



January 2, 2024 Vol. 76, No. 1

ON WATCH

A Spiritual Start to 2024

The 1970s pop group Abba has a song called "Happy New Year." The chorus goes:

Happy New Year

Happy New Year

May we all have a vision now and then

of a world where every neighbor is a friend

It may seem strange to invoke Abba as a point of departure for considering our start to the New Year, especially if we are doing it from a Christian perspective. However, their reference to "vision" makes me think about Joel 2:28, "Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

The verse from Joel is a powerful reminder of God's ability to move our hearts, no matter where we are or where we have been. The old year is over. The new one has just begun. As we start 2024, some might expect a minister to challenge everyone to, "Start the New Year *right!*"

But, what does that mean?

In our context, we prayerfully enter the New Year and try to hear what God is saying to us. We enter this time with faith that God still speaks. "Our sons and daughters can prophesy... we can dream dreams and see visions." The prophet's word for Israel can be our word. What is our vision for 2024? Can we enter the New Year with faith that God can give us a vision of friendship with our neighbors and our world? Can we be the salt and light this year in a new way?

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

January 7, 2023

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"Being Baptized Again & Again"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Mark 1:4-11

Anthem:

"Gather Us In"

Marty Haugen

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Raynell Stokes

Ushers: Cindy Bryant, Jackie Lockwood

College Dinner: Will resume January 21

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, January 3

9:00 Work Team

SUNDAY, January 7

8:30 Church Council Meeting

9:30 ESOL Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

4:00 Choir Party

MONDAY, January 8

10:30 Bible Reading Group

12:00 Children's Ministry Team Mtg.

In a world torn apart by wars, friendship might seem trite. It can even seem a bit trivial when there are so many serious things happening. However, friendship is a place to start. We can be friendly to one another, and we can view each person we encounter as a friend. This is the basis for relationships and can help us overcome some of the divisions in our country. As we seek to experience God's vision, we can be open to God's voice in the world all around us. That openness can help us hear what God is calling us to do and who God is calling us to be in this New Year.

What does God have in store for UBC this year? I don't know. But I pray that we experience God's vision and remain open to follow wherever this vision leads us.

Peace,
Matt

PACEM at UBC begins soon!

On Saturday, January 20, 8:00 AM, we will begin our two weeks of offering shelter and food to people in our area without homes. We will host approximately 35 people each night by providing them with a warm meal and a safe place to sleep.

We need your help! Sign up [here](#) to donate (snacks, breakfast items, or gift cards).

Sign up [here](#) to volunteer to help with set up on Saturday, January 20, 8:00 - 10:00, towel laundry, linen drop off at the laundromat (this will require a van or truck), and help with take down on Saturday, February 3.

Additionally, we will be collecting donations of:

Toothbrushes (individual, no multi-packs)

Toothpaste (travel size)

Tissues (travel packs)

Chapstick

Shaving cream (travel size)

Razors

Hand lotion (travel size)

Combs

Deodorant

Foot powder

Mints

Cough drops

Journals/notebooks

Heavy, dark socks (adult men)

TUESDAY, January 9

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle Mtg.

7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle Mtg.

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

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.

Funeral Reception for Ed Lowry

The funeral for Ed Lowry will be Saturday, January 13, 11:00 AM in the UBC Sanctuary followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Please consider helping with the reception for the friends and family of Ed Lowry. You can sign up [here](#)!

Please bring finger food items only to the church labeled by 10:45 that day. All items need to be cut, plated and ready to serve.

Hand warmers
Winter hats
Underwear (men's L, XL, or 2XL)
Plain white T-shirts (men's L, XL, or 2XL)
New or gently used adult sized backpacks or duffel bags
Washcloths

If you'd like to learn more about the work PACEM does in Charlottesville, click [here](#).

Thank you for your generosity as we care for and love our neighbors. Questions? Please reach out to [Laura Morris](#), [Katherine Hamel](#), or [Jennifer Wagoner](#).



Thanks for Keeping UBC's Calendar Accurate

We are blessed with a church building that is used both for church events and by other

groups in the community, and the church office uses a set of calendars to keep track of everything. If your group uses space in the building at times other than Sunday Bible Study, this is a reminder to let the church office know of start and end times, room(s), and cancellations. For events on the calendar, heating or cooling will be set (in most rooms). Thanks to everyone for helping keep our calendar accurate, and remember, "if it's not on the calendar, it doesn't exist!"



There will be no Wednesday night dinner and program this week. We will resume on Wednesday, January 10.

Note: This will be a large reception, so any help will be appreciated!

Please contact [Michelle Proffitt](#) with questions.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Jan. 3: Peter Ohlms

Jan. 4: Jennifer Wagoner

Jan. 5: Paula Price

Jan. 6: Thomas Hill, Joanna Sivley

Jan. 7: Sylvie Moore

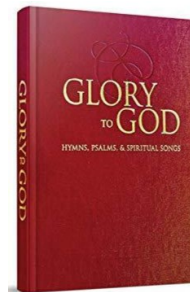
Jan. 9: Ruth Key

Jan. 10: Jake Mulcahy, Fin Mulcahy

Jan. 12: Thomas Bibb, Alden Pinkham

Jan. 15: Eric Devairakkam

Jan. 16: Katherine Hamel



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.

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

