

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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God is Calling You

Each person who accepts God's free gift of grace and enters a relationship with Jesus has a calling. Sometimes, we frame a 'calling' as something exclusive to ministers or deacons. But, Jesus invited everyone to be part of the kingdom of God. As members of this divine kingdom, we each have a part to play.

Next week is Thanksgiving. Immediately after, we begin the season of Advent and get ready to celebrate Christmas. This year, these holidays will be different. Nationally, the number of people who test positive for COVID-19 is increasing. Locally, the rates are a bit more promising. Yet, we are still safer by remaining apart from one another. At holidays, this is especially difficult.

Instead of succumbing to the sad reality of being apart, we can approach the season in a new way. We can let our lives speak and articulate God's calling to each of us. Thanksgiving and Christmas will be different this year. Accept that reality now and decide how you will approach it. It would be easy to be blue because we cannot do what we normally do to celebrate.

Still, from Jesus' birth in a barn instead of a posh birthing center, he never took the easy path. This year is no different. It won't be easy to remain apart. Following Jesus means reexamining how we celebrate. Staying apart is an act of love for other people. It communicates that we care about flattening the curve and stopping the spread of this deadly virus.

As we remain apart, we can explore our calling. Before we can, though, we must recognize that God calls us. If we don't believe God calls everyone, then we provide an easy out to ignore the divine nudge to some task or work.

ON WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

November 22, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Who's in Charge?"
Rev. Will Brown

Scripture:

Matthew 25:31-46

Anthem:

"Thanksgiving"
(Beck)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, November 18
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (*Zoom*)

THURSDAY, November 19
1:00 Lectio Divina (*Zoom*)

SUNDAY, November 22
8:30 Missions Council Meeting
(*Zoom*)
9:40 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
(*radio and livestream*)

MONDAY, November 23
8:30 Morning Prayer (*Facebook Live*)

God calls everyone. There is something for each one of us to do, and every calling is great when pursued for God's glory. After accepting the fact that being in a relationship with Christ means receiving a call from God, the next step is discerning that call.

Just as each of us are unique, our callings are all unique. Even the holy calling to ministry is different among ministers. All ministers have distinct gifts and specific callings. In our church, the ministers work to utilize our different gifts so that we can be more than the sum of our parts. The same process applies to every follower of Christ.

You are special. You have gifts. You can brighten the world. God is calling you. The next step is up to you.

What is God calling you to do? This holiday season, take some time to consider your calling and how you are answering it. Are you doing everything God has called you to do? Is it time for a change? Will it be hard? (Hint: Yes!) Will it be worth it? (Hint: Absolutely!) Follow God's call and have a glorious holiday season.

Peace,
Matt

State Missions Offering

Each fall we collect a special offering to support missions in the state of Virginia. This September, our missions emphasis was to support the chaplain ministry at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. Our goal was \$3,000. This year we raised a total of \$2,825.

2021 Pledge Cards have been mailed out.

The pledge cards for 2021 were mailed out last week. We're looking into 2021 at University Baptist Church, and your contributions are critical to support God's mission here and abroad. We are deeply grateful for the ways you participate in the life of the church!

Lila Marshall Birthday Parade

Lila Marshall turns 100 on Thursday, November 19th. Her daughter Jane would like to have a birthday parade on **Sunday, November 22nd, at 1:00** in the afternoon. We will meet at Kohl's parking lot off 29 North, organize our cars, and then proceed to Rosewood Village Hollymead for the parade. If you are planning to come, please email Larry Johnson at lajohnson1950@gmail.com so we have an idea of how many to expect.

Other events and activities are being canceled or modified to be online-only when possible. Please contact your group leader or the Church Office with any questions.

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

Prayer Concerns

Donna Marshall - UVA
Encompass

Nat Howell - UVA Transitional
Care Hospital

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

November 20: Jane Thomas

November 21: Wyatt Minor,
Judy Shah

November 22: Sue Sears

November 24: Ben Martindale

November 25: Dean Tennant

May God bless you all with abundant joy on your birthday and always.

Having a birthday and do not see your name here? Please help us update our records. Contact Lexi to provide your updated information at (434)-293-5706

If you would like to send her a card, her address is:

Lila Marshall
c/o Rosewood Village Hollymead
2029 Lockwood Dr. Ste 312
Charlottesville, VA 22911

Church-wide Christmas Card!

Without our usual Christmas Post Office this year, we are trying something new. We will send out a giant Christmas Card to every family in the church. This card can contain a personalized greeting from you! For instance, "Wishing you a Christmas season filled with joy and laughter! Love, Will, Erin, Luke, Seth, and Caleb. :)"

Because our usual Post Office is a great fundraiser for missions, we don't want that to slip away. We ask everyone submitting a greeting to also make a donation to missions, as large or small as you are able--consider donating the postage you save. To list your greeting in this giant card, please do two things. 1) Fill out [this form](#) or contact the church office to give us the wording for your greeting. 2) Donate to our Offering for Global Missions, either by mailing a check to the church office or by [giving online](#).

Of course, you are still welcome to mail cards to your church family if you'd like, using the USPS. But if you'd rather save some postage, this Church-wide Christmas Card gives you an easy way to reach everyone. Merry Christmas!

Ways to Help with PACEM This Year

Items Needed for PACEM

PACEM is a time our church comes together to support those in need in our community. Even though we can't physically come together this year, this effort still requires all of us. We are collecting items that can be given to our PACEM guests, and we need your help.

The following individually-wrapped toiletry items can be brought to the church during the week and left in one of the boxes in the first-floor lobby or on the Fellowship Hall stage:

- Mints
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Socks
- Deodorant
- Comb
- Hand lotion
- Cough drops
- Disposable razor & shaving cream
- Tissues
- Spiral notebooks/ composition
- Small hand sanitizer
- Lip balm



\$5 McDonald's gift cards ("Welcome to UBC" gift)

We are also collecting individually wrapped snack items (granola bars, peanut butter crackers, goldfish, pretzels, trail mix, cookies, etc.), bottles of water, and gift items to put in a Christmas stocking for each of the men. For these items, please sign up for what you'll bring at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4AADAB2F4-pacem>

Help needed to set up cots!

We need a few volunteers to help set up our Fellowship Hall for PACEM on December 5, setting up mats and making the beds. Then, we will need volunteers, especially those with pickup trucks, to pack everything up when PACEM leaves UBC on January 2. If you are available to help on either or both days, please contact Peter Ohlms at pohlms@gmail.com (he will share further detail about the timing and covid precautions).

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS AT UBC

Christmas Dinner in a Bag – Reimagined

Rather than collecting food items this year, we will be providing gift cards for families in need to help with Christmas dinner. In the past we have contributed about \$12 worth of groceries and a \$15 gift card. We realize that everyone is asking for money at this time of year, so we're asking that you donate only what you would have normally spent on bags of groceries. Or if you would like to give an entire meal donate \$27. We want to deliver the gift cards to Love INC on Monday, December 14, so we need your gifts turned in no later than Sunday, December 13. Write checks to UBC earmarked Dinner in a Bag. Joy to the World!



CBF Global Missions Offering

During the month of December we will be collecting donations for the CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) Global Missions Offering. You will be hearing much more about that in the weeks to come. UBC's goal is \$2000.

CANCELED: UBC Missions Post Office due to COVID concerns, you'll need to mail all of your own cards.

CANCELED: Fluvanna Corrections Center for Women's Christmas Kits

We ask that you send whatever amount that you might have spent on toiletries or stationery, to UBC earmarked GracelInside.



Let's Go Deeper

During this pandemic season when we are unable to follow our usual routines, God remains present with us. In fact, this is a unique opportunity to reexamine the habits of our spiritual lives and to be intentional about the practices that ground our faith. Here are a few opportunities to join with us in deepening our spiritual lives:

Monday Morning Prayer

- 8:30am each Monday on Facebook Live
- A quick prayer to start our week on the right foot

- To join us, visit our [UBC Facebook Page](#)

Thursday Lectio Divina

- 1:00pm each Thursday on Zoom
- A practice of reading Scripture contemplatively, with times of silence and listening for God's spirit
- To join us, click this [Zoom link](#)

Sunday Bible Study

- 9:40am - Fellowship and sharing prayer concerns
- 10:00am - Bible Study
- To join us, click this [Zoom link](#). Or, watch the Bible Study portion on [YouTube](#) beginning at 10am.

Daily Devotions

- You can pick up a copy of the *Reflections* daily devotional booklets from our church office.

FREE Drive-thru COVID-19 Testing in November

During the month of November, the Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD, formerly TJHD) will continue to host **free** drive-thru COVID-19 testing across the district. To learn more about our name change or to sign up for our biweekly BRHD newsletter, click [here](#).

Attached is a flyer in English and Spanish with all of BRHD's November testing sites across the district. Walk-ins are welcome. Call 434-972-6261 on the dates listed in the flyer to guarantee a spot and make an appointment.

You can also visit [BRHD's COVID-19 Testing Sites](#) webpage for the full schedule of upcoming free community testing events, including testing hosted by UVA Health.



Need a Mask??

Volunteers in our church have been hard at work sewing beautiful fabric masks. Do you need one? This expression of love from our talented church members is one way that we can take care of one another. If you do not have a mask yet or if you need another, please contact the church office or one of the ministers so that we can get a fabric mask to you. There are also baskets of masks in the church lobby if you'd like to stop by and pick one up!

Sunday Mornings

We invite you to join us for our Sunday morning worship services either by joining us in person or by worshiping with us from home. The service begins each Sunday at 11:00 am. 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.

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Connect with us

