



February 14, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 7

## Welcoming the Thirsty Stranger

## WATCH

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

February 19, 2023

11:00 AM

### Sermon:

"From Struggle to Strength"

Rev. Kim Bunns

### Scripture:

Isaiah 40:28-31

### Anthem:

"Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit"

(arr. Hogan)

## SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacon:** Jackie Lockwood

**Ushers:** Ron Tweel & Sue Sears



Did you know that you are welcome to bring your travel mug of coffee with you to worship on Sunday mornings? I remember attending a worship service at a large church in the 1990's. Early in the service, I heard the distinct sound of someone opening a can in the pew behind me. I looked back, and a woman was drinking a soda as we sang, "O For a

Thousand Tongues."

At first, I was shocked. How could someone bring a can of soda into God's house? Then, it occurred to me that I should just be happy that she was in worship. The can didn't hurt anyone. Maybe she was diabetic and needed the sugar. Or, maybe she liked to have the caffeine hit before the sermon. What if she just wanted a can of pop right then? Who cares? Her action had no impact on the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Over the years, many of us realized that God cares more about our hearts than whether we bring our morning coffee to church or not. During the pandemic, many people grew accustomed to having a cup of coffee while they watched worship at home. Psalm 51:10 says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." If we worship with sincerity and an earnest desire to know God, then God doesn't care if we take a sip of our morning coffee in the sanctuary. God's interest is in our motivation and honesty in worship.

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, February 15

9:00 Work Team

5:30 Dinner

6:00 Program

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### SATURDAY, February 18

1:00 Lu Overbeck Memorial Service

2:00 Reception

### SUNDAY, February 19

8:30 ESOL Class

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

12:15 Youth Group

5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

With this background, several years ago, we who lead worship made an intentional decision. We started bringing travel cups with us into worship. We wanted to set the example that it's okay to bring your coffee with you. We hoped visitors would see that they are welcome to come into God's house with the to-go cup they bought on the way to church. All are welcome. This is part of who we are at University Baptist Church.

Several weeks ago, as I welcomed people before worship, someone said, "Good morning." She was holding her travel mug and joked, "We need cup holders in our pews."

Eureka! Yes! If we want to be welcoming, we have to make it easier for people to feel welcome. Cup holders are a tiny way to communicate, "You are welcome. God's house is your house. And, we want you to feel at home and comfortable."

So, after a brief internet search, I found "pew cup holders" and ordered three. They arrived yesterday and will be available on Sunday. If they are popular, we will get more. If you know someone who said, "I would come to church, but I'm not giving up my 11am coffee on Sunday," please tell them about the cup holders. While you are at it, tell them that Jesus loves them, we love them, and we want to walk in faith with them.

Peace,  
Matt

P.S. If you have ideas about how we can be more welcoming, please let me know.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

**Feb. 24:** Mary Jo Hendricks

**Feb. 25:** McKenzie Taylor, Laura  
Martindale

**Feb. 26:** Jay Hendricks

**Feb. 29:** Shelley Payne

## MONDAY, February 20

Church Office is Closed

10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)

1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

## TUESDAY, February 21

11:00 Development Team Meeting

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

## 2023 Unified UBC Calendar

Our 2023 Unified UBC Calendar is now available! You can pick up a printed version from the church office or the narthex outside the Sanctuary, or [click here](#) to download the pdf version.

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## Prayer Requests

Barbara Newlon

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Jim Sivley

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Gail Ellen

Ron Kingston

On Saturday, February 18, 1:00 pm, we will have a memorial service for Lu Overbeck with reception to follow.

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## ESOL Classes Being Offered

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Classes will be offered weekly on Sunday mornings, 8:30 - 9:30 in a side room of the Fellowship Hall from Sunday, February 19 through June 4.

# A WORD FROM VAL



We are in need of a second student/young adult to join our kitchen crew at UBC! The kitchen crew is responsible for cleaning the kitchen, dishes, and Fellowship Hall after our Wednesday night dinners and Bible study. They are also occasionally asked to assist after Sunday afternoon events. Students work from 6:00-8:00 each Wednesday night, pay is \$15 per hour, and they receive free dinner as well. Please direct anyone interested to contact me at [vfisk@universitybaptist.org](mailto:vfisk@universitybaptist.org).

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## Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Souper Bowl of Caring! We collected \$517.89 for the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.



## UBC Family Movie Night, Feb 24

At the request of our youngest UBCers, we will be having a UBC Family Movie Night! Join us on Friday, February 24, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a night of fun. We will provide popcorn and soda/drinks for everyone, and you are welcome to bring any other food or treats you would like to have. No need to hide the candy on your way into this movie! Gather for popcorn at 6:30, movie will start around 6:45. If you are willing to arrive early to help move couches/comfy seating from other parts of the church into the Fellowship Hall, please let me know.

This is a wonderful evening to invite friends and neighbors to come join us, especially those friends and neighbors with young kids. They can come and join our young-at-heart for an all-ages night of fellowship.



## Wednesday Night Dinners

Our Wednesday night program on February 15 will be a Church Conference to approve the [2023 budget](#).

Dinner at 5:30 will be a potluck followed by our Church Conference at 6:00. If you are unable to attend in person, the Church Conference will be available via [zoom](#).

Afterwards, at 7:00, everyone who would like to sing can join Will Cooke and the Sanctuary Choir in the Choir/Lecture Suite.



The Kittie Colvin Trail Circle will be collecting items for the Alliance for Interfaith Ministries (AIM). AIM is requesting basic items not covered by SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). SNAP covers only food. On your next shopping trip please pick up an extra item or two from the list below. Collection boxes will be located on the stage in the Fellowship Hall and in the first-floor lobby.

AIM is a 501c3 tax-exempt charitable nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to help residents of Albemarle County and Charlottesville attain self-sufficiency and stability. Now celebrating their 40th year helping local residents navigate the "safety net" of social programs in our area and directly assisting through AIM programs on to screened clients, housing stability assistance, eviction prevention, utility assistance and disconnection prevention, and crisis assistance.

**Save the Date! Registration now open**  
**CBF Virginia Mission Madness**  
**March 17-19, 2023, Newport News**

Join with hundreds of youth from across Virginia for this exciting mission experience! UBC Youth will travel to Newport News March 17-19 to serve alongside of other 6th-12th grade students. We will spend the night in a hotel, go out to do service projects throughout the community on Saturday, and participate in worship and fun alongside other church groups.

Cost per person is \$110 (scholarships available). Registration and fees due by February 17. We will leave UBC at 5:00 pm on Friday and return by 12:30 pm on Sunday.

The requested items are:  
paper towels  
toilet paper  
hand soap  
dish soap  
hand sanitizer  
kitchen size trash bags  
bleach wipes  
small laundry soap  
all-purpose cleaner  
sponges  
deodorant  
shampoo  
conditioner  
bed linens, pillows, towels, and wash cloths are always in demand

We will be collecting until the end of February.



Once known to be the “front door” to church engagement, Sunday School today is not what many remember. To some, it is great to send the children to, “but I’ve made my decision of faith, so I’m good.” To others, it has been a part of their family’s wholistic approach to being a Christ follower.

Did you know that there was a time that every classroom, nook, and cranny of University Baptist Church was occupied the hour before Sunday morning worship? What was happening was a full-on methodology to disciple making “from babies to the grave.” Mind you, it wasn’t all academic either. If truth were told, what fond memories folks have is about the lifelong friends they made through these classes, yes, studying the Bible, but also through activities and fellowship together.

Remember March 2020? Just three very long years ago, everything we knew and did was changed forever. The Covid-19 Pandemic precipitated precautions that we never thought would happen – preventing groups from gathering indoors and in close proximity. We had to suspend in-person worship as well as all other church activities. It has been a long, trying time for all. But, through the Grace of God we have endured and are now on the other side!

IT'S time!!!

Come on back to Sunday Bible Study! There is a group for everyone. Our babies and preschoolers are cared for and loved by some of the best who teach them about God and Jesus through Bible stories, play, and songs. Our Children and Youth are challenged to consider for themselves this faith journey and are encouraged to experience God’s love and grace as they offer the same to others.

Our adults are exploring what God has to say to us today. There are classes that prefer digging deep into Books of the Bible, some consider the chronological parallels to world history, and others study to see God’s application of His Word to life today. Some prefer lecture and contemplation, while others thrive on open discussion.



Perhaps you used to attend regularly. Your class welcomes you back! You may find this a great time to try other options, or maybe you have not found your place in a Bible Study group. Whatever your desire and need, there is a place for you. There is a listing of Sunday Bible Study classes with description and location on our website and around the building. Come Sunday between 9:30 and 9:45 and enjoy some time with fellow pilgrims on the journey!

Tommy Deal - Education Coordinator

### Retreat, Mission Trip, or None of the Above

Last week, Matt sent a link to a one-question survey, and we have 46 responses so far! If you haven't had a chance to fill it out yet, please let the ministers know whether you would like to go on: (a) An all-age all-church Mission Trip in the U.S., (b) An all-age all-church International Mission Trip, (c) An all-age all-church Retreat in Virginia, (d) An all-age all-church International Retreat, or (e) None of the above.



### Replacing Plastic Bags with Paper

As we have been trying to be more environmentally conscious, we're finding ways to improve various ministries. For instance, we have been using plastic bags for the Venable Food Bag program for several years. After consulting with the social worker at Venable, we identified a recycled paper bag to replace the plastic bags. Check out the NEW Venable Food Bags.

### 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.

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Connect with us

