

# THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

December 10, 2019 Vol. 71, No. 49

## What is the 'love' in Advent?

## ONWATCH

Advent is the season of expectant waiting. We get ready for Christmas during Advent. We look ahead. We anticipate Christ coming into the world. During the four weeks of Advent, there is a theme for each week. The order of the themes varies a little from church to church, but they include hope, love, joy, and peace. What is the 'love' in Advent?

We read in 1 John 4.16b, "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them." If God is love, then the God incarnate is love incarnate. Paul Tillich writes, "God and love are not two realities; they are one." The love we recognize during Advent is the love that is God.

This love-that-is-God is distinguishable from some of the colloquial uses of the word "love" in the twenty-first century. Someone might say, "I love pizza," or "I love sailing." To be clear, those who *love* pizza or sailing or books or a particular movie mean, "This is satisfying," or "I really like this or that." Love goes beyond these informal affinities for everyday items or activities. That is, love-that-is-God means giving oneself completely in the sense of John 3.16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

The love of Advent goes beyond this world. It goes beyond gifts, parties, celebrations, decorations, and everything associated with this season. It also goes beyond the concerns of life that continue through this season and beyond. The love of Advent transcends daily worries, the over-charged credit card bills that come in the new year, partisan politics, pain, disease, school, work, and every human hurt. God is love and God is with us (Matthew 1.23).

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

December 15, 2019  
11:00 AM

### Sermon:

"Joy in the Coming Christ Child"  
Dr. Matthew Tennant

### Scripture:

Isaiah 35:1-10

### Anthem:

"Rejoice"  
*arr. Walker*

"The Seven Joys of Christmas"  
*arr. Meechum*

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**Deacons:** Debra Bryant, Martha Ballenger, Herman Eaker, Alan Hendricks, Johnny Ellen, Raynell Stokes

**Children's Church:** Amanda Ohlms, Matteo Pallini

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

**Greeters:** Peter Ohlms, Charlotte Bailey

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## CALENDAR

### 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

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

1:00 A Quiet Place To Study

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

1:00 A Quiet Place To Study

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

1:00 A Quiet Place To Study  
5:30 Holiday Lights Tour

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting  
9:30 Seekers Class  
9:45 Sunday Bible Study  
9:45 ESOL Class  
11:00 Morning Worship  
1:00 A Quiet Place To Study  
2:00 Open House at the Tennants  
5:00 Youth Christmas Party

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:30 Rosewood Bible Study  
12:00 Missions Council Meeting

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 Work Team  
5:00 Staff Christmas Party

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:30 Sanctuary Choir Practice

During this Advent season, it would be easy to let each of the themes pass by quickly. Each one can feel like a brief stop on our way to Christmas. The challenge is to pause and reflect on what the Advent themes mean. Beginning this Advent season, let the Love-that-is-God both carry you and shine through you.

Peace,  
Matt

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### 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



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### 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

### Church Council Recap

At its meeting on Sunday, Church Council discussed the next steps for implementing the recommendations of the Collegiate Ministry Task Force. The Personnel and Finance Committees continue their work in determining the financial costs and feasibility of hiring a minister to focus on collegiate ministry. Church Council also discussed a number of topics, including the process for purchasing new hymnals, the implementation of the UBC Park design contest, the possibility of hosting a preschool, and various other committee and task force reports.

## CBF's Youth Winter Summit is coming to UBC!

UBC will be hosting several hundred youth with CBF MLK weekend (2020.) We will need volunteers to act as building hosts and support the meal teams during the weekend. **We are looking for 4 volunteers, Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 5-10 PM. And teams of two around meal times Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday morning 7:30-9:30 AM.** More information to come! If you are interested in helping this weekend please contact Pheobe at [pbrown@universitybaptist.org](mailto:pbrown@universitybaptist.org)

### Plastic Grocery Bags Needed

Have a stockpile of plastic grocery bags waiting for a good use? We would love to have them for the Venable food bags we prepare each week. (We used to use paper bags, but now we are using plastic bags so that the food can be discreetly placed in students' backpacks.) Thanks!

### 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!

**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.

### End of Year Giving

Your offerings this year have built on the successful ministry God has created at UBC. Please prayerfully consider making an extra year-end gift to the church to set the stage for God's work in the future. All contributions need to be post-marked by December 31 to be included in the 2019 contributions statements.



## 2020 Offering Envelopes

If you need customized 2020 offering envelopes printed with your name, please contact Jane at [jkim@universitybaptist.org](mailto:jkim@universitybaptist.org)

## Pledges for 2020

You can still send a pledge card to the church office by mail or put it in the offering plate on Sunday.

## Hymnals for Review

Several copies of the hymnal *Glory to God* are available in the church office and the lobby area. This is the hymnal we are considering purchasing for the church. Please take a few minutes to peruse the hymnal and let the staff know any feedback.

## 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.

## Do you know about "AmazonSmile"?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support UBC every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to University Baptist Church if you select UBC as your favorite charitable organization.

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