



NEWSLETTER - THE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH

Editors: Steph Hattie, Gabriel Araba, Meghan Dalphy

Vol. 0018

November 2021



Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

I would like to take this time to appreciate the entire team of leaders, friends and family at the United Baptist Church and the wider Sault Ste Marie community at large for the Love, Prayers, and relentless Support for me and family.

Your service to God and care is unforgettable. You make every season count and especially in this Joyful season of the birth of Christ Jesus our Saviour.

This season is a testament of the authenticity of the love of God Almighty towards us all, the faithfulness of our Father and the validity of God our Promise keeper. This is a wonderful time where the challenges of life prove God's ability to deliver us when we trust Him completely.

I pray that the joy of salvation and the redemptive story will open up to you a new frontier of possibilities and showcase God's awesome love and Faithfulness towards us all.

Yes indeed, it is Joy to the world!

Pastor Gabriel Araba



*We congratulate **Pastor Stephen Speers** of the First Baptist, New Liskeard on his Ordination.*

A man of God, kind-hearted and always ready to serve.

*His shared insight from God's word brings people closer to God. He is very active in the Northern Association of Baptist Churches, and we welcome him as the **New Moderator**.*

We pray for his success and leadership in his assignment in New Liskeard. We pray for the First Baptist Church family for increase in every phase. May God bless you always.

We are glad to be part of the Northern Association of Baptist Churches and the support and encouragement we all share.

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON & VIA ZOOM PLATFORM Our Sunday services will continue every Sunday at 10.30am on the zoom platform and in-person service as well. Please be a part of this amazing time. All safety precautions are observed and we can look forward to an awesome time, every Sunday. For online, Please join church services using the Zoom link below. Zoom link details:

Meeting ID: 958 598 9328 and Passcode: YmvCuoXa!





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UBC Variety Sunday with Young Adults



We are excited about the increase in number of the young adults. Their passion and involvement in church activities is a joy to see. Every 4th Sunday is an even greater opportunity to be blessed by their talents and giftings:



spoken word, dance, special songs and scripture sharing. We give all the glory to God! Please keep them in your prayers as we look forward to greater things in the near future.

COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE



Communion Sunday Service on December 5th, 2021. Please don't miss it. Communion elements are provided for the in-person attendees. We implore online attendees to please prepare your own bread or biscuit and Juice/wine to share the Holy Communion together. Pastor Gabriel would pray for the bread and wine. Most importantly, please prepare your heart as well. God bless you.

Reactivate, Refresh and Revive with Praise & Prayer

Dear friends,

There is no better time to keep the fire burning in the on our Altar. A church without a praise and prayer altar cannot go far.

"A church that Prays to God is a powerful church. A church that Praises God is a Victorious church.

A church without a burning altar, has nothing to offer. It becomes cold and afraid." Gabriel Araba

We have scheduled Thursday evenings as a time to Reactivate, Refresh and Revive in the spirit and Soul.

We are looking to forward to **Praise and Prayer time to First and Last Thursdays** of the Month beginning at 6:30pm-7:30pm. **Other Thursdays of the Month are Bible Study Evenings.**

Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, light on my path." and John 6:35 "Then Jesus declared, **"I am the bread of life.** Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. "What do you think will happen to a body you do not feed? A church that does not feed on God's word will face the same. Please, plan, pray, prepare, and invite others to attend.





Jesus said in Mark 12:31 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ... **‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’** No other commandment is greater than these.”



This year we are once again working with **Big Lake Cabin Restaurant**, in providing a Christmas Dinner for those new to our Church family and spending Christmas alone.

The cost per meal is \$35 inclusive (Dinner, Tax, Delivery & Gratuity).

For each two meals purchased, the restaurant will provide a meal to someone in need. If you would like to support this continuing initiative of our church and the restaurant, please contact the church at ubaptistchurch@shaw.ca or call 705-253-8073.

Each act of kindness makes a difference.



This year, we celebrate the **28th anniversary** of our **Chrismon Tree**.

Unfortunately, because of the present situation, the **Chrismons (symbols of Christ)** have not been added as they were not last year either.

Chrismon is the combination of parts of two words, **CHR**ist and **MON**ogram. And it is just that, **A Monogram of Christ**. A requirement is that each Chrismon refer primarily to our Lord and Saviour and are all made in the combination of white and gold.



When all the **Chrismons** are on the tree, this exquisite **Crown**, adorns the top. It, and each of the equally amazingly handcrafted Chrismons, as seen in the photo of the tree, were the combined creative work of **Wilma Stone** and the **Flower Committee at that time**

The **evergreen tree**, which symbolizes the eternal life of our Saviour, is the background for **tiny white lights**. White suggests the **purity** and **perfection** of our Lord and the lights speak of Him who is the **Light of the World**.

We trust that our tree will contribute to the **spirit of worship** during this holy season.



In other News, November 2021

Every year, *seemingly out of the blue*, suddenly the season of **Advent** is here and 2021 is proving to be no exception.

The challenges of the past almost two years, and with the current **alarming spike** in numbers in **our little corner of the world**, there is no better time than **now** to *welcome, embrace and celebrate* this holy **Season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**.

In further fostering the practice of updating our church family with the work and progress of your **Board of Deacons** and **Board of Management**, following are highlights of their **November meetings**, as our ongoing practice since March 2020 - conducted through the safety of Zoom.

- The United Baptist Church **website** is nearing its launch (more information to follow).
- Due to the high COVID infection rates, **Coffee Hour** is currently **suspended**.
- A number of outside groups using the church have **decided not to meet** due to COVID. Upon reconvening, groups must adhere strictly to Algoma Public Health guidelines.
- As COVID is known to be an airborne virus, *more readily transmitted in indoor spaces*, it is **strongly emphasized** that the **indoor wearing of masks in all areas of the church, at all times**, as recommended by APH to keep everyone safe and protected, **be respected**.
- Our **thanks to Orv and Marie Shackleton**, who will once again, spearhead UBC's continuing participation as a **Christmas Cheer Depot** for pick up on **December 15th**.
- UBC is continuing to adhere to the currently required **APH 30% capacity** for attendance in the **sanctuary** and **20 persons in the basement hall**. For this reason, **registration** may be required for the **Christmas Eve Service**, as COVID conditions and protocols *at that time*, will dictate the feasibility of an in-person Service.
- Watch for updates about future Baptisms. If you are interested in more information about baptism and/or church membership, **Pastor Gabriel** would love to hear from you.
- **Sharon Burns** and **Steph Hattie** are stepping down from the **Flower Committee**. They were thanked for their combined **50+ years of service**.
- **Christmas Cheer** toy and gift card donations can be placed in the marked box in the Narthex up to the **first week in December**. Past that date, may be **delivered to the Christmas Cheer depot** in the former Wal-Mart site at Station Mall. Please inform Verna Scott if you do so.
- **The Property Committee** will seek quotes to **replace the flooring** in the main floor accessible washroom.
- For the 10 months ending October 31, 2021, **Total Revenue** was \$102,564.82 and **Total Expenditures** were \$103,643.48. **Net Income** was -\$1,078.66.

-with deep appreciation to **Susan Van Atte** and **Mary Ellen Johns**
for their always **excellent, Minutes of Board meetings**.



TAKING THE TEMPERATURE OF OUR CHURCH

The **sixth** in a series where we will discuss fifteen questions proposed by the **Canadian Baptists of Ontario & Quebec (CBOQ)** in the topic ‘**Taking the temperature of your church**’, part of the series *Revitalizing Small Churches*.

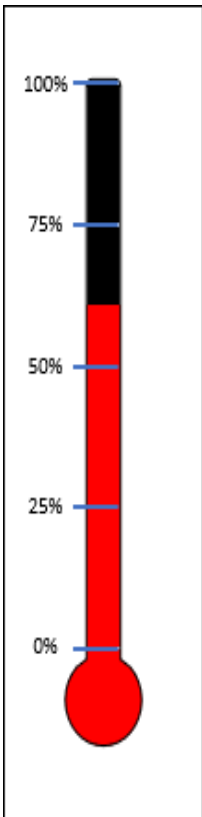
The statements that the Deacons’ Board discussed at the November meeting, as follows:

People in my church share their faith regularly.

This is a good question to pose to the Deacons. How do we know the answer? In part, the answer lies in results, as if we share our faith then the next step may be to invite people to church. A better answer is **do people know we are Christians by our lives**, actions, and Christian morals? I recall from many decades ago the phrase WWJD. Remember? ‘**What would Jesus do**’? If we reflect a life like our Saviour, then in a non-verbal way we share our faith. When we get asked, why are you doing this, then we have the door opened to share our faith verbally.

Members regularly invite guests to church.

I thought about this, the Deacons considered it, and if we were to change “Members” to “**People in my church**” the answer would be **yes**. At our in-person services, and I am not totally comfortable using this word, but “**adherents**” overwhelmingly outnumber members. Our “**newcomers**” (may I use this designation and when do they cease being new?) have been actively and regularly inviting guests and this has been growing our in-person attendance. Not to discount **members** but, if we share our faith the next step is an invitation to participate in our worship whether in person or online. I will admit that I am among the members that have not regularly invited guests.



A church does not grow without invitations and the **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:16-20) *to make disciples of and baptize all nations in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*, is deterred.

This month (December) **practice discipleship** (being Christ like), **share your faith through non-verbal actions** (help a neighbour, **help the poor**, **pray for the sick**, **pray for someone who needs Jesus in their life**) and **invite someone to join our service**, whether regular **Sunday or Christmas Eve**, either in person or live stream. May God bless your efforts.

- Rod Stone, Chair of the Board of Deacons

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..... **We asked - *Save the Date* - and they gladly did!**.....

Held on **Saturday, November 13th**, the women held a one-day ***Sale for Missions***. In attendance were approximately **62 shoppers** who welcomed the opportunity to do some early Christmas Shopping. Available were baking, soups, chili, preserves, handmade crafts and paintings, a Treasure Section, as well as nearly new gift items. **COVID protocols** were followed in order to keep everyone safe, with those in attendance requiring pre-registration, a limited capacity of less than 20 total at a time in the lower hall, following the arrows, masking, hand sanitizing, social distancing and Covid screening.



It was most gratifying to receive such positive **feedback** about the entire experience and an *awesome, and then some*, approximately **\$5,200 was raised** in support of projects serving **vulnerable women and children** in our community as well as special Mission projects identified by the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, Women's Division.

Heartfelt **THANKS** to each and everyone for your **generosity, dedication, creativity, and support.**

- Susan Van Atte- Brunch Chair

Hope... Peace... Joy... Love ...



Christmas is the most **wonderful time of the year** - trees are trimmed, presents wrapped, cookies baked, and the chilly air and predictable snow signal the coming season of festive warmth and celebrations.

For us, as **Christians**, it all **begins** in 2021 on **Sunday, November 28th** and ends on **Christmas Eve**.

Advent is the **first day of the church calendar** year, and the beginning of the four weeks: a time of preparation for **The Coming of the Messiah**.

A **symbol** of Advent is the **wreath**, a continuous **circle** - *with no beginning nor end*, of **greens**, signifying continuous life - that is crowned with **five** candles and lit on consecutive Sundays.

1st Candle -November 28th, 2021 - is **purple**-and represents **HOPE**

2nd Candle-December 5th, 2021, **also purple**, represents **PEACE**

3rd Candle - December 12, 2021 is pink - **presenting LOVE**

4th Candle -December 19th, 2021, **back to purple**, representing **JOY**

5th Candle - Christmas Eve, a **white** candle in the **centre**- the **Christ Candle**, which is used to light each person's individual candle, followed by the singing of "Silent Night" to end the Service.

UBC's Advent Wreath, was designed and donated by **Richard Dickson**, a long-time member choir member, in loving memory of his parents - **Norris and Ann Dickson**.