



March 12, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 11

ON WATCH

What is Spy Wednesday?

Years ago, I was reading about Holy Week and the various stops along the way. My goal was pastoral, not academic or simply curious. I wanted to find ways to make the season leading from Lent to Easter richer for my congregation. Since Catholics often have a saint or something to celebrate every day, I looked at the Catholic lectionary for Holy Week and found “Holy Wednesday” that commemorates the deal Judas made with the chief priests. In this arrangement, they referred to Judas as a “clandestine spy among the disciples.”

I began reflecting on Judas’ role. Without his betrayal, there could be no arrest. According to the gospels, the authorities didn’t seem to know when and where to find Jesus. Keep in mind that the gospels are the story of Jesus Christ, not a historical account with references and footnotes. This means they are trying to convey something about God and humanity, and the story they tell is one in which Judas plays a pivotal role.

When we think about Judas’ role, we can ask what it means to us. Is he simply the villain? If so, why did he have such a position of trust among the disciples? Judas was their treasurer (John 12:6 and 13:29), and they wouldn’t have given him such an important position, if they didn’t trust him. History paints Judas as the evil one who betrayed Jesus, but if we go back to the time when the disciples walked with Jesus, Judas had a prominent role in their group. Thus, we can dismiss the notion that he had been a villain for all time.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 17, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Keep On Forgiving
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Matthew 18:15-22

Anthem:

Amazing Grace
arr. Mark Hayes

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Ray Gaines

Ushers: Ron Tweel, Charlotte Bailey

College Dinner: Kittie Colvin Trail Circle

**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 6:30 pm, 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!

Judas was an important disciple who thought he knew what was best. He was probably part of or sympathetic to the Zealot politics. The Zealots believed in armed revolution and wanted to see someone (anyone, really) kick out the Romans. They believed in supporting an uprising. If Judas was central to the Jesus movement and began to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, then he might have felt that the Messiah needed a little nudge to get the revolution started. By cornering Jesus in Gethsemane with some soldiers, he might start the revolution.

There are so many ways we can see ourselves in Judas. We think we know what is best. We want to see our plans come to fruition and hope God blesses them. We betray Jesus with our actions when we commit sins of commission and sins of omission. Spy Wednesday is an annual opportunity to look at Judas, reflect on what he might have been thinking, and consider how we see ourselves in him.

Spy Wednesday, however, is only one stop on our Holy Week journey. After reflecting on Judas, we see Jesus and his disciples have their last supper on Maundy Thursday. On Friday, we see humanity's response to love incarnate. Then, Easter is God's response to all the ways we fall short. The invitation this Holy Week is to reflect, grow, and be open to God's voice in your life.

Peace,
Matt



Saturday, March 16
5:00 pm
UBC Sanctuary

Under the direction of Susan Deal, the Virginia Baptist Women's Chorale presents, "**I Sing for I Cannot Be Silent,**" a program celebrating the power of music in our lives. Repertoire for this program includes the music of Joseph Martin, Eric Whitacre, John Rutter, Moses Hogan, Craig Courtney, and Mark Hayes.



An Update from the Music Minister Search Committee

At the beginning of February, Matt attended *Polyphony*, an annual conference for Music Ministers, where he had an opportunity to do some recruiting. Since then Matt and Susan continue to pursue candidates who would be a great fit for UBC, and the Search Committee looks forward to hearing from these candidates. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the members of the committee: Robby Gough, Lily Gregg, Larry Johnson, Joyce Martin, Rachel Miller, Brian Mulcahy, Diane Mundell, and Sheri Owen



Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday
March 24,
12:00 pm

We will meet in the Fellowship

Hall after service for a pizza lunch and then egg hunt. Families will be given a map of locations throughout the church where they will find members of the congregation ready to distribute eggs.

The hunt will wrap up in the Sanctuary where participants will search for hidden eggs. The hunt is open to ages Pre-school through Middle School.

In order to be sure we have enough eggs, please RSVP [here](#) by Wednesday, March 13.

The Children's Ministry Team

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 13

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study
5:15 Handbell Rehearsal
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Program (Growing Young)
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, March 14

7:00 Deacons' Meeting

SATURDAY, March 16

5:00 VA Baptist Women's Chorale

SUNDAY, March 17

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

MONDAY, March 18

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

TUESDAY, March 19

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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



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

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

This week, at 6:00, we will continue our 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.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Kaylee Risell

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

It has come to our attention that Mary Jo Licero, who has been living in Florida for several years, passed away on November 17, 2023.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Mar. 20: Audrey Miller, Matthew Smith

Mar. 21: Melanie Tennant, Courtney Bonilla

Mar. 22: Peggy Lawrence

Mar. 24: Lynn Martin, Sharon Leland, Patrick Watson



New HVAC for Children's Suite

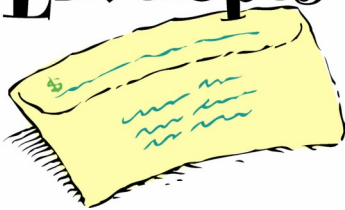
Last Fall the HVAC system in our Children's Suite on the 2nd Floor reached the end of its life. The original Water Source Heat Pumps

installed in the Children's Suite ceiling in about 2000 when our building was remodeled are uneconomical to replace due to difficulty in accessing their locations. Such is life when adding HVAC to an old building. After a long study of alternatives with our vendor, Riddleberger Brothers, we will soon be installing a ductless mini-split system as the most cost-effective alternative replacement. We appreciate the patience of everyone while we have studied this issue. The cost of this installation is \$26,000.

As many of you are aware, most of our HVAC equipment is now 25 years old. We have a long path to replace units (there are about 50 HVAC units in the church) over the next few years that will require continued effort and funding. Your contributions to our budget are greatly appreciated as we care for our building and fund our ministry efforts.

If you have questions about our HVAC, please contact [Alan Hendricks](#). For questions about our finances, contact [Larry Martin](#) or other members of the Finance Committee.

Offering Envelopes



If you would like some offering envelopes, please notify the [church office](#), and we will print some off for you.



Scarlette Jasper discussing winter relief plans with ministers in Corbin, KY

CBF Offering for National Missions- Organizing Churches to Embrace the Impoverished

Through the month of March, we will be collecting donations for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship offering for National Missions. Our UBC Missions Council has chosen to send our offering directly to the Reverend Scarlette Jasper who serves the people of southeastern Kentucky and eastern Tennessee.

The CBF program Together for Hope, a rural development coalition to combat poverty, now serves 301 of the poorest counties in the United States. Scarlette serves ten of those counties, expending her energy alleviating poverty's dismal destruction by organizing churches to embrace the homeless by providing, among many other things, clothing, hot meals, shelter, free health clinics, and weekend food bags.

Scarlette's home is in Somerset, Kentucky where her husband Brian was born and raised. When Jasper was commissioned as field personnel in 2014, her commissioning stipulated that she had to raise her own support including salary, and project and programming funds. "My husband provided my needs." This offering now helps fund the salaries, benefits, and housing for field personnel who must still raise support for their projects and programs. Not long after the CBF's funding model changed, in 2019 her husband Brian died. Her son Roger is a Baptist minister in Somerset. She still has a daughter at home and three grandchildren.

Our goal here at UBC is to contribute \$3,000 toward the larger CBF goal. You can do so by check, noting that it is for National Missions,

Qualified Charitable Distributions

Are you familiar with Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)? A QCD might reduce the taxes you owe while helping your church. Here's how it works:

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are over 73, you are required to take a distribution from that IRA each year based on the value at the end of the previous year and your age. This is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and generally the distribution is fully taxed as ordinary income. The form of the distribution may be in cash or securities.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian to a qualified charity. This direct transfer can be in cash or securities, and it counts toward satisfying your RMD for the year. A QCD reduces your taxable income by the amount of such distribution since it is not included in your income.

Charitable giving is not about taxes. However, the tax benefit from a QCD encourages charitable giving and could enable you to give more money to what you love. With the recent increase in the Standard Deduction, many taxpayers will find that charitable donations no longer have any tax benefit. A QCD can restore some significant tax benefits for your charitable donations.



Don't miss our next Jazz Vespers, this Sunday, March 17, 7:00 pm with Calvin Brown on piano and vocals by Carlehr Swanson.

check, noting that it is for National Missions, or online [here](#).

Then Jesus said to his disciples, *"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*
Matthew 16:24



This Easter we would like to decorate our Sanctuary with an abundance of Easter lilies. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, please see the insert in your bulletin or contact the [church office](#) to let us know the wording that you would like to appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. The cost of each lily will be \$12. You can mail a check, drop it in the offering box, or pay online and earmark your gift "Easter Lily." The last day to order is Thursday, March 21. You may pick up your lily after the 11:00 am Easter Service on Sunday, March 31.

Voces Laetae Concert

Voces Laetae will present their Spring Concert on Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 pm in the Music Suite. All are invited to come enjoy the concert and support our youth.

Sunday Mornings

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service begins 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

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

