



December 13, 2022 Vol. 73, No. 50

Finding Gratitude

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Dec. 18, 2022

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Don't Jump to Jesus"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 2:1, 3-18, 20, 28-32

Anthem:

Sanctuary Choir Christmas
Program with Brass & Strings

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Lynne Gardner

Ushers: Ron Tweel, Sue Sears

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 14

9:00 Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)

5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Christmas Carol Sing

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, December 16

5:30 Gather for Holiday Lights Tour

SUNDAY, December 18

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting
(Zoom)

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

As we continue our journey through Advent, many of us have opportunities to get together with people. When we do, we can give thanks for all of the blessings we have. We can thank God for people, food, shelter, and the basic necessities. We can also thank God for the extra things we have: great experiences and good times with friends and family.

Too often, the busy schedules of the holiday season can inhibit our thankfulness. It's easy to let gift buying and preparation for parties get in the way of celebrating Advent and the coming Christ child. Each year, the Christian calendar begins with this Advent and Christmas celebration, because Jesus-in-the-world is the basis of our relationship with God. So, it is right to give thanks to God, above all things, for God-with-us Emmanuel.

In a devotional book called *Day by Day with the Early Church Fathers*, one reflection is by Athanasius. Athanasius of Alexandria lived from 298-373 and was one of the architects of our faith today. He defended something that in his day was a new idea: the Trinity. St. Gregory of Nazianzus called Athanasius a "pillar of the church."

Athanasius wrote a beautiful piece about being thankful to God for everything we have.

Knowing that the Lord loves thankful people, God's faithful servants never stop praising him. They always give thanks to the Lord. Whether they are in times of ease or of suffering, they offer praise to God with thanksgiving...

Therefore, Job, who had more courage than anyone, thought of these things when he prospered. But when he suffered, he patiently endured the pain and gave thanks. David also sang praises during times of pain and sorrow. He said, "I will bless the Lord at all times."

And Paul, in all of his epistles, never stopped thanking God. In times of ease he did not falter, and he gloried in times of suffering. For Paul knew that "tribulation works patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, and that hope makes us not ashamed."

As followers of such people, we must not let any season pass without thanksgiving... For the Apostle Paul, who gave thanks always, urges us to draw near to God in the same way. He said, "Let your requests, with thanksgiving, be made known unto God."

Desiring that we would always continue doing this, Paul says, "At all times give thanks; pray without ceasing." For he knew that believers are strong while they give thanks. And, while rejoicing, they pass over the enemy's walls.

These people are like the saints who said, "Through you will we pierce through our enemies, and by my God, I will leap over a wall."

My prayer is that each one of us would fill our holiday with thankfulness for everything God has done.

Peace,
Matt

A WORD FROM VAL

Thank You, Volunteers!

Every year, our work team and floral team dedicate hours of time to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. This year, they have given even more time than usual, not only decorating right before Thanksgiving, but also rearranging the decorations this past week to prepare for our Christmas Pageant and adjusting things again in preparation for the Sanctuary Choir Lessons and Carols this coming Sunday! I so deeply appreciate all of you who work hard to make our sanctuary match the visions that Matt, Will, and I create for our various worship experiences.

MONDAY, December 19

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

TUESDAY, December 20

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. 23: David Wagoner

Dec. 24: Charlotte Bailey

Dec. 26: Bryan Parsons

Dec. 27: Cindy Bryant

Prayer Requests

Barbara Newlon

Jack Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Lu Overbeck

Ed Lowry

Margie Howell

Nelda Vaughan

"Now in Flesh Appearing" Advent Devotionals

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

And over the past week, many of the same folks are also volunteering to welcome students during study hours! Your dedication to our church family is beautiful. I'm constantly astounded by the amount of time you are all willing to dedicate to serving in so many ways, and I'm blessed by your loving care. Thank you all!



Wednesday Night Dinners

Tomorrow, 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.



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. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30.

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.



Join us This Advent & Christmas Season

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



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.

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Connect with us

