



November 7, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 45

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## ON WATCH

### You Are Welcome Here (Part 6)

I began this series in early October, and it represents a bigger journey for the church *writ* large. My perspective has focused on our church, but most churches are trying to figure out how to be God's family of faith in 2023 and beyond. If you want to go back and follow the progression, you can find the earlier entries here: [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#), and [part 5](#).

Throughout the U.S., churches are going through changes. Some are good and some are bad, and all will require some adjustment. These changes have been developing for many decades. In fact, since the time of Christ, what it means to be a Christ-follower and how Christ-followers relate to one another have been evolving. "Change is a constant" (Heraclitus), and we are no exception. The church has always been changing.

The pandemic accelerated many of the changes that were already in progress. Cultural affiliation with institutions dropped like a rock in 2020, and many people who had been involved in churches found other things to occupy their time and energy. This translated into lower participation rates than before.

Yet, in this climate, our church is flourishing in many ways.

We worship together each week. The services are rich, varied, and include many, many participants. We have new people joining our church. It's not a flood, but people are joining. Our Sunday morning Bible study groups are alive

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

November 12, 2023

11:00 AM

**Sermon:**

"Inextricably Connected,  
Future & Expectations"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**

Matthew 25:1-13

**Anthem:**

"I Will Walk This Way"

Ken Berg

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## SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacon:** Martha Ballenger

**Ushers:** Charlotte Bailey, Sue Sears

**College Dinner:** Erin Brown

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## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, November 8

9:00 Work Team

5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 Wednesday Night Program

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, November 9

7:00 Deacons' Meeting

### FRIDAY, November 10

CBF VA Youth Retreat

and vibrant. And, we put our faith into action (caring for one another, visiting the sick, lifting each other up in prayer, housing the unhoused through PACEM, and feeding the hungry). There are many reasons to maintain hope in Christ. We can trust that God is doing something special at University Baptist Church.

Last week, I wrote about exploring some structural changes in the way we organize ourselves as a church. 2024 is an appropriate time to explore these types of changes, because we will have our Joint Administrative Review Committee (JARC). By shifting to a more streamlined organizational structure, my prayer would be to empower more people to give their time, energy, and resources to the things that give them the most joy. Twelve Deacons could provide spiritual leadership, twelve members of Church Council could handle the administrative work of the committees, and a five-member Nominating Committee could name four new members of Church Council each year (on a three-year rotation). This reduces the demand on the congregation to fill slots on committees.

However, restructuring our lay-led organization is only one part of welcoming people into our church family. Responding to this evolving post-organized-religion world will involve changes on multiple levels. Don't worry. I don't think it involves a certain style of music or following trends set by megachurches. The changes might be in the way we do life together. I believe it will involve more spiritual growth and greater focus on Christ. What will this look like?

Stay tuned for part 7 next week.

Peace,  
Matt

## **SUNDAY, November 12**

9:30 ESOL Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

6:30 College Dinner

## **MONDAY, November 13**

10:30 Bible Reading Group

12:00 Children's Ministry Team Mtg.

## **TUESDAY, November 14**

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

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### **Prayer Requests\***

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Shirley Clark

Linda Hendon

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Chris Owens

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

Jane Whitworth

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

# A WORD FROM VAL



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

**Nov. 16:** Ji Song, Seth Brown

**Nov. 19:** Jackie Lockwood

**Nov. 20:** Jane Thomas

**Nov. 21:** Wyatt Minor, Judy Shah



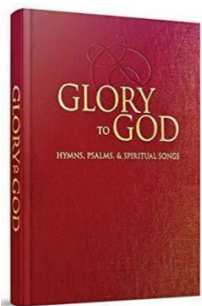
## Annual Friendsgiving Dinner Thursday, November 16

UBC will be hosting Friendsgiving Dinner for the college students from UBC, the Wesley Foundation, and UKirk on Thursday, November 16, 6:30 pm. Our very own Larry Johnson will prepare the main parts of our

dinner here at UBC. Folks from our three churches will come together to provide side dishes and desserts, as well as set up and cleanup crews! Please click [here](#) to view the sign-up genius for this event and to add your name to the list of volunteers. Email [Val](mailto:Val) with any questions.



## New Hymnals Are Coming!



At our Called Church Conference last Wednesday, it was approved to move forward with purchasing "Glory to God" hymnals for the Sanctuary. If you would like to donate a hymnal in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the order form, which is available [here](#) and in the Narthex and return it to the church office.

Come for dinner at 5:30, program at 6:00, and Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 7:00!

Tomorrow's menu will be:

*Glazed Homestyle Meatloaf*

*Mashed Potatoes*

*Sauteed Asparagus*

*Mixed Green Salad*

*Iced White Chocolate Pumpkin Cake*

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

Our program this week will be, "How God's people respond to those without housing."

## Jazz Vespers



Our next Jazz Vespers will be Sunday, November 19, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary, featuring Calvin Brown on piano and John D'earth on trumpet. If you have some-

where, like your place of work, to put a poster letting people know about this event, please stop by the church office, and we can provide one for you.

## 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

