



October 1, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 40

Vote Jesus Christ **WATCH**

Starting tomorrow (October 2, 2024), we will welcome back Scott Spencer. He will be sharing throughout the month of October about his new book *Vote Jesus Christ: A Political Riff on Luke's Gospel and Cautionary Tale for Evangelicals and Other Concerned Citizens*. We have copies of the book for anyone who wants one. They are available in the church office, and we will have them in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evening. (If you want to pay for it, after you pick up your book, give the church \$16.)

Spencer organizes the book around twelve strategies. For example, the first one is, "Don't put yourself forward for public office or service. Seek only to serve God and answer God's call to serve others. God 'elects' the servant-leader(s) of God's people." In the chapter, he explores Jesus' birth and growth into ministry. When he enters his ministry, Jesus isn't jealous of John or anxious about who he is. He knows. He is the Messiah.

Recognizing our calling is part of the journey of self-realization, Spencer places contemporary American politics alongside Luke's Jesus. When held in this light, we can see how most people fall short of what is possible in a democracy. Self-interest, personal gain, and ego get in the way of serving the public.

To anyone who fears a title like *Vote Jesus Christ* veers too close to politics coming into the church, I agree. Instead, let's bring the church into politics. What does our faith tell us about how

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, October 6, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Thinking of the Other
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 10:25-37

Anthem:

One World, One Communion
Pepper Choplin

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Shirley Clark

Ushers: Cindy Bryant, Mildred Spicer

Jubilate Dinner: Carolyn Lowry

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.

to vote? What does it say about being a good citizen?
How do we follow Jesus and support our country?
What does it even mean to be a 'good citizen'?

As we journey through *Vote Jesus Christ* with Scott Spencer as our guide, I hope you will be inspired. I also pray that our faith will shape our politics more than our politics shaping our faith. These are interesting times in the world, and I think the world needs more thoughtful Christ-followers. I hope to see you Wednesday night at 6pm (dinner is at 5:30pm).

Peace,
Matt

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Leon & Nancy Castle
Johnny & Gail Ellen
David & Linda Hendon
Bill Jesser who recently lost his brother
Larry & Lynn Martin
Fin Mulcahy
Kaylee Risell
Melvin & Mildred Spicer
Bob & Joyce Tennant
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, October 2

9:00 Work Team
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 "Vote Jesus Christ"
6:00 Music+Missions
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, October 6

8:30 Church Council
9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
3:45 Decades Arcade Party
4:30 Jubilate Rehearsal
6:00 Jubilate Dinner

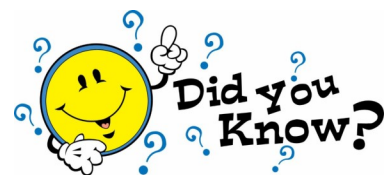
MONDAY, October 7

7:00 Theology Reading Group
8:00 Youth Council Zoom

TUESDAY, October 8

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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



Did you know that with our church management system, Realm, you can have access to your profile, your giving, the church directory with pictures, and many church documents like the church by-laws, constitution, and leadership manual. And that's just a short list of what is available to you when you set up your login for Realm.

If you don't have a login yet and would like to set one up, contact [Linda](#), [Alan](#), or [Amanda](#) in the church office.



Fence Painters Needed

Three volunteers from Emerson (formerly GE) joined us to help prime our playground railings as part of the United Way Day of Caring. We appreciate their labor and the fellowship while we worked.

Now that a section of the railings has been primed, it needs to be painted. If you would like to assist in painting a section, please contact [Alan Hendricks](#).



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.

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!



You may have noticed the merry band of children climbing the steep balcony stairs and disappearing into the Children's Suite on Sunday mornings lately. You might be wondering, what exactly are they doing up there? While some things are genuine mysteries, like why God chooses to show up when and where God does, this phenomenon need not be one! And so, in a series of stories, I'd like to share with you about how UBCKids are worshiping and wondering these days.

Children Worshipping



The story of Worship+Wonder starts back in 2016, when my kids were little, but too big to go to the nursery at our new church in Fredericksburg. "How would they

learn about what worship is?" I wondered aloud to our children's minister, Erin. Asking the question got me thinking, maybe I could teach them.

When you want to teach a young person something important, especially something as important as how to worship, it helps to break it down into steps, with each new step being built on the last. I looked at our order of worship as it was printed in our bulletin, and I saw seven steps, each part of the four big movements of our worship service. (The four movements of worship, as I had learned in seminary, as old as the church itself, are Gathering - Hearing - Responding - and Sending.) The seven steps in our weekly worship were: 1) Gathering, 2) Praising, 3) Praying, 4) Forgiving, 5) Hearing the Story, 6) Giving, and 7) Sending. Different churches put these in different sequences. Churches also add an eighth step, 8) Feasting, every week, once a month, or once a quarter. Naming these steps helped me to see that I *could* teach my kids how to worship! I just needed to teach it one step at a time.

It is also helpful to remember that when you want a young person to learn to do something,



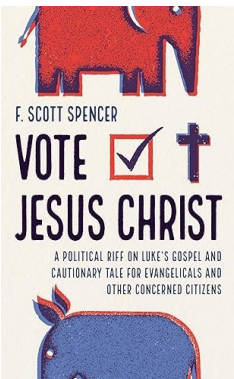
Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, October 2 for dinner at 5:30 and then beginning at 6:00, we'll look at the book, *Vote Jesus Christ*, while the children attend *All Creation Sings*. Childcare is always available.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Our menu will be:

Chili con Carne with all the fixins'
Baked Potato Bar
Cornbread
Mixed Green Salad
Dessert

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



"Vote Jesus Christ"

On Wednesday, we will begin looking at the book, *Vote Jesus Christ* by F. Scott Spencer. Our discussion will be led by the author, Scott Spencer. This is a fun and fascinating book describing the Jesus of the Gospel of Luke as if he were running for public office.

Strange as it sounds, it is in fact a genius way to show how Jesus was campaigning for God, God's kingdom, and God's people to live a new kind of story—not according to the cut-throat politics of the world but based on the theme of love for God and love for neighbor.

especially something as important as worshiping, they will need lots of practice! And their practice will need to be guided and coached in the beginning, until they learn to do the skills on their own. In fact, you will know that a young person has learned a skill when they can teach it to you! It also helps to use tools they can touch and images they can see. And so, I set about making worship bags with my kids. These bags were special, and they were unique to them. They were not full of distractions, things that pulled them away from worship and out of the moment. They were intentionally stocked with tools that helped them BE fully present in worship, engaged in the wonder of the moment.

In this series of *Wonder-ings*, I'd like to share the stories of each item in our worship bags. The children of UBC are building their bags in *Worship+Wonder* this fall with tangible tools and practiced skills. You might not think that you ever had such a bag, but you do! Your bag may not be tangible - canvas, with your name on it - but it is unique to you. Someone taught you how to do these things. Someone gave you the tools you needed to participate in your own way. Someone guided your practice until you could do it on your own. And someone gave you a chance to teach them, or someone else, how to do these things.

And now, there is nothing left to do but to begin...



More Progress!

Our Wednesday work team is busy preparing an office for our new Associate Minister for Music and College Students, Megan Sharp. The whole room has now received a coat of primer. Next is some color on the walls!

On September 8, after our worship service, Megan was affirmed for her new position at UBC by a vote of the congregation. She is currently transitioning to her new position with us, while upholding her commitment to her current position, and will be officially with us on Sunday, November 3. We look forward to welcoming her to our worship leadership team.

Mark Your Calendars!

UBCYouth Retreat
 November 15-17, 2024
 CrossRoads Camp
 for all 6th - 12th graders
 To reserve your spot,
 or if you have questions,
 contact Elizabeth.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Oct 9: Brett Turner, Pam Hallissy

Oct 10: Tom Stephens

Oct 12: Theresa Guyton

Oct 13: Joyce Martin

Oct 14: Greg Proffitt



UBCYouth and Parents Decades Arcade Party!

UBCYouth and parents, let's get together! We've booked Decades Arcade on the Downtown Mall for 2 hours on Sunday afternoon, October 6. We'll have pizza,

drinks, and dessert. And we will play! Pinball, anyone?!? Meet outside Decades at 3:45 pm. We MUST go in TOGETHER. RSVP with your number to Elizabeth [here!](#)

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

Education Coordinator: Rev. Tommy Deal—call the church office at 434-293-5106

Organist: Barbara Moore - call the church office at 434-293-5106

Custodian: Thomas Hill - call the church office at 434-293-5106

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

