

# UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

## *At the Crossroads*

August 2018 [www.ubc-ch.org](http://www.ubc-ch.org)

### ***From The Parson's Porch***

"Self-evident."

Bring anything to mind? Sure it does: Thomas Jefferson's opening words in the Declaration of Independence.

Except they're not actually Jefferson's words. His original wording was "We hold these truths to be sacred and undeniable," but John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, fellow members of the Continental Congress whose judgment he respected, suggested he make the truth "self-evident." Good call.

We cherish those words, words every American schoolchild is encouraged to memorize, and we revere the particular example he cited, that all God's children are equally entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Remember that America?

Yeah, me too. I miss it.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not adrift in a hazy mist of nostalgic revisionist history, longing for something that never was, yearning for some lost America where perfect leaders nobly guided a perfect electorate flawlessly crafting a perfect union. I just wish for a slightly "more perfect union" than the one currently being birthed before our very eyes.

Lately I've been stirred by the insights of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Joseph J. Ellis in his national bestseller "Revolutionary Summer - The Birth of American Independence," in which this master historian so ably distills the historical events of 1776 into a clash for the ages. I believe we are now witnessing another such clash for the ages, and I'm not sure how this one will turn out.

Even as I want to avoid the myopic notion with which every generation arrogantly flirts, that "these are the worst of times," I also don't want to live in stubborn denial of Hebrew prophet Jeremiah's clear-eyed verdict that "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." I really don't think these are the worst of times, but I'm pretty sure America's noble experiment in democracy is under siege, and has been for a very long time, by desperately wicked forces ol' Jesus would have recognized immediately: religious zealotry, nationalist bigotry and malignant, fear-spawned racism.

Oddly enough, given such a somber analysis, I remain strangely hopeful, and here's why: It was into precisely such a setting that God came to us in human flesh, birthed in a cow stall to a teenage Hebrew peasant girl whose first-born son was considered illegitimate among their snarky fellow villagers. This little fellow, with the deck stacked ominously against him, dared to suggest he had come so the rest of us could "have life, and have it more abundantly." In every down-turn of human folly, lock-step with every petty dictator and would-be messiah, there is also the irrepressible footfall of a gently-pursuing Hound of Heaven, whose unhurried pace and relentless love for us never flinch in the face of the latest two-bit tyrant's narcissism. My mother's voice comes back to me more clearly now than ever, her soft rural North Carolina accent unhesitating in its recall of scripture: "*Be not deceived, God is not mocked.*" Thanks, Ruth, for words sacred and undeniable. Self-evident, even.

– *Pastor Simpson*

## Sermon Titles and Texts for August

- 8/5 "Bread Line" John 6:24-35  
 8/12 "Depth Charges" Psalm 130  
 8/19 "Know-Nothings" 1 Kings 3:3-14  
 8/26 "He's Not Here" John 6:60-69

## August Worship

August 5 & 12 - Great Hall  
 August 19 & 26 - Sanctuary

## Children's Sunday School Registration: Begins August 12

All parents of children from babies to 5<sup>th</sup> graders, please look for the registration table in the Gathering Area to update your child's information for Sunday morning activities. Thank you for helping us have the most current information on your child, and your whereabouts on Sunday mornings in case of an emergency.

## Student Sunday, August 26

Place this date on your calendar as UBC re-connects with University students!

Please bring enough food to feed your family and a couple of hungry students!

Volunteers needed for serving, setup, and clean up – contact Sandy Kennedy at [cassandras.kennedy@outlook.com](mailto:cassandras.kennedy@outlook.com).



## Sunday, September 9 - for Children

### Bibles to Kindergarteners

Children entering kindergarten this fall will receive a Bible from the church during worship.

If you have a child entering kindergarten this year, please notify Allison James at [allisonaj@nc.rr.com](mailto:allisonaj@nc.rr.com).



### Children's Sunday School Promotion Sunday

Children will move up to their new Sunday school classes.

## Sunday, September 9 - for Adults - Find a class for you!

*Insko Class* - Donna Harward and Betsy Watson, teachers - 2nd floor

*Open Door* - Joe Bray, Ron & Roma Shearin, teachers - 2nd floor

*Faithweavers* - Daun Whitley, teacher - Memorial Chapel

*Sojourners* - Charles Pettee, teacher - Hospitality Room, 2nd floor

*College Class* - College Ministry Coordinator - College Rm., 3rd floor

# Children's Ministry Events!

## VBS Appreciation:

Shipwrecked VBS was a fantastic week full of fun island singing, dancing, games, learning and awesome Bible stories! I'd like to thank everyone who helped in ways big and small to teach our Shipwrecked "castaways" that Jesus Rescues!

Thank you to the 44 leaders and assistants who volunteered at Shipwrecked VBS this year. I appreciate everything you did. It was a pleasure being the captain to such a fantastic crew!



I also appreciate everyone who came to make decorations and/or decorate the rooms during the week before VBS. Special thanks to Jan Allaire, Anna Darr, Alex and Chuck James, Catherine, Claire, Sandy and David Kennedy, Sharon Kepley, Martha Peck, Betty Simpson, Ann Smith, and Betsy, Daniel and Mary Katherine Watson. Wow, you guys really made the church look like a tropical paradise!!

Finally, I would also like to thank all the cooks who volunteered to prepare food for the VBS leader lunch and training meeting on June 10. Thank you to Sue Adams, Alice Barrow, Katherine Brooks, Christy Garrison, Linda Giersbrook, Donna Harward, Tanya Jones, Sharon Kepley, Robin McCoy, Lee Richardson, Kim Ring, Kathi Shaw and Jan Stoddard. Thank you for the delicious way you ministered to our VBS staff.



## VBS Mission Project:



During the week of VBS, the children learned about how they can help children and families in Haiti to have enough good food to eat. On the first day of Shipwrecked VBS, the children received an Operation Kid-to-Kid Seed Packet Donation Envelope to take home and fill with money. The collected donations will go toward providing drought-resistant seeds for families in Haiti. A \$10 gift provides seeds that can grow into food that will feed a child for an entire year. We raised \$650, enough to help feed 65 children! Great job, castaways!!!



VBS: Shipwrecked! *in photos*



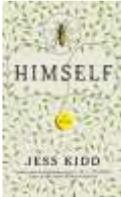
# Local Missions Opportunities

## **Back To School Back Packs and Supplies for Chin Children**

We need 20 backpacks (new or gently used), all types of school supplies: regular/college ruled paper, pencils, pens, pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, crayons, yellow highlighters, pencil bags/boxes, erasers, composition notebooks, 1 inch ring binders. **Please place all supplies in the playpen in the foyer.**

**DEADLINE is SUNDAY AUGUST 19. Contact [mpeck07@gmail.com](mailto:mpeck07@gmail.com) or 919-215-2081**

## **Book Club: Thursday, August 23 at 7p**



Join the UBC Book Club to discuss: **Himself** by Jess Kidd.

Abandoned on the steps of an orphanage as an infant, Dublin charmer Mahony assumed all his life that his mother had simply given him up. But when he receives a tip one night at the bar suggesting foul play may have led to the disappearance of his mother, he decides to return to the rural Irish village where he was born to learn what really happened twenty-six years earlier.



Come join us as we  
preview & sing

Advent & Christmas music

**Wednesday, August 29**

**6:45p - Choir Room**

*Serving Christmas Goodies*

*Chancel Choir Rehearsals*

**Resume Wednesday, August 15 @ 6:45p**

**Handbell Ringers** rehearsals start **September 9**

*Please see Craig if you are interested in ringing this fall.*



*Best wishes*

We are excited, yet saddened that our accompanist/organist **Megan Eagan-Jones**, has accepted a position as a musicology professor for the University of Illinois. Please remember her as she travels to begin this new career in Urbana, Illinois. Megan's last Sunday is August 12.

## University Baptist Church

100 South Columbia Street  
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919.942.2157

**"FIND US" ON FACEBOOK**  
**UniversityBaptistCH**

**Website: [www.ubc-ch.org](http://www.ubc-ch.org)**  
**Email: [ubcinfo@ubc-ch.org](mailto:ubcinfo@ubc-ch.org)**

**ONE EVENT - Sunday, September 2**  
**Sanctuary**

**Church Office CLOSED**  
**Monday, September 3**  
**in observance of Labor Day**

## WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS Resume on September 5

**September 5, 12 and 19 - Regular Wednesday schedule**

5:15p Fellowship Time - *Great Hall*

6:00p **Pastor's Bible Study** - *Memorial Chapel*

**Children's Music & Activities** (K - grd. 5) - *Children's Hall*

6:45p Chancel Choir Rehearsal - *Choir Room.*



### Welcome to the World: James Foster Chewning!

Born July 21, weighing 9 lbs, 13 oz. Family is doing great. Congratulations to Meghan and Steven and big brother Trey!

## UBC Ministry Staff

**Mitchell Simpson - Pastor**

*[mitchellsimpson@ubc-ch.org](mailto:mitchellsimpson@ubc-ch.org)*

**Craig McCoy - Minister of Music**

*[craigmccoy@ubc-ch.org](mailto:craigmccoy@ubc-ch.org)*

**Allison James - Director of Children's Ministries**

*[allisonaj@nc.rr.com](mailto:allisonaj@nc.rr.com)*

**Megan Eagen-Jones - Accompanist/Organist**

*[galileo@email.unc.edu](mailto:galileo@email.unc.edu)*

**Jo Ellen Blaine - Financial Assistant**

*[jblaine-finance@ubc-ch.org](mailto:jblaine-finance@ubc-ch.org)*

**Cullen Cornett - Office Administrator**

*[ccornett@ubc-ch.org](mailto:ccornett@ubc-ch.org)*

**Anna Cherry - Youth Ministry Coordinator**

*[cherryanna5@gmail.com](mailto:cherryanna5@gmail.com)*