



December 5, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 49

ON WATCH

Waiting. Waiting. Waiting.

Advent is the season of expectation and a time to look ahead to the arrival of God-incarnate. According to scripture, Jesus came to fulfill prophecies (Matthew 1:22, 2:15, 2:23, and more). Also, according to scripture, “God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:17).

Still, waiting is hard. Our culture conditions us for instant gratification. While I was walking to church one day, my earbuds stopped working. Upon reaching the office and turning on my computer, I visited a popular website named after a South American river. A few clicks later, new earbuds were on their way and arrived at my home the same day. How are we supposed to embrace an intentional time of waiting when immediate satisfaction is all around us?

Our experience of waiting today is different than it was 20, 50, or 100 years ago. With culture feeding us lies about instant gratification, we benefit by revisiting seasons of waiting. No matter how much we point and click, we cannot change the calendar or the nature of time. It will move as it moves, and we profit from embracing the rhythm of the season. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

The season of Advent includes both time for waiting and time for action. When we have a party or some other holiday event, we have to get ready. It’s a time for action. We go to the store, shop, prepare food, buy presents, and make sure we are ready for the events on our calendar.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

December 10, 2023

11:00 AM

Sanctuary Choir

Christmas Perspectives

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jen May

Ushers : Tom & Sylvie Moore

College Dinner: Will resume January 21

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 6

9:00 Work Team

5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Wednesday Night Program

6:00 Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

9:00 College Student Pancake Dinner

SATURDAY, December 10

11:00 Youth Christmas Party
@Bottles

SUNDAY, December 10

9:30 ESOL Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, December 11

10:30 Bible Reading Group

At the same time, this is a season of waiting. We cannot get ahead of ourselves. Each step on the Advent journey is an opportunity to reflect on where we've been, where we are, and where we are going. What will celebrating God-incarnate bring into our minds for the new year? What will be special or different about this Christmas? How is God using this season to help us grow?

Having some time to pause and think about these questions helps us grow in Christ. This is one of the great gifts of the season of Advent. It's why we don't skip the time of preparation and go straight from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Before we celebrate Emmanuel, God-with-us, we prepare. We light candles, and we think about the blessing of waiting.

Peace,
Matt



Holiday Lights Tour

Join us for our Holiday Lights Tour and a bus ride around town on Friday, December 15, 6:00-8:00, as we 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.



Centennial Keepsakes

Centennial Plates and UBC Ornaments can be yours while supplies last for a donation to Global Missions. (Suggested minimum donation is \$5.00 each). See the table in the 1st floor lobby.

Advent Devotions

Matt will be emailing devotions each day during Advent. We will be using the same email list that was used for the Lenten devotions. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact the church office.

TUESDAY, December 12

4:00 Seekers Christmas Party

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

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

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Tommy & Susan Deal

David & Linda Hendon

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Chris Owens

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

*In order to respect privacy, limited information is included here.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Tyler & Emily Haislip on the birth of their daughter Lilly Ann on November 29 and to proud grandparents Scott & Laura Morris and to proud great-grandparents, Robby & Judy Gough.



Photo of CBF personnel Chaouki and Maha Boulos, Lebanon

Sharing the Love and Compassion of Jesus -- CBF Offering for Global Missions

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions mobilizes field personnel to share the love and compassion of Jesus Christ in 20 countries and regions around the world. Responding to God's call and empowered by the Holy Spirit, field personnel cultivate beloved community, bear witness to Jesus Christ, and seek transformational development among people who have been forgotten and forsaken by others. Our field personnel serve alongside congregations and local ministries.

Chaouki and Maha Boulos are CBF field personnel ministering in Lebanon and the Middle East through evangelism, leadership training, and refugee aid. Their multi-faceted ministry includes: distribution of more than 500 food packages to refugee families every 5-6 weeks, hosting medical and dental teams who provide free medical and dental work to all needy persons, providing financial support to local pastors in the Middle East, and providing support to multiple orphanages in Lebanon.

From November 26 to December 31, we are collecting donations for the Offering for Global Missions. 100% of your gifts will support the long-term presence of CBF field personnel serving in the United States and around the world. The CBF offering goal this year is \$4 million, which covers the costs for current field personnel and their families to live full and healthy lives in their place of service, including salary, benefits, housing, and children's educational needs.

Give to the offering and explore the ministries of other CBF field personnel here and join as financial



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Dec. 13: Jess Lamberty

Dec. 16: Maisie Wood

Dec. 17: Taraneh Brown

Dec. 18: Karen Dalton, Carolyn Stone



Global Missions Christmas Post Office

Starting Sunday, November 26, the Christmas Post Office for

Global Missions will again be open for "business", sponsored by the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle. This is a way for you to exchange Christmas greetings with other church members and regular attenders without even knowing their mailing address and to support Global Missions at the same time. The "Post Office" box is located on a table in the first-floor lobby outside the Church Office.

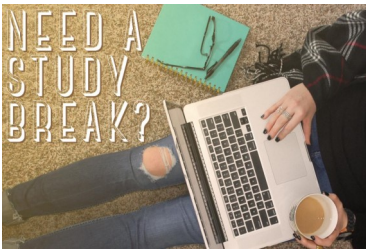
Instructions:

- Write the names of the recipients on your cards and place them in the appropriate alphabet slots. [Please include first names as we have multiple families with the same last name (e.g. Martin, Moore)].
- Deposit \$.66 per card (or round up for any additional contribution) into the container on the table or give it to any Kittie Colvin Trail Circle member.

supporters in their work around the world.

"May the God of peace . . . equip you with every good thing to do his will, by developing in us what pleases God, through Jesus Christ. To God be the glory forever and always. Amen." -- Hebrews 13:20-21

A WORD FROM VAL



Finals for UVA Students Dec. 6-13

Over the past three years, the way our church serves students during their finals has shifted. We used to

provide A Quiet Place to Study during particular hours of that one week of finals. Since 2020, we have provided study space to students year-round! Because of this change, we are exploring new ways to provide care and support to students during their finals' week. This semester we will try a late-night pancake dinner on the reading day before finals begin! Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 pm on Wednesday, December 6, as we serve breakfast, fellowship with the students, and play Christmas movies. If you are able to volunteer to set up, help serve, and/or clean up, please [email me](#).

We also still need fresh baked treats to leave in the college room through finals' week! Please drop off your donations of baked goods, sodas, sparkling water, or individually wrapped snack items in the college room by December 6. Thank you for your support of our students this semester!



Youth Christmas Party with FBC Waynesboro

Our December youth event will be a joint Christmas party with First Baptist Waynesboro.

Students will enjoy time at

Bottles in Waynesboro from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Bottles is a fun event space with indoor and outdoor games,

- 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 except your own.
- Do not place cards in the box after Sunday, December 24.

ALL proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund.



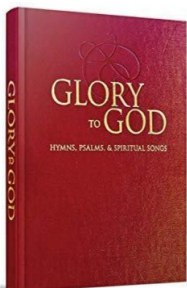
Children's Christmas Shoppe & Fun Night Wednesday, December 13

We will have our usual Wednesday night dinner in the Fellowship Hall followed by Christmas Activities. Beginning at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a hymn sing.

Children will have the opportunity, in the Children's Suite, to "shop" for gifts for their family members, which can be purchased for \$.50 each. All proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund. There will also be fun Christmas-themed activities for the children and a chance to wrap their gifts.

Donations needed: If you have small "treasures" that you would like to contribute, please drop them off in the church office or in the preschool department.

on-demand karaoke machines, and lots of arcade games! We will have the whole space to ourselves. Parents and younger siblings are welcome to join us. Taco bar and beverages will be provided, and other food is available for purchase. Youth are encouraged to bring a \$10 gift card to exchange, white elephant style.



New Hymnals Are Here!

Our new hymnals are now in the pews in the Sanctuary. If you would like to donate a hymnal in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the order form, which is available [here](#) and in the Narthex and return it to the church office.



Jazz Vespers

Our next Jazz Vespers will be Sunday, December 17, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary, featuring Calvin Brown on piano and John D'earth on trumpet. If you have somewhere, like your place of work, to put a poster or a card letting people know about this event, please stop by the church office, and we can provide one for you.



Reminder About Parking Options

On Sundays the church lots are reserved for visitors, people with walking difficulties, and people with preschoolers.

Parking

The 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.



Come for dinner at 5:30, program at 6:00, and Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 7:00!

Tomorrow's menu will be:
It's Taco night!
Hard- & Soft-Shell Tacos
Grilled Chipotle Chicken
Fiesta Rice
Cumin Black Beans
Pico de Gallo
Guacamole
Salsa
Cheese
Tortilla Chips
Shredded Lettuce
Tres Leches Cake

Click [here](#) to RSVP by Tuesday at noon.

This week's program is our Service of Remembrance.

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

