



May 7, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 19

God's  
Radical Love

## WATCH

On Sunday, toward the end of my message from 1 John 5:1-6, I said, "How does God overcome the world? With love. And God's love is only visible through us." Then, I suggested that each one of us look around, notice who is excluded, and invite them in. God calls us to be agents of love and to express the love of Christ in tangible ways.

To express God's love, we need to understand it. John 3:16 emphasizes God's universal love when it says, "For God so loved the world..." Colossians 1:20 depicts God reconciling the world to Godself. 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 picks up this same theme. In fact, this idea repeats throughout scripture. God loves everyone.

The radical nature of God's love is hard to stomach. At first, we think, "That's absurd. Why would God's love be hard for us?" Because God even loves those people who we hate. In 2014, when a police officer shot 18-year-old Michael Brown, I wrote a song about the horrific event. One line tries to explain God's love amid terrible tragedies. It goes, "God loves you Michael Brown / God loves who shot you down." This juxtaposition of God loving both the victim and the killer returned to my mind on Sunday when I said:

- Jesus loves the kids who were moved by the people suffering in Gaza and ran out of things they could conceive of doing, so they protested.
- Jesus loves those who joined the protesters for whatever other reasons they went to grounds.
- Jesus loves the UVA administrators who tried to figure out how to respond.

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, May 12, 2024

11:00 AM

**Sermon:**

Thou Mastering Me  
Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**

Ephesians 1:15-23

**Anthem:**

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*  
Raney

## SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacon:** Shirley Clark

**Ushers:** Tom & Sylvie Moore

**College Dinner:** Will resume in August

## Volunteers Needed



Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday! Click [this link](#) to add your name and join us any time between 10:30 and 11:30 to help set up and/or between 11:30 and 1:30

on the front steps to serve the ice cream. This is a very popular outreach ministry of the church.

- Jesus loves the police officers who spent a rainy Saturday trying their best to uphold the law.

We could continue this illustration as far as we like. However, God's love doesn't mean we refrain from speaking truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). The Bible is full of cries for justice, and throughout scripture, we find examples of God acting on behalf of poor, oppressed, and excluded people.

To overcome the problems of the world, we start by recognizing God's love for the world. Then, we seek ways to embody this love and extend it to every person we encounter. There are times when we might have to say something uncomfortable, and nowhere does the Bible tell Jesus' followers to shy away from difficult issues. We can call out people and institutions when God leads us to do so, but we must always do it with love.

Peace,  
Matt

### Update on Our Ukraine Partnership

Last December, this congregation responded with heroic generosity to a need in the Ukraine at Viktor Matushak's church in Rodnikova Huta. You provided the funds for them to purchase a new boiler, expansion tank, relief valve, and a small generator. We recently sent the remainder of the funds which have been invested in the lives of the people in Rodnikova Huta with supplies to fix an old truck, plant potatoes, strawberries, raspberries, an apple tree, and to begin raising chickens and guineas.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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



**May 15:** Shelby Clements  
**May 16:** Glenna Ohlms, Jacob Morris  
**May 17:** Barbara Weber, Laurie Pallini, Bill Murray  
**May 19:** Mildred Spicer, Portia Papagni  
**May 20:** Jimmy Li  
**May 21:** Bonnie Fitzgerald, Tina Cromwell, Vidar Hageman

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, May 8

9:00 Work Team  
 10:00 PBJ Bible Study  
 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal  
 5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner  
 6:00 Aidan Workman (IMPACT)  
 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, May 9

7:00 Deacons' Meeting

### SATURDAY, May 11

9:00 Touch -a -Truck

### SUNDAY, May 12

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class  
 9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study  
 11:00 Morning Worship

### MONDAY, May 13

10:30 Bible Reading Group

### TUESDAY, May 14

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle  
 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  
 Tony & Patti Barretta  
 Alba & Pam Beasley  
 Clara Brown  
 Leon & Nancy Castle  
 David & Linda Hendon  
 Larry & Lynn Martin  
 Barbara Newlon  
 Jeanne Nye  
 Kaylee Risell  
 Melvin & Mildred Spicer



Join us on Wednesday evening for dinner at 5:30 and a program beginning at 6:00.

Click [here](#) to RSVP by Tuesday at 5:00.

Our menu tomorrow will be:

*Creamy Chicken Alfredo*

*Steamed Broccoli*

*Garlic Bread*

*Mixed Green Salad*

This week, at 6:00, we will welcome Aidan Workman from IMPACT C'ville, a direct-action organization that addresses the systemic causes of injustice, inequality and poverty. Although their membership is drawn from faith-based institutions (currently 22 from the Charlottesville/Albemarle County area), their mission is not to push religious doctrine. IMPACT is a vehicle for people of faith to act on their call to do justice. Bring a friend and find out more about the work of IMPACT C'ville.

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



### Rise Against Hunger Update

Our seven food packaging events last year helped Rise Against Hunger serve nearly 3.7 million people in 37 countries in 2023. They continued to address immediate nutritional needs for families facing hunger and responded to emergencies to support more than 994,000 people in 14 countries during times of crisis. They also worked alongside community leaders in eight countries to implement sustainable agriculture projects that produced 3,610 metric tons of food for consumption and income generation. Every person they serve is someone's parent, child, sibling, or friend, and we, as a church, are grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of their story and support them in paving the way toward brighter futures.

The work to end hunger starts with a meal. The Food and Agriculture Organization reports that as many as 783 million people — almost 10% of the world's population — face hunger. That means there is still work to do.

Click [here](#) to see Rise Against Hunger's Annual Report and thank you to everyone who supported this mission project last year.



### Touch - A - Truck 2024

UBC is looking for volunteers to assist with the Touch-a-Truck Event to be held on Saturday morning, May 11 from 9 – 12 in the parking lots of University Baptist Church. Please consider

how you and your family and friends can help make this event a success for others in our community! Please review the available slots [here](#) and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!



## Our Outreach to the Community

As we continue to work to reach out to the community around us, we have hosted numerous ministry, musical, and other groups. These groups are appreciative of a space that is conveniently located. We are currently hosting several cancer support groups and will soon start hosting a writing workshop for cancer patients and survivors.

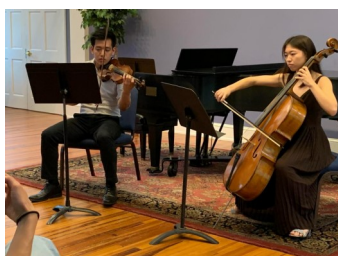


### UBC Softball

Schedule:

May 10	Bye Week	
May 17	Towe 2	6:00 & 7:00
May 24	Towe 3	6:00 & 7:00
May 31	McIntire	8:00 & 9:00
June 7	Towe 2	6:00 & 7:00

If you're interested in playing or just finding out more information, contact [George Martin](mailto:cva2011@aol.com) at [cva2011@aol.com](mailto:cva2011@aol.com).



Coming Soon!  
Save the Date  
VBS 2024  
June 17- 21  
9:00 - noon  
We are going to Camp

## 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 broadcast. To view the live video broadcast, visit our [Facebook page](#) or click [this link](#) to watch on YouTube.

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

Connect with us

