

THE COMMUNICATOR

University
Baptist Church

March, 2017

Hattiesburg, Mississippi



Lent

40 DAYS OF RENEWAL

March 1 - April 15, 2017





Freedictionary.com defines open-ended as:

1. Not restrained by definite limits, restrictions, or structure
2. Allowing for or adaptable to change
3. Inconclusive or indefinite
4. Allowing for a spontaneous, unstructured response

Last Sunday, February 26, I opened Luke 7:38-50 and preached about the open-ended conclusion to the story of an unnamed woman who lavishly poured out love upon Jesus and heard the words “your faith has saved you, go in peace.” Fred Craddock points out that this open-ending screams the need for a church that says “you are welcome here”—a place for those who have experienced the forgiveness and grace of God to form communities of love and support. The question is, did this woman find such a community to support her? We do not know.

What we do know is that Luke calls us to hear the gospel story with the question on our minds, “What then should we do?”

I was mindful as I prepared for and preached Sunday’s sermon that UBC is a church that is willing to ask the question “What then should we do?” It is not a question we can ask once, and then be done with it. Instead, it’s a question we continually ask ourselves in response to the work of Jesus among us. We ask the question in response to events taking place in our community, nation, and world that impact the lives of our neighbors. We ask the question any time a neighbor, like the unnamed woman in Luke 7, comes to our doors seeking peace.

The very nature of asking this question means that we, the people of Jesus, must be comfortable with open-endings. Sure, we place confidence in the full story of the Gospel, that there will be an ending of perfect love and grace when the fullness of God’s kingdom comes. But in the meantime, the call to faithfully follow Jesus is a call to live an open-ended story. Open-endings inspire imagination and push us to always consider the possibility that Holy Spirit might be leading us in new or previously unimagined ways.

Certainly, part of our reflection at Sunday’s church conference was the continuation of this work—how is our church responding, forming new endings that are really not endings at all.

This work is also crucial to the season of Lent. As we begin the forty-day journey to the cross, we are all invited to ask the question, “What then should I do?” What new opportunities for service to the Kingdom of God might Spirit be calling you to undertake? What new ways of seeing and understanding might you need to lavishly love a neighbor needing the peace of Christ? What new disciplines (prayer, studying scripture, taking time to enjoy the goodness of creation) might you need to adopt to grow in your commitment to follow the Way of Jesus?

May this season of Lent give us new endings as we await the new beginning of resurrection.

Journeying Together,
Rusty

UBC in Brief




There will be two services on Ash Wednesday, March 1. The morning service will begin at 7:15 am and the evening service will begin at 6:30 pm immediately following our covered dish supper.


Join us on this special night Friday, March 3, as we welcome nationally-acclaimed singer-songwriter and guitarist Andrew McNight to the Back Door stage. See details on page 4.



UBC Youth will gather for First Sunday Youth Dinner at the home of Gena and Russell Lott on March 5, at 6:30 pm.

 Join us Sunday, March 5, at 9:30 am as we gather around the coffeepots for hot coffee, warm doughnuts and fantastic conversation.



 Our Celtic Worship Service is Sunday, March 12, with a community meal to follow. Please join us.

The Celtic Music & Liturgy meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, at 5:00 pm. Everyone is invited to join us and share your thoughts and ideas.

Our monthly business meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, at 6:30 pm. Please plan to attend.



Join us for PrimeTime, Tuesday, March 21. Lunch begins at 11:30 am with the program immediately following. Daniel Lee, Minister of Music at Calvary Baptist Church in Oak Grove will present "Spirit of Gospel Music." The cost is \$10. Contact Barbara Ann Ross for reservations at 601-264-7460.



UBC kids campout begins Friday, March 24, and will return to UBC Saturday, March 25. Checkout page 4 for details.

Congregational Care gift bags are available to you if you are visiting in the hospital. The bags contain several small items that might be useful during a hospital stay. They are located in the conference room in the church office. This is one of the activities of the Congregational Care Committee.





YOUTH

First Sunday Youth Dinner is March 5, at 6:30 pm at the home of Gena and Russell Lott. Let Kat know if your youth will be there.



Youth Service Day

On Saturday, March 4, UBC Youth will do service work around the Hattiesburg community. We will partner with *Home Instead Senior Care* to do yard work for seniors in need. We will meet at UBC at 9:00 am.



Andrew McNight

Join us on this special night as we welcome nationally-acclaimed singer-songwriter and guitarist ANDREW MCNIGHT to the Back Door stage.

Andrew McNight's music celebrates rural America, weaving his masterfully crafted songs, humorous stories and poetic drama into a musical soundscape sketched with shades of Appalachia, tasteful slide and jazzy blues, feisty anthems, and rustic folk.

"The skillful songwriter's interest in history is revealed in songs such as the Civil War ballad "The Road to Appomattox" and the soldier's elegy "Wind Whispers Your Name." ...he avoids stridency by crafting vignettes told from the point of view of those in pain and keeps dourness at bay ...

He also works in true folkie tradition, updating lyrics to classic material such as "Worried Man Blues" or re-working Robert Johnson's "Crossroads" to place himself mano-a-devil."

(The Washington Post)

We've got a great evening of entertainment for you so join us March 3 for an amazing show. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Childcare available.



UBC Kids Campout

March 24-25

Meet at UBC at 4:30 pm. We will travel to our campsite, play, have dinner, hear a Godly Play story, and roast marshmallows by the fire. We will be back by 12 noon on Saturday. Destination TBD. For kids 1st grade and up.

Sign up with Kat!



PrimeTime
March 21, 2017
11:30 am



Daniel Lee, Minister of Music at Calvary Baptist Church of Oak Grove will present "Spirit of Gospel Music." Join us for this event and enjoy a catered lunch for \$10. Reservation cut-off date for this event is Thursday, March 16. Please contact Glenn Nobles at 601-602-3248 to make your reservation.



Ash Wednesday Services
Wednesday, March 1
Morning Service - 7:15 am
Evening Service - 6:30 pm
Immediately following our
covered dish supper.



Preschool PJ Party
(for Preschool Godly Play Class)
March 25, 5-7 pm

Preschoolers, get ready for a fun-filled night of creating, playing, and exploring. Wear your favorite pair of pajamas and bring a stuffed animal or toy that you are willing to let spend the night at the church. Who knows what our favorite toys get into when we're not around! Come ready to eat, play, and have a great time!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE



- 4 Garlinda Walls
 - 5 Linda Stephenson
 - 7 Kelly Taylor
 - 10 Dennis Baum
 - 11 Chris Bowen
 - 14 Sid Weatherford
 - 14 Fiona Carson
 - 15 Joyce Holley
 - 16 Maurice Meylan
 - 17 Frances Ogletree
 - 17 Jean Trout
 - 17 Pat Oldenburg
 - 21 Iris Easterling
 - 23 Sylvia McCarty
 - 24 Carroll Russell
 - 25 Bethany Rigney
 - 30 Laura Laughlin
- 



- DEACON OF THE WEEK**
- 5 Ed Hopson
 - 12 Herb Oldenburg
 - 19 Karen Walker
 - 26 Clark Hicks

- LAY READERS**
- 5 Garlinda Walls
 - 12 Dick Conville
 - 19 Elizabeth LaBeaud
 - 26 Linda Ginn

- OFFERING COUNTERS**
- 1st Sun Peggy and Bryant Myatt
 - 2nd Sun Pat Hicks, Shirley McCraw
 - 3rd Sun Al Butler, Bill Hughes
 - 4th Sun Kay Behm, John Alcorn
 - 5th Sun Marion Poirier, Lida McDowell

- EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS**
- 5 Kelly Taylor (Toddlers), Jennifer Courtney (Preschool)
 - 12 Kim Walker (Preschool)
 - 19 Brandi Sanford (Toddlers), Myra Myrick (Preschool)
 - 26 Wendy Carson (Preschool)
- Please check in on your assigned Sunday in the Preschool area so we know you're here!*



BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!

- Sunday Sermons**
- 5: Luke 10:25-42
 - 12: Luke 13:1-9, 31-35
 - 19: Luke 15:1-32 (Guest Preacher Jason Coker)
 - 26: Luke 16:19-31
*Communion

- Wednesday Nights**
- 1: Ash Wednesday Service
(No Small Groups this Evening)
 - 8: Small Groups
 - 15: Business Meeting @ 6:30 pm
(No Small Groups this Evening)
 - 22: Small Groups



March Happenings at UBC

Office UBC

Mar 2017 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
			7:15am - Ash 10am - Crafters 11:30am - Guitar @ 4:45pm - Worship 6pm - Covered Dish 8:30pm - Ash		7:30pm - Back Door	Youth Service Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am - Adult Choir 8:30am - Joint 9:30am - First 9:45am - Sunday 11am - Morning 6:30pm - First		9:30am - Quilters @ 6pm - WCU/CH	Quilters @ Kelley 10am - Crafters 11:30am - Guitar @ 4:45pm - Worship 6pm - Covered Dish 8:30pm - Small	Quilters/Choral Hall		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30am - Adult Choir 9:45am - Sunday 11am - Morning 5:30pm - Evening 8:45pm - Dinner @	5:30pm - Habitat for Tom - Rescians @	5pm - Delta Music & 6pm - WCU/CH	10am - Crafters 11:30am - Guitar @ 4:45pm - Worship 6pm - Covered Dish 8:30pm - Small 7:30pm - Business			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am - Adult Choir 9:45am - Sunday 11am - Morning		11:30am - PrimeTime 6pm - Boy 6pm - WCU/CH	Quilters/Choral Hall 10am - Crafters 11:30am - Guitar @ 4:45pm - Worship 6pm - Covered Dish 8:30pm - Intergener	6pm - Delta Kappa	UBC Kids Campout	UBC Kids Campout 6pm - Preschool PJ
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:30am - Adult Choir 8:30am - Church 9:45am - Sunday 11am - Morning 11am - Voices		6pm - WCU/CH	10am - Crafters 11:30am - Guitar @ 4:45pm - Worship 6pm - Covered Dish 8:30pm - Intergener			

For full calendar details, you will find this calendar on our website at ubchm.org. Click the "News" tab at the top of the page, then click on "Calendar." From here, you will be able to double click on any event and see the full details of that particular event.



3200 Arlington Loop
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Phone: (601) 264-6908
Internet: www.ubchm.org

Rusty Edwards, *M.Div., Th.M., D.Min. Senior Pastor*
Kathryn Spangler, *M.Div., Associate Minister*
Taylor Hightower, *DM, Minister of Music*
Russell Lott, *MBA, Church Administrator*
Cindy Hinton, *Church Secretary*
Zhaolei Xie, *Choir Accompanist*
Willie Holloway, *Custodian*

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Library Spotlight

submitted by Billie Hogan

This library window display, created by Allison Chestnut, represents the destruction at William Carey University due to a tornado early on Saturday, January 21. It portrays damage, brokenness, grief, and hope. See the paper scattered everywhere, the pieces of brick, trees broken and fallen, wind blown things in tree branches, and the book covers. Kudos to Allison Chestnut. This display has to be one of your best.

