



December 19, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 51

We traditionally do not publish The Word the week between Christmas and New Year's.
Our next edition will be January 2.

ON WATCH

Participating in God

As 2023 comes to a close, I invite you to join God's work at UBC by making a year end financial gift to the church. I feel like I talk about giving on a regular basis, but it's worth repeating now. When you financially support your church, you participate in God's work. You make what we do possible.

No gift is too small, and we appreciate everyone who is part of this church family, regardless of whether you financially support it or not. We don't say, "Thank you," to those of you enough. Without your contributions none of what we do would be possible. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you do.

This year, your gifts have allowed us to house people who have no place to live. You've paid for paint, electricity, reams and reams of paper, new hymnals, 106,000 meals for starving people, honorariums for guest speakers and musicians, devotional books, and so much more. It's hard to capture everything our church has accomplished this year.

As we look ahead to 2024, I wonder what God will do through our church. We have some strong financial headwinds. However, when we encounter headwinds, we have to adjust our sails. The new year might bring some adjustments to our sail trim. Yet that doesn't dispel my

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

December 24, 2023

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Letting God Be God"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

2 Samuel 7:1-11

Anthem:

"Sussex Carol"

Hagenburg

December 24, 2023

5:00 PM

Sermon:

"Something From Nothing"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Luke 2:1-14

Anthem:

"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

Craig Courtney

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: (11:00) Sheri Owen
(5:00)

Ushers: (11:00) Shirley Clark,
Jimmy Li

(5:00) Shirley Clark, Charlotte Bailey

College Dinner: Will resume January 21

enthusiasm or optimism. God has some great plans for UBC, and I can't wait to see what is next, and I love being part of it.

After our recent Jazz Vespers service, a woman came up to me who I had never met. She saw an advertisement for the service so she came. My homily was about the shepherds and how Jesus' message is about overcoming boundaries. The shepherds are examples of Jesus' story embracing everyone—including the outcasts at the lowest rung of the social ladder. She loved the music and the whole vibe of the service. Then, she explained that her impression of Baptists wasn't one of including everyone. I told her a bit more about our church and our ministries, and she was amazed. She said she would be back with her husband and daughter.

God continues working through this church to share grace and love with a world in desperate need of such a message. By making an extra year end contribution, you participate in God's work. Again, thank you.

Peace,
Matt



Holiday Lights Tour

Thirty-three people enjoyed a ride around town to see the Christmas lights on Friday evening, December 15. This is an annual event that is enjoyed by all who participate.



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.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 20

9:00 Work Team

SUNDAY, December 24

9:30 ESOL Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

5:00 Christmas Eve Worship

MONDAY, December 25

Church Office closed

TUESDAY, December 26

Church Office closed

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

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

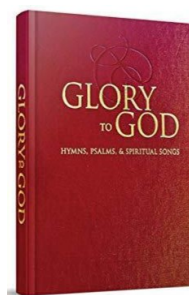


HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Dec. 27: Cindy Bryant, Margie Howell, Jocelyn Brumbaugh

Dec. 29: Renfro Manning



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.

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.



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.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

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.



There will be no Wednesday night dinner and program for a few weeks. We will resume on Wednesday, January 10.



Photo of CBF personnel
Jade & Shelah Acker, Uganda



Global Missions Christmas Post Office

Seeking to be the Presence of Christ CBF Offering for Global Missions

Alicia and Jeff Lee are Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel in Skopje, Macedonia, where they seek to be the presence of Christ by engaging in holistic, relational, and healing ministries among the ethnic groups of Skopje.

Macedonia is a small land-locked country in the Balkan region of Europe and is a unique blend of religious and ethnic diversity. Many days, this diversity is lived out beautifully, but at times can be a tense and often exploited balance. Approximately 60 percent of the population is ethnic Macedonians that are generally Orthodox Christians or agnostic; 30 percent are ethnic Albanians and are Muslim; and 10 percent are varied minority groups like Roma, Serbs, and Turks. Skopje is the capital city of Macedonia and home to 800,000 people. To learn more about the Lees and other CBF field personnel 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 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

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.

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

