

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.

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Issue 12

Merry Christmas!

Your church Staff and Leadership teams wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May your sadness turn to joy, sickness healed to strength, and your abundance shared with others. And may your Advent season be blessed with hope, peace, joy, and love.



We invite you and your holiday guests to attend our Christmas Eve Candlelight service with Communion, **Wednesday, December 24th, at 2:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. Note this is an hour earlier than usual. We will have a woodwind quintet as well as vocalist guests for a musical evening! Bring a friend or extended family for a photo shoot by the tree!

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The monthly UBC Young at Heart Gadabouts Senior Adults lunch is **Tuesday, December 9th at 12:00 pm** at LongHorn Steakhouse, 3562 S Jefferson St, Falls Church, VA 22041. Dutch treat. Meet at the church **at 11:30 am for a ride** or **at the restaurant at 12:00 noon**. See Pam Moyer for more info or a ride. Dutch treat. A sign-up sheet is on the Special Events Board or call the office to RSVP.



Our next UBC Friends & Family Breakfast is on **Saturday, December 27th at 9:30 am** at Bob Evans Restaurant, 10830 Promenade Ln, Manassas, VA 20109. This is a Dutch treat meal,

prayer time, with a short reading. Call the office or sign up on the pink and black bulletin board form.

There will be **no December CLCEB meeting**; January date to be determined and will be announced later. Thank you to all who serve the church in this way!

The next Shepherd's Center Lunch N Life is scheduled **Thursday, December 4th, 11:15 am**, at Annandale United Methodist Church, 6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. Start the Holiday season and enjoy the voices of the Annandale High School Choir and the lunch of lasagna, salad, green beans, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, or hot apple cider. Cost of lunch and entertainment is \$15 per person. To Register: Call their office at 703-941-1419 by Monday, December 1st or send an email to shepherdscas@vacoxmail.com.

Holiday Music

Voce Chamber Singers (David Evans a member) is **Saturday, December 6th at 7:30 pm** at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Rd. NE Vinnea, VA 22180, and **Sunday, December 7th at 4:00 pm**, at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Rd, Mclean, VA 22101. www.voce.org or (703) 277-7772. A wonderful event!



Saturday, December 13th at 3:00 pm, Sopranessence is celebrating the 10th Season of their **Annual Holiday Concert** (Haul out the Holly)! Hope you can join us for a classic festive afternoon of familiar songs and some

original pieces. Discounted pre-sale tickets will be available **now through Friday, December 12th**. Pam will order Senior discounted tickets (\$20.00). Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board or call the office.

ORGANIST/PIANIST POSITION

FYI, the **Organist/Pianist open position** has now been posted with several church organizations, on our website & emailed to many. Contact the office if you have any referrals or people in mind. An advanced degree is preferred, and an in-person audition will be required. Salary range \$15-18K (TBD) based upon experience & education. We will continue to share this job listing.



Kairos Moments ♥ ♥ ♥

(12/02/25) Reflections of Reverend Pamela Moyer

Merry Christmas! I hope you had a happy thanksgiving holiday too, and took some time to express the blessings we talked about with that insert asking where did you experience or see God's presence this year? The clergy participating in the ACCA Community Thanksgiving Service were asked to respond and speak our blessings in liturgy. Some things we thanked God for were family, friends, good neighbors, justice, freedom, our sturdy health, appropriate treatments for health challenges this year, supportive prayers of the congregation, and resources well beyond expectation or budget to help fill community members' needs. I encourage you to ponder your own blessings as the year comes to a close.



Thank you to those who helped "Deck the Halls!" We had a smaller team this year due to travels and holiday events, but thanks to Lee Ann, Bill, Doris, Roberto, Kevin, Alem, Kenya,

Roudaina, Pedro, and Ramon, we have décor, a beautiful tree, wreaths, ornaments, and lots of ribbon and glitter! Each week, you'll see one or two things added or changed as we proceed through Advent, a season of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Please plan to attend our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion service at **2:00 pm** (earlier this year) with music and instruments, lessons, and carols; you may take your own family/friends photos by the tree! Please invite family and friends! There are other Christmas options on page 1 of this Vision.



We began Advent with Psalm 33:17-22, with David reminding us that God saves all who trust and hope in Him. Even though we know this deeply, we too live in a distracting world. The war in Ukraine still destroys; tensions in the Holy Land still exist; soldiers are killed on our own soil due to extremism or mental health issues; politics polarize family and friends; the economy fluctuates; jobs are tenuous; Christmas lists overwhelm; traffic snarls; weather delays transportation; people still get sick and sometimes die this time of year; and these life realities make us feel uncertain or we forget the reason for the season. Suicides are high this time of year. Be with us in worship to help yourself not lose faith! "We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield." We stay on track by prayer, journalling, contemplation, worship, giving sacrificially to the church and others, Bible Study, and daily noon prayer. Build those devotional practices into this season intentionally, and you will have a reassuring, strong, and hopeful Christmas season, trusting God in all things, even the challenges of this earthly life. As we await the birth of Jesus, remember also, that "The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (Matt. 24:44)." Will you be ready for Jesus' return? Let's talk . . .

Parish Nurse's Touch

by 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 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 friends/family or offer a ride to a 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.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, & Happy New Year!

Be Well! Debbie

Temporary Sunday Schedule

We are continuing a temporary Sunday schedule until further notice as we enjoy our Interim Pianist & give our Bible Study substitute teacher a rest:

10:00 - 10:30 am: "Assembly" in the Fellowship Hall to sing Favorite Hymns, read and discuss associated Scriptures, and pray. Staff may also teach about Worship or Hymn history, Christian or Baptist liturgies and practices.

10:30 am-10:55 am: Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Suite. We invite you to sing with us!

11:00 am: Worship Service in the Sanctuary



**2025 Happy Birthday to
Congregants Born in December!**

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

December

Wednesday, December 3, 17

09:15 am – Sandwich Team, Fell. Hall

Saturday, December 6

10:00 am – Memorial Serv. Sally Whicraft, Sanc., F. H., kthc

Saturday, December 6, 20

01:00 pm – Kohaku Ens. Rehearsal, Chr Suite, F. Hall

Sunday, December 7

05:00 pm – Sopranessence Dress Rehearsal, Chr. Ste

Sunday, December 7, 14, 21, 28 (New Schedule)

09:30 am – NBMBC Bible Study, Parlor

10:45 am – NBMBC Worship, Chapel

10:00 am – UBC Assembly, Fell. Hall

10:30 am – UBC Choir, Choir Suite

11:00 am – UBC Worship, Sanctuary

12:30 pm – VGBC Worship, Sanctuary, Fell. Hall

Tuesday, December 9

12:00 pm – YAH Gadabouts Lunch, See Page 1

Tuesday, December 9, 16, 23, 30

12:30 pm – Food Mission Inventory, Rm 121

Tuesday, December 9, 23

01:00 pm – Kohaku Section Rehearsal, Chr. Suite

Saturday, December 13, 27

11:00 am-2:00 pm – Food Giveaway, Rm 121, 120 & Ctyd

Saturday, December 13

03:00 pm – Sopranessence Holiday Concert, Sanc. Chr Ste

Tuesday, December 16

01:00 pm Staff Luncheon, Clyde's @Mark Ctr, Alexandria

Wednesday, December 24, 2:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service, Sanc, Chr Ste

Wednesday, December 24

Offices Closed for Christmas Eve Holiday

Thursday, December 25

Offices Closed for Christmas Day--Merry Christmas!

Saturday, December 27

09:30 am – UBC Friends & Family Breakfast, see page 1

Wednesday, December 31

Offices Closed for New Year's Eve Holiday



Contributions

October 2025 (Final)	Required	Received
Tithes & Offerings	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,785.00
Building Usage	6,333.34	7,500.00
Other (B-Thrifty, Flwrs, Mem)	0.00	81.20
Monthly	\$ 11,333.34	\$ 11,366.20
Total YTD (Jan-Oct)	\$113,333.40	\$ 120,472.70
Above/(Below)		\$ 7,139.30*
Benevolence Funds Rec'd. (Oct)		\$ 110.00
November 2025 (Partial thru 11/9)	Required	Received
Tithes & Offerings	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,572.50
Building Usage	6,333.34	7,000.00
Other (B-Thrifty, Flwrs, Mem)	0.00	15.00
Monthly	\$ 11,333.34	\$ 9,587.50
Total YTD (Jan-Nov)	\$124,666.74	\$ 130,060.20
Above/(Below)		\$ 5,393.46*
Benevolence Funds Rec'd. (Oct)		\$ 75.00

* For detailed monthly reports, please contact the office. Budgeted Investment Transfers are **not** included in the "Required" or "Received." "Other" non-budgeted donations are gratefully received.

As you consider 2025 year-end "catch-up" offerings, special gifts, and your 2026 tithe commitment, we thank you for your generosity. Giving is a prayerful and spiritual matter, not just a financial one. Please be aware that for your donation to be posted by our Financial Manager to your **2025 UBC Account, it must be received in the Church Office by December 31, 2025.** This is Federal law and permits no grace. **Thank You** for supporting the Church and its many community missions! (*Proverbs 3:9-10*) If you cannot attend, check offerings may be mailed to the office at 7100 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. It is safely and securely processed daily. Our ministries, contractors and staff thank you for your generosity. Benevolence offerings by check, clearly marked "**Benevolence,**" may be mailed to the office or cash/checks brought on Sundays. Thank you!

Donate Poinsettias for Worship!

Please help to enhance our worship space for the holidays by using this form to honor and memorialize family and friends. These, as are all church gifts, deeply appreciated and are thus tax-deductible donations. After December 24th, you can take them home or share them with others. This year, there was a small increase that we will absorb, so the donation for each plant remains **\$14.00 each.** **Ordering deadline will be Monday, December 15th.** Please turn in this form with your check or cash in the offering plate or mail your check to the office with this completed form. Also, clearly mark your check memo line with "Poinsettias" to receive proper credit on your annual giving record. If you have cash, please use an envelope found near the offering plate. Thank you!

Name of Person Ordering: _____

Number Poinsettias x **\$14.00** each = \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Given in Honor of: _____

Given in Memory of: _____

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

Please note that personal prayer requests were removed for privacy. If you require updated information, please call the office at (703) 256- 5900.
Thank you.

COMMUNITY & GLOBAL PRAYER

- Government Employees going back to work, SNAP benefits; reimbursement for previously furloughed workers or those who worked without pay
- Global news headlines: hurricane recovery, violence, economy, leadership
- Jamaica devastation from hurricane Melissa: restoration, power, water, shelter, food, resources, health. Linda Hasselkus' (our financial manager) church supports Jamaican Link Ministries who lost windows, roofing, belongings. Please help if you can:
<https://www.jamaicalink.org/>
- Congregants traveling this month for holidays
- Var. locations: shootings, victims, families, perps
- Peace agreement for the entire Middle East
- Lebanon, Israel, Gaza, Syria residents – rebuilding & survival
- For more people to know & rely upon Jesus
- For more visitors & growth of our churches here
- Peace talks & protection of the soldiers & citizens of Ukraine
- Poverty & hunger in several locations around the world; ACCA/CROP UBC fundraised \$1,850.00!
- Our mental health systems, responders & social workers
- Safety for all firefighters, police officers, canine rescue teams, medical responders, and military personnel; keeping the peace during times of unrest nationally and globally
- Mission Center Building Usage Partners & potential new Mission Projects & Partners, especially ACCA at this time of year, for more funds & volunteers
- UBC Staff & Congregants during Worship Team interim & transition; finding the right qualified permanent part-time organist/pianist
- New United Gospel Food Mission—for donations, volunteers, & recipients. Pray that donations continue to expand to serve growing needs as we introduce guests to the agape love of Christ. Gratitude for the conversations & example Jesus set for us, so we can give more of ourselves sharing our faith
- Several Pastor friends with health issues personally or in their families, or who are preparing to retire

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sincere sympathies to the family of long-time member, **Vera Anne “Sally” Whitcraft**, who died November 1, 2025, peacefully at home. We will host a Memorial Service and Comfort Meal here on **Saturday, December 6th at 11:00 am** in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Please keep Betty (Leigh), Howard, Carole, and extended family members in prayer.

We share our sympathy with **Sally Norris & Scott Jones** in the death of her sister-in-law, **Diane Knight** on November 9th in New Jersey. She was 80 years young & married to Sally's brother, Paul Knight.