



June 13, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 24

Studying to Grow in Faith

ON WATCH

Reading theology isn't for everyone. Since the fall of 2020, an intrepid group has been meeting on the first and third Monday of each month to discuss Friedrich Schleiermacher's seminal work *The Christian Faith*. Completed in 1831, this 751-page tome covers the entire range of systematic theology. The group is comprised of UBC members and several ministers, and our zoom meetings cover a short section of the book and last one hour. We discuss the reading, what it means, and how it can speak to our faith. We talk about our own experiences with God, and I have learned and grown in my faith through our gatherings.

A few weeks ago, we finished our journey through Schleiermacher's *The Christian Faith*. As we approached the end, we discussed what to read next. It was clear that our next book would be from the twentieth century, but everyone wanted to continue studying serious theology. Why? Reading theology isn't for everyone, and people don't have to read the hard stuff to be followers of Jesus. However, this group found the experience enriching.

Our next book will be *On Christian Theology* by Rowan Williams, the former archbishop of Canterbury. It is a collection of essays and addresses such subjects as how we approach theology, thinking about God's actions, considering how we speak about God, and the mystery of God.

If you are interested in joining the group, let me know. If you aren't, that's fine, too. Since the "Schleiermacher Group" has been on the church calendar for the last two

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

June 18, 2023

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"We Will! (Fingers Crossed)"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Exodus 19:2-8a

Anthem:

"Halle, Halle, Halle" (Haugen)

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Lily Gregg

Ushers: Sally Chewning, Bob Gough

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, June 14

9:00 Work Team

6:30 Summer Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, June 18

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting

9:30 ESOL Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, June 19

Church Office Closed

8:30 VBS

TUESDAY, June 20

8:30 VBS

1:30 Personnel Committee Meeting

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

and a half years, I wanted to give everyone an update, tell you what we have been doing, and invite anyone who is interested to join us. The only criteria for joining this group are an openness to grow in faith, a willingness to do the reading, and the ability to join a zoom meeting.

One interesting thing about small groups is their adaptability. If the Schleiermacher Group isn't for you, what is? Where do you find your spiritual growth? Do you have a Sunday morning Bible study? If not, consider what times would work for you and what subject would be interesting to you. Then, tell me or Tommy Deal, our Education Coordinator, and we will try to help you find a small group or find others with similar interests who want to form a group.

My priority is for us to grow in faith. If we can do that by reading a dead Prussian who wrote in the nineteenth century, that's wonderful! If we can accomplish the same goal another way, that's great, too! The goal is to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Peace,
Matt

A WORD FROM VAL



Vacation Bible School
June 19-23, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Help take our kids to Babylon to learn about Daniel and his friends! We still need help with several areas of our VBS week, and youth who have completed 6th grade and above are welcome to help fill those spots! Contact Melanie Tennant at meltennant@yahoo.com or 804-577-0319 to sign up.

Decades Arcade **Sunday, July 9**

Join us for an afternoon of games at Decades Arcade on the Downtown Mall (418 E. Main St.). Students will be able to play for FREE from 1:30-3:30 pm, followed by ice cream at Chaps. Parents and siblings are welcome to join us for \$12 per person. RSVP to [Val](#) by July 2.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Barbara Newlon

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Jane Thomas

Shirley Wagoner and Family on the death of her sister-in-law

*In order to respect privacy, limited information is included here.

Volunteers Needed

Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday! Click [this link](#) to add your name and join us any time between 10:30 and 11:30 to help set up and/or between 11:30 and 1:30 on the front steps to serve the ice cream.

Do These Belong To You?

Leftover plastic plates and serving dishes are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If any of these are yours, and you would like to have them, please take them with you. Anything remaining will be donated to the Salvation Army.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

June 22: Gary Dalton, Ronda Wiley, Emily Centofante

June 24: Ezra Flaherty

June 27: Ray Nell Lonvick

Youth Trip to Kings Dominion Friday, July 21

Our youth will take our annual trip to Kings Dominion on July 21 along with the youth from First Baptist Waynesboro! All middle and high school students are welcome. Cost for this trip is \$40 each, which includes park ticket and an all-day drink wristband. Students will need to bring money for food. Please note that Kings Dominion does not accept cash in the park. Students will need a prepaid/debit card, credit card, or digital wallet option on their phone.

[Sign up here](#) to register and pay! FBCW will be collecting names and payment for this trip. Adults, please let Val know if you are able to drive or chaperone! (Chaperones go for free and pay for their own meals.) Sign up by June 30.

VBS 2023 Monday-Friday, June 19-23 9 - 12 noon (drop off begins at 8:30) For ages 4 (by June 19) - 12

Join us in Babylon, where we'll explore what life was like for Daniel and his friends, captives in a strange land. You'll craft cool projects in the Marketplace, laugh as you play Bible-times games, visit with Daniel, and eat some interesting food. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

To register your child(ren), [click here.](#)

Questions? Contact Melanie Tennant at meltennant@yahoo.com or 804-577-0319.

Birthday Celebration!

Our Senior Minister turns 50 years young on June 17, and we will celebrate with him on June 18 after church in the Fellowship Hall with birthday cake and punch. Bring your **best advice for a '50 year old'** to write on his card (or bring your own card), and help Matt commence his next 50 in UBC style.

Rise Against Hunger with UBC

On Saturday, June 24, beginning at 10:00, UBC will host our third meal packing event with Rise Against Hunger! Bring your baseball cap, if you don't want to wear a hairnet, and help us pack another 12,500 meals! 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!

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. Expect a draft ballot by email or U.S. mail this month. This ballot is a list of all church members living in the central Virginia area who are physically able to serve. The purpose of this ballot is for your review. If your name is listed, and you are unable to serve as a Deacon, please contact the church office to have your name removed. Likewise, if your name is missing, and you are willing to serve as a Deacon, we apologize for the omission and ask that you also let the church office know to add your name.

Needed: Faux Summer Fruits & Vegetables

The floral team needs life-sized faux summer fruits and vegetables for a Sanctuary display in July for our "Sharing from our Abundance" sermon series. If you have artificial summer fruits or vegetables you no longer use, or would be willing to loan, we would appreciate them. There will be a box in the first-floor lobby to receive them. They are needed by Sunday, June 25. Questions? Contact [Sarah Buchanan](mailto:sarabuchan@gmail.com) at sarabuchan@gmail.com.

Collection for the University of Virginia Hospital Hospitality House

Through the summer, the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle will be collecting items for the UVA Hospital Hospitality House. The Hospitality House, located on 14th Street, offers overnight rooms at a very reduced rate to people from out-of-town having out-patient treatment at the hospital, and the families of patients in the hospital. The Hospitality House has 20 bedrooms and 8 kitchenettes for the guests to use, but they have a hard time keeping them stocked.

If you have a few things you no longer need, toiletries you have collected during your travels, pots and pans from cleaning out grandma's house, or snacks leftover from a BBQ, please bring them to the collection boxes in the 1st floor lobby.

Requested items:

- Laundry detergent pods (no liquid or powder), ALL Free and Clear is preferred
- Fragrance Free dryer sheets
- Coffee k-cups, individually packaged sweeteners and creamers, tea bags
- Toiletries – small sized shampoo and conditioner, soap and deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razors, lotion, combs, brushes, and feminine products
- Non-perishable food items such as canned soups, canned tuna or chicken, canned fruit and vegetables, individual quick meals such as ramen noodles, rice-a-roni, small jars of peanut butter and jelly, pasta and pasta sauce, small containers of pancake mix and syrup, popcorn, trail mix, Jell-O and pudding cups, small bags of chips, cookies or crackers

Sunday Bible Study for All!

I want to invite all of our Sunday Bible Study leaders, class leadership, and everyone interested in helping influence Charlottesville via quality Bible study to reserve on your calendar our "Kick-off Event" Saturday, August 19, 2023. That morning from 8:30 – 11:30 we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship, inspiration, and some encouragement in our roles as leaders. We will end with each leadership group spending a few moments in their rooms to "clean up, straighten up, and throw out" so that our space offers the most hospitable and encouraging atmosphere possible. Don't forget: Saturday morning, August 19, 2023, 8:30 – 11:30.

In March of this year, we began to track our attendance for Sunday Bible Study. The reason we do this is much more than "counting noses and nickels." Many of us remember the Sunday School 6-point Check system when we marked on our envelopes that we 1) gave an offering, 2) were in attendance, 3) read Bible daily, 4) prayed daily, ... To be honest I cannot remember all of them, and not really sure the ones I've listed were included. So, this is a test for those who do remember and can recall what points we checked off on Sundays to be "good Baptist Sunday School attenders."

Please, don't get me wrong; this had a purpose that I'm sure was beneficial. It was a weekly reminder that there are things we as "disciples" should do. Nor do I know when this system stopped. The one thing it did was help those who led the Sunday School ministry to have a gauge of how well, or not, it was doing. As a relative newcomer to UBC I do not have institutional knowledge of past attendance.

What I do know is that since March at least a few of us have become more cognizant of the impact regular participation in Bible study has in disciple making. And, like most everyone else, the Pandemic invited us all to forego most all regular things we once participated in, including in-person worship and Sunday School (i.e., weekly Bible study with other disciples of Jesus.) Since we began tracking attendance, we have averaged 59 for Sunday Bible Study, with the highest Sunday being 73 and the lowest 38. (We are not sure if this was correct, because we were unable to get real attendance checks for all classes.)

One thing we all should be mindful of is to decide to attend Sunday Bible study regularly. Members and leaders alike should continually invite others to join them, especially those who once attended regularly prior to the Pandemic. We say, "Bible Study is for everyone," and we mean it. Why don't you give it a try this next Sunday?

~~Tommy Deal, Education Coordinator

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

