

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 29, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 14

Practicing the Presence of Christ

WATCH

In a recent devotional, I read the following phrase: "What is present to me is what has a hold on my becoming." The sentence captivated my attention because I wondered about individualism. Isn't "what is present to me" also "what is present to you"? Is Christ not the same for me as he is for you?

Applying a universal understanding of the presence of Christ misses the uniqueness of each person's experience. Every moment shapes our lives. Since we don't share the same moments, our experiences mold and transform us daily. Past experiences or things that happened when we were young often carry greater weight in our lives. They can have profound influence on how we see the world, and since myriad experiences fill each person's life, "what is present to me" will be different than "what is present to you." Christ is the same but our understanding and experience of him is unique.

The second part of the phrase grabbed my attention too. "...what has a hold on my becoming." Simply put, *garbage in equals garbage out*. If, on the one hand, what is most present in life is something bad or negative, then these negative things have a hold on our becoming. If, on the other hand, we are most present to positive, life-giving activities, then they maintain a hold on our becoming.

Choosing what has a hold on our becoming can be intentional. We can choose good or bad. As followers of Christ, we can choose to seek Jesus as a continuing presence each day. Making that choice fosters spiritual growth and development. We learn what it means to live and respond as Jesus did in the gospels. We can transfer

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

April 3, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon

Sir Michael Edwards

Scripture:

Psalm 46

Anthem:

"In Your Hands I Surrender"
Arr. Trotta

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Herman Eaker and
Gayle Eaker

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 30

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ (Zoom)
12:00 Wednesday Treats
5:00 Myers Lectures - Sir Michael
Edwards
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice

THURSDAY, March 31

5:00 Myers Lectures - Sir Michael
Edwards

SUNDAY, April 3

8:30 Church Council Meeting
9:30 ESOL
10:00 Sunday Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

those responses to daily life today and be mindful of how our actions impact other people.

Practicing the presence of Christ is part of our calling. No matter what else is happening in life, we can seek Jesus first to guide what we are becoming.

Peace,
Matt



Myers Lecture Series Begins Tonight

Last night, we hosted a poetry reading with our featured scholar, Sir Michael Edwards. Sir Michael read from his recent volume of poetry, *At the Brasserie Lipp*. Join us this evening at 5:00 PM for the first of three lectures titled, "On the Perpetual Strangeness of the Bible." Reception to follow each evening. Pictured above: Sir Michael with Dr. Kevin Hart, Professor of Christian Studies at UVA.



12:15 Youth Group
3:30 The Inaugural Scoper Lecture Series - Dr. Kate Bowler
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

MONDAY, April 4

8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))
10:30 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom](#))
12:00 Medical Hour Community Forum - Dr. Kate Bowler
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading

TUESDAY, April 5

9:30 Staff Meeting
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal
7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail ([Zoom](#))

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

Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to Colleen Baber after the death of her nephew, Sam.

Sympathy to Al Holliday after the death of his sister, Patsie Holliday Cutright.

Sympathy to Scott Morris after the death of his father, Harvey Morris.

Sympathy to the family of Connie Gamble, a former UBC member, who passed away March 20.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

April 7: Laura Morris

April 9: Nell Tiller and Connor Marshall

April 10: Barbara Fuller

April 11: Rossie Carnes and Stewart Kauffman

April 12: Nelda Vaughan

Kids and Families!!

Family Fun Day is this Sunday, April 3, 10am! We will meet in the parking lot, and enjoy an Easter story and egg hunt :) Dress for the weather, and bring a basket/container for your hunting fun!

Memorial Lilies for Easter

Easter will be April 17, and we would like to decorate our sanctuary with an abundance of lilies. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Dani Sharkey in the church office <dsharkey@universitybaptist.org> to let her know the wording that you would like to appear in the Easter bulletin. The cost of each lily will be \$12. You can mail a check, drop it in the offering plate, or pay online earmarked "Easter Lilies." The last day to order is Monday, April 11. You may pick up your lilies after the 11:00 Easter service.

Sarah Buchanan, Chair of the Floral Team



Thank You!



Many thanks to all of the people who came out last weekend to help with our UBC Mini-Workday. We had about 15 people on Friday and Saturday, including 2 of our UVA students who sing with Jubilate. The primary project was putting mulch in the playground, along with

pulling weeds and spreading mulch in other beds around the church. We also had several volunteers working inside to prepare a room for painting. It was a wonderful experience to see our church community coming together to make this day happen. We hope to have a larger workday at some point in the future, with a greater variety of projects so that everyone can contribute. Thank you all for your help!



Congratulations to Will Cooke and CHS Choirs!

This week, Charlottesville High School was honored with the Blue Ribbon Award from the Virginia Music Educators Association, the highest musical excellence recognition possible for public schools in the state. Our own, Will Cooke, was quoted by [NBC29](#) explaining, "VMEA gives the Blue Ribbon Award to schools where their top performing ensembles in band, orchestra and choir achieve superior ratings in both prepared pieces and sight reading." We are so proud of the accomplishments that Will and his students have achieved!



National Missions Offering

Each Spring UBC has participated in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's National Missions Offering. This emphasis helps support our missionaries right here in the US. UBC's offering supports the ministry of Scarlette Jasper, a CBF missionary working in southeastern Kentucky, where UBC has been partnered with missionaries for many years. Scarlette was commissioned by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as a field missionary in 2014, and now serves one of the poorest parts of the United States. There, she is the director of Olive Branch Ministries, Inc (olivebranchministriesky.org) to address the needs of the local community. Some of the many needs that Scarlette helps address are: working with the homeless, coordinating childrens' literacy projects, rent and utility aid, assisting with transportation costs for distant medical appointments, providing heaters or propane in the winter, supporting local schools with supplies, and helping veterans get needed services. She maintains a small mission house that serves as an emergency shelter and place for pastoral counseling. You can see her most recent projects on her Facebook page, here: [https://www.facebook.com/Olive-Branch-](https://www.facebook.com/Olive-Branch-Ministries-766161053487938)

[Ministries-766161053487938](https://www.facebook.com/Olive-Branch-Ministries-766161053487938). Even through the challenges of the pandemic, Scarlette has remained active in her community to help with their needs.

Like the majority of our field missionaries, Scarlette must raise her own program and project support. Our goal this year is to raise \$3,000 to support Scarlette and her work in Kentucky. This year, please consider offering your thoughts, prayers, and financial support to our National Missions Emphasis. When donating online, specify "National Missions" to ensure that your offering is sent to Scarlette.

Lenten Bible Study

This Sunday, we will continue 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. Clara Brown will lead the conversation this week. [Click HERE](#) to download the study guide for April 3rd.

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.

Scoper Lecture Series

The Inaugural Scoper Lecture Series Featuring Dr. Kate Bowler

Sunday, April 3 at 3:30pm

Open to all on a first come, first serve basis

All guests must adhere to Theological Horizons' COVID policy for this event

Register for tickets at www.theologicalhorizons.org/katebowler

Medical Hour Community Forum with Kate Bowler at UVA Health System

"No Cure for Being Human: Reimagining Care Amidst Disappointment"

Monday, April 4 at 12:00-1:00pm Open to all. VIRTUAL EVENT

Register [here](#)

Online Premiere of Kate's Lecture

Thursday, April 7 - Details TBD

Theological Horizons Website

www.theologicalhorizons.org/katebowler

Volunteer Opportunity - The Soft Serve Returns!

As we look at the weather warming up these next few days, we have pulled the soft serve machine out of its winter storage! If you'd like to help hand out ice cream 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 sunscreen). You can [sign up to help here](#).

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, Charlottesville and Albemarle have been assessed a green/low Community Level, which means the CDC is not recommending people wear masks. Masks are now optional at UBC events. Of course, individuals are welcome to continue wearing masks if they feel more comfortable doing so, and University Baptist Church will continue to welcome all folks into our worship services, with or without a mask. 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

