



December 12, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 50



ON WATCH

Heroic Generosity Strikes Again

Whenever I get discouraged, I should remember how fast the church family at University Baptist Church responds to needs. You are amazing, and you are always at work. Our two circles pick projects and families to support. Sunday morning Bible study groups provide Christmas dinners, gift cards, furniture, and more. Our Missions Council promotes a variety of mission needs. And, individual members of our church family find creative ways to be God's hands and feet.

When my friend Oana Romocea texted me on Friday about the needs at Viktor Matushak's church in Rodnikova Huta, Ukraine, I shared the need with the Missions Council. Within an hour, everyone responded with enthusiastic support. They suggested sharing the need with the congregation, so I included it in my opening words during Sunday's worship service. By Sunday night, we had nearly \$4,000 pledged. This more than covers the needs.

Viktor is thrilled and his faith has been reinvigorated. In fact, he invited me to come and visit his church. I am working on planning an appropriate time to go and want to ensure it will be productive. This might be the international partnership we've been asking God to provide.

For the last 30 years, Viktor's church has been hosting children from the Chernobyl area for summer camps. Since the war began,



SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

December 17, 2023

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Hope in What's Next"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Anthem:

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

Dan Forrest

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Lily Gregg

Ushers: Erin Eaker, Jimmy Li

College Dinner: Will resume January 21

Rehearsal-Free Christmas Pageant

This Sunday, we will once again participate as a whole church in a rehearsal-free Christmas pageant. 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 experience at UBC.

they have been using the building to provide shelter for refugees. Currently, they are hosting several families from Donetsk region. There are many opportunities for ministry in Rodnikova Huta.

On Monday, I wired \$2,800 to Oana and Cris Romocea. They will buy the boiler, expansion tank, relief valve, and a small generator. Later this week, Cris will drive these things to the border between Romania and Ukraine, and Viktor will meet him there. We are going to try to find out what other needs we can meet, and I will send the rest of the money then.

In 1 Timothy 6:10, we read, "The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." In Luke 16:13, Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and money." Your heroic generosity demonstrates that you do not love money. You love God and want to follow Jesus. You felt led to support these struggling people and you gave. That's amazing to me. Thank you.

Peace,
Matt



CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 13

9:00 Work Team
5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 Wednesday Night Program
6:00 Handbell Rehearsal
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, December 15

Church Office Closed
6:00 Holiday Light Tour

SUNDAY, December 17

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting
9:30 ESOL Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
7:00 Jazz Vespers

MONDAY, December 18

10:30 Bible Reading Group
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group

TUESDAY, December 19

7:00 Deacon Christmas Party

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



Holiday Lights Tour

Join us for our Holiday Lights Tour and a bus ride around town on Friday, December 15, 6:00-7:00, 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.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Tyler & Emily Haislip on the birth of their daughter Lilly Ann on November 29 and to proud grandpar-

ents Scott & Laura Morris and to proud great-grandparents, Robby & Judy Gough.



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.



Jazz Vespers

Our next Jazz Vespers will be a Christmas Jazz Vespers on Sunday, December 17, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary, featuring Calvin Brown on piano and John D'earth on trumpet. Come enjoy and bring a friend!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Dec. 20: Larry Johnson, Bill Jesser

Dec. 23: David Wagoner

Dec. 24: Charlotte Bailey

Dec. 26: Bryan Parsons

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 73, 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.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Tommy & Susan Deal

David & Linda Hendon

Carolyn Lowry & Family on the passing of [Ed Lowry](#)

Larry & Lynn Martin

Barbara Newlon

Chris Owens

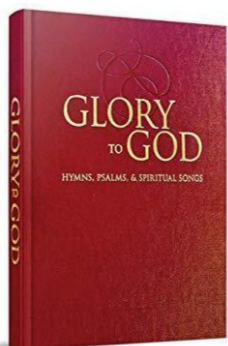
Melvin & Mildred Spicer

Bob & Joyce Tennant

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



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.



Global Missions Christmas Post Office

The Christmas Post Office for Global Missions is 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.
- 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.



Reminder About Parking Options

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

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.



Photo of CBF personnel
Jade & Shelah Acker, Uganda

Providing Educational, Professional, and Personal Development Programs -- CBF Offering for Global Missions

Jade and Shelah Acker are Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel who live and serve in Uganda, where they are committed to doing holistic ministry through Refuge and Hope International, an organization they operate and began in 2004.

Refuge and Hope International serves the urban refugee community in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. The nonprofit organization is located in a heavily refugee-populated area that is home to refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Ethiopia, and Rwanda. Each year, Refuge and Hope serves more than 1,000 refugees through the Center of Hope, as well as through skills and business training programs, youth and women's ministry, spiritual development, and social work programs. To learn more about the work of the Ackers and Refuge and Hope International click [here](#).

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



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

Tomorrow's menu will be:

Marinated London Broil

Garlic Butter Shrimp

Potatoes au Gratin

Sauteed Green Beans with Peppernata

Dinner Rolls

Mixed Green Salad

Assorted Holiday Cupcakes

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

This week's program is a hymn sing in the Sanctuary and the Children's Christmas Shoppe & Fun Night in the Children's Suite.

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. Our goal here at UBC is to contribute \$3,000 toward the larger CBF goal.

"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



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 Sanctuary, 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.

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

