



August 6, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 32

**Baptismal
Joy**

WATCH

Someone asked me on Sunday, “Is [baptism] the biggest kick a minister gets?”

It seemed like the question pointed to the best of what anyone gets to do in their work or calling, and the answer is, “Yes.” Baptism is a highpoint for me, because it reflects the divine encounter between us and God. The way we practice baptism rests on human agency. Each person decides about the time to get baptized, and in our church, no one (I hope) pressures anyone to make that decision.

Human agency rests on freedom. We only have agency if we are free. In baptism, someone decides to seek it. Then, we put the plans in motion. Rev. Deal plans a worship service around the sacrament. Thomas fills the baptistry and knows exactly when to turn the heater on. On Sunday morning, Alan turns the heater off, so we don’t have the sound of it humming during worship. Each person makes a choice to participate in this holy ritual.

When we reach the moment of baptism in a worship service, it’s wet, messy, and never goes exactly the way we plan. It doesn’t matter if I stand in the baptistry with someone and go through the choreography. When we get to that moment, there are final stage directions. “Move over here.” “Stand there.” “Hold your nose.” The last one includes the implied instruction, “Hold your nose so you won’t be sputtering and choking.”

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, August 11, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Deceiver's Going to Deceive

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

2 John 7-9

Anthem:

Sing and Be Not Silent

Mary McDonald

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Lily Gregg

Ushers: Tom & Sylvie Moore

College Dinner: Dinners will resume on Sunday, August 25. Click [here](#) to sign up to provide a dinner for our college students.

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.

I love all of it! I love each moment when things go beautifully according to plan, and I love when people need little additional instructions. I love how each person's story is unique, and I love how Jesus factors into each one. I love how the Holy Spirit moves in people's lives. E.g., Mike *just happened* to come to worship on July 25 to see baptism before returning to China, and UBC *just happened* to have a baptism planned for August 4. Rather than crediting blind chance, it seems more likely to be, as B. R. White used to say, "a providential stroke of good luck."

Baptism is special because it's central to who we are. No matter what your baptismal experience was like, when our family of faith brings someone up from the water, we all participate in God's work. We get to see someone growing in Christ right in front of our eyes. Baptism is an outward sign of an inner change, and we all get to see it.

I hope the joy of [last Sunday's worship](#) is sustaining you through this week.

Peace,
Matt

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, August 7

9:00 Work Team
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Wednesday Night Program
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, August 11

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

TUESDAY, August 13

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

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



Mark your calendars for our annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 18, 3:00 - 6:00pm at the Marshall's Farm. Watch for more details!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Aug 14: Kevin Wright, Galen Tackett
Aug 15: Freddie Willard, Colleen Baber
Aug. 18: Theo Gregg
Aug. 19: Sam Hellings
Aug. 20: Daniel Harper, Alexis Haskiell



National Night Out

National Night Out is a crime prevention community engagement event sponsored by the Charlotteville Police Foundation. The event will take place tonight, Tuesday, August 6, 5:30 - 8:00pm at IX Art Park with a dunk tank, bouncy obstacle course, Kona Ice, food, live DJ

(Steve Knick), and much more. There will be a variety of tables and displays from CPD and other community partners to peruse as well as opportunities to meet and greet with CPD officers and professional staff. This is a free, family-friendly event.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Leon & Nancy Castle
Johnny & Gail Ellen
David & Linda Hendon
Larry & Lynn Martin
Sylvie Moore
Family & Friends of Barbara Newlon
Kaylee Risell
Melvin & Mildred Spicer
Raynell Stokes
Bob & Joyce Tennant
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

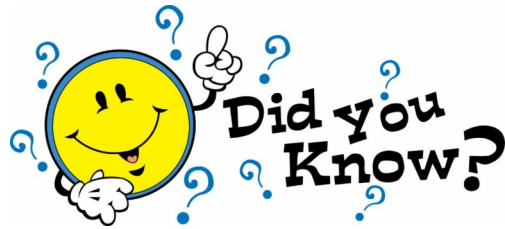


Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, August 7, for dinner at 5:30 and a Town Hall beginning at 6:00. The agenda will include a mid-year financial review, BGAV update, and a Stewardship Committee update.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Our menu will be:
Grilled Chicken
Black Beans
Cilantro Lime Rice
Pineapple Salsa
Mixed Green Salad
Dessert

Following the program you are invited to sing with the Sanctuary Choir as they rehearse in the Music Suite.



In worship each week, have you noticed that we have some readings from the lectern on the floor and other readings from the pulpit? The reason we have the Gospel reading from the floor each week is because we want it close to the congregation. By reading it from the floor, we put the Gospel among the people. It is the Word of God for the people of God. The other readings, announcements, prayers, sermon, and everything else come from the pulpit.



State Missions Offering

Each year we collect a special offering to support missions in the state of Virginia. This August, our missions emphasis will support the chaplain ministry at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. Our goal is \$3,000.

You can give on our website or by mailing a check to the church (Make the check out to University Baptist Church and write State Missions in the memo line). Here is some information from Chaplain Jerusha Tiller, whose ministry our offering will support:

Dear friends, Due to “separation of church and state,” GracelInside is a nonprofit Christian ministry that places chaplains inside Virginia’s prisons so that lives may be transformed through the grace of Jesus Christ. As a GracelInside chaplain, I am dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of all residents of Virginia’s state prisons. I currently serve in Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, providing one-on-one pastoral care, conducting worship services, and working with the Department of Corrections staff in offering rehabilitative programs. I am also responsible for scheduling all religious programs conducted by volunteers representing many faith traditions.



Second Quarter Financial Update

January-June 2024

Contributions: \$227,610.23

Expenses: \$301,997.12

Dinner with Andrew

One of the members of our church family has been raising funds to address food insecurity every year since July 2001. On January 1, 2001, Colleen Baber's son Andrew choked on a gummy candy and did not survive. He had been working at Domino's Pizza at the time, and his coworkers wanted to do something to honor his memory. They chose a food drive which fit well with honoring Andrew because few people liked to eat more than he did. Thus, "Dinner with Andrew" began.

This year is the twenty-fourth year Colleen has been collecting donations in Andrew's memory. In 2020, she switched from collecting and sorting food to taking donations for food gift cards. She gives these cards to families in extreme need through The Jefferson Area Food Bank, The Salvation Army, The Emergency Food Bank, and ARC. We can help address food insecurity and be the hands and feet of Christ by supporting this ministry. You can contribute directly [through this link](#), or you can send a check to the church or give online with "Dinner with Andrew" in the memo line.

As the temperature gets cooler and the leaves change color, I am reminded that God's mercies are new every morning. God continues to work patiently in our lives, transforming us, and sanctifying us to the likeness of the image of God's Son, Jesus. What an honor it is to partner with the Savior bringing faith, hope, and love to incarcerated men and women. As Christ says in Matthew 25, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Bio: Chaplain Tiller is an ordained Baptist minister. She completed her master's degree in divinity and a doctorate degree in ministry at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. She majored in biblical studies and obtained a master's degree in theology at the Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. She taught World Religions as adjunct faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her doctoral project was in the field of grief and loss. She lives in Richmond with her seventeen-year-old daughter, a stage 4 cancer survivor, and her husband Martin Tiller and his daughter. Her grandparents were a major influence on her life. They retired from the Department of Corrections in India and told her bedtime stories of their work in Corrections. The stories took deep root in her impressionable heart and are the reason for her passion for prison ministry today.

ALL CREATION SINGS
Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord.
Psalm 150:6

Mark your calendars!

Wednesday, Aug 21, 2024, we will launch our new music and missions program for kids, All Creation Sings! We are going to kick things off with a party for everyone! Come for dinner, stay for the party, with choir rehearsal and childcare to follow! Don't miss it! -Elizabeth and Susan



Worship+Wonder

Greetings! Thank you all for your wonderfully warm welcome these past few weeks! I am so delighted to be joining the ministry team and working with the children and youth at UBC!

This Sunday, during the children's sermon time, we will begin something new called Worship+Wonder. Based on the Godly Play model, Worship+Wonder will be a special time for children to worship by exploring God's story and wondering about what it means to them. For our first Worship+Wonder, I will share with the children, on the floor in the sanctuary, The Parable of the Mustard Seed. In that story, something great grows from something small. You might notice the ample silence and sense of mystery in this kind of storytelling. It may even seem like I have left out the lesson of the story! That's because Worship+Wonder gives children an opportunity to construct their own meaning out of the essential stories of the Bible and the church. This helps them form stronger connections to those stories than anything we grownups might want to *te//* them. It asks them to encounter, experience, and explore the stories. My hope is that the telling of this familiar story in a new way invites all of us to think about it more deeply.

Beginning next Sunday, Aug 18, 2024, I will gather school-aged children (K-5) midway through Morning Worship to climb the stairs to the right of the front of the sanctuary and into our children's ministry space for Worship+Wonder. I am busy preparing a special space for our worship and wondering time together. Near the end of the service, I will send the children back down to join the parents or grandparents (aunts, uncles, etc...) who brought them to worship. In future articles, I'll be sharing more about Worship+Wonder and other activities of the children and youth ministries at UBC. See you on Sunday!
-Elizabeth

Staff Contact Information:

Senior Minister: Dr. Matthew Tennant - matt@universitybaptist.org

Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Rickert Dowdy - elizabeth@universitybaptist.org

Intentional Interim Minister of Music: Rev. Susan Deal - susan@universitybaptist.org

Jubilate & Voces Laetae Director: Will Cooke - wcooke@universitybaptist.org

Office Coordinator: Linda Weirich - linda@universitybaptist.org

Financial Coordinator: Amanda Ohlms - aohlms@universitybaptist.org

Social Media Coordinator: Alaysia Toney - socialmedia@universitybaptist.org

Church Administrator: Alan Hendricks - ahendricks@universitybaptist.org

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

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Connect with us

