



January 6, 2026 Vol. 78, No. 1

ON WATCH

Star Words 2026

On the first Sunday of 2025, during worship, we gave people the opportunity to pick a paper star from a basket. On one side of each star was a word. Each one was different. Without listing a sample of the possible words, imagine fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) or positive characteristics. That Sunday, we read Isaiah 60:1, "Arise, shine, for your light has come." The "star words" are a chance for us to take the light we've received and shine it forth for other people.

On December 28, we heard inspiring testimonies from people about their experience with the star words in 2025. So we decided to offer each person a star word for 2026. On Sunday, we ran out of star words, so we will have more available in the office and again this Sunday, January 11.

Keep your stars. Take them home. Put them someplace prominent. Throughout 2026, these little star words can serve as a reminder of God's voice. They are an opportunity to engage with God throughout the year and then reflect on what this engagement meant at the end of the year. On December 27, 2026, I hope to hear more testimonies about what this experience is like for you this year.

If you write in a journal, write about your experience with your star word. In the coming months, keep track of how this word speaks to you in different ways. The Spirit might use the word to

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 11, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

God Shows No Partiality
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Acts: 10:34-43

Anthems:

When Jesus Came to Jordan
by Frits Mehrtens

Draw the Circle Wide by Mark Miller

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jimmy Li

Ushers: Mary Jo Hendricks, Shirley Clark

College Dinner: Click [here](#) to provide a dinner for our college students.



June 8 - 12
Rainforest Falls

prompt one thought on one day and another on another day. It will be interesting to see how we change and our relationship to our word changes throughout 2026. Then, on December 27, we can share what we've experienced.

I can't wait to hear your testimonies when we share our experiences with the star words in December.

Peace,
Matt



You'll have many opportunities in the coming year to join together and discuss what it means to be a Baptist at UBC. We'll look at what Baptists believe, how UBC's leadership and volunteers are organized, what we believe about baptism and communion, and the many ministry opportunities here at the church. Even if you've been a member of UBC for years, we think you'll discover something you never knew about us.

Sermon, Soup, & Sandwich

"Sermon, Soup, & Sandwich" at Mt Zion First African Baptist Church, 105 Lankford Ave, Charlottesville, VA 22902 at noon, Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Our senior minister Dr. Tenant will be delivering the message, and Mt. Zion's pastor Dr. Alvin Edwards invited anyone from UBC to come along, too. Soup and sandwich provided.



Join us this Wednesday, January 7 at 5:15 for dinner.

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

PACEM at UBC Begins This Month!

On Tuesday, January 27, we will begin our two weeks of offering shelter and meals to people in our area without homes. We will host approximately 40 guests each night, providing them with a warm dinner and a safe place to sleep.

We need your help! Below are links you can use to sign up for volunteer opportunities (help set up in Fellowship Hall, wash kitchen towels, take down/clean-up) or to donate specific items (McDonald's gift card, breakfast & snack items, hot chocolate, fruit).

[Volunteer Sign-up](#) (or contact the office)
[Donation Sign-up](#) (or contact the office)

Additionally, we will be collecting donations:

Toothbrushes (individual, no multi-packs)

Toothpaste (travel packs)

Tissues (travel packs)

Chapstick

Shaving cream (travel size)

Men's razors

Hand lotion (travel size)

Combs

Deodorant

Foot powder

Hand warmers

Mints & cough drops

Playing cards

Colored pencils

Journals/notebooks

Heavy, dark socks (adult men)

Winter hats

Underwear (men's L, XL, or 2XL)

Plain white T-shirts (men's L, XL, or 2XL)
Adult sized sturdy backpacks or duffel bags
(new or gently used)
Bath towels & washcloths (new or gently used)

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.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

David & Linda Hendon

Larry & Lynn Martin

Laura Martindale's parents

Edith Parker

Nadine Roddy

Barbara Weber

Jane Whitworth on her brother's battle with
cancer

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

Kevin Wright & Family on the death of his fa-
ther

*In order to respect privacy, limited infor-
mation is included here.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, January 7

9:00 Work Team
12:00 Sermon, Soup, & Sandwich
5:15 Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, January 8

1:30 Personnel Committee Meeting
7:00 Deacons' Meeting

FRIDAY, January 9

1:00 Nominating Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, January 11

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

TUESDAY, January 13

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle Meeting
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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

Ways you can SERVE



Looking for Helpers

If you are willing to help with various small tasks, that don't involve a ladder or hammer, associated with the office and/or our worship space, please contact [Linda](#) in the church office. We'd like to create a team that we could send these small task requests to and then anyone who is available and willing to help with that particular task could respond.

Thanks for considering to serve in this way.

Stewardship Committee Pledge Status

Thank you to all of you who have made a pledge to our 2026 budget. We have a total of 58 pledges (82% of last year's number) totaling \$464,452 (84% of last year's total). If you haven't yet done so, you can still do that by emailing [Amanda](#) or calling her at 434-293-5106 with the amount and frequency.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Jan. 15: Eric Devairakkam

Jan. 16: Katherine Hamel

Jan. 17: Emily Haislip, Erin Brown

Jan. 18: Tom Moore, Marvin Key

Staff Contact Information:

Senior Minister: Dr. Matthew Tennant - matt@universitybaptist.org

Associate Minister for Music and College Students: Rev. Megan Sharp - megan@universitybaptist.org

Voces Laetae Director: Will Cooke - wcooke@universitybaptist.org

Office Coordinator: Linda Weirich - linda@universitybaptist.org

Financial Coordinator: Amanda Ohlms - aohlms@universitybaptist.org

Church Administrator: Alan Hendricks - ahendricks@universitybaptist.org

Organist: Barbara Moore - call the church office at 434-293-5106

Maintenance Assistant: Hunter Cooper - call the church office at 434-293-5106

Sunday Morning Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service begins 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
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Charlottesville, VA 22903
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Connect with us

