

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

August 30, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 35

Picking Up Trash for Jesus

How does going out on the Rivanna Trail and picking up trash connect with faith in Christ? John 3.17 says, "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Some might interpret this, and other verses, to relate exclusively to eternal salvation, but if God loves the world (John 3.16), then what good is salvation if we ruin the planet? Going outside and picking up some trash cleans up the world God created (Genesis 1.1).

In September, our theme for worship services and mission projects will be ecotheology. Ecotheology is a branch of liberation theology, which emphasizes *right action* (orthopraxis) over *right belief* (orthodoxy). In this case, taking care of God's creation is the right action. Ecotheology follows the notion of putting our faith into practice, and it encourages us to think about the impact our actions have on the planet. We are God's hands and feet (1 Corinthians 12.27) and our actions reflect who we are and what we believe. This means that we should be intentional about what we do. In this case, we are going to spend some time in September thinking about God's creation and how we can be better stewards of what God has given us.

Chief Seattle articulated the way the earth bears witness to God's presence. He said, "Every part of this soil is sacred in the estimation of my people... Even the rocks, which seem to be dumb and dead as they swelter in the sun along the silent shore, thrill with memories of stirring events connected with the lives of my people..." Chief Seattle's sentiment reminds me of when Jesus said the rocks would cry out if the Romans silenced his followers (Luke 19.40). The world points to God and enhances our faith experience.

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sept. 4, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Reality Reenchanted"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 19: 37-40
Isaiah 51:1-3

Anthem:

"For the Beauty of the Earth"
(Rutter)

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Larry Johnson
Ushers: Charlotte Bailey,
Hunter Cooper

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, August 30

9:30 Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, August 31

9:00 Work Team

5:30 Dinner

6:00 Wednesday Night Series

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

On September 4, after worship, we will eat pizza with the youth and then head out to pick up trash. Bring a change of clothes or come to church ready to traipse along the Rivanna Trail with a trash bag in hand. If you have a UBC t-shirt, please wear it. If not, contact Val at vfisk@universitybaptist.org, and she will give you one. We want to make a difference in our community and help people see us for who we are. We are a body of believers who follow Christ and believe that God cares about this planet.

Peace,
Matt

Wednesday Night Series - "Why should we care about ___?"

This fall, we will tackle various topics on Wednesday nights, asking the question, "Why should we care about ___?" Each week, we will look at something different, like climate change, racism, gun violence, political polarization, and more. If you have a topic you would like to suggest, email Matt (matt@universitybaptist.org) and let him know.

5:30 Dinner
6:00 "Why should we care about the environment?"
7:00 Choir Practice



Volunteers Needed

Our ice cream machine is up and running again! Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday! Click [this link](#) to add your name and join us between 12:00 and 2:00pm on the front steps at UBC.

SUNDAY, September 4

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:15 Youth Lunch
5:00 Jubilate Practice

MONDAY, September 5

Church Office Closed
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Sept. 7: George Payne

Sept. 8: Scott Miller

Sept. 9: Shelley Miller

Sept. 10: Georgina Main

Sept. 11: Leon Castle, Desteny Bonilla, Alba Beasley

Prayer Requests

Jack Averill at home now.

Marcus Stanley and Family

Martha Ballenger, Jackie Lockwood, and Charlotte Bailey all recovering from Covid at home.

Continued comfort for Suzanne Smith after the death of her husband, Mac.



Sunday Bible Study Kick-Off

Last Sunday, a bunch of people gathered in the Fellowship Hall for the Sunday Bible Study Kick-Off. We had bagels and fresh fruit and enjoyed sitting around the tables talking. Each teacher or facilitator stood up and introduced their study group. Here's a list of each one and their location:

Children – Katherine Hamel and Laura Morris (Children's Suite, second floor, room 212b)

ESOL – Sally Chewing and Jen May (Fellowship Hall, side room)

Kairos – Scott Miller (Fellowship Hall, side room, G25A)

New Life – Larry Johnson and Barbara Moore (First floor, room 115)

Nursery – Judy Gough and Diane Woerner (Ground floor, Nursery)

Open Minds – Debra Bryant and Ed Lowry (First floor, room 120)

Seekers – Jack Averill (Ground floor, Parlor, room G14)

Young Adult Class – Ben Chenault and Daniel Harper (Second floor, room 209)

Youth – Ron Tweel and David Waters (Third floor, room 305)

We have something for everyone, and if you don't see what you are seeking, contact Matt (matt@universitybaptist.org) and tell him you want to start a new group.

Church Conference

At our Church Conference on August 24, we approved the [Nominating Committee Report](#), approved the updates to our Constitution & Bylaws, and formally accept Will Brown's resignation. You can read the approved Constitution and By-Laws [here \(constitution\)](#) and [here \(by-laws\)](#).

Of note is the retirement of Richard Vaughan as our Assistant Treasurer. Debby Johnson will be taking over those responsibilities beginning Sept. 1. George Payne will continue as Treasurer and Larry Martin returns as the Chair of the Finance Committee. To communicate with either George or Debby, please use treasurer@universitybaptist.org.

Venable Backpack Food Program

We are in need of plastic grocery bags to use for packing food. You may leave them in the church library.

Eco-Theology Series

This September, our worship will focus on Eco-Theology, examining the ways that we as followers of Christ are called to care for the earth, and how our theology impacts the way we do that work. Special projects will take place immediately after worship on September 4, 11, and 25 as we put our words into action. UBC participants are invited to join in our first project on September 4, as we spread across the city to pick up trash from the Rivanna Trail. After worship, we will gather in the fellowship hall, eat together, and break up into teams that will walk the trail with trash bags for an hour. You may want to bring work or gardening gloves for this event!

Your Privacy is Important to Us

In a few weeks we will be updating our church database to improve our online directory. We may need to change some of your privacy settings in order to do this, which may trigger an email to you. We want to assure you that we would never compromise your privacy, and our online directory is available only to our church database. If you have any concerns about this, please email the office at linda@universitybaptist.org.

WMU Woodbrook School Supplies Project

To begin school this coming school year 2022-2023, according to the Woodbrook Elementary School website, the suggested supply list for first graders will cost \$43.92 - a 15% increase over the price last year. Sixty-five percent of the Woodbrook families are on public assistance and cannot afford to buy their children what they need. The financial hardships added by the pandemic and sky-rocketing inflation have compounded the needs of these children. In 2008, Love INC paired the UBC WMU with the Family Support Workers at Woodbrook Elementary. In the beginning we asked you to bring in a variety of school supplies that we sorted and delivered to the school. This method was pretty chaotic. For the last 14 years, we have asked you to donate money, we then asked the Family Support Workers what things they specifically needed, purchased those supplies and delivered them to the school. The Woodbrook Family Support Workers were delighted with this more efficient method. We want to continue to meet the needs of the less fortunate children "...to give [them] hope and a future" - Jeremiah 29:11.

Please make checks or online gifts payable to UBC and earmark "school supplies."



Save the Date for Touch-A-Truck Saturday, September 24

We are bringing back

Touch-A-Truck in 2022! The UBC Deacons have already begun working on details for this event, gathering partners from the community to provide the trucks and other vehicles, finding food vendors and face painters, and planning for this to be a great outreach event to families in the community. Anyone who is willing to volunteer to help with the event should let Matt Tennant know or reach out to a UBC Deacon for more information.

Save the Date

Sunday, September 18 - Luncheon Honoring Thomas Hill for 40 years of service to UBC
Sunday, September 18 - New Piano Welcome Concert
Sunday, October 16 - Composite Mass Concert
October 18-20 - Myers Lecture (Miroslav Volf)
October 23 - Homecoming Dinner
November 1 - Blood Drive

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.

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Connect with us

