



January 18, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 3

Sursum Corda

WATCH

The Latin phrase, “Sursum corda,” means “Lift up your hearts.” These words open the eucharistic prayer in an ancient liturgy of the Christian church. Hippolytus of Rome (c. 170 – c. 235 CE) wrote this at a time when following Christ was not the establishment religion. In fact, Christians faced persecution and even death.

Yet, “Sursum corda” represents faith and hope despite threats and danger.

In a world where we face indifference, we can “Lift up our hearts” because God is moving in our midst. The evidence of God’s presence in our church is all around us. We just need to open our eyes to see God at work. When Jesus grew frustrated with the disciples’ inability to see God at work, he said, “Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember?” (Mark 8.18).

If we look, we can see. If we listen, we can hear. Last week, I heard a testimony of God at work in UBC. It came in the form of the financial report from last month. December 2021 was the single largest month of giving in the history of the church. You are supporting God’s ministries at this church with your money. *Sursum corda!*

As Baptists, we believe in the priesthood of all believers. God can (& does) speak through the congregation, and actions are louder than words. Even though many people feel unsafe gathering together, everyone seems to be doing what they can to participate in God’s work at UBC. This is exciting and encourages me to look ahead to the bright days when we can gather and see the fruits of this labor. The seeds we are planting now will, we pray, take root and grow.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

January 23, 2022
11:00 AM

Sermon

"Attentive Ears"
Rev. Val Fisk

Scripture:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Anthem:

"Love Divine, All Loves
Excelling" arr. Dickau

Deacons: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Shirley Clark, Bob Gough

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 19

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Zoom
12:00 Wednesday Treats
7:00 Sanctuary Choir
Rehearsal

In the next few days, our finance committee will share the 2022 budget and a video introduction. We plan to have a church conference via Zoom on Wednesday, January 26 at 6pm. When the budget comes out in a few days, if you would like a detailed version, please ask a member of the finance committee or the church office.

The budget is our understanding of God's calling for our church this year. It shows how we want to invest God's resources. To me, the most exciting part of the budget is the increase in mission spending. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6.21). Budgets are often relegated to the backburner where we keep mundane tasks. Instead of separating our administration from ministry, let's combine the two and celebrate how our budget brings glory to God and represents the hope we have in Christ.

We have agency in our future. By investing in God's work, we join Hippolytus and cry out the ancient liturgy, "Sursum corda." We lift up our hearts to the Lord!

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.

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).



THURSDAY, Jan. 20

7:00 Seekers Class (Zoom)

SUNDAY, Jan. 23

8:30 Missions Council Meeting (Zoom)

11:00 Morning Worship

6:00 Youth Group (Zoom)

MONDAY, Jan. 24

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

10:30 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom](#))

TUESDAY, Jan. 25

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 26: Debra Bryant

January 27: Betsy Kauffman

January 30: Todd Minor

January 31: Nancy Castle

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 sarahbucha@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 sarahbucha@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

