

# THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

January 5, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 1

Anyone still without power, hot water, etc. is welcome to come to the church this week to charge your devices, use the internet, and shower. Contact a minister or the church office if you need assistance, and please keep in mind that PACEM is in the building between 6 pm and 8 am each night.

## New Year's Resolutions

## WATCH

During the children's sermon last Sunday, Erin invited listeners to consider adopting a New Year's resolution. She explained that "you make a plan to figure out how you're going to make a change and do something a little bit different this year." Her challenge was to make a New Year's resolution that has something to do with God or sharing God's love.

I like this idea. It contradicts our natural tendency to focus inward. Instead of New Year's resolutions for personal or professional improvement, making a resolution that has something to do with God helps our spirit. We grow when we focus on sharing God's love. Our faith gets stronger when we invest in it.

God does not call us to a static faith. Jesus didn't tell people to stay where they are. We have a dynamic faith. Jesus invited people to follow him. Instead of staying the same, God transforms us into the likeness of Christ. Even though this transformation is part of the gift of grace, we are participants. We have to decide to follow Jesus. We leave where we are to get to where God calls us.

Consider Erin's invitation. Think about things you could do this year to grow in your walk with Christ. Do you actively participate in a Bible study or small group? Have you ever

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

January 9, 2022  
11:00 AM

### Sermon

"Finding God in the Storm"  
Dr. Matthew Tennant

### Scripture:

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### Anthem:

"Down to the River to Pray"  
(Curry)

**Deacons:** Herman Eaker, Jackie Lockwood

**Ushers:** Tom & Sylvie Moore

## CALENDAR

Note: PACEM will be with us at UBC until January 29

### WEDNESDAY, Jan. 5

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, Jan. 6

7:00 Epiphany Service

### SUNDAY, Jan. 9

9:00 Church Council (Zoom)

11:00 Morning Worship

6:00 Youth Group

thought about starting one or helping someone else start one? Even if the group has to meet on Zoom because of current COVID numbers, it's better to go ahead and get started than to put it off.

Sometimes the first step can be daunting. You might read this and nod in agreement but not know what to do next. Do you need a list of current small groups at our church? Have you thought about joining a Bible study but don't know where to start? Do you need a good book suggestion? Please let me know how I can help.

One of the goals for 2022 at UBC is to expand our small group ministry. Think about what kind of a group would motivate you to show up. Let me know what that group looks like, and we can try to start it. I look forward to seeing how fostering small groups will impact the church.

Peace,  
Matt

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An update on COVID-19 pandemic related policies will be sent out to the congregation in a separate email tomorrow, January 6. Be on the lookout for this information coming soon!

### Join us for an Epiphany service

On Thursday, January 6, we will gather at 7 pm for UBC's first Epiphany service. This short service will be similar in style to other special services throughout the year, such as Spy Wednesday or Good Friday. You are welcome to join us in person or via livestream, whichever option for gathering makes you most comfortable at this time. Those joining us from home may wish to light your own Christ candle in your home at the start of the service, as Epiphany is a celebration of the Light of Christ in the world (any candle can be your at-home Christ candle!).

### Bible Study will continue hiatus until February

As we host our PACEM neighbors throughout the month of January in our Fellowship Hall, and as we cautiously watch the current COVID-19 case data in our area, we have decided that our minister led Bible Study will continue to pause until February. Stay tuned for more details about this Bible Study option in future editions of the newsletter!

**MONDAY, Jan. 10**  
8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))  
10:30 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom](#))

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### Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to [Jen Bates](#) and family after the death of her aunt, [Joan Bates](#).

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

**January 15:** Eric Devairakkam

**January 16:** Katherine Hamel

**January 17:** Emily Morris, Erin Brown

**January 18:** Tom Moore, Marvin Key

## 2021 Missions Discretionary Fund

The Missions Council would like to thank the congregation for allowing us to include a Missions Discretionary Fund in the budget again in 2021. This allows us to address needs that arise during the year, both in our neighborhood and around the world. We spend time in each of our monthly meetings discussing ideas for how the money could be used. This year our focus ended up being primarily with local agencies. Thank you for the opportunity to share with the following organizations on your behalf in 2021.

1. \$1000 to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry to address food insecurity in our local area. We sent \$500 in February, and another \$500 in October.
2. \$200 to Alliance for Interfaith Ministries. They provide emergency assistance to families threatened with homelessness. UBC has been a long-time supporter of AIM.
3. \$250 for toiletry items that were provided to low-income residents at a COVID clinic at Friendship Court.
4. \$100 to a local Head Start teacher for two families who were having a difficult time with back-to-school expenses.
5. \$1000 to International Neighbors of Charlottesville to assist Afghan refugees who have recently relocated to the Charlottesville area.
6. \$500 to the Haiti Nutrition Project to continue support for the infant nutrition project that Dr. Joselie Jules runs at Haiti's Eden.
7. \$550 to PACEM at Premier Circle to purchase sheets for the rooms where they are housing homeless individuals.

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## Sunday Mornings

### 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

