



February 20, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 8

ON WATCH

Before God's Love

Before we know about God's love, we learn about human love. Think about how you came to your life of faith. Did it happen in the abstract? Of course not. Each one of us learned about Jesus from another person or a group of people. The imprint these people made on your life shaped the kind of Christ-follower you are today.

When we think about sharing God's love with a new generation, it's easy to skip the first part: human love. According to [research from the Barna Group](#), almost half of practicing Christian millennials say evangelism is wrong. The study suggests that they feel like people will take offense if they share their faith. The [Pew Research Center](#) found that 28% of U.S. adults are religiously unaffiliated, describing themselves as atheists, agnostics, or "nothing in particular" when asked about their religion.

Against this landscape of ambivalence or hostility, we cannot skip the first step in sharing about God's love. We must love people where they are. Part of following Jesus means working out how we hear the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and apply it to our lives. Jesus never told his followers to be disrespectful or disregard someone's belief system. He loved people where they were. Likewise, to follow him, we must love people where they are. When we do, we share human love, and through this love, with the movement of the Holy Spirit, they can learn about God's love.

In Matthew, some Sadducees tried to trap Jesus with a question about the resurrection (Matthew 22:23-33).

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

February 25, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Claire Jumped in the Water"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Matthew 14:22-23

Anthem:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
arr. Larson

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jackie Lockwood

Ushers: Erin Eaker, Shirley Clark

College Dinner: Debby Johnson

**Sign up to provide college dinners
this semester!**

Our Sunday evening dinners are a great way to support our UVA students as well as a great way to get to know them! Dinner is served at 6:30pm, 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 and support our college students!

He responded by re-situating their question to apply to life right now. In other words, he said, "Let's get things straight here before we worry about what's next." They didn't have an answer, because they weren't trying to grow or learn. They wanted to win. Jesus' response was an attempt to show them the flaw in their logic, and they didn't like it.

Some Pharisees saw the encounter and took a swing at trapping Jesus. They asked, "What's the greatest commandment?" Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:34-40).

Everything comes back to love. Love God. Love your neighbor. Love people where they are, not where we (or God) want them to be. When we do, we are sharing God's love.

Peace,
Matt



Volunteer Opportunities

We are in the process of forming a Stewardship Committee and need a few more people. If you are passionate about the ministries of our church, you are the right person for this service opportunity. The committee will focus on promoting ways people can give their time and talent to help further God's Kingdom through UBC.

We also have an opening for a Librarian. We are blessed with a wonderful collection of books. They need to be organized, and we need to let people know what we have. If you love books and want people to have the opportunity to enjoy the books we have or if you are just great at organizing, this may be just the spot for you.

If interested in either of these opportunities, please email [Matt](#) or call the church office.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, February 21

9:00 Work Team
5:15 Handbell Rehearsal
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Growing Young Study
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAY, February 24

4:00 Children's Movie

SUNDAY, February 25

9:30 ESOL Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:15 Youth Bowling
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal
6:30 College Dinner

MONDAY, February 26

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

TUESDAY, February 27

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

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Feb. 29: Shelley Payne
Mar. 1: Laura Centofante
Mar. 2: Suzanne Smith
Mar. 3: Martha Ballenger
Mar. 5: Tom Leland



Sanctuary Flowers

Would you like to reserve sanctuary flowers in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion? Sunday flowers can be reserved for birthdays, anniversaries, or to commemorate other special occasions.

Please submit your request to include your name, the bulletin message, and the desired reservation dates to the [UBC office](#). A member of the Floral Committee will be in touch to confirm your dedication.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Shelby Clements

David & Linda Hendon

Jess Lamberty

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

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Join us on Wednesday evenings! Come for dinner at 5:30, program at 6:00, and Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 7:00!

Tomorrow's menu will be:

Shrimp Scampi
Buttered Penne Pasta
Italian Green Beans
Mixed Green Salad
Dessert TBD

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

This week, at 6:00, we will begin a study of the book [Growing Young](#) from the Fuller Youth Institute. It lists six strategies for helping young people discover and love our church. This book can help us reinvigorate our ministries to young people.



The Kittie Colvin Trail Circle will be collecting items for AIM (the Alliance of Interfaith Ministries). AIM is requesting basic items not covered by SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). SNAP covers only food. On your next shopping trip please pick up an extra item or two from the list below. Also, as you clean out your linen closet; bed linens, pillows, towels, and wash clothes are always needed. Collection boxes will be located in the first-floor lobby.

The Alliance for Interfaith Ministries is a 501c3 tax-exempt charitable nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to help residents of Albemarle County and Charlottesville attain self-sufficiency and stability. They help local residents navigate the "safety net" of social programs in our area, and directly through AIM programs such as housing stability assistance, eviction prevention, utility assistance and disconnection prevention, and crisis assistance.

The requested items are: Small bottles of all-purpose cleaner such as PineSol and Mr. Clean Laundry detergent pods Paper towels Toilet paper Hand soap Dish soap Hand sanitizer Kitchen size trash bags Bleach wipes Sponges Deodorant Shampoo Conditioner

We will be collecting until the end of February.

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

