

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

June 7, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 23

A Lived Trinitarian Theology

WATCH

The Holy Trinity is the idea that, "We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity... there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit... they are not three Gods, but one God" (Athanasian Creed). This concept is rooted in scripture, such as Matthew 28.19, Acts 20.28, 2 Corinthians 13.14, 1 Peter 1.1-2, Hebrews 9.14, and more.

People in the early church articulated the three-in-one-ness of God and further developed the concept of the Trinity. Clement of Rome (before 70), Didache (~100), and Ignatius of Antioch (~110), all use similar language to the scriptural trinitarian formula. Justin Martyr (~150) expressed a clearer articulation. Theophilus of Antioch (~169) first used the word Trinity.

For some people, the concept of the Trinity is problematic, and I can see why. History is full of attempts to explain the Trinity using bad analogies. For example, some might try to explain the Trinity by saying it is like water, in that we can find water as solid (ice), gas (steam), or liquid (water). However, bad analogies often lead to a trinitarian heresy. Heresies can be blessings because they crystalize our faith. Comparing the Trinity to water is modalism.

Modalism is the belief that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three characterizations of one God, rather than three distinct "persons" in one God. Noetus of Smyrna (~190) first formally stated this heresy, though it was not yet a heresy. When Noetus expressed the three persons of the Trinity as a "characterizations," he was articulating a belief. Sabellius (~210) refined modalism and applied the names merely to different roles of God in the history and the economy of salvation. The presbyters of Smyrna condemned Noetus. And Sabellius faced Tertullian's intellectual wrath when Tertullian

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

June 12, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon

"Trinitarian Struggles"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

John 16:12-15

Anthem:

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"
arr. Bock

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Jackie Lockwood

Ushers: Ron Tweel, Charlotte Bailey

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, June 8

9:00 Work Team

12:00 Wednesday Treats

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice

THURSDAY, June 9

7:00 Deacons Meeting

FRIDAY, June 10

6:00 & 7:00 Softball Games

SUNDAY, June 12

11:00 Morning Worship

wrote addressed modalism in *Adversus Praxeam*. Then, Pope Callistus condemned Sabellius.

When something is difficult to understand, should we dismiss or ignore it? No. It's worth the engagement because we can grow when we put in some effort, like the annual pilgrimage to discuss trinitarian theology on Trinity Sunday.

Here's how a trinitarian theology can work: Psalm 139 reminds of God's eternal presence. For me, this can take the shape of prayers addressed to God—our loving creator and ever-present help in times of trouble.

Then, in another situation, I might flip through the gospels to see how Jesus responded to various situations. For example, in the recent blight of mass shootings, my mind kept going to Matthew 26.52. "Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.'"

Finally, the Bible reminds us that the Holy Spirit is always with us. In John, Jesus said, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you" (John 14.26). Was this the Spirit that helped my mind go to Matthew 26.52 in the wake of such destruction in our wonderful nation?

When Tertullian wrote about "one God, three persons, one substance," he codified what scripture had been saying into a clear formula. He used the Latin *trinitas* to describe how one can experience God. It's still one God, but we encounter the divine in different ways. As a group of thoughtful Christ-followers, we can handle difficult concepts and some mystery. The way we experience God and articulate our experience contributes to this lived trinitarian theology.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Peace,
Matt

Happy Anniversary, Will Cooke!

This past Sunday marked one year since Will Cooke joined our UBC family as Director of Music. In the year that he has been with us, Will has overseen the continued success of our Sanctuary Choir and a sizable growth in Jubilate as they returned to rehearsals after a year of virtual meetings. He has also created the new youth choir, Voces Laetae! We are thrilled that Will and his wonderful husband, David Waters, have become such a key part of our community at UBC. We are thankful for you!

MONDAY, June 13

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

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

7:30 Enneagram Book Group (Hybrid)

TUESDAY, June 14

8:30 Vacation Bible School

9:30 Staff Meeting

12:00 Annie Armstrong Circle

7:00 Environmental Book

Group (Zoom)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



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

June 17: David Hendon, Matthew Tennant, Alan Hendricks

June 18: Shirley Clark, Jack Averill

June 20: Lily Gregg

Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to the family of former UBC member John R. Wilkerson after his death in St. Charles, Missouri. [Obituary and details here.](#)

Continuing prayers for Bob Badgett as he recovers at home in Georgia after open heart surgery.



Thank you!

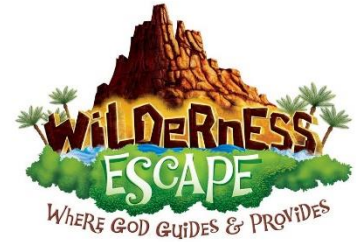
You may not even recognize this office after all the work our volunteers have done in the past few months! Thank you so much to everyone who has assisted in updating Alba's former office. Sometime in the next two weeks, once the paint has dried, Val will move into this office, making her current office available for Will Cooke.

Vacation Bible School!

The best week of the summer is almost here! Vacation Bible School will be held Tuesday-Friday, June 14-17, from 8:30 until 12:00 each day.

Registration is open, and we still have room for more participants! Children age 4 through fifth grade are welcome to register [HERE](#). Please share this link with your family and friends!

If you'd like to volunteer with VBS, please talk with Erin Brown.



Young Adult Sundays at Dairy Market

Young adults of UBC are invited to join together for dinners at Dairy Market this summer! Each Sunday evening we will gather at 6:30 PM. Grab food from whichever restaurant sounds best to you, and look for Val Fisk at a table out front, near the Starr Hill Brewery end of the building. Anyone in the college & young adult age groups is welcome - please bring friends along with you!

We will plan to eat outside each week, unless it is raining, so that folks who prefer extra caution regarding Covid can feel comfortable joining us. We will not meet the night of July 3.

Toy Collection for UVA Children's Hospital

For several years our congregation, in conjunction with Vacation Bible School, participated in a collection of new toys for the children at UVA hospital. These toys were given to the pediatric patients to keep, so there was always a need to replenish the hospital's supply. We have not done this in the past two years because the hospital was not accepting donations during the pandemic. They are now accepting toy donations again and would appreciate our assistance. Therefore, the Missions Council is asking for your help in collecting the following toys to be given to the children in the hospital:

- Play-Doh
- Coloring books
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Card games
- Small Lego kits

You will find collection boxes located on the first floor and in the Fellowship Hall. Because this toy drive is being done in conjunction with VBS, it will have a short collection window. Please bring your toy donations to church on **Sunday, June 12th**, or **Sunday, June 19th**, or the week in between. The VBS families will be participating and contributing as well.



Circle of Caring: Bereavement Team

When a friend or family member dies, the season of grief that follows can be overwhelming. In addition to the intense emotion that is felt, grieving family members are often faced with difficult decisions. Grief can also be isolating, as friends don't always know what to say. It is in such situations of grief that our Bereavement Team quietly performs its ministry. A part of the deacon-led Circle of Caring ministry, the Bereavement Team supports family members in times of grief. Sometimes this includes visiting or making a phone call, bringing a basket of supplies for those hosting out-of-town relatives, sending a card, or reaching out on the anniversary of someone's death. This vital ministry is a balm to hurting souls in our midst.

Do you know of someone who is experiencing a season of grief? Please contact the church office or one of our ministers. If you'd like to join the team, you can reach out to the Team Leader, Michele Turner, or speak with our church staff. We'd love to have you join in this ministry!

Save the Date - Town Hall June 22

Please mark your calendars for a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, June 22 at 6:00 PM. The purpose of this meeting will be to update the congregation on progress concerning JARC (the periodic review of our Constitution and Bylaws), to hear a brief report on the status of the Music Minister Search Committee, and to hear a brief report from Matt about his writing leave this spring.

Deacon Election

It is that time of year once again to elect Deacons to serve as leaders in our church, ensuring spiritual health and well-being. Voting for the new slate of names will take place until June 19, with a digital ballot available [AT THIS LINK](#). Printed copies are available at the church as well, and can be mailed to any member who requests one. Please remember to sign your name to your ballot to ensure votes from all members can be confirmed and counted.

Flowers Bring Great Joy

If you would like to dedicate sanctuary flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, the 2022 Floral Calendar is posted in the first floor hallway. Sign up on the calendar AND email Sarah Buchanan sarahbucha@gmail.com to reserve your special date. She will order the flowers from Agape Florist for \$60 unless you want to provide them yourself.

Please make checks and online donations payable to UBC and earmark "sanctuary flowers." Available dates are:

6/12, 19
7/17, 24, 31
8/14, 21

If you love flowers, enjoy arranging them, or want to learn how, please contact Sarah at 434-409-9064 or sarahbucha@gmail.com and join us on the Floral Team. Sometimes it can be as simple as taking an already made arrangement out of the refrigerator or silk arrangement and placing it in the sanctuary.

Office Staff Changes

As we make adjustments in the office due to the departure of our Financial Secretary, a group of volunteers are assisting with answering the phones and handling day-to-day tasks. Thank you to everyone who has jumped in to help already! Anyone else interested in signing up to help in the office can do so [AT THIS LINK](#).

Please email correspondence about financial matters to Richard Vaughan at treasurer@universitybaptist.org. Please email general correspondence to office@universitybaptist.org and the appropriate staff person will respond to you. Articles, updates, and announcements for the newsletter can be directed to Val Fisk vfisk@universitybaptist.org.

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 yellow/medium Community Level, which means the CDC is recommending masks for people at high risk. Masks are currently 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.

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106