

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

December 1, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 44

Celebrating Peace

WATCH

One of my favorite Advent themes is peace. Often, I go to our sanctuary during the week, when it is quiet and empty. The sun filters through the stained glass. Each time I visit, I sit in a different part of the room. I imagine seeing the pews filled with people and experiencing worship.

No matter where I sit in the sanctuary, peace is present. God is there. (I know that God is everywhere. Psalm 139:7-12 will not let us forget about God's omnipresence.) Yet, in the thin space of the sanctuary, I have a greater sense of God's presence than in some other places. When I sit in the sanctuary and feel God's presence, I also feel God's peace. Everything is okay. Or, it will be. To me, this is the peace of Advent.

The journey traces Mary and Joseph's steps to Bethlehem. No matter how we sanitize Jesus' birth narrative, the story is scandalous. It's anything but peaceful. Mary was young and engaged, but unmarried. When the angel visited her, she was "much perplexed," which is a gross understatement. Peace appears, at first, to be absent from the story. Then, Mary visits Elizabeth and her "soul magnifies the Lord."

During Advent, like Mary, peace might be evasive for you. So many things can stir us up: the third wave of COVID-19, sadness over cancelled Christmas concerts, disappointment because we cannot visit relatives, or something else. Yet, peace is still available.

There is no magic formula for finding God's peace during Advent. I cannot tell you a specific prayer to recite like an incantation. No song will universally and automatically bring about God's peace. To each one of us, God offers peace in different ways. It might be a prayer or a song for you. It could

December 6, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Saving Patience"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
2 Peter 3:8-15a

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 2
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (*Zoom*)

THURSDAY, December 3
1:00 Lectio Divina

SUNDAY, December 6
9:40 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
(*radio and livestream*)

MONDAY, December 7
8:30 Morning Prayer (*Facebook Live*)
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

Other events and activities are being canceled or modified to be online-only when possible. Please contact your group

also be something like buying the Christmas tree, sending cards, phoning a friend, or eating a holiday delight.

God is speaking through all of our traditions. Our first job is to open our eyes and see the peace of the season. Our second job is to pause the news and holiday busyness and experience God's peace. Once you have experienced some peace, find a way to share it with another person. It might be the greatest gift they receive this year.

I pray peace for you during this second week of Advent.

Peace,
Matt

leader or the Church Office with any questions.

Prayer Concerns

Nat Howell - UVA Transitional Care Hospital

Special Note:

Please note that we **will not** be doing Christmas poinsettias this year.

#GIVING TUESDAY™

#GivingTuesday

Today is #GivingTuesday. It pushes back against the commercialism pervading the holiday season. Before we even started Advent, Black Friday and Cyber Monday twisted the gratitude of Thanksgiving into a materialistic cloak.

Giving Tuesday is a chance to support what you care about. It's an opportunity to resist commercialism. As an act of resistance, I invite you to support University Baptist Church on Giving Tuesday this year.

If University Baptist Church brings meaning to your life, consider making an extra gift on Giving Tuesday. No amount is too small.

Here's how you can give:

- Go to the [UBC Facebook page](#), and click "Donate"
- Go to the [UBC Website](#) and click "Give"
- Or, write a check and mail it to the church (1223 W Main St, Charlottesville, VA 22902), or drop it off, whichever is more convenient for you.

Kids and Families

1. Kids' Zoom Christmas Party: Sunday December 6 at 10am. Bring your favorite snack and we'll enjoy a story, a game, and some time together! If you are not on the family e-mail list, contact Erin at ehallissy@gmail.com for the Zoom link!

2. For any parents or grandparents looking for some fun things to do with your kids this Christmas season, check out this list of [31 Days of Advent and Christmas Fun](#), with ideas for your family each day of December. There are opportunities to engage with the church, service projects, at home adventures, and other seasonal fun!

Church-wide Christmas Card!

Note: the link below has been fixed and is now working. Please submit your greeting by December 10.

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. :)"

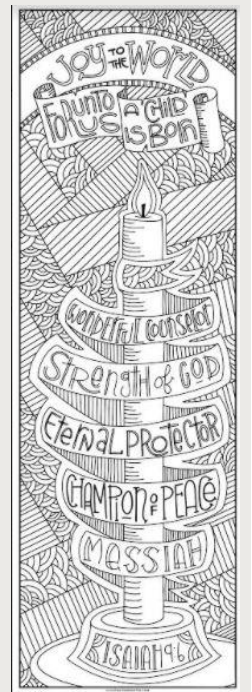
Because our usual Post Office is a great fundraiser for missions, we don't want that to slip away. We ask everyone submitting a greeting to also make a donation to missions, as large or small as you are able--consider donating the postage you save. To list your greeting in this giant card, please do 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!

Congregational Art Project for Advent!

Over the last few weeks, our ministers and lay leaders have been talking about ways that our community can continue to feel close while remaining safely apart. One of the ways we are going to do this during Advent is by working together to create a beautiful art project! The image you see here has been divided into mosaic tiles that you can print and color at home, then return to the church to become part of a large poster that we will hang in the sanctuary. *Everyone* is invited to participate in this art project, no matter how young or old or in-between you may be! This is a great family project for parents and children to do together, but we hope empty-nesters and single folx will participate as well.

If you would like to participate, please email Val Fisk (vfisk@universitybaptist.org) the number of people in your household. She will email you back your tiles and instructions for completing them. If you do not have a printer at home, let Val know and she will print the tiles for you to pick up at the church. Your tiles must be colored and returned to the church by December 10.



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>

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 - See above for information about our Church-wide Christmas Card

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 GraceInside.



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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

December 6: Mary Jo Licero

December 7: Judy Gough

December 10: BJ Blincoe

December 11: Jack Wilkerson

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



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 worshipping 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.

University Baptist Church
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Connect with us

