



April 12, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 16

## Walking Through Holy Week **ON WATCH**

Last year, my focus during Holy Week was the strangeness of the previous year. This year, everything suggests a return to the familiar. Last year, we talked about the creative ways people dealt with social distancing. This year, we try to make sure we are advertising our special services enough. Last year, there were articles about the COVID-19 graduates and how to make masks at home. This year, we imagine the transition from the pandemic to an endemic virus.

I think about the week we call “Holy Week” and wonder what it must have felt like for Jesus and the disciples. In Mark, between Jesus' triumphal entry (11:1-11) and some movement on the plot to kill Jesus (14:10-11), we find parables, conversations with Jesus' disciples, and exchanges with others. Reading the way Holy Week unfolds in Mark reveals some jarring shifts. It starts with great expectations. Is Jesus a great liberator? As we will see, that's not the way the week unfolds.

After entering Jerusalem and hearing people's prayer for deliverance, Jesus' schedule did not slow down. He went out of the city and stayed in Bethany with the twelve. The next morning, a tree that had no fruit frustrated Jesus (11:12-14). Then, it's off to the races. He cleared the temple, taught some lessons, answered questions, and had encounters with the scribes and pharisees.

Going through each step in Mark means not skipping these lessons, questions, and encounters. It means wrestling with some sticky parables, like wicked

### **SPY WEDNESDAY**

April 13, 2022  
12:00 PM

#### **Sermon**

Dr. Matthew Tennant  
"Why, Judas?"

**Scripture:**  
Luke 22:3-6

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

April 14, 2022  
7:00 PM

#### **Sermon**

Rev. William Brown  
"Loved to the End"

**Scripture:**  
John 13:1-17, 33-35

#### **Anthem:**

"In Remembrance"  
(Courtney and Red)

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

April 15, 2022  
12:00 PM

#### **Sermon**

Rev. Val Fisk  
"Who Has Forsaken Whom?"

tenants, paying taxes, and the lesson of the fig tree. For Jesus and his disciples, the week would have felt strange for different reasons. The Roman occupation probably always carried a fair amount of uncertainty. Passover was coming and they would celebrate Seder together. In Mark, it says “he came with the twelve” (14:17). I wonder if this meant that they were celebrating this sacred time away from their families.

On Wednesday, Judas peeled away from the group (14:10-11). He met with the chief priests and agreed to identify Jesus for them. For the other disciples, his decision would have been difficult to reconcile with their worldview. He was one of them. He held a trusted position in their group. They probably struggled with why he would do something like this. Before they could wrap their minds around what his betrayal would mean, they fled in fear (14:50). As much as they loved Jesus and believed in him, they probably all thought, “Not me!” and ran to preserve their own lives.

Friday would have felt surreal. They must have wondered how this could be happening. It would have been especially difficult if they thought Palm Sunday pointed to the kind of Messiah Jesus would be. Instead, Jesus presented a picture of absolute obedience to God’s path. It’s a picture we can aspire to follow.

During this Holy Week, we can model the life of Christ. We can look at all of those teachings between the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday and the darkness of Judas’ betrayal. Consider the following teachings from Mark: “The Lesson of the Fig Tree” (11:20-26 and 13:28-31), “Jesus’ Authority” (11:27-33), “Wicked Tenants” (12:1-12), “Taxes” (12:13-17), “A Question about the Resurrection” (12:18-27), “The First Commandment” (12:28-34), “The Widow’s Offering” (12:41-44), and “The Need for Watchfulness” (13:32-37).

As I reread each passage, I thought about Jesus telling these stories with urgency. Did he know his earthly ministry was almost finished? How could they speak to our world right now? In “The Need for Watchfulness,” he said, “No one knows when the time will come.” As we go through this Holy Week and transition from one time (pandemic) to another, I wonder what we know about the future. Each day is a gift, and we should

**Scripture:**  
John 18:15-26

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
April 17, 2022  
11:00 AM

**Sermon**  
Dr. Matthew Tennant  
"Christ is Risen!"

**Scripture:**  
John 20:11-18

**Anthem:**  
"The Ground"  
Arr. Gjijelo

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### SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacons:** Shirley Clark  
**Ushers:** Herman Eaker and Gayle Eaker

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### CALENDAR

#### WEDNESDAY, April 13

9:00 Work Team  
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)  
11:00 Wednesday Treats  
12:00 Spy Wednesday Service  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice

#### THURSDAY, April 14

7:00 Maundy Thursday Service

#### FRIDAY, April 15

12:00 Good Friday Service

#### SATURDAY, April 16

11:00 Jubilate Alumni Board

#### SUNDAY, April 17

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting  
9:30 ESOL Classes  
10:00 Sunday Bible Study  
11:00 Easter Morning Worship  
12:15 Youth Group  
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

always remain grateful. I am thankful for God's continuing presence during Holy Week 2022.

Peace,  
Matt

**MONDAY, April 18**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

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

10:30 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom](#))

1:00 Schleiermacher Reading

**Prayer Concerns**

Sympathy to Ed and Carolyn Lowry after the death of Ed's brother, Al Lowry.

Sympathy to Wellford and Nell Tiller after the death of Nell's brother, Charlie Graham.

Sympathy to Louise Marchi and family after the death of her husband Joe Marchi on April 6. Joe and Louise are former members of UBC.

**TUESDAY, April 19**

9:30 Staff Meeting

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!

**April 20:** Hunter Cooper

**April 21:** Mary McCauley

**April 24:** Gail Ellen

**April 25:** Lauren Cooper

**April 26:** Donna Shuler Truoccolo and Roy Thomas



**UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly.

**Join us for Holy Week in person or virtually - you are welcome and wanted here!**

**Spy Wednesday | April 13 at 12 PM**

**Good Friday | April 15 at 12 PM**

**Maundy Thursday | April 14 at 7 PM**

**Easter Sunday | April 17 at 11 AM**

**We seek to be an authentic community of Christians who love and care for each other as a family, and openly welcome and include all people regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or background.**

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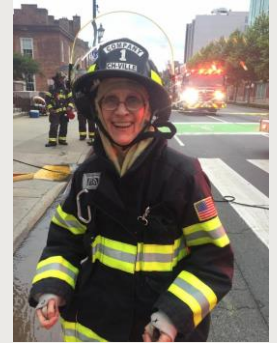


## Easter Service Parking

Easter is likely to be our highest attendance Sunday in a couple years. Additional parking is available in the 14th St garage that you enter from Wertland St. Parking is free every Sunday in the garage when you show your worship bulletin. For those with walking difficulties, please use the church lots for parking and we would like to encourage those with accessible parking permits to make use of the three on-street Sunday-only parking spaces in front UniBap Park.

### Happy Staff Anniversary!

This week marks Barbara Moore's 35th year serving University Baptist Church as our Organist. Her talent and dedication have continuously contributed beauty to our worship services each week, but Barbara means so much more to UBC than just her music. Her steady devotion has taken many forms: leading crews of kids at Vacation Bible School, starting the coffee pot on Sunday mornings, advising on fire safety plans, leading a Sunday School class, and much more. When you see Barbara this week, congratulate her on a wonderful first 35 years at UBC!



## Will's Community Corner



### The Joy of Visitors

One thing I love about University Baptist Church is the way we greet new people. In fact, part of our identity as a "university" church is the understanding that people will always be coming and going. We learn to welcome new folks well when they first arrive, and then to send them with our blessing as they move into a new chapter. This takes all of us.

The Easter season presents us with a special opportunity to exercise our "welcoming muscles." Perhaps you looked around last week and saw some new faces. Wasn't that exciting? With Easter Sunday ahead of us, we know to expect many new faces in our midst: some familiar faces we haven't seen in a while, some folks who may be just passing through, and some folks who may be attending church for the first time in quite a while. What an opportunity this is for us to share God's loving embrace with each one of them! I hope you will join me in keeping an eye out for visitors to welcome this Sunday. I'm already beginning to feel the Easter joy that comes from joining together in celebration, especially when we get to welcome others to join in that joy with us.

### Jubilate Homecoming Concert

Mark your calendars! We are thrilled that Jubilate will be presenting its Homecoming Concert at UBC on Sunday, May 1 at 2:00pm. Hope to see you there!

### Wednesday Dinners Return!

Let's have dinner! After the Delta wave forced us to hold off on dinners in the fall, and then the Omicron wave complicated things in January, we are at last hoping to resume our Wednesday night dinners. Here's what we're thinking. We'll have a simple potluck dinner on April 20 at 5:30, with plenty of time for fellowship. Then, on April 27, we'll begin weekly dinners at 5:30, with a Bible Study at 6:00. We'll close out with a Parking Lot Cookout on May 25.

April 20 - Potluck and Fellowship

April 27- May 18 - Dinner and Bible Study Series

May 25 - Parking Lot Cookout

More details will follow in future newsletters, but for now, start planning what you'll bring to the potluck on April 20. Hope to see you there!



### National Missions Offering - Last Call

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](http://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-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.

### 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](#).

### 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, 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

