



December 03, 2019 Vol. 71, No. 48

Finding Grace During Advent

ONWATCH

The Advent/Christmas season is a busy time. It seems like no one can escape the business of the season. Whether one's schedule is filled with the ever-increasing number of holiday specials, visits with family, or parties and concerts are the culprit, there's always something to do during Advent. Consumerism keeps finding clever ways to combat living simply and being content with all we have. With so many activities and marketers vying for our time, finding God's grace during the season can be a challenge.

Don't get me wrong. This is, as the song goes, the most wonderful time of the year. The parties are wonderful. I was talking to a neighbor the other day, and we agreed that we do not have to limit seeing one another to our annual neighborhood Christmas party. Yet, these parties are when we *do* see some people. The Christmas and Holiday concerts are fantastic. Recently, I saw the jazz legend Bela Fleck and the Flecktones in concert, and during the second set, they played some Christmas tunes. If you wonder how a jazz legend approaches Christmas music, imagine "The 12 Days of Christmas" in 12 keys and 12 time signatures—one for each day. It was amazing!

This time of the year brings excitement and wonder. With so much happening, how can we find the peace of Christ and God's grace in it all? First, look for it. Inviting neighbors to a party was a joy-filled experience of seeing the people who live near me. Yes, some were curt. Yes, some were not home. Yes, not every conversation is life-giving. However, I can choose to focus on the one that was. That conversation, the one that was really rich, is the moment of grace.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

December 08, 2019
11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Glimpsing a New Kingdom"
Rev. Will Brown

Scripture:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Anthem:

Jubilate Lessons and Carols

Deacons: Debby Johnson, Jim Moore, Laura Morris, Ray Gaines, Laura Martindale, Larry Johnson

Children's Church: Cindy Bryant, Trip Kauffmann

Ushers for December: Cindy Bryant, Shelly Miller, Lily Pallini, Ronda Wiley, Barry Willard

Greeters: Jim Hallissy, Jackie Lockwood, Pam Hallissy

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 03

9:00 Work Team
7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 04

5:15 Church Dinner
5:45 Service of Remembrance
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Practice

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 08

9:30 Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Bible Study
9:45 ESOL Class
11:00 Morning Worship
1:00 A Quiet Place To Study
6:00 Youth Real Life
7:15 Youth Advent Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 09

10:30 Rosewood Bible Study
1:00 A Quiet Place To Study

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00 Work Team
1:00 A Quiet Place To Study
1:00 Annie Armstrong Circle
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

1:00 A Quiet Place To Study
5:00 Kids Pizza Dinner
5:45 Children's Christmas Shop
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Practice

Second, take time for your devotional life. Find a good Advent devotional. The Alliance of Baptists has published an Advent devotional called "Bringing Justice into the World" and it is available [here](#) to download, or you can pick up a printed version in the church office. There are also apps, like [d365.org](#) with its Advent devotional called "Following the Star."

Third, pray. Every season is a good season to pray, but having a set period for a devotional goal can make it achievable. Saying, "I'm going to start praying more," is not as clear as saying, "I will pray each day during Advent." Or, "I will spend 5 minutes in silence, listening for God, during Advent." Making prayer central to Advent will reveal the peace of Christ and God's grace.

There are many ways to find a little more grace this season. Making an effort to look for it will yield fruitful spiritual growth. And, it might make the season a little more meaningful. I pray it does.

Peace,
Matt

Church Wide Open House

You are invited to an Open House at the Tennants (945 Raymond Rd). on **Sunday, December 15, 2-5pm**. Drop in! Eat a bite! But please remember parking is limited, so do carpools if possible. We hope to see as many folks as possible.



Melanie, Matt, Dean, & Eddy

💖 Thank you for building repairing team! 💖

The flooring replacement on the 2nd floor is coming to a conclusion. Thanks to our contractors and to Ed Smith for managing this project. The work team and contractor will finish some final trim work over the December.

Service of Remembrance - This Wednesday, December 4

As we move into the holiday season, many carry with us significant grief, which feels out of place amid the joyful Christmas music and holiday activities. Our annual Service of Remembrance is an opportunity to pause from the hustle and bustle of December, to remember those we have lost, to light a candle and reflect on the deeper meaning and hope of this season. **All are welcome to join us for this service at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall, following our dinner at 5:15.**

Youth Worship Service - Final Real Life meeting of the semester

This Sunday night, our youth group will have its final Real Life meeting of the semester. As part of this meeting, we will have a small, informal Advent service based on the theme, "Darkness and Light." While the service will be primarily youth and their families, anyone is welcome to join us at 7:15 in the Fellowship Hall.

Children's Christmas Shop and Fun Night

- **Wednesday, December 11**
- Pizza dinner at 5:00, followed by Christmas activities beginning at 5:45
- Christmas Shop Gifts for family members can be purchased for 50¢ each. Youth will help children select and wrap each gift. All proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund.
- Fun Christmas-themed activities for children and their families



For Kids and Families: December Family Events

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We have a number of exciting family events coming up. Check them out, mark your calendars, and pass this along to friends and family who might want to join!

Sunday, December 8, 11:00am: Christmas Pageant! We will meet in the children's suite to practice on December 1 and 8 at 9:45am. 12/8 is also Second Sunday Fun Day for 3rd-7th graders, so plan to stick around for worship and enjoy some holiday fun after the pageant.

Wednesday, December 11, 5pm: Christmas Shop and Fun Night! Join us in the fellowship hall for dinner at 5pm, and then we'll head upstairs around 5:45 for Christmas activities, treats, and a chance for kids to shop for treasures to gift on Christmas morning.

Saturday, December 14, 5:15pm: Holiday Lights Tour! Peter Ohlms has once again volunteered to be our bus driver extraordinaire for this fun tradition! The tour is free but slots are limited, so sign up soon [here!](#)

Sunday December 15: Last Day to turn in Christmas Dinner in a Bag, a family-friendly holiday food drive. Assemble the following items, and bring them to the stage in the fellowship hall: 1 box stove-top stuffing mix, 1 box instant potatoes, 1 jar gravy, 1 large can sweet potatoes, 1 large can green beans, 1 can cranberry sauce, 1 box Jiffy pie crust mix, 1 can pie filling.

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service! This is not a specifically kid-oriented service, but all are welcome! We will have a children's sermon and plenty of activities to help the kids engage with the service.

We still need volunteers for AQPTS!

We still need volunteers for staffing AQPTS on Dec 13, 14 and 15th.

Please support our Wahoos!

You can sign up for one or both of these opportunities online by visiting our website: <https://universitybaptist.org/connect/volunteering-at-ubc/>

Dedicate a Poinsettia in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church sanctuary for Christmas, in memory or in honor of a loved one, call the church office with the names of those you will be honoring. Then send a check for **\$10 per plant** payable to UBC or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. Place your poinsettia order by Monday, December 9. You may take your poinsettia home at the close of the Christmas Eve service.

Global Missions Christmas Post Office

The Christmas Post Office for Global Missions, sponsored by the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle, opens Sunday, December 1. This is a way for you to exchange Christmas greetings with other church members and regular attenders and to support Global Missions. The "Post Office" box is located on a table in the first floor lobby.



- Write the names of the recipients on your cards and place them in the appropriate alphabet slots.
- Deposit 55¢ per card (and any additional contribution) into the container on the table, or give it to any Kittie Colvin Trail Circle member.
- If you are sending cards to members who are shut-ins or who might not be here in December, please write the address on the card so we can deliver it after Christmas.
- Pick up any cards addressed to you or your family. Please do not remove any cards but your own.
- Do not place cards in the box after Tuesday, December 24.
- Please do not include cards for members who do not attend regularly or have moved away.

ALL proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund.

Christmas Dinner in a Bag

- Put all items in a paper or reusable fabric grocery bag and place them on the Fellowship Hall stage by Sunday, December 15.
- The WMU will add a \$15 Food Lion gift card for turkey or ham.
- The bags will be delivered to Love INC to be distributed to needy families for Christmas.
- If you can't do the shopping, we welcome donations for the gift cards.
- Make checks payable to UBC and earmark them for "Christmas Dinner in a Bag."
- **The food item list**



1 box stove-top stuffing mix / 1 box instant potatoes
1 jar gravy / 1 large can sweet potatoes
1 large can green beans / 1 can cranberry sauce
1 box Jiffy pie crust mix / 1 can pie filling

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Connect with us

