



January 9, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 2

ON WATCH

Being Baptist

Who are we? First, and foremost, we are Christ-followers. In Jesus, we share a common denominator with every other Christian. However, there are distinct characteristics among the various Christian traditions. For example, neither the Quakers nor the Salvation Army practice water baptism. There are other differences in other traditions, too. Some churches place bishop or other hierarchy over the local congregation. Some churches have parishes and parishioners instead of congregations and congregants like us. Some churches do not use instruments, and others prefer praise bands to pipe organs.

Some of the differences among congregations are theological, and others are stylistic. Even with theological differences, we still share a common denominator in Christ. But, learning more about who we are can help us appreciate some of the baptist distinctives. Baptist churches believe in the autonomy of the local church. There is no authority over us other than God. We are congregational in our polity. This means that the congregation is the ultimate authority over decisions within our church family.

As one of the Christian traditions born of the Reformation, we believe in *sola scriptura*, which means *only scripture*. In other words, we place a heavy emphasis on the role of the Bible in our spiritual formation. The Bible is ahead of tradition, history, and the whims of any individual. As a church, we find the training our ministers received useful for biblical interpretation, but this does not mean that ministers have any authority over congregants. Each person enjoys the priesthood of all believers and can go directly to God

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

January 14, 2023

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Go On, Lord"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Anthem:

"Speak, O Lord"

arr. Ferguson

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Cindy Bryant, Jackie Lockwood

College Dinner: Will resume January 21

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, January 10

9:00 Work Team

3:30 Personnel Meeting

5:30 Wednesday night dinner

6:00 Wednesday night program

6:00 Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, January 11

7:00 Deacon's Meeting

SATURDAY, January 13

11:00 Memorial Service - Ed Lowry

12:00 Reception

in prayer and discernment. And, each person can (and should) read the Bible to grow in faith.

When we lose sight of what it means to be part of the Baptist tradition, we can begin to harmonize all Christian traditions. This leads us to lose the richness of deciding to be University Baptist Church. Over the years, people have asked me if we might consider dropping “Baptist” from our name, and I understand the reason they ask. Some Baptists see the world in a very different way than we do. Still, we share our identity in Christ with the entire Christian tradition, including the Baptists with whom we disagree. So, remembering why we are Baptist and what it means for us can help our family of faith appreciate who we are.

We are University Baptist Church, and we, as a congregation, get to decide what it means to be us. Remembering who we are and what it means to be Baptist is only part of the journey. Joining the conversation helps make us who we are. If you ever have questions about what it means to be Baptist or part of this family of faith, I hope you feel free to ask.

Peace,
Matt

Next Steps in the New Year

Rev. Val Fisk has sent to the church a letter of resignation, which can be accessed [here](#). Her last day at UBC will be February 4. Over the next month we will be celebrating her 3 years of ministry here with us and making transition plans for her areas of ministry. We wish her all the best in this next step of her journey.

PACEM at UBC begins soon!

On Saturday, January 20, 8:00 AM, we will begin our two weeks of offering shelter and food to people in our area without homes. We will host approximately 35 people each night by providing them with a warm meal and a safe place to sleep.

We need your help! Sign up [here](#) to donate (snacks, breakfast items, or gift cards).

Sign up [here](#) to volunteer to help with set up on Saturday, January 20, 8:00 - 10:00, towel laundry, linen drop off at the laundromat (this will require a van or truck), and help with take down on Saturday, February 3.

SUNDAY, January 14

9:30 ESOL Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, January 15

Church Office Closed

10:30 Bible Reading Group

1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

TUESDAY, January 16

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

David & Linda Hendon

Carolyn Lowry & Family on the passing of [Ed Lowry](#)

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Chris Owens

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Richard Vaughan

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

Additionally, we will be collecting donations of:

Toothbrushes (individual, no multi-packs)
Toothpaste (travel size)
Tissues (travel packs)
Chapstick
Shaving cream (travel size)
Razors
Hand lotion (travel size)
Combs
Deodorant
Foot powder
Mints
Cough drops
Journals/notebooks
Heavy, dark socks (adult men)
Hand warmers
Winter hats
Underwear (men's L, XL, or 2XL)
Plain white T-shirts (men's L, XL, or 2XL)
New or gently used adult sized backpacks or duffel bags
Washcloths

If you'd like to learn more about the work PACEM does in Charlottesville, click [here](#).

Thank you for your generosity as we care for and love our neighbors. Questions? Please reach out to [Laura Morris](#), [Katherine Hamel](#), or [Jennifer Wagoner](#).



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

Tomorrow's menu will be:
Creamy Tomato Chicken Penne with Mushrooms and Spinach
Steamed Broccoli
Garlic Bread
Mixed Green Salad
Dessert TBD

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

This week's program is "Our Baptist Affiliations: CBF, AWAB, CBFVA, BGAV, & more".

Memorial Service Reception for Ed Lowry

The memorial service for Ed Lowry will be Saturday, January 13, 11:00 in the UBC Sanctuary followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Please consider helping with the reception for the friends and family of Ed Lowry. You can sign up [here](#)!

Please bring finger food items only to the church labeled by 10:45 that day. All items need to be cut, plated, and ready to serve.

Note: This will be a large reception, so any help will be appreciated!

Please contact [Michelle Proffitt](#) with questions.

Memorial Service Parking

Family and those with walking difficulties will park in the church lots. Other attendees will park in the 14th St. garage. They may show their bulletin upon exiting and pay a flat, reduced rate of \$5.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Jan. 17: Emily Haislip, Erin Brown

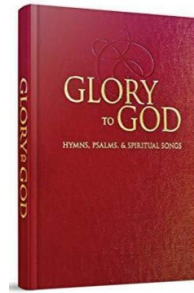
Jan. 18: Tom Moore, Marvin Key

Jan. 21: Larry Martin



Thanks for Keeping UBC's Calendar Accurate

We are blessed with a church building that is used both for church events and by other groups in the community, and the church office uses a set of calendars to keep track of everything. If your group uses space in the building at times other than Sunday Bible Study, this is a reminder to let the church office know of start and end times, room(s), and cancellations. For events on the calendar, heating or cooling will be set (in most rooms). Thanks to everyone for helping keep our calendar accurate, and remember, "if it's not on the calendar, it doesn't exist!"



New Hymnals Are Here!

Our new hymnals are now in the pews in 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.

Temporary Housing Needed

Some of you might remember Dr. Thio Gilles. He is from Burkina Faso and attended UBC while he was working on his PhD at UVA. This was during the time when Gary Dalton was interim pastor, and Gary said, "He's a great guy, a lay pastor, and biology researcher in Burkina Faso." He will be in Charlottesville from January 15 to February 15 and has a budget of \$700 to spend on housing. If anyone has any suggestions, please let the [church office](#) know. Thank 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

