

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

December 14, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 93

Christmas Eve Celebration

ON WATCH

On December 2, 1805, the pastor and theologian Friedrich Schleiermacher watched a flute concert. After the concert, he walked back to his apartment and felt a sudden inspiration. He wanted to write something about Jesus' birth. I wonder how Advent affects us. What has this season been like for you? Last year, we were trying to figure out what to do. This year, we are learning live alongside COVID and have celebrations as the pandemic rages on. How do you feel, and what have you been thinking about as you look ahead to our celebration of Jesus' birth?

That night, over 216 years ago, Schleiermacher decided to write a story about an unpretentious German household preparing for Christmas. He wrote the story to invite his friends to think about what it means to experience God-incarnate. He felt like it was important to capture both the fun and serene expectation of the redeemer coming into the world. In three furious weeks, he wrote and sent to the printer *Christmas Eve Celebration*. It's still in print.

In the story, family and friends sing carols, exchange gifts, and discuss the celebration. Schleiermacher names his novella "a dialogue" because most of the action rests on conversations among the characters. He brings together the sights, sounds, and smells of the holiday. Contemporary readers can share the holiday experience with the characters.

As with any Christmas story, half of what one finds is what one brings. Jesus said as much in the Sermon on the Mount, "Seek and ye shall find" (Matthew 7.7). If we approach Christmas and let the trappings become the meaning, we will not find much. Sure, there will still be presents and cards, but they will be the end in themselves. However, if we approach Christmas and expect the redeemer of humanity, we find a richer experience. The poor and

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

December 19, 2021
11:00 AM

Sanctuary Choir Lessons & Carols

Sermon

"Expectant Peace"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Micah 5:2-5a

Deacons: Lynda Tweel, Debby Johnson

Ushers: Tom & Sylvie Moore

CALENDAR

Note: A Quiet Place to Study will take place throughout the building all day, Dec. 8-16

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 15

9:00 UBC Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)

12:00 Treats on the Front Steps

5:30 Sanctuary Choir Holiday Dinner

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, Dec. 16

7:00 Seekers Class Zoom

crying child in a feed trough resonates with our pain and struggle. Through him we can find meaning in the midst of everything the holiday season brings, both good and bad.

When Jesus enters the world, humanity enjoys a new capacity for love and joy. The short work *Christmas Eve Celebration* is a spontaneous testimony of faith. Schleiermacher finds universal joy when he reflects on the incarnation. When I read it, I find encouragement despite the continuing onslaught of bad (or horrifying news). The hope we find in God-incarnate doesn't take away the pain of the world, but it does something about our eternal separation from God. We can cling to hope because with God, all things are possible.

Advent is an excuse to wait and prepare. Unlike Lent which commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, Advent means "something's coming." Lent is somber and invites us to repent. Advent is exciting. Lent is dark. Advent is full of decorations. In Lent, we extinguish candles, but in Advent, we light them. Both seasons are essential elements in the liturgical year, and both help us get ready for what's next. Whether you prepare for Jesus' arrival by reading a story about a German family on Christmas Eve, or you get ready in another way, we should all get ready.

How are you getting ready for the coming Christ child?

Peace,
Matt



Welcome Our Newest Member!

It was a joy this Sunday to welcome our newest member of University Baptist Church, Alexis Haskiell! Alexis is a fourth-year student at UVA and has been involved with Jubilate since her first year, currently serving as Jubilate President. Alexis comes to us by

statement of faith, with a desire to make UBC her church home before she commissions into the Air Force upon graduation. We are thrilled to take this next step in your faith journey with you, Alexis!

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, join us on the steps outside of the church to sing "Silent Night." We look forward to seeing you and celebrating this special season!

SATURDAY, Dec. 18

9:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, Dec. 19

11:00 Morning Worship

6:00 Youth Group

MONDAY, December 20

8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))

Prayer Concerns

[Georgia Wood](#) - pray for continued recovery after a hospital stay due to RSV.

Celebrations

[Beau Jennings Bryant](#) was born on December 7, 2021 to [Chad](#) and [Michele Bryant](#) of Charlottesville. He weighed 6 lbs. 15 ounces and measured 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are [Bob and Cindy Bryant](#).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

December 23: David Wagoner

December 24: Charlotte Bailey

December 27: Cindy Bryant,
Margie Howell

December 29: Renfro Manning

PACEM returns to UBC 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 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).

[Click here to sign up for Dinner](#)

[Click here to sign up for Breakfast](#)

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!



Children's Christmas Shop was a success!

Thanks to all of those who helped set up and run the Children's Christmas Shop this Sunday! Kids and families had a great time shopping for gifts, reading Christmas stories, creating Christmas scenes from Play-Doh and Legos, and, of course, snacking. It was good to be together!



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!



Large-Print Bulletins Available

If you prefer a large-print version of the worship bulletin, these are available each Sunday morning. Simply ask one of our ushers for a copy in person, or find the online versions [here](#).

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! Rev. Fisk is currently managing the printing of these while we are between office administrators.

(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. 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 variant, we will make announcements as our policies are adjusted.

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Connect with us

