



December 17, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 50

We traditionally do not publish *The Word* the week between Christmas and New Year's. With Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve falling on a Tuesday, our next edition will be January 7.

Death and
Violence
in Advent

ON WATCH

Advent is the coming or arrival of something. In this case, we celebrate God-incarnate coming into the world. We have the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. We read prophecies about God's future promises, including ones about the lion and the lamb lying peacefully together.

On Monday, December 16, 2024, in Madison, WI, there was another school shooting. Three people died and others suffered injuries. Police said the student who opened fire was among the dead. Why did this happen? Although news reports offer more details than I will here, the truth is we don't know why this happened. We know that this kind of violence is preventable, but we cannot say why it happened or why we-the-people are unable (or unwilling) to take the necessary steps to prevent future gun violence.

Advent means that we don't have to settle for what is. We can seek what can be, and we can work for it. God is at work today, in us, and through us. Right now, there are some hurting people in Wisconsin. If anyone, through social or familial networks has a way to be of comfort to the people in Madison who are in pain, then do so. If not, pray for them.

As Christ-followers celebrating an Advent of expectation, we can do something right here and right

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 22, 2024

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Extravagant Obedience

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Hebrews 10:5-10

Anthem:

Midnight Clear

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

5:00 PM

This is a service designed for the whole family!

Sermon:

Christmas Eve Homily

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 2:1-14

Anthem:

Angels We Have Heard on High
and *Star Carol*

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Peter Ohlms

Ushers: Ian Pallini, Charlotte Bailey

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

now. We can look around and ask God to open our eyes. When we see who is in pain right here, our calling is to look for opportunities to be God's hands and feet. Be comforters. Be helpers. Be present, listen, offer hope, and never forget that the story isn't over yet.

We live in a troubled world. There will always be people in pain (Matthew 26:11). However, they don't have to stay that way. Sometimes we can help. It might be with a hug, kind word, or listening ear. Only God knows the ways you can alleviate the pain of the people in your orbit. It's up to us to be open to the nudge of the Holy Spirit and to act when given the opportunity.

Peace,
Matt



Thank You Will Cooke!



Will has been directing Jubilate, our auditioned college choir at UBC, since 2021, leading them through the pandemic and then through a rebuilding stage while also

directing Voces Laetae and managing his full-time job as Choral Director at Charlottesville High School.

Will has handed the baton for Jubilate over to Megan Sharp, our Associate Minister for Music & College Students. However, we are not saying goodbye to Will. He will still be directing Voces Laetae, our community youth choir for middle school and high school students.

Please take a moment to thank Will for his ministry with Jubilate and his continued ministry with Voces Laetae.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Deacon: Laura Morris

Ushers: Shirley Clark, Ed Barker

Rehearsal-Free Christmas Pageant

This Sunday, December 22, we will once again participate as a whole church in a rehearsal-free Christmas pageant. There will be a lot of singing featuring our UBCKids Choir, lots of movement as different participants come to join the manger scene on the platform, and lots of opportunity for us to reflect on the significance of Jesus coming to live alongside of us, fully God and fully human. We look forward to having you here this Sunday, sharing in the joy of this experience at UBC.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 18

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Service of Remembrance
6:00 UBCKids Choir
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, December 20

6:00 Christmas Lights Tour
8:00 Youth Christmas Lock-in

SUNDAY, December 22

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, December 23

12:30 Missions Council Meeting

TUESDAY, December 24

Church Office Closed
5:00 Christmas Eve Worship Service

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.



Tomorrow evening at 6:00, we will take time for a Service of Remembrance in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a time to worship in scripture, prayer, and song and to light a candle in celebration and remembrance of a loved one's life or as a token of your prayers for a person or group struggling under the threat of mortal illness or danger.

Join us tomorrow, after our Wednesday night dinner, for a meaningful time of worship.

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, December 18 for dinner at 5:30 and then beginning at 6:00, we will have the Service of Remembrance in the Fellowship Hall while the children attend UBCKids Choir.

Childcare is always available.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Our menu will be:

*Pan Seared Herb Chicken Breast
Butternut Squash and Mushroom Risotto
Crusty Bread
Mixed Green Salad
Caramel Tres Leches Bar*

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

Empowering Lives at the Crossroads CBF Offering for Global Missions

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship announced this past spring a new position to strengthen and support CBF Global Missions' commitments to cultivate community, bear witness to Jesus Christ, and seek transformational development in the context of global migration.



Elket Rodriguez and his wife, Yesenia, are Puerto Rico natives who were displaced to the U.S. mainland in the wake of 2017 Hurricane Maria. Although not

technically migrants (Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory), they appreciate the cataclysmic change affiliated with uprooting family and relocating in a strange culture far from home. They are serving in Harlingen, Texas, on the eastern border between the United States and Mexico. In May Elket was appointed as CBF's global migration advocate.

His heart overflows with compassion for vulnerable people. In Puerto Rico he was a family and government attorney. Since coming to the states he has become an immigration attorney with a passion for assisting migrants in becoming U.S. citizens through the proper protocol.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Dec. 26: Bryan Parsons

Dec. 27: Cindy Bryant, Margie Howell, Jocelyn Brumbaugh

Dec. 29: Renfro Manning



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](#)



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. Sign up [here](#) (or call the church office) to reserve your spot on the bus. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall between 5:30-5:45.

To learn more about CBF Global Missions click on the following short videos.

[Overview](#)

[Global Water Poverty](#)

[Droughts in West Africa](#)



In this final article of the series, [Elizabeth Dowdy](#) wraps up her explanation of what *Worship+Wonder* is and how it helps children learn to worship.

Through story and practice, eight grade-school children at UBC have been learning to worship this fall. They have practiced how to Gather together and settle themselves. They have learned about Praising God through the Church Year. They have been invited into a practice of Prayer and seeking Forgiveness. They have listened to and wondered about God's Word. They have been challenged to Give of themselves in response to what they have heard. There is one more practice they have been learning that completes their worship education for this season of *Worship+Wonder*. What grownups call communion, in *W+W*, we call Feast.

Feast is part of responding to God's Word; it is responding by receiving. On each first Sunday of a new month, the children eagerly retell what they have learned about the story of Jesus' last feast with his disciples. Then they serve each other communion. They receive the bread from one friend, then offer the bread to another. They dip their bread in the cup while it is held by their neighbor, then they hold the cup for their other neighbor to dip theirs.

When the children wonder how it is possible to "feast" on small cubes of bread and drips of juice, I invite them to think about what *is* abundant in our gathering. Sometimes silliness is plentiful! Giggling, wiggling, wonder, curiosity, and storytelling often bubble over in our gathering. Yesterday, there was an impromptu appreciation of snowflakes outside our windows. As one wonderer suggested, whenever we gather, we feast on God's love for us.



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 attenders 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

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.

Lately, we have transitioned from worship preparation and parable to hearing the Advent story. This coming Fourth Sunday of Advent, *Worship+Wonder* will spill out into the sanctuary into our annual No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant. The children will stay through the service, playing important roles in the story we will all tell with our bodies, our costumes, and our carols.

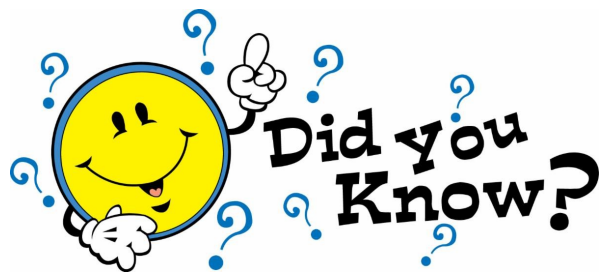
There will be one more item for the children to put into their worship bags when *Worship+Wonder* resumes in the new year. The children will put together all the pieces of worship into a new circle, The Circle of Our Worship. With a set of cards on a ring, they will be able to follow along with the grownups in worship whenever *W+W* does not meet...or they outgrow it.

As for *Worship+Wonder*, it will continue to teach the children about the seasons of the church year and the important stories it tells, all the way through Pentecost, before breaking for the summer. In this season of gratitude, I want to give my heartfelt thanks to the wonderful volunteers who have worshiped and wondered with us this fall and invite others to join this special serving team. I am excited about what *Worship+Wonder* will look like in the months and years to come.



Voces Laetae Concert

Join us tonight, Tuesday, December 17, in the Music Suite for our Voces Laetae concert beginning at 7:30. Come and support our youth choir directed by Will Cooke.



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

