



January 30, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 5

WATCH

Why Was Mark So Urgent?

On Sunday, part of the message emphasized the urgency in the gospel of Mark. After worship, I imagined someone asking a follow up question: what's the rush? The word we translate into English as "immediately" or "at once" occurs 35 times in Mark. That's almost half the occurrences in the New Testament. For example, Peter and Andrew "immediately" left their nets (Mark 1:18). Just after, Jesus went to the synagogue "immediately" (Mark 1:21). Later, after Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead, she "immediately" stood up (Mark 5:41-42).

The urgency comes out of the importance of the message. Mark is the first of the four gospels to begin circulating. Both Matthew and Luke had access to Mark, and John comes from a different tradition and evolved over a period of time. Mark has a message. Everything relates back to "the good news of Jesus Christ, Son of God" (Mark 1:1).

In other words, the story says, "This is who Jesus is. Come and see. Be forever changed." Mark doesn't have time to waste. The urgency comes from excitement. Why not be in a hurry? Why not race ahead to the good news that God has come?

Part of the fast pace in Mark is a literary technique to convey significance. Beneath the text, the message repeats: Things keep happening and you (the reader) must keep up. All of this is so important that we don't have time to rest a while and think about the radical transformation Peter and Andrew experienced. What were they thinking? How did they feel? Mark doesn't give us literary space to

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

February 4, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"I Am Spartacus"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Anthem:

"Celtic Communion" arr. Hayes

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Sheri Owen

Ushers: Tom & Sylvie Moore

College Dinner: No dinner on Feb. 4

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, January 31

9:00 Work Team

THURSDAY, February 1

1:30 Personnel Committee Meeting

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, February 2

Jubilate Retreat Weekend

SUNDAY, February 4

8:30 Church Council Meeting

9:30 ESOL Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

contemplate those questions. Instead, we can pause as we read, ask questions, pray for guidance, and listen to God speaking through each passage.

Pacing is up to us. When we pick up our Bibles, we can read slowly, repeating each word or phrase, like in *lectio divina*. *Lectio divina* is “holy reading” and part of the contemplative prayer practices. Or, when we pick up our Bibles, we can read rapidly and try to take in the overall picture. When we read through Mark at a faster pace, that’s when we see the urgency.

Looking back and imagining everything happening in first-century Palestine in the years after Jesus’ resurrection, the urgency could reflect the author’s priorities. Mark might have scribbled the gospel quickly to get the message out. This is an important story, and there is no reason to delay telling it. So Mark wrote with a feeling of urgency, and that feeling comes through in the words.

The most important takeaway for us is to read the story, reflect on it, and let it shape our walk with Christ.

Peace,
Matt

Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News, January 22. He will begin appearing on WINA once per month to provide some commentary on the news from a faith perspective. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).



Celebrate with Val Fisk
February 4, 2024
12:15pm

Valarie Fisk, our dear Associate Minister for Students, has been a valued member of our UBC family through the pandemic and beyond. She has established many strong relationships, not only in the youth and college age group, but across all ages of the congregation.

MONDAY, February 5

10:30 Bible Reading Group

1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

8:00 Youth Council

TUESDAY, February 6

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle

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

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Shelby Clements

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Wellford Tiller

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



There will be no Wednesday night activities while we are hosting PACEM. Dinner and program will return on Wednesday, February 7 with our Church Conference.

Recently she tendered her resignation effective February 4.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend a reception in the UBC Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 4, 12:15pm for Val. As a part of the reception in her honor and to send her off in UBC style, the Personnel Committee is collecting a love offering for her. This represents a token of appreciation for her dedicated years of faithful service to God and His people at UBC.

If you would like to contribute, please make a check payable to UBC and on the memo line indicate "Val's Love Offering". You can

- place your offering in one of the secure donation boxes in the sanctuary,
- deliver/mail it to the church office, or
- bring it to the February 4 celebration in the Fellowship Hall.

When donating online, use the FUND dropdown box "Love Offering-Val Fisk".

Also, individual notes of appreciation and love to Val can be placed in the designated basket in the Fellowship Hall on February 4. Let us share our heartfelt appreciation with our Associate Minister as we bid her adieu from UBC, but not from Charlottesville.

Val's Reception

Please consider assisting with the reception for Val on February 4 after the church service. Click [here](#) for the link to the sign-up genius. If possible, bring items to the kitchen Saturday or by 10:30 on Sunday morning.

Thank you!

Please contact the following for more information or questions:

Jeannette May-(434) 305-0061
Debby Johnson-(434) 409-2461
Linda Boston-(434) 282-6133



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Feb. 8: Lou Marshall

Feb. 9: Luna Ohlms

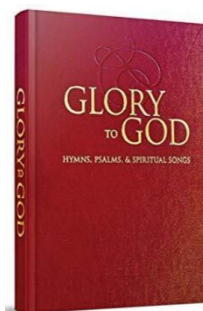
Feb. 11: David Waters

Feb. 13: Geo Bonilla



Sign up to provide college dinners this semester!

UVA students are back and so are our Sunday college dinners! Dinner is served at 6:30pm on Sunday evenings, and our group size runs between 20-30 students each week. You can [sign up at this link](#) for a week. This is a great opportunity for a Bible study group, or a group of friends, to work together to provide a meal.



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.

PACEM is here!

On Saturday, January 20, we began our two weeks of offering shelter and food to people in our area without homes. We are hosting close to 50 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 towel laundry, linen drop off at the laundromat (this will require a van or truck), and help with take down on Saturday, February 3.

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](#).



Year-End Financial Update

January-December 2023
Contributions: \$529,395.02
Expenses: \$662,402.33

Year-end giving statements have been sent. These were both emailed and printed/mailed. If you did not receive yours or you have questions, please let [Amanda](#) know.

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

