



December 14, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 94

Do we find what we seek?

WATCH

When we come to church, do we find what we seek? Richard Rohr writes, "The way we've shaped Christianity, one would think it was all about being nice and middle class and 'normal' and under the law." The phrase "we've always done it this way" is anathema to Christ. His alternative is "we need to do it God's way." Yet, we often seem to seek personal affirmation and a faith that fits within our lives. Jesus bids us to come and follow him (Luke 9.23). The way we practice our faith in the twenty-first-century U.S. sounds more like we invite Jesus to fit in with our lives.

The way we practice our faith leads me to ask *why* we want Jesus to fit in with us. Fitting in with him and being transformed into new beings would be a richer experience (2 Corinthians 5.17). Struggling against transformation makes little sense. Rohr suggests that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph don't fit in a nice, middle class, and normal kind of faith. Every part of the story, from Jesus' birth to Easter, goes beyond our expectations. It was messy and Joseph even disobeyed the Law since it appeared that Mary had been unfaithful. The Law required him to divorce Mary (or break off the engagement). God had other plans and can work in spite of us.

Christmas brings many people to church. Some come to find a spiritual center during the holidays. Some come out of habit. Others come because they want to please someone, and they know that coming to church will make the person they care about happy. Still, there's another reason to come. This reason is: God-incarnate, Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

When we come to church seeking an encounter with the risen Christ, we take a step on the journey of transformation. It might be another step on the voyage of discovery we started

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

December 24, 2021
5:00 PM

Sermon

"Glory to God"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 2:1-14

Anthem:

"The Shepherds' Farewell," Berlioz

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

December 26, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon

"Middle School Jesus"
Rev. Will Brown

Scripture:

Luke 2:41-52

long ago. When we come with an open mind, we get to know God and ourselves better. Experiencing this richer side of coming to church means letting God speak, even if we don't like what we hear, and, especially, if it means hearing God call us to change our ways.

Many years ago, I heard Ken Medema sing, "Finding leads to losing, and losing lets you find. Living leads to dying, but life leaves death behind." His spontaneous composition reflected life transformed in Christ. To me, it sounds like a living reimagining of Matthew 10.39, "Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

What are we seeking this Christmas? I pray that we all lose ourselves and find Christ, and in him, we will find life that leaves death behind.

Peace,
Matt

Join us for Christmas Eve!

On December 24, at 5 PM, gather with us for a special Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Our choir will sing and we will hear the story of God incarnate. At the end of the service, we will sing "Silent Night" as we light our candles and move outside to sing "Joy to the World" on the steps outside of the church. If you are uncomfortable gathering in person at this time, please [join us on YouTube](#) at 5 PM on Friday.

As a church, we support the science behind vaccines and hope everyone who comes on Christmas Eve is fully vaccinated. Everyone in our building will be wearing masks. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating this special season, whether in person or via livestream!

Thank you!

A brief note of thanks to our Sanctuary Choir and our fabulous Interim Director of Music, Will Cooke, for the beautiful Lessons & Carols this past Sunday! Your



leadership in our worship is deeply appreciated and carries us into this week of Christmas with a spirit of joy and peace.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

January 2, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon

"Dealing with God's Broken Promises"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Psalms 147:12-20

Deacons:

December 24: Laura Martindale, Debra Bryant

December 26: Judy Gough, Raynell Stokes

January 2: Judy Gough

Ushers:

December 24: Bob Gough, Sally Chewning

December 26: Sally Chewning, Shirley Clark

January 2: Sally Chewning, Shirley Clark

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 22

12:00 Treats on the Front Steps

FRIDAY, Dec. 24

Church Office Closed

5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

SUNDAY, Dec. 26

11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, Dec. 27

Church Office Closed

THURSDAY, Dec. 30

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, Dec. 31

Church Office Closed

If you were unable to join us on Sunday, you can catch the replay [on our YouTube channel!](#)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

January 3: Peter Ohlms

January 4: Jennifer Wagoner

January 5: Paula Price

January 6: Thomas Hill, Joanna Sivley

January 7: Sylvie Moore

January 9: Ruth Key

Welcome, Dani!



Today we welcomed our newest staff member to UBC! Dani fills the role of our Financial Secretary, coming to UBC after almost ten years in the auto sales industry. Dani and her fiancé live in Louisa, where Dani enjoys caring for her chihuahua, reading (especially Harry Potter!), and cooking. Dani looks forward to meeting church members and learning more about all of you in the near future!

Volunteers Needed for PACEM Set Up, January 1

On Saturday, January 1 at 8:00 a.m. (yes, we know that's an early morning after New Year's Eve), we need 5-7 people to help set up the Fellowship Hall for PACEM. We will be unloading mats, distributing linens, setting up chairs, and generally preparing the space for our PACEM guests arriving that evening. Can you help? Please email Laura Morris (Morrisx5@embarqmail.com) if you're willing to lend a hand. Thank you!!

Opportunities to serve with PACEM in January

PACEM is right around the corner! For those of you who might not know, PACEM is an organization that coordinates local resources to help address the needs of the homeless population in Charlottesville.

UBC will be hosting about 20 men in the Fellowship Hall each night from **January 1-29**. Our guests will enjoy a hot meal for dinner, a warm place to sleep, and a to-go breakfast in the morning. We could use your help! Below are two sign up genius links for people or small groups to select an evening to prepare dinner or donate breakfast items throughout the month. Any questions about donations or information below can be sent to Laura Morris (Morrisx5@embarqmail.com).

Additionally, we need donations of the following items:

Toothbrushes (individual please, no multi-packs)

Travel size toothpaste

Travel tissue packs

Travel size hand lotion

Travel size shaving cream

Disposable razors

Lip balm

Combs

Deodorant

Foot powder

\$10 Gift cards from CVS or McDonald's

Mints

Cough drops

Journals/spiral notebooks

Heavy, dark socks (adult men's)

Hand warmers

Winter hats

Underwear (size L or XL)

Plain white T-shirts (size L or XL)

New or gently used adult size backpacks or duffel bags

Collection boxes for these items will be placed outside the church office and in Fellowship Hall.

More details will be shared in the coming weeks. Thank you for your time and donations!

CBF Offering for Global Missions

During the month of December, we are collecting donations for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Offering for Global Missions. 100% of your gifts will support the long-term presence of CBF field personnel serving in the United States and around the world. The offering goal this year is \$4 million, which covers the costs for current field personnel and their families to live full and healthy lives in their place of service, including salary, benefits, housing, and children's educational needs. Our goal here at UBC is to contribute \$3000 toward the larger CBF goal.

Interested in learning more about the work of CBF's field personnel? Watch the video below, or [click here](#) to find even more information and the videos from our worship services the past few weeks!



2022 Offering Envelopes

As we come to the end of 2021, please take a look at your offering envelopes and let us know if you need more for the coming year!

(Please note that if your bank sends a monthly contribution directly to the church via Bill Pay features, or if you give a recurring donation online, you do not need to get offering envelopes.)

Sunday Mornings

Sunday Bible Study

Note: The staff-led Bible Study session is taking a break for the holidays. We plan to resume on January 9.

On Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30, our ministers are leading a discussion series. You can join us in person in the Fellowship Hall, or via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85381408096?pwd=MzdkVG9JZ2x0M2JFK01KNINjSWtqUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 8140 8096

Passcode: 954000

The Open Minds Class is also meeting on Zoom at this time.

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin at 11:00 am. We encourage everyone in the congregation to join us in whatever way you feel safe and comfortable at this time, whether in person or virtually. 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.

Masks & Social Distancing

University Baptist Church continues to follow the recommendations of the CDC as they are updated. At this time, that means that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, should wear a mask for all in-person gatherings in the church building. As we monitor this next wave of COVID cases related to the Delta and Omicron variants, we will make announcements as our policies are adjusted.

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Connect with us

