



**POTLUCK DINNER
TOMORROW
WEDNESDAY, NOV 30
FELLOWSHIP HALL**
Dinner at 5:30; Discussion at 6:00
"Why should we care about ADVENT?"

November 22, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 47

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

ON WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Dec. 4, 2022
11:00 AM

Barbara Robinson's 1971 book tells the story of some juvenile delinquents who go to Sunday school because they hear that the church gives out snacks. They all volunteer for lead parts in the Christmas pageant. Everyone expects it to be a disaster, but their unconventional performances make the presentation more meaningful than it had been before.

Our Christmas pageant this year will be different from the one in Robinson's book, and it will be different from other ones we have had in our church before. The story is consistent. Christmas pageants tell the story of Jesus' birth. The birth narrative carries theological significance because it repudiates the belief that Jesus only appeared to have a physical body. This belief is called Docetism, and its followers believed Jesus was made of some sort of celestial substance. The love, joy, peace, and hope of Advent requires Jesus to really be here. He has to have a physical body, and for him to have a body, he had to start somewhere.

This year, our pageant involves everyone. We all get to join in the story. On December 11, we will have a rehearsal-free Christmas pageant. As expected, we will tell the story of Jesus' birth, we will sing familiar Christmas carols, and there will be scripture readings. The twist comes in how we tell the story. We will have parts for every person in the sanctuary. (Don't worry. If you'd rather not have a part, you can be a Townsperson right from your pew.)

Sermon:
"People of Peace"
Rev. Val Fisk

Scripture:
Matthew 3:1-12
Isaiah 9:2-7

Anthem:
"Celebrate, Rejoice!"
arr. Speck & Parton

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Daniel Harper, Debby Johnson

Ushers: Sue Sears, Ron Tweel

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, November 30

9:00 Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)

5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Wednesday Night Series

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

I wonder how different the story will look when we experience it from the perspective of one of the characters. If you are a Shepherd, imagine what the shepherds saw, felt, and smelled. If you are an angel, think about the significance of the story you are telling.

The service will be out of the box. It will be relaxed. Participants will be invited to get up and get involved. If you recall our Out-of-the-Box worship series from last year, you might remember elements you loved and some you look forward to leaving behind. This service will be similar. Some of you might find meaning in the entire thing. Others might look forward to the familiarity of December 18 when the Sanctuary Choir will share some amazing anthems. It's okay. Even if we spend a little time out of the box on December 11, we won't be staying there.

My prayer is that, like *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* told Jesus' story in a fresh way, our Rehearsal-Free Christmas Pageant will help us focus on Jesus and the meaning of this season.

Peace,
Matt

A WORD FROM VAL

Finals Study Hours Dec. 8-13

It's that time of year again! Our neighbors at UVA are heading into their last week of classes, and final exams will begin on December 8. UBC will host A Quiet Place to Study on the evenings of December 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13. Ways that you can participate: ...**Provide** a treat for our students! Homemade baked goods are welcome and encouraged - please drop these off at the church on December 7 or 8. ...**Donate** individual cans/bottles of sodas & sparkling water, granola bars, and other snack items. ...**Volunteer** to greet students as they arrive at the church between 4:30 and 9:00 pm each evening. You can sign up on the sheet available in the lobby during Wednesday dinner tomorrow evening, or email [Val](#) to volunteer for a night.

FRIDAY, December 2

10:00 Peter Fitch Memorial Service
11:00 Peter Fitch Reception

SUNDAY, December 4

8:30 Church Council Meeting (Hybrid)
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:15 Youth Lunch

MONDAY, December 5

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

TUESDAY, December 6

11:00 Development & Growth Team Meeting
7:00 *The Gift of the Nutcracker* Advent Study
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal
7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail (Zoom)

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. 7: Judy Gough

Dec. 8: Diane Hogshire, Tommy Deal

Dec. 10: BJ Blincoe

Dec. 11: Jack Wilkerson



Memorial Poinsettias

This Christmas we would like to decorate our sanctuary with an abundance of poinsettias. If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please see the insert in your bulletin or contact [Linda Weirich](mailto:linda@universitybaptist.org) in the church office at linda@universitybaptist.org to let her know the wording that you would like to appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 11. The cost of each poinsettia will be \$12. You can mail a check, drop it in the offering box, or pay online and earmark your gift "Poinsettias." The last day to order is Monday, December 5. You may pick up your poinsettias after the Christmas Day service on Sunday, December 25.

Prayer Requests

Barbara Newlon recovering from hip surgery

Jack Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Richard Vaughan recovering from surgery

Margaret Fitch & Family on the loss of her husband, Peter



Wednesday Night Series - "Why should we care about ___?"

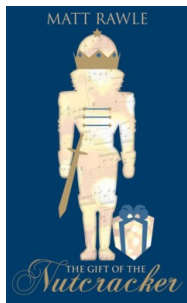
This Wednesday, November 30, our topic will be "Why Should We Care About Advent?"

Dinner at 5:30 will be a potluck followed by our discussion at 6:00. Afterwards, at 7:00, everyone who would like to sing can join Will Cooke and the Sanctuary Choir in the Choir/Lecture Suite.

If you have a topic you would like to suggest for a future Wednesday, email [Matt](mailto:matt@universitybaptist.org) at matt@universitybaptist.org and let him know.

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 Nutcracker was first performed in 1892, and quickly became a holiday tradition, one that continues for many families to this day. In *The Gift of The Nutcracker*, Matt Rawle takes a look at this Christmas classic in a new way—through the lens of faith. In this four-week Advent study, Rawle uses the iconic tale to help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ child and of the kingdom Christ came to build.

The Gift of the Nutcracker study will meet Tuesday evenings through Advent beginning November 29, 7:00 at the 5th Street Station Panera Bread. The location can rotate to a different location each week based on people's preferences. If interested, please email [Susan Hellings](mailto:susan.eg.hellings@gmail.com) at susan.eg.hellings@gmail.com.

"Now in Flesh Appearing" Advent Devotionals

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

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

- Dinner at 5:30 catered by *Wayside*, followed by Christmas activities beginning at 6:00.
- Children will have the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their family members, which can be purchased for \$.50 each, from 6:00 - 8:00. Youth will help children select and wrap each gift. 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.



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.



Join us This Advent & Christmas Season

Sunday, November 27, 11:00 - Advent Worship
Sunday, December 4, 11:00 - Jubilate Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 11, 11:00 - Intergenerational 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

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

