will B) for more details.

Is there something on your mind that you'd like to study or discuss with others in the church? Let me know and I'd love to help you get a group together to start those conversations. This is a great time to begin gathering together in new ways to grow and learn together.

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.

This week's video preview features Val talking a little about what the Enneagram is and why some Christians find it a helpful tool for spiritual growth.

Lenten Bible Study

This Sunday, we will begin an in-person study for the season of Lent. Instead of a deep-dive Bible study, our focus will be more devotional. We will meet at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall and conclude by 10:30. Dr. Matthew Tennant will lead these conversations. [Click HERE](#) to download the study guide for March 6.

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.

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.

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 the COVID case levels in our area, we will release updates notifying the congregation of any changes.

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Connect with us

