



January 7, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 1

**Finding
Your Star**

WATCH

On Sunday, as part of communion, we invited each person to pick a paper star from a basket. On one side of the stars, there was a word. Each one was different. Without listing a sample of the possible words, imagine fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) or positive characteristics. Our Old Testament lesson came from Isaiah 60:1, “Arise, shine, for your light has come.” The “star words” are a chance for us to take the light we’ve received and shine it forth for other people.

We encouraged everyone to keep their stars, take them home, and put them someplace prominent. Throughout 2025, these little “star words” could serve as a reminder of God’s voice. They are an opportunity to engage with God throughout the year and then reflect on what this engagement meant at the end of the year. On December 28, 2025, the focus of our worship service will be reflecting on the “star words.”

If you write in a journal, I encourage you to write about your experience with your “star word.” In the coming months, keep track of how this word speaks to you in different ways. The Spirit might use the word to prompt one thought on one day and another on another day. It will be interesting to see how we change and our relationship to our word changes throughout 2025. Then, on December 28, we can share what we’ve experienced.

For me, this will be a spiritual practice. The word I randomly picked up was striking and will require

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 12, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

The Water Speaks
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Psalms 29

Anthem:

Wade in the Water
arr. Schultz-Kokerbeck

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Tom & Sylvie Moore

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

further reflection ([see here](#)). Although these are not meant to be a secret, I plan on sharing my word with you at the end of the year.

If you didn't get a chance to pick up a "star word" or missed worship on Sunday, we will have the baskets available in the office for the next week or so. Come by, grab the first star you see, and listen to what God says through this word. Encourage others to get one, too. It's a fascinating congregational exercise to imagine what we will find as a church family when we go through this together.

I can't wait to hear your testimonies when we share our experiences with the "star words" in December.

Peace,
Matt

P.S. Come to the Wednesday program this week to explore "Creating a Spiritual Plan for the Year." We will have a basket of "star words" for anyone who doesn't have one.



Flowers Bring Great Joy!

If you would like to dedicate flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, please contact [Linda](#)

[in the Church Office](#) to reserve your specific date to have flowers placed in the Sanctuary during worship.

Available Sundays in 2025 include **January 19, 26; February 2, 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23 and April 6, 27.**

Also, if you delight in working with flowers and enjoy the beauty they provide during UBC worship services, consider joining the Floral Team. We can always use more workers.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, January 8

9:00 Work Team
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Wednesday Night Program
6:00 UBCKids Choir
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, January 9

1:30 Personnel Committee Meeting
7:00 Deacons' Meeting

SUNDAY, January 12

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting 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, January 14

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

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



Save the Date: UBC's 125th Anniversary Celebration

This year, University Baptist Church celebrates 125 years of ministry and service in Charlottesville and beyond!

Join us for a special
Anniversary Celebration Weekend
on October 11-12, 2025.

- Saturday, October 11: Banquet celebrating our history and looking to the future.
- Sunday, October 12: Worship celebration giving thanks for God's faithfulness.

We're inviting former ministers and members to join us and may need your help gathering contact information. Please share any details with the church office. Mark your calendars and pray with us as we honor our past and look forward to the future!



PACEM at UBC Begins Soon!

On Saturday, January 25, at 8:00 am, we will begin our two weeks of offering shelter and food to people in our area without

homes. We will host approximately 40 people each night by providing them with a warm meal and a safe place to sleep.

We need your help! Below are links to the forms you can use to sign up to help set up the Fellowship Hall, donate (snacks, breakfast items, or gift cards), wash towels, or help clean up the Fellowship Hall.

[Breakfast/snack donations sign up](#)

[Volunteer opportunities sign up](#) (laundry, cot set up and take down)

Additionally, we will be collecting donations of:

Toothbrushes (individual, no multi-packs)

Toothpaste (travel size)

Tissues (travel packs)

Lip balm

Shaving cream (travel size)

Razors

Hand lotion (travel size)

Combs

Deodorant

Foot powder

Reading glasses

Mints

Cough drops

Journals/notebooks

Heavy, dark socks (adult men)

Hand warmers

Winter hats

Underwear (men's L, XL, or 2XL)

Plain white T-shirts (men's L, XL, or 2XL)

Washcloths

New or gently used adult sized backpacks or duffel bags

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

David & Linda Hendon

Edith Parker

Kaylee Risell

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, January 8 for dinner at 5:30 and then beginning at 6:00, we'll discuss *Creating a Spiritual Plan for the Year*.

Childcare is always available.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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

If you'd like to learn more about the work PACEM does in Charlottesville, click the link below.

<https://pacemshelter.org>

Thank you for your generosity as we care for and love our neighbors.

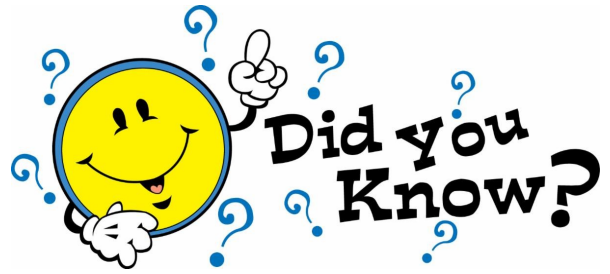
Any questions? Please reach out to [Laura Morris](#), [Katherine Hamel](#), or [Jennifer Wagoner](#)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

- Jan. 3:** Peter Ohlms
- Jan. 4:** Jennifer Wagoner
- Jan. 5:** Paula Price
- Jan. 6:** Thomas Hill, Joanna Sivley
- Jan. 7:** Sylvie Moore
- Jan. 9:** Ruth Key
- Jan. 10:** Jake Mulcahy, Fin Mulcahy
- Jan. 12:** Thomas Bibb, Alden Pinkham
- Jan. 15:** Eric Devairakkam
- Jan. 16:** Katherine Hamel
- Jan. 17:** Emily Haislip, Erin Brown
- Jan. 18:** Tom Moore, Marvin Key
- Jan. 21:** Larry Martin



Every day of the year, The Haven provides a refuge, a place where anyone in a housing crisis can come to find the support and resources they need to survive and exit their crisis.

At 6:45 people arrive to take a hot shower and do their laundry, and then at 7:30 they can sit down to enjoy a hot meal, company, and conversation.

After breakfast, some head off to work, while others stretch out on a couch in the living room to catch up on some rest. A volunteer hands out socks, underwear, toothbrushes, hand lotion, and shaving cream.

At 10:00 another volunteer is taking a group of guests to the DMV to get new IDs and birth certificates, essential items to secure housing and employment.

At 1:00 a mobile medical clinic brings doctors and medical students to provide on-site care, and at 3:00 housing advocates are hard at work gathering information from a community member whose eviction is approaching and talking with a property manager, finalizing a lease agreement.

Did you know that every other Thursday volunteers from UBC take any leftover food from our Wednesday night dinners and donate it to The Haven!

This is just one way that we, often behind the scenes, are ministering to our community.

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

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

