



March 28, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 13

Still Talking About Changes

WATCH

Two weeks ago, I shared the parable of Manolito from José Marins' book *Basic Ecclesial Communities* (Quezon City, Philippines: Claretian 1983). Recall that the parable is about the church through the ages and how it needs to continue to change. One of the challenges that churches face in adapting to change is how to balance tradition with innovation. On the one hand, the church has a rich history and tradition that provides a foundation for its beliefs and practices. On the other hand, new technologies and social movements can present opportunities for growth and new forms of ministry.

We have adapted over and over again throughout our history. From our view on race and women in ministry to inclusion of all people, we recognize the need to change. The incorporation of live streaming and screens is still new and challenging for some people. However, during these final days of Lent, I still wonder what's next? What changes are ahead of us?

In Christ, each one of us is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). As a new being in Christ, we die to the old self (Romans 6:6) and are born again (John 3:3). Even though we wish to shake off everything that separated us from God, we bring some of our old self with us. Hopefully, we bring our best. We bring our gifts, uniqueness, and personality with us as new beings in Christ. If we didn't, we would be automata and probably not very interesting to God. As it is, God knew us in our mother's womb, and we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13-14).

This is us. We are a people whom God loves, and God wants to walk with us on our journey. So, when we ask, "What's next?"

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

April 2, 2023

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"What a Strange Celebration!"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Matthew 21:1-11

Anthem:

"Ride On King Jesus" (arr. Hogan)

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Lily Gregg

Ushers: Cindy Bryant, Jackie Lockwood

Youth Lunch: Sign up at bit.ly/31VptYc.

2nd Adult: Barbara Moore

Jubilate Dinner: Sign up at bit.ly/31VptYc.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 29

9:00 Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study

5:15 Handbell Rehearsal

5:30 Dinner

6:00 Wednesday Program

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

What changes are ahead of us?," we don't ask in isolation. We ask as new beings in Christ who will walk into the future with God. There could be frightening or wonderful days ahead—we don't know. We *do* know that God will be with us in the future, as we face new obstacles and opportunities.

What are these changes? If you are a white person, try to imagine what it was like in the 1960s when first hearing about integration. Now, we take for granted that all people are created equal regardless of how they look. If you are a male, imagine the 1970s and hearing that women can serve in the same roles as men in the church. This exercise of imagining changes could go on. Inclusion, live streaming, screens/videos in worship, protesters... What's next?

I don't know the future. I don't know what God's church will face. No matter what happens, God will be okay because God doesn't need the church—we do. As we look ahead, we can lift our voices in prayer and continue to ask: "Lord, what are we supposed to do?"

Peace,
Matt

First-Quarter Giving Statements

First-quarter giving statements will be coming out in mid-April. We are now keeping track of contributions using Realm, UBC's online database, so your statement will look different from previous years. If you have an email address on file, your giving statement will arrive via email. If we do not have an email for you, your statement will be printed and mailed to you. If you need to update your email address, please let [Linda](#) know in the office.

If you do not already have a Realm login, but would like one, please let Linda know that as well. A login is not required in order to receive your emailed statement but would allow you to view your giving information online at any time.

THURSDAY, March 30
5:00 Nominating Committee

SUNDAY, April 2
8:30 ESOL Class
8:30 Church Council Meeting
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 Youth Group
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

MONDAY, April 3
10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

TUESDAY, April 4
7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle (Zoom)
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

Prayer Requests

Barbara Newlon

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Clara Brown

Eugenie Pierre

Friends & Family of Ron Kingston who passed away on March 25

Friends & Family of Barbara Moore's aunt, Doris Desper, who passed away on March 24



Rise Against Hunger with UBC

On April 15 and 29, UBC will host our first of many meal packing events with Rise Against Hunger! Click [here](#) to find out more about Rise Against Hunger (RAH). This is a fun and intergenerational mission event. There's something for all ages.

Go to our [website page](#) to view all the packing dates and to sign up to help us meet our goal of 100,000 meals!



Worship Schedule for Holy Week

Mark Your Calendars for Holy Week Worship!

- Palm Sunday:** 11:00 am in the Sanctuary celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- Spy Wednesday:** 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary - Why did Judas betray Jesus? We need this betrayal to have the rest of the story.
- Maundy Thursday:** 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- Good Friday:** 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary with the commemoration of the crucifixion.



- April 2 - Palm Sunday - Youth Group, 12:15-2:00 (meal & adult volunteer needed)**
- April 9 - Easter Sunday - no Youth Group**

Thank You!

Dear UBC family,
Words can't express how much I really appreciate all the many expressions of love and concern after my fall, broken hip, surgery, and recovery. Thanks so much for the many calls, cards, and visits during my recovery. Look forward to being back in church soon!

Gail Ellen



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

- April 5:** William Hendricks
- Apr. 7:** Laura Morris
- Apr. 9:** Nell Tiller, Connor Marshall
- Apr. 10:** Barbara Fuller
- Apr. 11:** Rossie Carnes



Wednesday Night Dinners

Dr. Scott Spencer will lead our program at 6:00, "Passions of the Christ." He will continue to

explore the Passion story emphasizing the four distinctive Gospel narratives. If you've never heard Scott speak before, check it out. You're in for a treat. He's a dynamic speaker and has a wealth of biblical knowledge. Come for dinner at 5:30 and bring a friend. This week, dinner will be chicken pot pies, peas & carrots, rolls, and ice cream bars.

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



Music Ministry Update

As you know, Will Cooke announced that his last day with us will be May 21. Please mark your calendars to be here on Sunday, May 21, for a reception for Will. You will hear more about the details and a love offering for him as that date approaches. For now, we are pleased to announce that the Rev. Susan Deal has accepted the position of Intentional Interim Minister of Music. She will begin working with us on May 22. Her goal is to keep our music ministry vibrant and prepare for the next chapter in UBC's incredibly rich music tradition. Please thank her for agreeing to step in when you see her. Also, we are in the process of forming a Search Committee to find the next person to lead our music program. More details on the search process will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Tennant in the church office or Jen May of the Personnel Committee.



Easter Lilies

This Easter we would like to decorate our Sanctuary with an abundance of Easter lilies. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, please see the insert in your bulletin or contact [Linda Weirich](#) in the church office to let her know the wording that you would like to appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 9. The cost of each lily will be \$12. You can mail a check, drop it in the offering box, or pay online and earmark your gift "Easter Lily." The last day to order is Monday, April 3. You may pick up your lily after the 11:00 am Easter Service on Sunday, April 9.



Save the Date & Celebrate

Volunteers Extraordinaire
(Hint - Richard V., Ed S., & Alan H.)

Potluck Luncheon
Sunday, April 16, 2023
12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

UBC will provide the entree, dessert, and beverages for our luncheon. You are encouraged to bring your favorite side dish to share (salad, veggies, pasta). Come prepared to celebrate this amazing trio of church volunteers!

Children's Activity Bags

Children are an important part of our church, and we love worshipping with them. In the narthex you will find some children's activity bags, designed to help children engage in worship in their own way. Each bag contains a children's bulletin based on that Sunday's sermon text and other activities. Please feel free to take one for your child(ren). At the end of the service, keep any artwork you'd like and leave the bag/clipboard on your pew.



Join Us on Sunday Mornings!

Continuing with my attempt to encourage and invite you to participate in Sunday Bible Study, I wish to offer an excerpt from the website of *The Word Made Fresh*. Click [here](#) for full article.

Some years ago, Robert Fulghum had a bestselling book entitled, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." Well, indeed he may have learned all he needed to know in Kindergarten, but I must tell you that, for me, it happened in Sunday School. Of course, Sunday School is not only a place of great learning, it is also a place of great laughter.

One Sunday School teacher, for example, asked her class how Noah spent his time on the Ark. The youngsters seemed baffled, so the teacher pressed the issue. She said, "Do you suppose that with all the water around him he did a lot of fishing?" That got a reaction. "Ha," one little boy replied, "with only two worms."

Or what about the time a father asked his son what he had learned in Sunday School that day? The young boy answered, "She told us about Moses crossing the Red Sea." The father said, "Well what did she tell you about that?" The boy paused for a moment and then he broke into a remarkable narrative. He said, "Well, old Moses got mad that this guy Pharaoh was holding people hostage. So, he warned him to let the people go, or he would be in big trouble. Pharaoh said, 'O.K.' Moses then loaded the people up in big buses and they started off. Then Pharaoh changed his mind. He called out his army and tanks and half-tracks and big guns and began chasing old Moses. He even called in an air strike. When Moses and all these people in buses got to the Red Sea, they knew they were trapped. Then they got an idea. They took sand from the shore of the sea and made sandbags, and they sandbagged two sides all the way across that sea. They brought in pumps, and they pumped out the water from between those two lines of sandbags so that they could cross on dry land. Then they put plastic explosives in those sandbags, and when Pharaoh's army followed them, they detonated the explosives with a remote device and blew up Pharaoh's army." The father cried, "Wait a minute, is that the way she told the story?" The little boy shrugged, "Naw," he said, "but if I told you the story the way she did, you'd never believe it."

Ah! The faith of a child! Our Children (Grades Kindergarten – 5th) are led each Sunday by a team of wonderful teachers who share these wonderful stories of the Bible and help guide their inquisitive minds as their hearts are molded into faith of following Jesus. Your children will love Katherine Hamel, Laura Morris, Laura Faye Groff, and Melanie Tennant as they meet you on Sunday mornings in the Children's Suite, Room 212. I encourage you to rekindle the habit of Sunday Bible Study for your entire family!

Another one of our classes for Adults of any age is the Open Minds class. Debra Bryant, Ed Lowry, and Ron Tweel share in leading the exploration of a progressive approach to Christianity described at www.progressivechristianity.org. They address parts of the Bible and topics decided on by the class, is a discussion group, and covers a broad array of topics from Bible study to current events. Open Minds meets in Room 120 on the first floor.

Tommy Deal - Education Coordinator

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 partnering 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.](#), which works to address the needs of the local community. Some of the many needs that Scarlette helps address are working with the homeless, coordinating children's 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](#). 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.

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

