



December 20, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 51

Pause, Breathe, Think, & Find Peace

WATCH

Advent is almost over. As we finalize our Christmas preparations, we can remember the teenage bride Mary making her journey to Bethlehem. The simplicity of Jesus' birth in a manger is not here yet. Some people have Christmas lists, parties, and shopping. Others find the season brings reminders of losing a loved one at this time of year, and the season is complicated or even sad.

At church, we have special worship services, music, and rehearsal-free-pageants. It's so easy to fill the time. We talk about the coming Christ-child. We talk about the miracle. Secular holiday celebrations appropriate miracles. Santa becomes a symbol of the Greek ideals of truth, beauty, and goodness. Peace on earth gets trampled in Black Friday stampedes.

In the Bible, Mary sings. Joseph sees an angel. Jesus enters the world the way every other human has entered the world. He is a baby. His birth, life, death, and resurrection inspire 2.4 billion Christians around the world. Celebrations of Jesus' birth on December 25 date to Pope Julius I in 345 CE. In twentieth-century America, Christmas developed into a cultural holiday of gift giving and celebrations. With each passing year, it seems like the celebrations increase. Countless movies follow the same holiday tropes (big city girl goes home to small town and sparks fly when she finds the boy she used to know there).

The words of the angels in Luke, "Peace on Earth" (Luke 2:14), fade. So, how can we find peace again?

Pause. Breathe. Think.

Ask yourself, who is Jesus? What does he mean to me? Why do I celebrate this season? What have I been doing to get ready? What was most meaningful to me?

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM

Sermon:

"Homily"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 2:1-14

Anthem:

"Night of Silence"

Christmas Day

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"What Beautiful Feet!"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Isaiah 52:7-10

Anthem:

"What Child is This?"

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Deacons: Raynell Stokes, Debra Bryant

Ushers: Charlotte Bailey, Shirley Clark

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Deacon: Laura Morris

Ushers: Charlotte Bailey, Shirley Clark

When you think about the gifts you give, consider why you do it. Think about why you attend or throw holiday parties, or why you don't. What about all the special services at church?

Everything surrounding the holiday season can have value. The familiarity invokes the spirit of the season. Each song, gift, reading, or event can remind us of who Jesus is and what he means to us. Getting together with other people celebrates our relationships with friends and family (John 15:13). Gifts can honor the recipient (Matthew 2:11), and they can be about sharing with people in need (Hebrews 13:16).

In this busy season, the first step is to stop and take a deep breath. The second step is to think about Jesus. Forget the baby in the manger for a moment and think about Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with God and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Finally, revisit each part of this Advent season and consider what it means to you.

In this process of slowing down and reflecting, we can keep the joy of the season. We can find fresh and new ways to make it meaningful. We might even sense the childlike excitement of looking ahead to Christmas Day!

Peace,
Matt

Durable Medical Equipment

Durable Medical Equipment of varying kinds is available through UBC. Many of these items are not covered by insurance, so if you have a need for any sort of durable medical equipment, check with the church office at 434-293-5106 or linda@universitybaptist.org, and we will check on what is available at that time. One person who was able to avail themselves of this resource commented, "Never in a million years did I think I would be excited to find loaner DME, but I am grateful. These items will help me tremendously through my recovery."



Wednesday Night Dinners

Wednesday night dinners will resume in February, after we have finished hosting PACEM.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 21

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, December 23

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, December 24

5:00 Christmas Eve Worship

SUNDAY, December 25

11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, December 26

Church Office Closed
10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, December 28

9:00 Work Team

THURSDAY, December 29

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, December 30

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, January 1

11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, January 2

Church Office Closed
10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

TUESDAY, January 3

7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail (Zoom)

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

Church Office Holiday Hours

The Church Office will be open from 9:00 - 2:00 on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, Dec. 27-28. Dr. Tennant and Rev. Fisk will be available next week via email, and you may email the church office any time at linda@universitybaptist.org, and we will respond.

Offering for Global Missions

During the month of December, we normally collect donations for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Offering for Global Missions. Since early this year, our focus has been on ways we can provide relief and assistance to those missionaries who are working in Ukraine or working with the refugees who have fled that country.

For this year, we are going to direct our Global Missions offering to the CBF Ukraine Relief Fund. 100% of your gifts will support the long-term presence of CBF field personnel serving the Ukrainian people. Our offering goal at UBC is to contribute \$3,000 toward this CBF fund.



Reserve Your Special Date, Flowers Bring Great Joy!

If you would like to dedicate sanctuary flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, the 2023 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.

Meals for PACEM

We are beginning to make plans for our PACEM guests who will be here January 14-28. If you are able to help with meal preparation, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4ea8aa23a0f58-pacem8> or contact the church office at 293-5106. UBC groups can use our kitchen for food preparation/cooking and serving at approximately 6:15.

Prayer Requests

Barbara Newlon

Jack Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Lu Overbeck

Ed Lowry

Aimee Smith Marshall having ACL surgery

Jim Sivley



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Dec. 27: Cindy Bryant, Margie Howell, Jocelyn Brumbaugh

Dec. 29: Renfro Manning

Jan. 3: Peter Ohlms

Jan. 4: Jennifer Wagoner

Jan. 5: Paula Price

Jan. 6: Thomas Hill, Joanna Sivley

Jan. 7: Sylvie Moore

Jan. 9: Ruth Key

Jan. 10: Jake Mulcahy, Fin Mulcahy

Thank You!

We want our church family to know how grateful we are for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and wonderful food that we have received during Richard's recent illness. It has helped us so much. We really appreciate your support. Thank you.

Richard and Nelda Vaughan



Shoes for Hope

Players from both the men's and women's UVA basketball team joined in with cancer patients at University Baptist Church Wednesday, December 14, to paint sneakers. Around 130 people attended, including more than 25 cancer patients.

The event was brought to our community by Ben Herold, a fourth-year UVA student. It soon became apparent that he was going to need a larger space than the hospital was able to provide, so UBC was contacted, and our Fellowship Hall was made available for the "Shoes for Hope" event.

Players and coaches were able to come and help paint some shoes and hang out with the kids. All 27 pairs of white Nike Air Force Ones were donated for free by the University's Nike coordinator.

Coaches will wear these shoes during the games in January. Men's coaches will wear them January 28, and women's coaches will wear them January 12. After that, they'll be auctioned off to help patients through the annual fundraiser "Coaches vs. Cancer."



Join us This Advent & Christmas Season

Saturday, December 24, 5:00 - Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 25, 11:00 - Christmas Morning Worship - No Sunday Morning Bible Study

There will be plenty of free parking on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in the 14th Street Parking Garage!



Global Missions Christmas Post Office

It has been several years since we have been able to offer the Christmas Post Office for Global Missions, sponsored by the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle. It will open Sunday, November 27. This is a way for you to exchange Christmas greetings with other church members and regular attenders and to support Global Missions. The "Post Office" box is located on a table in the first-floor lobby.

- Write the names of the recipients on your cards and place them in the appropriate alphabet slots.
- Deposit \$.60 per card (and any additional contribution) into the container on the table or give it to any Kittie Colvin Trail Circle member.
- **Please do not include cards for people who do not attend regularly or have moved away.**
- Pick up any cards addressed to you or your family. Please do not remove any cards but your own.
- Do not place cards in the box after Saturday, December 24.

ALL proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund.



Young Adult Summit

January 13-16, 2023

Ridgecrest Conference Center, Asheville, NC

Cost per person: \$200-\$275

Scholarships available for full-time students!

[Click here to register](#) (transportation from UBC provided at no additional cost)

Adults ages 19-29 are invited to experience a weekend retreat filled with rest, worship, discipleship, and opportunities for the kind of fun break YOU want! Featuring [Dr. Heather Thompson Day](#) as the weekend speaker and musical artist [Mark Wagner](#) as worship leader, this weekend will give young adults an opportunity to explore your faith at this stage of life and ask questions about how to be Christian when you're not in youth group anymore. More details and full weekend schedule available at alabamacbf.org/yas2023.

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.

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

