



July 25, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 30

Looking Ahead

WATCH

On Monday, I celebrated my sixth anniversary of serving as the Senior Minister of University Baptist Church. The average tenure of a pastor is 3.2 years (down from 3.6 years a decade ago), so reaching six years together is not insignificant to me. When I look back, it is amazing to me how much God has accomplished through you—live streaming, UniBap Park, screens in the sanctuary, renovated spaces, surviving the pandemic, a new piano, ice cream, the lecture series, concerts, mission trips, Rise Against Hunger, and so much more! And, I've had a front row seat through it all! You are amazing, and it is a privilege to serve as one of your ministers. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being so gracious and loving.

For me, though, I don't like looking back. My focus is on what's next. When thinking about the future, imagining all of the possibilities is exciting. What can God do next? Perhaps a better question would be: what can't God do? If God can speak through a burning bush, part the Red Sea, deliver manna in the wilderness, then God can do amazing things through UBC. If God can heal the sick, feed the hungry, and comfort those in times of trouble, then God can inspire us to bring more people to the divine party at UBC. If Jesus can overcome the power of death, then he can use us.

On Sunday, we sang, "Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace." We have some "fresh new lines of faith" ahead of us. When we engage in any activity at UBC, we do so as "partners in Christ's service." What we do matters because we do it as part of a divine and holy calling. We worship, not out of

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

July 30, 2023

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Can We Keep Doing This?"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Numbers 35:2-6

Anthem:

"Keep Your Lamps" arr. Jay Althouse

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Martha Ballenger

Ushers: Shirley Clark, Ben Chenault

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, July 26

9:00 Work Team

2:00 Young Adult Tubing

6:30 Summer Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, July 30

9:30 ESOL Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

TUESDAY, August 1

7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail (Zoom)

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

guilt or obligation or tradition, but because we have experienced transformation in Christ and worship is our natural response. We serve and join church projects, not because they are fun or doing actual good in our world, though they are both of these. We do what we do because we know God loves us and our neighbors, and Jesus calls us to love God and love our neighbors. We serve in response to God's love.

This love leads to what's next. And I don't know the future. I don't know what the next six years will hold. I don't know what projects are in our future, where the Spirit will lead us, or what we will encounter. If these past six years are any indicator of the next, then I know it will be exciting. There will be ups and downs, and at times, it might feel like we're riding a roller coaster. The high points will outnumber the low points, and we will say goodbye to some friends and meet new ones. We will embark on projects beyond our comprehension. Some will succeed. Some won't. We will keep loving God and our neighbors and find creative new ways to be partners in Christ's service.

I don't know what's next for UBC, but God does. As long as we travel into the future following the light of Christ, we can walk with confidence, knowing Jesus will not lead us astray.

Peace,
Matt



A Special Note to our Senior Minister, Matthew Tennant

As we recognize your 6-year anniversary at UBC this month, your congregation wishes to thank you for your service and for loving our church so well. We are grateful for your time, dedication, love for God, and leadership.

Personnel Committee

Thank You

University Baptist Church,
Thank you for your donation to the Bridge Ministry.
Your support allows us to continue helping men and their families transition their lives.
William Washington

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Barbara Newlon

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Aug. 3: Robby Gough

Aug. 5: Donnie Mays

Aug. 6: Clara Brown

Aug. 7: Ian Pallini

Aug. 8: Donna Marshall, Alaysia Toney

Aug. 9: Shirley Wagoner



Volunteers Needed

Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday!

Click [this link](#) to add your name and join us anytime 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.



Farewell and Heartfelt Gratitude

Dear Church Group,
We hope this note finds you all in good health and spirits. As some of you may already know, it's time for Fahime and me to bid farewell to this wonderful church group. It has been an unforgettable journey, and we wanted to take a moment to express our deepest appreciation to each and every one of you.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our dedicated Senior Minister, Matthew, whose guidance, support, and spiritual teachings have enriched our lives immensely and Ms. Val, whose assistance to Matt and her compassion towards all of us have made a significant difference in our church experience. Thank you for your kindness.

We also want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our English training tutors, dear Jeannette and Sally. Your efforts to help us improve our language skills have been incredibly valuable, and we are thankful for your patience and dedication.

I enjoyed working with all the members of the Wednesday work group, and your hard work and enthusiasm have created a warm and welcoming space for everyone.

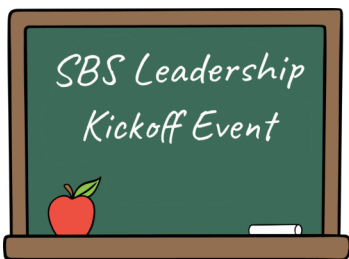
And to all the other wonderful members of this church family, we want to thank you for your love and support during our toughest times. You have made us feel at home and treated us like family, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

Though we may be leaving this group physically, our hearts will always be connected to each one of you and the cherished memories we've created together. Please keep in touch, and we sincerely hope our paths cross again in the future.

May God bless you all abundantly, and may this church group continue to flourish with love and unity.

Second quarter giving statements are coming out this week. If you do not receive yours (either through email or print) or you have questions, please email [Amanda](#) or call the church office at 434-293-5106.

Second Quarter Financial Update
January-June 2023
Contributions: \$240,050.81
Expenses: \$320,158.25



Sunday Bible Study Leadership Kickoff Event

Saturday, August 19
8:30 - 11:30 am
ALL teachers, leaders,
and interested members

Come for inspiration, information,
encouragement, and team building!

Dinner with Andrew

One of the members of our church family has been raising funds to address food insecurity every year since July 2001. On January 1, 2001, Colleen Baber's son Andrew choked on a gummy candy and did not survive. He had been working at Domino's Pizza at the time, and his coworkers wanted to do something to honor his memory. They chose a food drive which fit well with honoring Andrew because few people liked to eat more than he did. Thus, "Dinner with Andrew" began.

This year is the twenty-third year Colleen has been collecting donations in Andrew's memory. In 2020, she switched from collecting and sorting food to taking donations for food gift cards. She gives these cards to families in extreme need through The Jefferson Area Food Bank, The Salvation Army, The Emergency Food Bank, and ARC. We can help address food insecurity and be the hands and feet of Christ by supporting this ministry. You can contribute directly [through this link](#), or you can

send a check to the church or give online with "Dinner with Andrew" in the memo line.

With deepest gratitude and warmest regards,

Fahime and Hadi



Why Do You Love UBC?

UBC would like to feature YOU on our social media! Participants are invited to answer two questions: What is your favorite UBC memory, and what makes UBC special to you? Our social media assistant, Alaysia, can record your responses in video format, or you can click [here](#) to submit written responses. Your input will help new members get to know UBC while also allowing you to share your experiences with the UBC family.



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. If you have a few things you no longer need, please bring them to the collection boxes in the 1st floor lobby. Click [here](#) for more information and a list of requested items.



Rise Against Hunger with UBC

This past Saturday, we hosted our fourth meal packing event with Rise Against Hunger! We packed 15,120 meals in a little over an hour which brings us more than halfway toward our goal! Mark your calendars for our next packing event on Saturday, August 26.

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!

WMU Woodbrook School Supplies Project

To begin school this coming school year 2023-2024, according to the Woodbrook Elementary School website, the suggested supply list for first graders will cost \$44.29 - a 16% increase over the price from two years ago. Sixty 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 15 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 your checks or online donations payable to UBC and earmark "school supplies."

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

