



December 3, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 48

## Twists & Turns

## ON WATCH

As anyone who emailed me on Monday discovered from my vacation response, I had planned to take a few days away this week. Several months ago, I saw an incredible deal from Iceland Air for a short trip to see the northern lights. Melanie had always dreamed of seeing them, so we decided to wedge a quick trip in between the first and second Sundays in Advent.

On Sunday, we were preparing for our trip, when my brother called. He had some news about our aunt. In a family of seven children, she was the only girl, and she's my father's favorite sister. Every family has someone like my Aunt Jane. She's the person who holds everything together. She knows who is up to what. When Melanie and I were engaged, all we needed to do was tell Aunt Jane, and that side of the family was covered.

We were packing when my brother called to let us know she had been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Earlier on Sunday, my uncle took her to the hospital because she had some inexplicable symptoms. After several tests, they discovered the tumor and will operate today (Tuesday) or Wednesday. Everyone in our family rushed to put Jane at the top of our prayer list.

Since Melanie and I could do nothing by staying in town, we decided to proceed with our trip. We had an uneventful drive to the airport, cleared the TSA checkpoint, enjoyed a nice airport dinner, proceeded to our gate, and waited for our flight. Then, we

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 8, 2024

11:00 AM

**Sermon:**

We Gather for a Reason

Dr. Matthew Tennant

**Scripture:**

Philippians 1:3-11

**Anthems:**

*O Nata Lux* by Sharpe

*Sing We Noel!* by Wetzler

*The Journey* by Lole

## SUNDAY SERVICE

**Deacon:** Michelle Proffitt

**Ushers:** Jen May, Ed Barker

**College Dinner:** Click [here](#) to sign up to provide a dinner for our College students.



Join us for our Holiday Lights Tour and a bus ride around town on Friday, December 20, 6:00-8:00, as we

enjoy the lights of the holiday season. Seats are limited. Watch for more details and to reserve your spot on the bus. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30.

heard an announcement, "Would the following passenger, Matthew Tennant, please report to the gate agent?"

I went to the counter. The agent told me that even though my passport does not expire for two and a half more months, no one can fly to the EU if their passport is within three months of expiration. He called his supervisor. The voice on the other end of the phone said, "No! He cannot fly!"

That was it. Our trip was over. At that moment, I had a choice. I realized the choice facing me. I could get mad—which wouldn't have changed anything. I could yell—that could get me kicked out of the airport. Or I could practice what I have been saying from the pulpit. I could empathize with the gate agent. He didn't make the rules. I was the dummy who didn't know the EU rules. It wasn't his fault, and he was very nice.

I asked the agent what I could do and followed his instructions. We drove home disappointed, but we reminded ourselves to be thankful for everything we have.

Canceled trips are a bummer, yet in the grand scheme of things, a canceled trip is nothing. Each day is a gift. We don't know what will happen with my Aunt Jane's tumor. She's at a world class hospital, getting the best care available, and she has a lot of people praying for her.

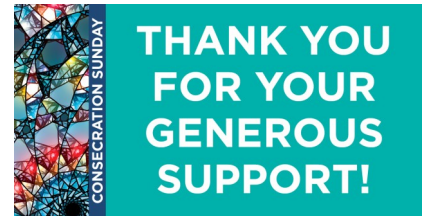
Who knows what the future will bring? No matter what happens, try to maintain perspective and thank God for everything good.

Peace,  
Matt

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### Advent Devotions

Matt is sending out Advent Devotions again this year. If you want to receive these daily devotions by email, please let the [office](#) know.



### Consecration Sunday Final Report

1. 80 giving units (couples or single persons) completed pledge cards committing a total of \$563,572.36 for the next 12 months.
2. Adding the expected giving of our other regular givers and non-donor sources (like parking income), we project our total church budget income over the next 12 months to be \$675,812.48.
3. Our total church budget income over the *past* 12 months was \$573,927.49.
4. This represents an increase in our total church budget income of \$101,884.99 (17.8%).

SPECIAL THANKS to the church staff and to the more than 50 other members who helped with this stewardship program!

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### CALENDAR

#### WEDNESDAY, December 4

- 9:00 Work Team
- 10:00 PBJ Bible Study
- 5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
- 6:00 UBCKids Choir
- 6:00 Table Fellowship
- 6:15 Christmas Shoppe
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

#### SUNDAY, December 8

- 8:30 JARC Meeting
- 9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
- 9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
- 11:00 Morning Worship
- 12:00 College Bagel Brunch

#### TUESDAY, December 10

- 11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle Meeting
- 12:00 CBFVA Peer Learning Group
- 7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

## Qualified Charitable Distributions

Are you familiar with Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)? A QCD might reduce the taxes you owe while helping your church. Here's how it works.

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are over 73, you are required to take a distribution from that IRA each year based on the value at the end of the previous year and your age. This is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), and generally the distribution is fully taxed as ordinary income. The form of the distribution may be in cash or securities.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian to a qualified charity. This direct transfer can be in cash or securities, and it counts toward satisfying your RMD for the year. A QCD reduces your taxable income by the amount of such distribution since it is not included in your income.

Charitable giving is not about taxes. However, the tax benefit from a QCD encourages charitable giving and could enable you to give more money to what you love. With the recent increase in the Standard Deduction, many taxpayers will find that charitable donations no longer have any tax benefit. A QCD can restore some significant tax benefits for charitable donations.



### Children's Christmas Shoppe Mark Your Calendars! Wednesday, December 4

We will have our usual Wednesday night dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

Children will begin with a short UBCKids Choir rehearsal in the Children's Suite and then have the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their family members, which can be purchased for \$.50 each. All proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund. There will also be fun Christmas-themed activities for the children and a chance to wrap their gifts.

**Donations needed:** If you have small "treasures" that you would like to contribute, please drop them off in the church office or in the preschool department.

## 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

Brian Mulcahy on the loss of his mother, Heide

Paula Price on the loss of her husband, Claude

Kaylee Risell

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

**Dec. 11:** Jack Wilkerson

**Dec. 12:** Arlyn Burgess

**Dec. 13:** Jess Pinto

## Because Presence Matters CBF Offering for Global Missions

At the forefront of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's missionary movement, Baptists have been forming together for more than two centuries to make disciples of all nations. The Fellowship supports long-term field personnel serving in 25 countries, 50 Student-Go interns and hundreds of short-term mission teams annually. [Click here](#) to discover more about the CBF work around the world.



Gennady and Mina Podgaisky, field personnel, served in Kyiv, Ukraine for nearly 20 years. They were home on leave in North Carolina on February 24,

2022, when Russia declared war on Ukraine. The Podgaiskys were finally able to relocate to Kraków, Poland in May of 2024, where they continue to aid Ukrainian populations under distress from war.

The situation in Ukraine is critical. Because of the destruction of electrical power plants in Ukraine, there are regular electricity shortages each day in Kyiv and many other regions of Ukraine. The Podgaiskys provide funds for utilities, firewood, water, food, and medical supplies. They help churches with local and regional outreaches, and children and youth camps. They continue to provide psychological, emotional, and spiritual help.

Your generosity in support of the CBF Global Missions Offering and their mission programs will help and transform lives. From December 1 to December 31, we are collecting donations for the Offering for Global Missions. 100% of your gifts will support the long-term presence of CBF field personnel serving around the world. The CBF offering goal this year is \$4 million, which covers the costs for current field personnel and their families to live full and healthy lives in their place of service, including salary, benefits, housing, and children's educational needs. Our goal here at UBC is to contribute \$3,000 toward the larger CBF goal.

*Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ~Isaiah 43:19*



## Looking for a way to serve University Baptist Church!

**Be an Usher!** Ushering is a great way to serve the church. You are one of the first people someone sees, when they come into the church. A warm welcome from you will mean so much to members and visitors.

We are in need of more people to do this important job. If you are willing to serve as an usher or would like to know more, contact [Shirley Clark](#).



**Hey UBCYouth, after our Family Christmas Lights Tour, stay at church ALL NIGHT LONG!!!**

December 20-21 is the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. Let's spend it at church! Bring your comfy jammies and a sleeping bag or blanket. After we explore our church building and play some games, we'll settle in with snacks for a holiday movie marathon on the sofas in the Youth Room. When the sun comes up, we'll have breakfast together before we go our separate ways. There is no cost for this event. Friends are welcome! Share this link so they can sign up. [UBCYouth: Longest Night Lock-In](#)



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 homelessness, division in the community, and much more. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).



## Global Missions Christmas Post Office

The Christmas Post Office for Global Missions is open for "business", sponsored by the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle. This is a way for you to exchange Christmas greetings with other church members and regular attendees without even knowing their mailing address and to support Global Missions at the same time. The "Post Office" box is located on a table in the first-floor lobby outside the Church Office.

### Instructions:

- Write the names of the recipients on your cards and place them in the appropriate alphabet slots. [Please include first names as we have multiple families with the same last name (e.g. Martin, Moore)].
- Deposit \$.73 per card (or round up for any additional contribution) into the container on the table or give it to any Kittie Colvin Trail Circle member.
- Please do not include cards for people who do not attend regularly or have moved away.
- Pick up any cards addressed to you or your family. Please do not remove any cards except your own.
- Do not place cards in the box after Sunday, December 24.

ALL proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions

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In this series of Word articles, [Elizabeth Dowdy](#) explains what *Worship+Wonder* is and how it is teaching our children to engage the parts of our worship services.

We are taking a break this week but check back next week for the next installment!



Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, December 4 for dinner at 5:30 and then beginning at 6:00, we will have a time for table fellowship while the children are having fun at UBCKids Choir and the Christmas Shoppe.

Childcare is always available.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Our menu will be:

*Pan Seared Cauliflower Steaks with Brown Butter, Golden Raisins, and Toasted Pine Nuts*  
*Cannellini Bean Cassoulet*  
*Roasted Balsamic Mushrooms*  
*Mixed Green Salad*  
*Brownies*

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

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## Christmas Poinsettias



This Christmas we will be decorating our Sanctuary with an abundance of poinsettias. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please complete an order form. You can find a form in the narthex or the church office.

## Staff Contact Information:

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

Associate Minister for Music and College Students - Megan Sharp - megan@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*  
1223 West Main Street  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
434-293-5106

Connect with us

