



December 16, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 48

WATCH

Star Words' Final Weeks

On the first Sunday of this year, we gave out “star words” during the worship service. I don’t know how many people collected one. I don’t know how many people came by the church office later to pick one up. And I don’t know how many people have used their star word as a point of reflection this year. This sense of not knowing is part of the beauty of our faith journeys. No one can see what is happening in anyone else’s faith journey.

During these final weeks of the year, consider what your star word has meant to you. On December 28, we will have several people share about their experience with their star word. If you would like to share something (2-3 minutes), please let me know. You could begin by telling everyone your word, and then you could talk about your experience with it.

I’ve been thinking about my word, and I will tell you about mine on December 28. During the January 5 worship service, when we introduced this idea, I reached in the basket. The paper stars were facing down, and to my knowledge, no one arranged them. When Megan put them together, they were random. So, did I pick my word through luck or chance? Or was the Holy Spirit involved?

My experience with my word has prompted enough self-reflection that I am choosing to

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 21, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Making Good Choices

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Isaiah 7:10-16

Anthems:

Sing Out, My Soul by Jacques Bertier

Glory, Glory, Glory by Pablo Sosa

How Far Is it To Bethlehem

traditional melody

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Lily Gregg

Ushers: Tom & Sylvie Moore

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



Our Blue Christmas service, being held on Wednesday evening, December 17 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary, is a contemplative service with candle lighting to

honor the sadness that may accompany this season. We gather to remember God is good. God is strong. God is near. We are not alone, and we have every reason to hold on to hope.

believe that it was a providential stroke of good luck. God works in mysterious ways. I hope to hear from several people who want to share about their experience on December 28.

Until then, bring your star word with you to Jazz Vespers this Friday and worship this Sunday, and see how the spirit works in you with your word.

Peace,
Matt



Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News last week. He appears on WINA once per month to provide some commentary on the news from a faith perspective. He talked this month about overcoming divisions in the faith community. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).



Join us tomorrow evening, Wednesday, December 17, for dinner at 5:15 in the Fellowship Hall followed by our Blue Christmas Service at 6:00 and the Children's Christmas Shoppe at 5:45.

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).



Sunday, Dec. 21: Rehearsal-Free Christmas Pageant
Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve worship at 5:00pm



This Sunday, December 21, 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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Dec. 24: Charlotte Bailey
Dec. 26: Bryan Parsons
Dec. 27: Cindy Bryant, Margie Howell, Jocelyn Brumbaugh
Dec. 29: Renfro Manning

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Bob Bryant & Family on the death of his sister
John & Sarah Buchanan
Leon & Nancy Castle
Susan Deal on the decline of her father's health
David & Linda Hendon
Larry & Lynn Martin
Edith Parker
Barbara Weber
Jane Whitworth on her brother's battle with cancer
Jack & Anne Wilkerson
Kathy Wilson & Family on the death of her mother
Kevin Wright on the decline of his father's health

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



**Embracing Neighbors:
Nourishing Hope
CBF Global Missions 2025-2026**

We have received \$2,992.90 toward our \$3,000 goal which represents 99.7% of our goal! If you haven't already donated to Global Missions, please consider making a donation before Dec. 31 and help us exceed our goal this year!

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 17

8:00 Work Team Breakfast @The Villa
9:00 Work Team
5:15 Wednesday night dinner
5:45 Children's Christmas Shoppe
6:00 Blue Christmas Service
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, December 19

5:30 Jazz Vespers

SUNDAY, December 21

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, December 22

12:00 Missions Council Meeting

TUESDAY, December 23

6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

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



Christmas Gifts

**Children's Christmas
Shope
Mark Your Calendars!
Wednesday, December 17**

We will have our usual Wednesday night dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

At 5:45 the children will have the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their family members in the Children's Suite. Gifts may be purchased for \$.50 each. All proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund.



Global Missions Christmas Post Office

The Christmas Post Office for Global Missions, sponsored by the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle, is open. 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 \$.78 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 Wednesday, December 24.

ALL proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund.

Stewardship Committee Pledge Status

Thank you to all of you who have made a pledge to our 2026 budget. 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.

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.



UBCKids & UBCYouth

**Movie, Games,
and Mission Project
Monday, December 29,
1:30—4:30
UBC Fellowship Hall**

Children and youth families are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall to assemble Birthday Kits and to just have fun! Snacks will be provided. Please bring your favorite board game!

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.

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Connect with us

