

The Vision

A Monthly Communication AND Christian Education Instrument of The United Baptist Church in Annandale, Virginia

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The United Baptist Church Vision is to develop the intentional Holy Spiritual attitudes of God, as in Jesus, that our lives demonstrate the transforming impact of such a Holy relationship on us, our society, and on our world.

Volume 20

December 6, 2022

Issue 12

Merry Christmas!

Our Staff and Leadership wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May your holiday season be blessed with hope, peace, love, joy, and delight!



Christmas Weekend Schedule

We invite you and your holiday guests to attend our **Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve service, December 24th, at 3:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. You will be home before dark. We will have a service of Christmas Music (Woodwind Quintet), Singing, Scripture, Prayer and Candlelight. Bring a friend or extended family to safely enjoy in person!



Then, come to church on **Sunday morning, December 25th, 9:30 am for Bible Study & 11:00 am for Worship in the Sanctuary.** Bring your friends and family for a rare opportunity to be in the church welcoming the Christ child on Christmas morning!

Saturday, December 10th at 2:00 pm, please consider attending the **Sopranessence Holiday Concert, "Merriment & Mirth"** here at the church! In 2019, they performed here with an appreciative audience of over 100 guests! This group is "rebooting classical music" through innovative arrangements and programming of the classical repertoire. Public performances awaken audiences from all walks of life to see classical music as an art form meant for everyone. Sopranessence is an ensemble unlike any other. The group will take you on a musical roller-coaster from operatic arias to Broadway show tunes, sacred music, and beloved songs from American culture. Not a fan of opera? You don't have to be! After seeing one performance, you'll be laughing, crying and held in suspense by the beautiful voices of

these talented Divas! Rev. Moyer has known these ladies since 2007, when they first began as the 7 Sopranos®. Pam will secure your tickets, and they are offering several free tickets to us. Let Pam know if you can go! Website: www.sopranessence.org (non-profit educational org.)



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The next **Young at Heart Gadabouts Outing** for Senior Adults is **Tuesday, December 13th leaving at 11:30 am** from the church or **meeting there at 12 noon**. We will have lunch at **Red Lobster**, 10325 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22030. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, or you may call the office. We do need numbers! Dutch treat.

A **UBC Holiday Friends & Family Breakfast** will be **Saturday, December 17th at 10:00 am** in Bailey's Crossroads at **City Diner**, 5616 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041, so if you'd like to join us for this Dutch treat meal and informal time together, please let Rev. Moyer know. A sign-up sheet is on the pink & black bulletin board, or you may call us.

COVID-19 CHURCH UPDATE

Germs are spreading furiously (Flu, RSV, COVID variants), so although we are "**Masks Optional**" we respect your decision to wear one. How to prevent getting sick over the holidays? Please wash your hands often (20 seconds!), use hand sanitizer, and practice good health hygiene (elbow bumps and covering coughs or sneezes to prevent spread). We remain flexible, vigilant, and responsive to public health requirements. Thank you!

As you consider **year-end offerings, special giving, and your 2023 stewardship**, we thank you in advance for your generosity. Please be aware that for your donation to be posted by our Financial Manager to your 2022 UBC Account (for tax deductible purposes), it must be **received in the Church Office by December 31, 2022**. This Federal law permits no grace. "*Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine (Proverbs 3:9-10).*"

Kairos Moments ♥ ♥ ♥

(12/6/22) Reflections of Reverend Pamela Moyer

Merry Christmas! As I write today, it feels like spring again~rainy and warm-ish! It was nice to have a mild November and Thanksgiving too. We had better prepare for a cold winter!

Speaking of preparation, the church calendar puts us in Advent, a time of waiting and preparation ~ Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Again we have a fresh wreath with candles to remind us of God's timelessness, a circle with no beginning and no end. This tradition originated with 16th Century German Lutherans, lighting one candle each Sunday of Advent. This year we have evergreens of spruce, weeping cypress, and yew symbolizing immortality and boxwood symbolizing eternal life, nature's abundance, healing, and grounded-ness. The center white candle, called the Christ

Candle will be lit on Christmas Eve as we wait and acknowledge Christ the Savior, "the light of the world", is born. We will have a Christmas Eve service at 3 pm with a Woodwind Quintet, Carols, Scriptures, Guest Vocalists, Communion, and Candlelight, so we hope you can attend! We will follow our normal schedule for Christmas

Day which falls on Sunday this year. More carols to sing then too! We had a wonderful "Deck the Halls" team this year, so thank you to those who helped!

Although our year's theme has been "Listening for the Work", and we **are** hearing God's direction for us personally and for the church, this quarter we were striving to see the extraordinary in the ordinary through Scripture, everyday living, and missional opportunities.

My year's sermons and Scriptures are available on our website: <https://www.theunitedbaptchurch.org/services> if you'd like more "education" or to discuss with me.

And now for Advent, we ask you to join us as we refresh our spiritual lives like we do at Lent, by "emptying" ourselves of sin, selfishness, regret, stress, misplaced priorities, unfruitful habits, and unrealistic, unhealthy expectations. With all those things clogging up our hearts and brains, how can we possibly take in the innocence, holiness, beauty, humility, salvation, awe, glory, and power of the Lord Jesus Christ?! Please use the prayer tools we learned this year, like silence, contemplation, confession, prayer walking, Scripture prayers, and more to clear your mind and open your heart. These exercises and topics will lead us into next year's theme of "Divine Experiments!" I too am emptying myself to prepare for a pilgrimage to Israel in January. How could I take in all the images and sensations we read of in the Bible if my mind and heart are already full? Please begin to pray for me and peace in the Middle East so that our NorthStar Pastors' Trip can occur. Thank you. Have a beautiful holiday! ❄️

Parish Nurse's Touch

Debbie Caffrey

December Health Focus



The holidays are a time of happiness, joy, and fun-filled celebrations spent with family and friends, right? Well, not always. For many, the holidays fall far short of these expectations, as we miss loved ones more during this time of year. Health conditions, physical limitations or concerns about money can also which can result in increased stress, mild depression, and feelings of anxiety. We call this emotional reaction "the holiday blues." So, what to do? Consider a few of the following things that may keep you from feeling "blue":

- Maintain healthy habits. Eat healthy foods, get plenty of sleep, and exercise regularly.
- Adopt realistic expectations. Don't expect a perfect Hallmark holiday – it doesn't exist. Avoid comparing your holiday to what you see on television and social media. Remember, most people only share the good stuff.
- Set appropriate limits. Prioritize demands on your time and say "no" to certain invitations and activities. Be realistic about what you can and cannot do.
- Help someone in need or donate a gift to a needy child or family.
- Call a fellow church member-there are many who feel lonely, especially during the holidays.
- Invite friend/family or offer a ride to fellow church member to our Christmas Eve service.
- Create a Gratitude list-every day jot down something you are grateful for, keep it where you easily and frequently see it to remind you of all of your blessings.
- Pray/meditate daily and focus on the reason for the celebration- the birth of Jesus.

If trying to put all of these tips into action feels like too much to tackle, just pick a few that you think will prove most beneficial and give them a try this year.

The holidays are a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, to relax and reflect, and to relish feelings of love and gratitude. To keep the holiday blues from diminishing this special time, remember to be mindful of the behaviors and situations that fuel stress and negative feelings, and proactively make choices and decisions that will make your holiday a healthy and enjoyable one.

Merry Christmas!!!

~ *Be Well!* Debbie

Declutter and Donate! As you change over your **seasonal clothing**, please donate **heavy coats and outerwear** for those in need to the church. We will get it distributed for you. You may also donate clothing, shoes, and books to the green Bee Thrifty box in our parking lot (on Chatelain Rd.).

Contributions

November 2022 (Final)	<u>Required</u>	<u>Received</u>
Tithes & Offerings	\$5,000.00	\$ 3,680.00
Building Usage	8,633.33	6,850.00
Mortgage Loan (int)	712.33	712.37
Other (Env, B-Thrifty, Flwrs)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>363.60</u>
Monthly	\$14,345.66	11,605.97
Total YTD (Jan-Nov)	\$ 157,802.26	\$ 137,154.17
Above/(Below)		\$ (20,648.09)*
Benevolence Funds Rec'd.		\$ 60.00

* Budgeted Investment Transfers are **not** included in the "Required" or "Received;" tithes appear high due to Bus Shelter one-time donation. One transfer (\$48,240) was made in November as needed & budgeted. Other donations are not budgeted, but are gratefully received (BThrifty, Gas, Envelopes Init. Offrg, Flowers). Questions, call Rev. Moyer.

Thank you for your stewardship and prayers! End of year offerings may be mailed to the office at 7100 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. Mail is safely and securely processed daily. Our ministries, contractors and staff are working at full capacity and thank you for your generosity. Benevolence offerings by check, clearly marked "Benevolence," may be mailed to the office or cash/checks brought on any Sunday. Thank you.

2023 Contribution Envelopes will be available in December as you enter the Sanctuary. If you are unable to attend regularly and would like envelopes delivered to you, please call the office at 703.256.5900 for those arrangements. **Thank you** for your Kingdom generosity as you plan your 2023 giving that supports United Baptist's Mission & Vision budget.

Donate Poinsettias for Worship!

Please help make this wonderful addition to our worship experience possible, by clipping and using this form to honor and memorialize family and friends. These, as are all church gifts, deeply appreciated and are thus tax-deductible donations. You can be good stewards of them for other uses, after worship on **Dec. 20th or Christmas Eve** if you'll be here. This year, the rates increased substantially, so your donation for each plant will be **\$13.00 each**. A volunteer will pick them up to avoid delivery charges. You may turn in this form with your check or cash in the offering plate or mail in your check with this completed form. Please clearly mark your check memo line with "Poinsettias" to receive proper credit on your annual giving record. If cash, please use a pew envelope found on hall tables. Thank you!


Name of Person Ordering: _____

Number Poinsettias x **\$13.00** each = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Given in Honor of: _____

Given in Memory of: _____



Happy
December
Birthday

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Elliott Benham	1
Manuel Hernandez	2
Charles Potter	3
Martha Lowe	10
Holly Martindale	12
Emily Martindale	12
Lillian Martindale	12
Jeff Snaveley	15
Aubrey Jones	16
Kelly Martindale	28
Melisa Banks	31

December 2022 +

Saturday, December 10

02:00 pm – Sopranessence Holiday Concert, Sanctuary

07:00 pm – Zion Medical LLC Christmas Party, Fell. Hall

Sunday, December 11

12:15 pm – UB Foundation Bd. Mtg, Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 13

11:30 am – YAH Gadabouts Lunch, Details on Page 1

Saturday, December 17

9:30 am – UBC Holiday Breakfast, Details on Page 1

Sunday, December 18

12:15 pm – UBC CLCEB Meeting, Conf. Rm.

01:30 pm – Fellowship-NBMBC/UBC, Fell Hall

Tuesday, December 20

12:30 am – Staff Lunch, Bawadi Restaurant, Falls Church

Wednesday, December 21

09:15 am – Sandwich Team, Fell. Hall

Friday, December 23

Office Closed-observed Christmas Eve Holiday per policy

Saturday, December 24, 3:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

9:30 am Bible Study & 11:00 am Worship

Monday, December 26

Office Closed-observed Christmas Day Holiday per policy

Friday, December 30

Office Closed-observed New Year's Eve Holiday per policy

Monday, January 2

Office Close-observed New Year's Day Holiday per policy

Wednesday, January 4, 18

9:15 am – Sandwich Team, Fell. Hall



**The United Baptist Church
7100 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA 22003**

Return Service Requested

Prayer Requests have been removed for privacy. Please call the office if a member for an electronic list. Thank you.

COMMUNITY & GLOBAL PRAYER

Serving others in prayer is a needed social and safe action to show your love especially now!

- The Shepherd Center of Annandale-Springfield for volunteers and Office Director
- Those experiencing homelessness, unemployment, poverty or grief over loss.
- Mission Center Leaders and Groups we support & new relationships
- All affected by extreme weather, wildfires, war, disaster & **violence**: refugees; families and victims of mass violence; **Hawaii**, rebuilding in Florida, Puerto Rico, for the Disaster Teams, current Hurricane season coming to an end, severe snowstorm in upstate NY (Buffalo), the horrific unsolved student murders in Idaho, the Club Q Colorado Springs mass shooting, and others
- Pray for relief of Somalia, East Africa 1 million displaced residents, suffering from 2-year famine due to historic dry spell (UNHCR)
- Safety of all police officers and military personnel
- For the University of Virginia football player shooting victims, students, faculty & responders
- For the Victims, families, responders, store staff, & community of Chesapeake, VA for the Walmart shooting
- For our Country's Leadership & decision making domestically & internationally
- Pray for protection of all women who are under threat for trafficking
- Pray for peace and comfort for Ukrainians and that the global church will not forget the people of Ukraine
- Pray for the Ukraine war to end and for just peace to prevail
- Prayer for the immigrants crossing into our borders for safety and provision & for our leaders' decisions about it, related drug smuggling, related human trafficking