



September 17, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 38

Blessing of the Officers?

WATCH

This Sunday, we will have our first “Blessing of the Officers” in our worship service. No one has directly asked me why, but I’m going to answer anyway. We planned this service to connect to our community. It’s an outreach event. There will be, we hope, many visitors with us on Sunday. Some of them might like what they see and come back to join us again in the future. Finally, we are doing this to build bridges.

First, Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, and we have neighbors all around us. We can love our neighbors in many ways. We can feed, encourage, clothe, and house people. We can provide community and get to know people where they are on their journeys. And, we help our neighbors connect with something deeper by pointing them to God through Christ. To love our neighbors, we must connect with them. Our local law enforcement officers are our neighbors. To better love them, we need to build connections with them. These relationships will help us see how we can be more loving.

Second, viewing the “Blessing of the Officers” as an outreach event is both obvious and a bit behind the scenes. It’s obvious, because we have invited 150 guests to join us on Sunday. It’s behind the scenes, because we have low expectations that they will make UBC their church home. However, I often find reminders not to underestimate what the Holy Spirit can do. As these officers join us for worship, some might like what

Sunday, September 22, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Working Together for the Good of All
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Mark 9:33-37

Anthems:

We Are Not Alone

Pepper Choplin

Peace Pilgrim's Prayer

Shawn Kirchner

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Sheri Owen

Ushers: Herman & Gayle Eaker

Jubilate Dinner: Click [here](#) to sign up to provide a dinner for our Jubilate singers.



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.

they experience. We pray they will come back and join us again.

This part of the "Blessing of the Officers" is our opportunity. As a reader of this column in *The Word*, you are part of the UBC family. You have a role to play in making the officers feel welcome. You can help them decide they want to come back and be part of our church family. This is one more chance to be a welcoming and affirming family of faith.

Third, this Sunday can build bridges in our community. Chief Mike Kochis and I talked recently about the chasm between law enforcement officers and communities. Some parts of this chasm go back a long way. Others date to 2020 and the murder of George Floyd. To have a better and safer community where the light of Christ can shine, we need all people. This includes police officers. By inviting the Charlottesville and University Police Departments to worship with us and praying for them, we can build some bridges in our community.

These three—connecting with our community, outreach, and building bridges—are just three of the reasons we are "Blessing the Officers" this Sunday. I hope this Sunday will be a meaningful chance to worship and draw new people together in our sanctuary.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Peace,
Matt



Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News yesterday morning. He appears on WINA once per month to provide commentary on the news from a faith perspective. This month he joined the program to discuss the "Blessing of the Officers" event being held at 11am Sunday at University Baptist Church. They also discussed community relationships with police and much more. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, September 18

9:00 Work Team
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 "The Great Dechurching"
6:00 Music+Missions
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, September 20

SATURDAY, September 21

Jubilate Fall Retreat

SUNDAY, September 22

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship - Blessing of the Officers
12:00 Ice Cream Fellowship

MONDAY, September 23

12:30 Missions Council

TUESDAY, September 24

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

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

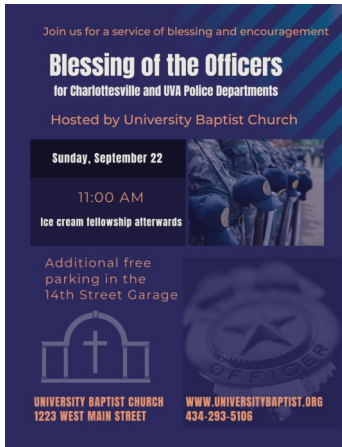


Thanks to Our UBC Ladies

After waiting a year for Labor Day sales, we used your generous gift from the bridal shower to purchase a new wash-

*er/dryer combination for our home. Photo attached is us at Lowe's!
Angela & Josh Mandell*

Last Fall the ladies of the church hosted a bridal shower for Angela Li and Josh Mandell which, as you can see from the picture, was greatly appreciated!



CPD Blessing of the Officers

Join us this Sunday, September 22, 11:00, for a service of blessing and encouragement for our Charlottesville and UVA Police Departments. Invitations have been given to 150 officers. Following the service there will be an ice cream fellowship on the front steps, or, in case of inclement weather, in the Fellowship Hall.

Members are encouraged to use the 14th Street Garage for parking. Just show your bulletin as you leave the garage and there will be no charge.



Opportunity to Feed the Homeless

On Wednesday nights we frequently have leftovers from our dinners. We contacted The Haven, a day shelter for the homeless in Charlottesville, and asked if they could use this leftover food. They immediately responded with a yes.

This is a wonderful opportunity to feed the hungry right here in our own community. If you could help with transporting this food to The Haven twice a month on Wednesday or Thursday mornings, please contact [Linda](#) in the church office.

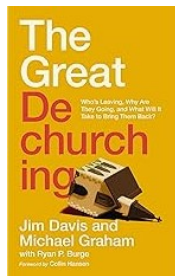


Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, September 18 for dinner at 5:30 and then beginning at 6:00, we'll look at the book, *The Great Dechurching*, while the children attend *All Creation Sings*. Childcare is always available.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Our menu will be:
Fried and Baked Chicken
Mac and Cheese
Potato Salad
Mixed Green Salad
Assorted Cookies

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



"The Great Dechurching"

It is greater than the First and Second Great Awakening and every revival in our country combined...but in the opposite direction. Yet precious little rigorous study has been done on the broad phenomenon of dechurching in America. Jim Davis and Michael Graham have commissioned the largest and most comprehensive study of dechurching in America by renowned sociologists Dr. Ryan Burge and Dr. Paul Djupe.

The Great Dechurching takes the insights gleaned from this study to drill down on how exactly people are dechurching with respect to beliefs, behavior, and belonging.

This book gives the church in America its first ever deep dive into the dechurched phenomenon. You'll learn about the dechurched through a detailed sketch of demographics, size, core concerns, church off-ramps, historical roots, and the gravity of what is at stake. Then you'll explore what can be done to slow the bleed, engage the pertinent issues winsomely and wisely, and hopefully re-church some of the dechurched.

Ministry in Action

The following is a note from LilyPads Operations Assistant sent to our Annie Armstrong Circle. LilyPads Housing provides no-cost, short-term housing in volunteer host homes for families and friends of pediatric patients undergoing medical care at the University of Virginia, or other medical facilities in Charlottesville, Virginia.

I wanted to send you another quick thank you and follow-up about how the generous gift cards you sent to our organization have been used. All the cards have gone to "heart baby" families. We have a strong relationship with UVA peds cardiology.



Matthew was born earlier this month and is recovering beautifully from his recent heart procedure. I dropped off the gift cards for them the day of his surgery and received the following text from his mother: "Just got back from the hospital. Thank you to the kind people who donated the gift cards! That was definitely a tearjerker for sure!!"



Poppy's family stayed with us for over six months while she was in-patient this year. The attached photo is of her on the first day that she was able to go outside!

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity! Your thoughtfulness has been impactful!

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

Kaylee Risell

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



Worship+Wonder Assistants Needed

Every Sunday morning at a particular point in our worship service, our children in grades K-5th are invited to attend Worship+Wonder, a worship experience designed specifically for them.

We are in need of volunteers to help our children for about 20 minutes on Sunday mornings to have a meaningful addition to their worship experience. If you are able to assist in this way, please see the sign-up genius [here](#).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Sept 25: Susan Deal

Sept 26: Nichole Dawson

Sept 27: Chris Belt

Sept. 28: Al Holliday

Sept. 29: Patti Barretta

Sept. 30: Sandy Manning

Coming Soon!!

Be on the lookout for a new UBC website coming soon! You'll be able to access the new website the same way you always have. The new site will have a cleaner and updated look as well as updated information. We'll let you know when the new site is up and running!

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.

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Connect with us

