



December 6, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 49

Dr. Tennant
Away This Week

ON WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Dec. 11, 2022

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

John 1:1-4, 9-13, 18b
Luke 1:26-38

Anthem:

"Lord, Here Am I"
"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Shirley Clark

Ushers: Ian Pallini, Ed Barker

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 7

9:00 Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)

5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Children's Christmas Shoppe

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, December 11

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

12:15 Youth Lunch

Matt and Melanie are spending this week with their sons, Dean and Eddy, visiting them as they make the first stop on their round-the-world sailing adventure. They will return from the Bahamas on Saturday, December 10. Please direct any urgent needs to the church office or Rev. Fisk this week while Matt is away.

A WORD FROM
 **VAL**

A Not-So-Silent Christmas Pageant

I have a distinct memory of myself around the age of six, wearing a ridiculous Christmas dress with many layers of tulle and matching socks with lace cuffs, standing in the hallway of First Methodist Church as we were about to start a Christmas pageant. I remember asking our children's choir director, why in the world we sing "Silent Night" and "Away in a Manger" at Christmas. I couldn't understand how anyone could think that a baby would not cry, or that animals would be quiet, and most importantly, why I had to wear an uncomfortable dress in front of a bunch of people and sing about it! Poor Miss Tammy, and my poor mother. I am very sure that I did not behave the way they were expecting during that pageant!

During the sermon this past Sunday, I mentioned that I believe that [Behold the Lamb of God](#) is the best Christmas album ever recorded, particularly from a theological perspective.

The song "Labor of Love" acknowledges that the birth of Jesus probably wasn't so silent or easy. Young Mary was giving birth far away from home, in a time without medical support or pain medications, and poor Joseph had to hold her hand and hope for the best, while trying to keep goats and donkeys at a safe distance. I am certain of only one thing - that was not the birth experience anyone was expecting.

This time of year, it's a good practice to pause and think about our expectations for the holidays. What are we hoping to experience? How are we hoping our families will behave? What are the unspoken expectations that we have about how to celebrate, what we will participate in, or how things have always been in the past? Expectations can often lead to disappointment, especially when we build up an expectation of how to experience the "perfect" Christmas. (Spoiler alert: there's no such thing, even for Mary and Joseph!)

This Sunday, we will participate as a whole church in a rehearsal-free Christmas pageant. It will certainly be different from any pageant that UBC has done in the past and an opportunity for us all to let go of our expectations and allow ourselves to lean into the joy of something new! There will be a lot of singing, lots of movement as different participants come to join the manger scene on the platform, and lots of opportunity for us to reflect on the significance of Jesus coming to live alongside of us, fully God and fully human. We look forward to having you here this Sunday, sharing in the joy of this new experience at UBC.

May the hope and peace of Advent fill you this week.

Val

Wednesday Night Dinners



Please note that our Wednesday night program this week will be focused on the Children's Christmas Shoppe, with dinner provided for the families attending. Next Wednesday, December 14, will be

our final dinner in 2022, and we hope to see a full Fellowship Hall! The menu will be breakfast for dinner (pancakes, sausages, apples, etc.), and we will have a Christmas Carol Sing after dinner, led by Susan Deal. Wednesday night dinners will resume in February, after we have finished hosting PACEM.

MONDAY, December 12

10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)

TUESDAY, December 13

11:00 Development & Growth Team Meeting

7:00 *The Gift of the Nutcracker* Advent Study

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Dec. 16: Maisie Wood

Dec. 17: Taraneh Brown

Dec. 18: Karen Dalton, Carolyn Stone

Dec. 20: Larry Johnson, Bill Jesser

Prayer Requests

Barbara Newlon

Jack Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Lu Overbeck



The Holiday Lights Tour is Back!

After a pandemic hiatus,

the Holiday Lights Tour has returned! Join us for a bus ride around town on Friday, December 16, 6:00, to enjoy the lights of the holiday season. Seats are limited. Click [here](#) for more details and to reserve your spot on the bus.



Reminder About Parking Options

Parking

On Sundays the church lots are reserved for visitors, people with walking difficulties, and people with preschoolers. The following are other parking options:

1. 11th St. Parking Garage & Stacey Hall Parking Lot have free parking after 5:00 weekdays and all day weekends.
2. 14th St. Parking Garage has free parking on Wednesday evenings from 4:30 - 8:30 with a Yellow UBC Parking Pass and on Sunday mornings from 8:30 - 1:00 with a Yellow UBC Parking Pass or a worship bulletin. The Yellow UBC Parking Passes are available in the church office. Click [here](#) for a map of available parking options.

"Now in Flesh Appearing" Advent Devotionals

If you would like an Advent Devotional, please contact the church office at 293-5106 or linda@universitybaptist.org. We have hard copies available, or we can email you an electronic copy.

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.



Advent Bible Study *The Gift of the Nutcracker* by Matt Rawle

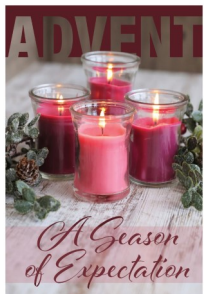
The Gift of the Nutcracker study is meeting Tuesday evenings through Advent at

7:00 pm. The meeting rotates to a different location each week based on people's preferences. If interested, please email Susan Hellings at susan.eg.hellings@gmail.com.

Children's Christmas Shoppe & Fun Night Wednesday, December 7

- Dinner at 5:30, followed by Christmas activities beginning at 6:00.
- Children will have the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their family members. Gifts can be purchased for \$.50 each. All proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund.
- Fun Christmas-themed activities for children and their families

Donations needed: If you have small "treasures" that you would like to contribute, please drop them off in the church office. We want to make sure the children have plenty of fun options to choose from.



Join us This Advent & Christmas Season

Sunday, December 11, 11:00 - No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18, 11:00 - Sanctuary Choir Lessons & Carols

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

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



Christmas Dinner-in-a-Bag Grocery Store Gift Cards for Love INC

Thirteen years ago, after conversations with Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) the UBC WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) began collecting bags of groceries designed to provide Christmas dinner for families. In 2019 we delivered 46 bags of non-perishables, and with each bag we included a \$15 gift card (from the WMU budget) intended to be used for the main dish.

During the COVID pandemic, to minimize physical contact with their clients, Love INC asked us to provide grocery store gift cards instead of bags of food.

We decided on \$30 per meal. In December 2021, we were able to deliver seventy \$30 gift cards. Love INC has asked that we continue providing gift cards, because it is so much easier on them and us than lifting and hauling dozens of bags of groceries.

We realize that everyone is asking for money at this time of year, so we're asking that you donate only what you would have normally spent on bags of groceries. **Due date is Sunday, December 11.** Please make checks and online donations payable to UBC and earmark "Dinner-in-a-Bag."



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.

Qualified Charitable Distributions

Are you familiar with Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)? A QCD might reduce the taxes you owe while helping your church. Here's how it works:

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are over 70 1/2, you are required to take a distribution from that IRA each year based on the value at the end of the previous year and your age. This is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), and generally the distribution is fully taxed as ordinary income. The form of the distribution may be in cash or securities.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian to a qualified charity. This direct transfer can be in cash or securities, and it counts toward satisfying your RMD for the year. A QCD reduces your taxable income by the amount of such distribution since it is not included in your income.

Charitable giving is not about taxes. However, the tax benefit from a QCD encourages charitable giving and could enable you to give more money to what you love. With the recent increase in the Standard Deduction, many taxpayers will find that charitable donations no longer have any tax benefit. A QCD can restore some significant tax benefits for charitable donations.



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.

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Connect with us

