



October 17, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 42



UBC Harvest Luncheon

October 22, 2023
Immediately following the Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall

Good food and good company!
Come join us!

We hope you can join us for this celebration on Sunday. No need to bring anything except your appetite! Our theme this year is "Past to Present". Since we are expecting a larger crowd than usual, we are asking that you park in the parking garage, if you are able.

ON WATCH

You Are Welcome Here (Part 3)

Over the last two weeks, my point of departure has been "[The Misunderstood Reason Millions of Americans Stopped Going to Church](#)" by Jake Meador. Last week, I focused on [workism](#) and the idea that the solution in church might come from asking more of people, not less. Instead of encouraging exchanging attendance/giving for faith, healthy churches encourage people to prioritize one another. We put each other ahead of things that fade over time, like careers and professional accomplishments. When we spend more time together praying and reading scripture, we can find deeper meaning and a stronger connection. Church becomes more meaningful than it was before.

When we say, "You are welcome here," what do we mean?

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

October 15, 2023

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Worship Your Earrings"

Rev. Val Fisk

Scripture:

Exodus 32:1-14

Anthem:

"Ubi Caritas"

Ola Gjeilo

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Jackie Lockwood, Shirley Clark

Jubilate Dinner: Annie Armstrong Circle

Are congregants simply tools for the grinding machinery of institutional religion? No! Church was never meant to be an institution. In fact, Jesus could not have conceived of religion as we understand it. He was interested in God and people. Churches are a family of faith.

We do not welcome people just to put them to work. We welcome people into our family. Entering a church and getting involved in its life and work is, first and foremost, about the work and mission of Jesus Christ. Next, it is about belonging to one another and walking in faith together. At church, we can grow, learn, experience joys, share celebrations, lift one another up in times of trouble, and *be* the people of God.

With so many people leaving churches, we say, "You are welcome," and mean something specific. Our intention is more than adding one more number to a roster. We see the person we welcome as a child of God, created in the divine image. Each person adds something to the family because each person has unique gifts. When we come together, we become more than the sum of our parts.

Living out this sense of welcoming others into our family is our challenge. Becoming this kind of a family of faith is a process, and it doesn't happen overnight. Part of the process is making changes to our structure. Edwards Deming once said, "Two basic rules of life are: 1) Change is inevitable, and 2) Everybody resists change."

What changes do we need to make to create a more welcoming system? How is being part of the UBC family life-giving? Are there things that are not life-giving? Can we change those things? What are the tough questions we avoid?

Watch for Part 4 of this series next week. Until then, if you have any answers to my questions, please let me know.

Peace,
Matt

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, October 18

9:00 Work Team
4:00 Communications Team Mtg.
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Handbell Rehearsal
6:00 Wednesday Night Program
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, October 19

6:00 Search Committee

FRIDAY, October 20

Jubilate Retreat

SATURDAY, October 21

10:00 Rise Against Hunger Event
1:00 Children's Corn Maze Trip

SUNDAY, October 22

9:30 ESOL Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 Homecoming Luncheon
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal
6:30 Jubilate Dinner

MONDAY, October 23

10:30 Bible Reading Group
12:00 Missions Council Meeting

TUESDAY, October 24

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

Called Church Conference

A Church Conference is being called for Wednesday, November 1, 6:00 pm to consider the purchase of new hymnals and any other matters relating to such purchase.

A WORD FROM VAL



CBF Virginia Youth Retreat Registration

Join us for a fun weekend away! The annual CBF Virginia Youth Retreat will take place at Eagle Eyrie November 10-12. This year's theme is "Noticing the Sparks of God," and we will learn about how God works in our lives, our church, and our world. Students will leave from the UBC parking lot at 6:00 pm on Friday and arrive back to UBC during morning worship on Sunday. Cost per student is \$95. Scholarship assistance is available. You can view more details about the retreat [here](#).



October is Clergy Appreciation Month. UBC is blessed to call three very hard-working ministers our own, Matt, Val, and Susan. The work of a minister doesn't just happen on Sunday mornings but every day of the week. Their love for God and care for people is ever present, even though it may go unnoticed at times. This month, we pause to encourage and commend our faithful leaders who point us to God, pray for our souls, perform important ceremonies, and promote spiritual well-being for our families. We encourage you to let our ministers know how much you appreciate their diligence in whatever way you desire.
Blessings to All,
Personnel Committee

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Linda Hendon

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Barbara Newlon

Chris Owens

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



January-September 2023

Contributions: \$361,791.34

Expenses: \$480,628.31

Third quarter giving statements are coming out this week. If you do not receive yours (either through email or print) or you have questions, please let Amanda know.
(aohlms@universitybaptist.org)



Rise Against Hunger with UBC

We had a great packing event on Saturday, September 23. We packed a record 20,280 meals. We have now packed a total of 88,104 meals toward our goal of 100,000!

Next Packing Event
Saturday, October 21
10:00 - 12:00
in the Fellowship Hall

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!



Sample contents of a bag.

Venable School Food Bags Ministry

UBC has partnered with Venable Elementary School since the 2017-2018 school year to provide weekend food bags for children identified as food insecure. We are **now delivering 30 bags** every other week. Each bag costs approximately \$8.50, an increase from \$7.00 last school year. This means that monthly we need \$510 to keep the program funded throughout the school year. Vicki and Brian Miller shop for the food and buy in bulk. We ask members and friends of the church to help fund this ministry by designating their monetary gifts for this purpose. We are no longer accepting food donations as we have more purchasing power buying in bulk with your donations. You may click the link [here](#) to donate.

Currently we have four people who deliver the bags to Venable every other Thursday. Please contact [Jackie Lockwood](#) at jackielockwood46@gmail.com, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer to pack or deliver the food bags.

Remember Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink . . .".



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

- Oct. 25: Christian Proffitt
- Oct. 26: Zach Martindale, Ed Lowry, Raynell Stokes, Elizabeth Mulcahy
- Oct. 28: Jessica Haney, Jeanne Nye (90 years young!)
- Oct. 29: Caroline Wagoner, Molly Lowry
- Oct. 30: John Buchanan, Jim Anderson



Children's Outing!

On Saturday, October 21, please join us at [Liberty Mills Farm](#) for a walk through a Corn Maze. In fact, this farm boasts the largest corn maze in the country. All children must be accompanied by an adult. We will meet at 1:00 at Liberty Mills Farm.



Wednesday night dinners are back. Come for dinner at 5:30, program at 6:00, and Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 7:00.

We're asking you to RSVP if you plan to attend the dinner. If you pay in cash, please use one of the envelopes on the side of the wooden box, and put your name on it, so we can credit it to the right person.

Tomorrow's menu will be:

Roasted Pork Loin
Baked Apples
Sauteed Cabbage
Roasted Red Potatoes
Mixed Green Salad
Cheesecake

Click [here](#) to RSVP by Tuesday at noon.

Our program this week will be the third in a three-part presentation by Jim Moore entitled "The Joy of Generosity: Make generosity part of your spiritual journey." Session 3 is "Cultivating Generosity in Daily Life." We hope you can attend and invite your friends.

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

