



December 9, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 47

ON WATCH

Capturing Joy

On Saturday, I was humbled and honored to be invited to participate in Dr. Arthur Long's installation service at First Baptist Church. Even though we are only separated by 6 blocks on West Main St. in Charlottesville, our two congregations can feel far apart. We represent different groups within the city and surrounding areas. We have different worship styles. And, if you look closely, we might have some theological differences, too.

The Richmond Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America (GMWA) provided music for the service, and it was inspiring. I clapped, laughed, and sang good old gospel tunes. Other local pastors shared readings and stirring words of encouragement. I met a Jubilate Alumnus, Rev. Xavier Jackson, who serves as pastor of Chapman Grove Baptist Church. Two other pastors (to be named later) asked me if I was interested in arranging a pulpit swap.

The whole service was moving, but as I reflect on it a few days later, I recall some words from the main preacher, Dr. Kenneth Clayton. He directed his message to Dr. Long, yet we can all hear his words as instructive, especially during this busy season. He said, "Know your limits. Know your gifts and abilities. And know when to say 'no'."

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 14, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Water For the Desert

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Isaiah 35:1-10

Anthems:

In the Bleak Midwinter

by Harold Darke

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

by David Hurd

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Eddy Tennant

Ushers: Cindy Bryant, Shirley Clark

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.

During busy seasons, it's easy to ignore our limits. The Advent theme for this Sunday is joy, and joy can become impossibly unattainable if we ignore our limits. We will find ourselves stretched, overextended, tired, and unable to do what we need to do. Acknowledging that none of us is Superman or Mighty Mouse or Wonder Woman, can help us this season.

While we all have limits, we also all have gifts and abilities. God calls us to let our light shine (and not hide it under a basket). Using our gifts doesn't mean ignoring our limits. It means recognizing that God gave us the ability to do certain things, so we should do them.

Finally, saying 'no' is sometimes the right answer. When we have to say 'no' to something, we need to be at peace with the decision, and we need to encourage one another to make good choices. Sometimes 'no' is the right answer, because it honors our limits and will re-energize us for a future moment to use our gifts and abilities.

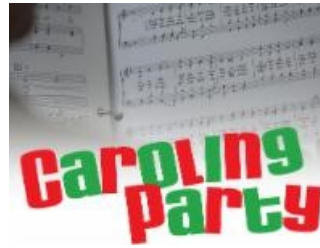
Together these things can help us capture a bit more joy during a busy season. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday.

Peace,
Matt



Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News yesterday. 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.](#)



Wednesday, December 10

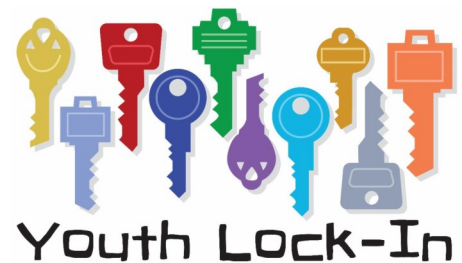
Come for dinner at 5:15 and stay for the Christmas Carol Sing at 6:00. This is a fun event for the whole family.



Sunday, Dec. 14: Christmas Choral Offering w/Strings

Sunday, Dec. 21: No-rehearsal Nativity Pageant

Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve worship at 5:00pm



After the second Christmas Lights Tour that begins at 6:45, the youth will stay at church for a Lock-In lasting until 8:00 Saturday morning. All Middle School and High School youth are invited to attend the Lock-In. If you would like to go on the Lights Tour beforehand, please be sure to sign up for the second run.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Bob Bryant & Family on the death of his sister
Sarah Buchanan
Leon & Nancy Castle
David & Linda Hendon
Larry & Lynn Martin
Edith Parker
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson
Kathy Wilson & Family on the death of her mother

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



Join us tomorrow evening, Wednesday, December 10, for dinner at 5:15 in the Fellowship Hall followed by our Christmas Carol Sing!

Our menu for tomorrow:
Hot Honey Chicken
Roasted Brussels Sprouts
Seasoned Rice
Mixed Green Salad
Dessert TBD

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, December 10

9:00 Work Team
10:00 PB&J Bible Study
5:15 Wednesday night dinner
6:00 Christmas Carol Sing
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 11

1:30 Personnel Committee Meeting

FRIDAY, December 12

5:30 Christmas Lights Tour 1
6:30 Christmas Lights Tour 2
7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle Meeting
8:00 Youth Lock-In

SUNDAY, December 14

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

TUESDAY, December 16

11:30 Annie Armstrong Circle Meeting
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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



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.

Donations needed: If you have small "treasures" that you would like to contribute, please drop them off in the church office or in the preschool department.

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

We will have our usual Wednesday night dinner in



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Dec. 18: Karen Dalton, Carolyn Stone

Dec. 20: Larry Johnson, Bill Jesser

Dec. 23: David Wagoner



Come join us for a free bus ride around Charlottesville to see the holiday lights with your family on Friday, December 12! We will run the route two times this year. For each run, we will gather in the first floor lobby of UBC. If you don't already have a UBC parking permit, we will have temporary passes available.

First Run - gather between 5:30 and 5:45, depart UBC between 5:45 and 6:00.

Second Run - gather by 6:30, depart UBC around 6:45.

Sign up [here!](#) Please list each family member who needs a seat in a separate line. Younger children are welcome to sit on laps, as it's a bit easier to see out the windows! (You do not need to reserve a seat for a child on a lap.)

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!



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

To date we have received pledges from 55 "giving units" (77% of total from 2025) for a total of \$456,652 (82% of amount pledged in 2025). If you have not turned in a pledge, no need to fill out an official pledge card. Just email [Amanda](#) or call her at 434-293-5106 with the amount and frequency.



Embracing Neighbors: Nourishing Hope CBF Global Missions 2025-2026

Colossians 3:12-14 says, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience ... And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony".

The Rev. Akinos Taguchi (pictured above) has worked for 24 years as the pastor of Kanazawa International Baptist Church and 26 years as the principal of the school. The kindergarten building was dilapidated and in need of repair. After many years of repairs, under Rev. Taguchi's leadership they were able to build a new building. In 2009, Rev. Taguchi attended the CBF General Assembly in Texas to establish a partnership between CBF and Japan's Baptist Convention. As a result, he opened the way for Laura and Carson Foushee, CBF Field Personnel, to serve at Kanazawa Church.

"Important things always start small" – Akinos Taguchi stated. Your support of the CBF Global Missions Offering and CBF Field Personnel and their mission programs will help to transform lives through the sharing of Christ's love. From December 1 to December 31, UBC is collecting donations for CBF Global Missions. 100% of your gifts will support CBF field personnel throughout the world. Our goal here at UBC is to contribute \$3,000 toward the larger CBF goal of \$3 Million. Please consider a gift to CBF Global Missions as part of your end of year giving.

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

