

The Vision

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

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Ms. Pamela L. Moyer, Senior Minister
Mr. David R. Evans, Minister with Music (working from home)
Mrs. Margarita Menjivar, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Dr. J. Wayne Yawn, Senior Minister Emeritus
Rev. Dr. Gerald L. Young, Pastor Emeritus

7100 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA 22003-3106
703-256-5900
UBCoffice@aol.com

Publication/Distribution Staff:

Rev. Ms. Pamela L. Moyer, Publication Editor
Volunteer: Sally Norris

www.theunitedbaptchurch.org

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.*

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Issue 1



Merry Christmas from Your Staff and Leadership!

Thank you to The United Baptist Church family and friends for your resilience, flexibility, and trust during this pandemic! We are grateful to you for showing your love and appreciation in so many ways. We have tried diligently, with God's help, to carry on electronically and safely in person to sustain the health and work of our church. As you can see, we have rallied to the new tasks and methods, even with smiles! May Christ continue to shine through you!

Church January Calendar

January 3, 12:30 pm -- Building and Grounds Committee Zoom meeting.

January 6 & 20, 10:00 am -- Sandwich Team safely meets in Fellowship Hall to make sandwiches for Bailey's Crossroads Shelter (masks & gloves required).

January 13, 2:00 pm -- Coffee with Pastor Pam, on the 2nd Wednesdays of each month. Zoom chat to catch-up, time for questions, prayer, etc. All we need is your email address to send you an invite. No charge: call the office to get instructions/tutorial. No official sign-up needed.

January 17, 12:30 pm -- The next Church Leadership Council Executive Board (CLCEB) meeting will be held on Zoom or in person (masks required in office).

January 2021 – The CLCEB voted unanimously to postpone our Quarterly Membership Meeting until April 25, 2021, due to increased pandemic surge.

Church services will remain at the temporary new time, **9:30 - 10:30 am** until further notice, with masks and distancing required. No peer pressure to attend. *Your physical and spiritual health are our primary concerns!*



Kairos Moments . . .

(1/5/21) Reflections of Reverend Pamela Moyer

Happy New Year! I hope you had a safe holiday filled with hope, peace, joy and love. For some, it was not a good Christmas or a happy New Year. For those of you feeling the post-holiday blues or true grief, remember that we are praying for your comfort and assurance; we have new directories and are only a phone call away! During 2020, many felt despair, overwhelmed, or lonely. We cannot minimize the effects that COVID-19 has had on our church family, the country, and the world.

Yet, we also observed silver linings. We learned the humility of not being in control (Isaiah 55:8). We have learned to heal from the loss of loved ones; to become creative with the loss of income and opportunities (Matthew 6:25-34). We lost fellowship and 5 months of no community worship together (Psalm 137:1-9). The loss of congregational singing is crucial for our safety, but it has since become more meaningful than we realized (1 Corinthians 14:15). There were gains too: creative musical opportunities; virtual concerts (like [Sopranessence](#) and [Voce Chamber Singers](#) that David Evans performed in), and virtual committee Zoom meetings to accomplish church business (see front page, both a gift and a curse!)

Families have come together to educate and entertain their children, finding innovative ways to help them grow and develop without classmates close by. Some of us have had deeper phone conversations; I have learned more of our church history and found new ways to serve one another at a distance. We've gained time to rest, contemplate, pray, study the Scriptures without interruption, do puzzles and home or church projects. Reflectively, name your own examples of where you saw God at work in your life in new ways.

As I shared on Christmas Eve, we have a choice to live in darkness, resentment of losses and chaos or to live in the light of Christ, reconciliation, acceptance, and peace. What wisdom have you gained these last months of isolation? The next many months will still be uncertain and unprecedented, but we are a resilient people! Let's move forward the best we can, as Mary did. She answered God's call; she obeyed with no hesitation. She overcame obstacles of shame and poverty to bear the Christ child for us!

As we welcome the New Year, what lessons will you take into 2021? What personal transformation has occurred, perhaps in your relationships, life rhythms, or a reevaluation of pursuits? What church insights have you had you could share? Has your relationship with God withered or intensified? What new things does our community need? How will this wisdom impact our decisions on Missions and Evangelism? Let us recall and live out the hope of the exiles in Babylon who would return to a destroyed Jerusalem, but later thrive in obedience to God: "He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd (Jeremiah 31:10b)."



Parish Nurse's "Touch" By Debbie Caffrey

Over the holidays, we have learned tough lessons about gatherings. Fairfax County Emergency Information

published these helpful guidelines with risk definitions:

FAMILY CELEBRATIONS -- High Risk: Large family gatherings; flights with layovers; traveling on a cruise ship or river boat.

Medium Risk: Small family gatherings that are: outdoors where everyone wears a mask, social distances, and washes hands frequently. No one shares plates, utensils, cups or other items. Car trips with people outside your family, long distance train or bus trips, or flights are all medium risk.

Lower Risk: Virtual family gatherings; staying home; taking short trips by car with members of your household with no stops along the way.

SHOPPING AND ERRANDS -- High Risk: visiting a crowded mall, indoor or outdoor; lengthy and/or multiple grocery shopping trips. Medium Risk: Pre-order items online, then go to store for pick-up; limit shopping trips – create a strategy so you physically enter as few stores as possible. Always follow protocol for shopping: wear a mask, social distance in the store, and wash hands immediately when finished shopping. Make a concise list and plan your trip to keep your in-store shopping time as limited as possible; look with your eyes, not with your hands as you select products. Low Risk: Shop online having goods delivered to your house; wait for the delivery person to be at least 6 feet from your package before retrieving it.

ENTERTAINMENT -- High Risk: Indoor events such as concerts or sports; crowded public ceremonies or events; ice skating, indoors on a crowded, small rink; attending large parties with people from outside your household. Medium Risk: attending an outdoor event where: capacity is limited; attendees social distance and wear masks; ice skating, outdoors or indoors on a large rink. Have a small outdoor dinner with family and friends who live in your community if: everyone wears a mask, social distances, and washes hands frequently. No one shares plates, utensils, cups or other items. Low Risk: enjoy a virtual concert, television sports, or virtual meals together. Stay Informed. Call our Health Department Call Center at 703-267-3511 with Coronavirus questions; open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. **Happy New Year!!!**

Inclement Weather Policy during COVID-19

In the event of inclement weather (freezing ice or snow), UBC leadership will decide about office or Sunday Services closures by 7 am on the affected morning. Our Mission Center partners are responsible for their own group cancellations. Any decisions will also be listed on our Website Home Page, www.theunitedbaptchurch.org, on Facebook, and in a Voice Mail message at (703) 256-5900. Since the building is closed to visitors now, activities will be minimally affected. Thank you.



Anthony Smith	3
Erma Rockholt	6
Glenda Etheridge	9
Julia Wilhide	10
Shirley Maxwell	11
Leigh Whitcraft	16
Angela Straub	18
Dave Sturges	20
Jack Caffrey	22
Alice Merritt	27

More Important Reminders

January 18 and 20: Offices will be closed per Policy for Martin Luther King’s Birthday and the Presidential Inauguration Day.

January 31: Deadline for the ACCA COVID-19 Challenge Campaign. Details are to the right.

February 7: Baptist Women in Ministry Sunday. Around the country, Baptist pulpits are filled with Baptist Women delivering the message and sharing the Gospel with their unique God-given and lived perspectives. We are fortunate to have our Senior Minister, Rev. Pamela Moyer share every Sunday!

The month of February is our traditional Souper Bowl canned food collection. Because ACCA’s food pantry was well supported this past year, they have an abundance of some foods and a shortage of other things. They need financial donations and the items below (partial list). Please go to their website page or call office for a complete list of needs:

<https://accacares.org/foodpantry/>.

Toiletries & household items (bar soap, shaving cream, dental floss, deodorant, laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toilet paper, and paper towels).

Condiments (Mayo, ketchup, mustard).

Beef stew, canned ham, canned fruit, crackers, cookies, cooking oil, non-refrigerated juices, pancake mix, syrup, and sugar.

March 28: Palm Sunday

April 4: Easter Sunday

Contributions		
November (Final)	Required	Received
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,250.00	\$5,860.00
Building Usage	7,400.00	4,850.00
Mortgage Loan (int)	712.37	712.37
Other	0.00	140.50
Monthly	\$14,362.37	\$ 11,562.87
Total YTD (incl Jan)	\$157,986.07	\$ 125,699.32
Above/(Below)		\$ (32,286.75)*
Benevolence Fund Deposit		\$ 75.00
Investment Transfer made (Nov)		\$ 49,650.00
December(thru 12/30/20)	Required	Received
Tithes & Offerings	\$6,250.00	\$ 12,850.00
Building Usage	7,400.00	4,350.00
Mortgage Loan (int)	712.37	.00
Other	0.00	54.50
Monthly	\$14,362.37	\$ 17,254.50
Total YTD (Jan-Dec)	\$172,348.44	\$ 142,953.82
Above/(Below)		\$ (29,394.62)*
Benevolence Fund Deposit		\$ 89.38

* Budgeted Investment Transfers are not included in the “Required.” Dec. Finals will be published in next month’s newsletter. Please continue to pray for God’s abundance and grace in these challenging times.

Thank you for your continued prayers and faithful Stewardship! Sacrificial or catch-up 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 office or cash/checks brought on Sunday. Thank you!

ACCA 2020-2021 COVID-19 Challenge Campaign

Debbie Caffrey, UBC Rep and Deb Schrag, President

2020 has certainly changed our world! ACCA, Inc. has taken extraordinary steps to maintain, and then expand, their services. There was a spring fundraising campaign; ACCA received a large CARES Act grant from Fairfax County; and received Paycheck Protection Program Loan from the Small Business Administration.

Your generosity, along with these public programs, helped ACCA serve a record-breaking **12,000 individuals and families** with daycare, rent, utilities, food or other essentials. [Ed: Last year 3,000 were served!]

As winter approaches, ACCA faces a difficult situation. The number of COVID cases is rising and high unemployment continues. The public programs have ended. Please donate to ACCA’s 2020-2021 COVID-19 Challenge Campaign, and to consider volunteering your time. Twin goals this year are to raise \$150,000 in contributions and to increase our number of volunteers by January 31, 2021. g your time.

Please consider a personal contribution this year! Just mail a check to ACCA, Inc., Suite 300, 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003, noting “COVID Challenge Campaign” in the memo line, by **January 31, 2021**. Electronic giving is easy, too – go online to <https://accacares.org/how-do-i-give/> for details. There are also many ways to volunteer with ACCA; please go to <https://accacares.org/volunteering/> for more information. **Thank you. Your contribution WILL make a difference!**

