



UniBap Christmas Party Zoom!

On Thursday, December 17 at 7pm, we are going to gather for an all-church Zoom Christmas party! Join us for an hour of fun and fellowship, spending some time with our UBC community in celebration of surviving 2020, and remembering what it is like to see one another smile without a mask on! We will have a few fun games (ever tried to identify the title of a Christmas song written in emojis?), as well as some time for folks to share what they have been up to recently. Put on your best Christmas sweaters and jammies, make some cocoa, and click the link below to join!

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84792154603?pwd=SzJlNlQ2OWx2eVhkMnU2UUtzZFdnUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 9215 4603

Passcode: MrGrinch

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

December 13, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:

"What does God's Spirit Do?"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Isaiah 64:1-4, 8-11

Anthem:

"See, Amid the Winter's Snow"

(arr. Forrest)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 9

10:00 PBJ Bible Study
(Zoom)

7:00 Sanctuary Choir
(Zoom)

THURSDAY, December 10

1:00 Lectio Divina
7:00 Deacons Meeting

SUNDAY, December 13



Thank-you, Jim!

We are grateful to Jim Estes for the use of this lovely silver chalice, which Jim has shared with us for the past 20 years. Made in Russia in 1863, its ornate decoration evokes a Russian Orthodox style. As we have been served at the Lord's Supper, this beautiful chalice has enriched our worship again and again.

Church Council Recap

Church Council had a productive meeting on Sunday, December 6, coordinating the work of the church's lay leadership. The group heard updates about our church's continuing response to the covid-19 pandemic, about our hosting of PACEM, and about the 2021 budget process. Church Council also discussed the implementation of our strategic goals for 2021, which will be presented to the congregation in the coming weeks.

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting (*Zoom*)
9:40 Online Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship (*radio and livestream*)

MONDAY, December 14

8:30 Morning Prayer (*Facebook Live*)

Prayer Concerns

Nat Howell - UVA
Transitional Care Hospital

Special Note:

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

Virtual-Only Worship: December 24 and 27

For this year's Christmas Eve service and for our worship on Sunday, December 27, we will not have any live in-person worship in the sanctuary. The services will be recorded ahead of time and then broadcast at the usual times online, so that we can all participate simultaneously. With covid cases increasing in our area and with the potential for family members visiting for the holidays, we do not want to risk an outbreak due to gathering for holiday services. Pre-recording the services also gives our staff and our volunteer audio/video operators a break at the end of this long and trying year. We hope you will worship with us online for these special holiday services.

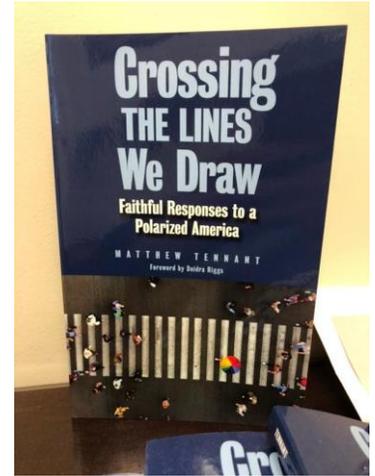
What is "Lectio Divina"?

On our calendar and in the Word for the past few months, you may have seen a listing for "lectio divina." What is that? Well, I'm glad you asked! Lectio divina, or "sacred reading," is an ancient way of reading Scripture. Rather than analyzing a passage and considering its context as we would in a traditional Bible Study, lectio divina invites us simply to listen to the passage and hear what God may be saying to us through it today. This is not a substitute for our typical study, but a complement to it. There's no prepwork ahead of time, and you don't need to bring anything with you. Simply come with an open mind and a desire to read the Bible together. It's a quick 20-minute session on Zoom. Hope to see you there! - Will

A Last-Minute Christmas Gift Suggestion

If you are still looking for a Christmas gift for someone (or yourself), I recommend our pastor's book, [Crossing the Lines We Draw: Faithful Responses to a Polarized America](#), published this year. Matt wrote this in response to the August 12, 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville.

He describes the book as a scriptural response to the "epidemic of division" in our land. He uses scriptures from the Old Testament prophets, the gospels, Paul's letters, and Revelation to address the polarization and politicization of our era. He begins with Mary, the mother of Jesus, appropriate for the Advent season. "When God is speaking, my views (or yours) do not matter. God's voice is the one that matters," he writes.



Matt deals directly with specific issues of conflict in America and elsewhere. His ultimate goal is to discern constructive ways the church and individuals can respond to the warring tribalism around us. He shares some of his own attempts to overcome division and approaches others have used.

The book is well-written and very readable (in paperback and only 152 pages). Like Jesus, Matt often answers a question with a question calling us to self-reflection and questioning of our own presumptions and responses.

Here are some quotes from the book:

"Are we fed by the algorithms of our social media feeds, where every message complements our history of 'likes' and 'dislikes'?"

"I am concerned that speaking the truth even in love can end the opportunity for future conversations."

"Peter and Paul...either reconciled their differences, or acknowledged them and continued their work."

"Stubbornly taking a stand and refusing to try and see the world from another person's perspective misses God's presence and activity in the world."

"Never try reconciliation via written word."

You can buy Matt's book at [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/s?ref=ast_sml) and have it delivered FREE to anyone before Christmas.

--Roy Thomas



PACEM is underway!

PACEM looks different this year, without our volunteers physically present to serve and get to know our guests. However, the adapted pandemic version of PACEM is off to a good start. Many thanks to all who have contributed in various ways, including those pictured here setting up the Fellowship Hall.

Kids and Families

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: Due this week.

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!

2021 Pledge Cards

Thank you so much for sending in your 2021 pledge cards! As we look to 2021 at University Baptist Church, your contributions are critical to support God's mission here and abroad. We are currently just 10 pledges shy of the amount received at this time last year. If you have not done so already, you can still mail your pledges to the church or email them to Lexi at Lwoodson@universitybaptist.org. We are deeply grateful for the ways you participate in the life of the church!

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 are collecting donations for the CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) Global Missions Offering. You can participate by giving online or by mailing a check to the Church Office, designated for Global Missions. UBC's goal is \$2000.

CANCELED: Ye Old Christmas Shoppe

You may still make donations if you would like and they will be kept until next year.

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 17: Taraneh Brown

December 18: Karen Dalton

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.

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Connect with us

