



November 14, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 46

## ON WATCH

### You Are Welcome Here (le fin)

Today will be the final installment in this seven-part series on welcoming people into the church. My inspiration for this series came from [an article in The Atlantic](#) about why Americans have stopped going to church. If you want to catch up, you can find the earlier entries: [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#), [part 5](#), and [part 6](#).

My case rests on the shift from participation and attendance based on cultural Christianity toward a more transformative relationship with Jesus Christ and a family of Christ-followers. In recent years, I have been intentional about referring to us as Christ-followers instead of Christians. This is not because there is anything wrong with the tagline "Christian." It is a deliberate step away from the age of Christendom or Christian Empires. Jesus did not start a political party or attempt to organize a new religion. He was interested in God and people. As his followers, that is our priority too.

One practical step toward facilitating this shift in focus is changing our structure. During our 2024 Joint Administrative Review Committee (JARC), we can pray about moving to a more streamlined organizational structure (e.g., 12 Deacons, 12 members of Church Council, and 5 members of a Nominating Committee). The goal is to reduce the demand (or expectation) that people will fill slots on committees. A move like this liberates the church to focus on life-giving ministries.

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

November 19, 2023

11:00 AM

**Sermon:**

"Judgment Day  
& the Taoist Farmer"  
Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**

Zephaniah 1:12-18

**Anthem:**

"The Perfect Wisdom of Our God"  
McDonald

## SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacon:** Jackie Lockwood

**Ushers:** Ron Tweel, Jimmy Li

**College Dinner:** Lynda Tweel, Lynne Gardner

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, November 15

8:00 Work Team @ *The Villa*

9:00 Work Team

10:00 PB&J Bible Study

5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 Wednesday Night Program

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, November 16

6:00 College Friendsgiving Dinner

The next part of welcoming people into our church family involves developing the way we do life together. Our future focus will continue to foster relationships and being a family of faith. Without any critique of where we are or where we've been in the past, we turn to the wisdom of Fred Rogers. In a 1994 interview with Charlie Rose, Mr. Rogers answered a question about how many children he thought he might have helped. He said, "We get so wrapped up in numbers in our society. The most important thing is that we are able to be one-to-one, you and I with each other at the moment. If we can be present to the moment with the person that we happen to be with, that's what's important."

As we follow Jesus, we turn from our culture's obsession with numbers. The most important thing isn't a thing. It is us: together. As we continue building this community of faith and love, the future will look different from the past, but it will include you and me. Together, we are God's family. We listen, talk, laugh, worship, eat, pray, love, sing, study, share ideas, cry, encourage, and so much more. When we feel welcome, and when we feel like we are part of the family, we can welcome others to join us.

I've truly enjoyed exploring the ideas I've shared over the last seven weeks in this space. I hope it has spoken to you, and I pray that we, as a church, can be even more welcoming in the future. My prayer is for us to be the kind of family of faith people long to experience. Together, we can make each person, when they enter this sacred space, feel God's presence and like they really matter. This is so important in a world with a loneliness epidemic, political divisions, and pain and suffering. Our family of faith can be a sanctuary of peace, a place to feel the love of Christ, and where we lift one another up in mutual support.

Peace,  
Matt

## SUNDAY, November 19

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting  
9:30 ESOL Class  
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study  
11:00 Morning Worship  
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal  
6:30 College Dinner  
7:00 Jazz Vespers

## MONDAY, November 20

10:30 Bible Reading Group  
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

## TUESDAY, November 21

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

Linda Hendon

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Chris Owens

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

\*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. 22:** Sue Sears

**Nov. 24:** Ben Martindale, Andrea Smith

**Nov. 25:** Dean Tennant



## 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

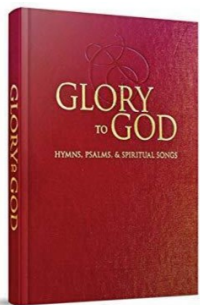
dinner here at UBC. Folks from our three churches will come together to provide side dishes and desserts, as well as set up and cleanup crews! Please click [here](#) to view the sign-up genius for this event and to add your name to the list of volunteers. Email [Val](#) with any questions.



## 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.



## 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.



## New Arrival

Congratulations to Don & Natascha Phillips and big sister Ellie on the birth of Nathaniel Tobias on September 12.



## Our UBC Kids Had a Blast at the Corn Maze!!

On Saturday, October 21, our children visited Liberty Mills Farm for a fun day filled

with hayrides, playground fun, and a trip through the corn maze.





**Children's Christmas Shoppe  
& Fun Night  
Wednesday, December 13**

We will have our usual Wednesday night dinner in the Fellowship Hall followed by Christmas Activities. Beginning at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a hymn sing.

Children will have the opportunity, in the Children's Suite, to "shop" for gifts for their family members, which can be purchased for \$.50 each. All proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund. There will also be fun Christmas-themed activities for the children and a chance to wrap their gifts.

**Donations needed:** If you have small "treasures" that you would like to contribute, please drop them off in the church office or in the preschool department.



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

Tomorrow's menu will be:  
*FREE Smorgasbord*

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

Our program this week will be a speaker from PACEM. 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

