



January 11, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 2

Finding Jesus in the Midst of Distractions

ON WATCH

Not everyone experiences this, but as we move further into the twenty-first century, many people lead packed lives. Our calendars chime and chirp to remind us of places to be. Then, a notification tells us about a new post on social media. The genius algorithms select the perfect notification for each one of us. They are designed to grab our attention (and keep it).

In those moments when we find ourselves waiting or taking a break, it seems impossible to find entertainment anywhere but on our phones. Letting our minds idly wander seems to be a remnant of a forgotten past. We are always connected. During the power outage last week, I wonder if anyone felt a sense of panic as their phone battery declined to 0%.

Even if it wasn't panic, I can confess to having felt some anxiety about a declining phone battery. A few years ago, I was driving back to Charlottesville and did not have a charging cord for my phone. As I watched the battery go down, I thought, "I must get a cord!" After stopping at a convenience store and buying a cord, I admit to feeling relieved and thinking "*At least I won't be disconnected.*" Or, if we want to be gracious, we could say that I would have my phone if an emergency arose.

This is where we find the tension. Our digital devices are amazing tools. Apps and connectivity help us avoid isolation or boredom. My Sudoku, NPR, and Associated Press apps help me pass the time in waiting rooms or keep abreast of breaking news. Before having a chart plotter on my sailboat, I used an app called iSailGPS to navigate all over the Chesapeake Bay. Technology is amazing.

Yet, in the midst of this clutter, we need to find space for Jesus. Luke 5:16 says, "Jesus would withdraw to quiet places to pray."

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

January 16, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon

"Accept Your Gift"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Anthem:

"One Bread, One Body," arr.
Mark Hayes

Deacons: Shirley Clark

Ushers: Sally Chewning, Bob Gough

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 12

9:00 Work Team
12:00 Wednesday Treats
7:00 Sanctuary Choir
Rehearsal

Even when we close the door and are alone, with our amazing digital devices, we remain connected. We can turn off our phones or leave them in another room and give our full attention to God. It's our choice. And, it takes self-discipline to make ourselves truly disconnect from the world to connect with our maker.

In this new year, try to carve some time each day when you shut out the distractions and ask, "Lord Jesus, what do you want from me today?" Then, listen. Bask in the silence and try to hear the voice of God. If, at first, your mind races. That's okay. Keep trying. Keep listening. Keep asking what Jesus is calling you to do.

If you have a devotional app, try putting it on the first screen of your phone as a reminder to use it every day. If you prefer a paper devotional, stop by the church, and we will give you one. No matter what, take time for Christ amidst the clutter of daily distractions.

Peace,
Matt



An update on COVID-19 pandemic related policies was sent out to the congregation in a separate email on January 6. If you did not receive this email, [click here](#) to review our updated COVID response plan.

THURSDAY, Jan. 13

7:00 Deacons Meeting (Zoom)

SUNDAY, Jan. 16

8:30 Finance Committee
(Zoom)

11:00 Morning Worship
6:00 Youth Group (Zoom)

MONDAY, Jan. 17

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED -
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

TUESDAY, Jan. 18

10:00 Staff Meeting

For our most up-to-date calendar, [click here](#).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

January 21: Robert Truoccolo, Barry Willard, Larry Martin

January 25: Brad Groff



Congratulations to the Mulcahey family upon the birth of twins Fin and Jake! Born at 1:33 AM and 2:11 AM respectively, Monday, January 10, Fin (left) was 4 pounds, 15 ounces, and Jake (right) was 5 pounds, 13 ounces, with both boys measuring around 19 inches. Brian, Elizabeth, and big sister Ponyo are doing well, and are grateful for the prayers and support of everyone!

New Book Study Group

Many of us feel a moral concern about environmental issues, but how does this concern relate to our Christian faith? How does God call us to live in relation to the earth and our fellow creatures? Perhaps problems like climate change, environmental injustice, and biodiversity loss require spiritual solutions as well as technological and social solutions. If you would be interested in joining a reading/study group on these and related questions, please contact Erin Eaker (ele3a@virginia.edu).



Church Conference on Sunday, January 26

Our quarterly Church Conference will take place via Zoom on Sunday, January 26 at 6:00 PM. In this meeting we will vote on the 2022 church budget, as well as vote to install Rev. Alba Beasley as Music Minister Emeritus.

You can join this Church Conference via the Zoom information listed [here](#). Anyone unable to join via Zoom can get in contact with Rev. Will Brown for a private YouTube link to watch the conference, or for information to join via phone.

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 853 5637 2364

Passcode: 942390

PACEM Update

Our first week hosting PACEM guests is complete. Thank you so much for your donations and support! Approximately 17-20 guests have enjoyed a warm and dry place to sleep, a shower, hot meals, snacks, to-go breakfasts, and refuge from our first snowstorm this winter. We've given away socks and winter hats. Our guests were very appreciative of the personal items we have shared so far. But we aren't done yet!

We would love to give each guest a \$10 McDonald's gift card. If you can contribute, please drop off gift cards in the church office or in the labeled envelopes in the first floor conference room.

Below are the sign up genius links for dinner and for breakfast items. We still need breakfast donations for the last two weeks of January.

[Click HERE for Dinner Link](#)

[Click HERE for Breakfast/Snack Link](#)

We have also noticed that certain personal items are much-needed and used quickly. We would appreciate more donations of the following:

- thick socks
- hand warmers
- deodorant
- cough drops
- mints
- lip balm
- disposable razors
- travel size shaving cream
- travel size hand lotion

If you have questions, please email Laura Morris at morrisx5@embarqmail.com. Thank you again for your support as we share God's love with our neighbors!



Flowers Bring Great Joy

If you would like to dedicate sanctuary flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, the 2022 Floral Calendar has been posted in the first floor hallway. Sign up on the calendar AND email Sarah Buchanan at sarahbuchacha@gmail.com to reserve your special date. I will order the flowers from Agape Florist for \$60 unless you want to provide them yourself. Please make checks and online donations payable to UBC and earmark "sanctuary flowers."

If you love flowers, enjoy arranging them, or want to learn how, please contact Sarah at 434-409-9064 or sarahbuchacha@gmail.com and join us on the Floral Team. Sometimes it can be as simple as taking an already made arrangement out of the refrigerator and placing it in the sanctuary or watering live plants.

If you would like to take a poinsettia or several, they are on a table in the first floor hallway. Stop by the church and take as many as you would like (even if just for the potting soil). Happy New Year!

Your UBC Floral Team

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!

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

