



United Baptist

CHURCH *Sharing God's love everywhere!*

Affiliated with Canadian Baptist Churches of Ontario and Quebec (CBOQ)

THE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Editors: Steph Hattie and Gabriel Araba

Vol. 0019



Happy New Year 2022

It is my joy and privilege to wish you all a Happy New Year 2022. May this be to you a Blessed and Awesome year of fulfilment and many joyful moments. May this be a year of supernatural advancement for you by God's Grace.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE AND COMMITMENT

I would like to take this time to congratulate the entire Leadership, Ministries, Teams, Members and Attendees of the United Baptist Church for a successful 2021.

2021 has been a Great year. We have indeed prospered on every side. As we all know that every success comes with its challenges and God has been faithful to us. We have every reason to rejoice and give God thanks.

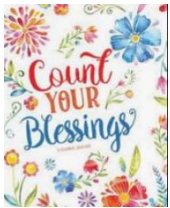
1 Thessalonians 5:18 -in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



We might have gone through some difficult times, but God kept His promises, and He shall increase our greatness, and comfort us on every side, according to God's word in Psalm 71:20-21.

We are confident in the truth that God's Grace is sufficient for us, and His strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

COUNT YOUR BLESSING



Most importantly we must count our blessings. The fact that you are reading this right now is an indication that you are victorious. You overcame the challenges of 2021.

2 Corinthians 4:8- "We are hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." We all have a lot to be grateful for, just think about it. God is faithful in your life.

WE NEED EACH OTHER

I want to take this time to thank the leaders and teams again so much for the hard work to bring the United Baptist Church Ministry teams to the level of success we have attained as a Church. It has been a T.E.A.M (Together Each Achieves More) effort for sure, as we continue to grow and prosper together.

Over the years in my Ministry experience, I have come to acknowledge the very important contribution of every team to the growth and well being of the church.



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I guess this explains why I have been close enough to the teams to give support anywhere needed. I deeply apologize if I have in any way miscommunicated this.

It is important that we keep each other in prayers and have open communication about helping one another when needed. We must give no room for any discord.

You are in my prayers, and you will always have my support.

“I believe a family that Prays together stays and grows together.”

We have so much more wonderful things to do together and God is our help.

Remember Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me”

Please know that I love and appreciate you all, thanks again and keep up the good work.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR GIVING

My heart is full of joy as I express this gratitude to every single person who gave in one way or another in cash or kind to God's work in the United Baptist Church.

God is a huge rewarder and multiplier. May your service to God in this way reap a hundred folds of harvest. May you abound in every good thing.

I pray the words of Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”



Matthew 25:21-His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

I love you all and it is wonderful to be serving in God's kingdom with you.

Thanks again and God Bless you immensely.

Grace and Peace be yours and wishing Happy New Year 2022

Pastor Gabriel Araba

You are invited to the Lord's Table

Communion Sunday Service on January 2nd, 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.



Sunday Service Via Zoom Platform, Youtube & In-Person

Our Sunday services will continue every Sunday at 10.30am in-person as well as on the zoom platform and in-person service, in accordance with current APH guidelines. Please be a part of this amazing time.

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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Isaiah 26:15 -Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou art glorified!

In 2021, we witnessed an exponential increase among our youth at United Baptist Church. The best part is that they are spreading the news of UBC by themselves! Most from Algoma University and Sault College are students in their first to final years.



We are excited to have them be part of our church family and look forward to further engagements in the new year.

UBC MUSIC COMMITTEE

The UBC music committee has grown in 2021 to the glory of God! From only Lorraine and Teni in January of 2021, the music team grew from 2 to 12 members. Praise the Lord!

Membership

In addition to Tina Eveland, Esther Stephen, who recently joined the choir in the summer, Ola Olatunbosun, Andrew McCormick, OG Umurhohwo, John Hipe, Chris Moran, Becca Moran, Emmanuel Aigbukor and Liz Moran have all been part of the choir in 2021. We are grateful to God for each one and look forward to a larger team in 2022. A special thank you to Lorraine Smith for her leadership and Kelly Landry, with Mary Ellen Johns for their consistency and continued support.



Current Status

We are happy to report that since the summer of 2021, the music team have met consistently on a weekly basis to practice hymns and contemporary songs for the blessing and upliftment of the church and community.

Calls for musicians and singers continue to go out to interested members of our church community.

2022- Singing and other expressions of worship

To elevate praise and worship for all members and newcomers, the music team will be introducing and teaching the congregation one special song per month. This song will be repeated every Sunday in a given month to ensure the members get used to the song; learn the song and actively participate in the time of worship.

The music team is encouraging people to proactively participate during the time of worship and praise by clapping, dancing, lifting up their hands and freely expressing their hearts to God.

January's song of the month- **King of My heart- Bethel music**

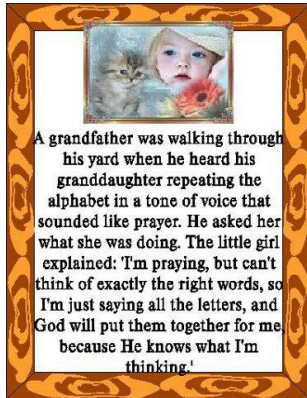


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IN OTHER NEWS - December 2021



As 2021, with all of its challenges, frustrations and also victories, draws to a close, and the unknowns of 2022 lie ahead, we can take comfort and guidance in the wisdom and faith of this little girl:

"I'm praying, but can't think of exactly the right words, so I'm just saying all the letters, and God will put them together for me, because He knows what I'm thinking."

As they have since March of 2020, your **Board of Deacons** and **Board of Management** have continued to meet faithfully, the second and third Wednesday of each month, via the safety of Zoom, and with God's infinite grace, to examine, discuss, research, *sometimes agreeing to disagree*, but always with the ultimate goal of moving our church forward to the best possible outcomes and the greater good.

Following are highlights of their December meetings.

- Announced that **United Baptist Church Website** was up and running as of **Dec. 15th** with additional upgrades expected in the coming months.
- Our former UBC **Constitution**, *revised and renamed* **Principles and Guidelines** will be presented for formal approval at the 2022 Annual Meeting.
- As we had participated last year with 14 meals, this year **seventeen Christmas dinners** were ordered from **Big Lake Cabins** for those in the congregation who would be **alone at Christmas**. For each two meals ordered, a meal was donated to someone in need by the restaurant. This was done in tandem with **Harvest Algoma**.
- For those interested, the **Camp Norland Newsletter** is available on the Narthex table.
- UBC acted as a **Christmas Cheer** pickup location for families picking up food and toy baskets. **Thank you to Orv and Marie Shackleton** who once again this year so capably coordinated this worthy project. *Orv's report follows in this Newsletter.*
- As COVID restrictions **limit the number of persons** in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Service and **pre-registration is a requirement** for attendance, should numbers exceed the limit, a TV will be set up in the basement for Zoom
- For the 11-month period ending November 30th, **Total Revenue was \$114,971** and Total **Expenditures were \$114,776. Net Income was \$194.28.** In actuality, UBC has a shortfall as a good portion of the \$14,998 in grants from the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec was not spent in 2021 with no Outreach Project expenses (**Project delays due to COVID – expenses expected in 2022**).
- **Salary and wage increase of just under \$11,000** were approved for 2022 in accordance with the **January to November 3.309% inflation rate** and the **Provincial increase in the minimum wage.**

- From the Minutes prepared by Susan Van Atte and Mary Ellen Johns.

.....
A new year means the opportunity to write a new chapter.
..... **May 2022 be an incredible part of our story**



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Christmas Cheer was a great success again this year. My team (Marie) and I, started putting it together on Monday, **December 13th**.

On Tuesday, **December 14th**, we were lucky enough to get everything delivered ahead of time from the main depot at Station Mall for set up.

On Wednesday **December 15th**, a table was put outside the downstairs door providing **Covid protocols** that had to be followed.

People started arriving at **noon**, and after **showing the proper ID**, Marie and I would bring out what had been prepared for them, between 1-5 boxes, with grocery gift cards, and even some hockey sticks.

The last pick up was at **2:00pm** - gratefully no deliveries had to be made this year.

- Orv & Marie Shackleton

*As a church Family, we express our **deep appreciation** once again, to **Marie and Orv** for their ongoing commitment and part of the great team effort overall that brought Christmas to **1,743 households**.*

Members of the **Currie McPhail Circle** met via Zoom on Monday, December 4th, 2021, at 4:30pm, to discuss the disbursement of the very rewarding success of our November Brunch Sale of **\$5,552.75!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

In past years, the practice was that **all funds** raised for Missions were sent to Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec (**BWOQ**) in support of **women missionaries**. In recent years, however, we have come to recognize and support **the need in our local community** as well, our funds now being **equally divided for both areas**.



\$ 400.00 United Way - in support of vulnerable women and children



\$400.00- SSM Soup Kitchen – Director – Ron Simms-grateful for donations.



\$400.00- Harvest Algoma – local chefs volunteer to ensure community food security



\$400.00-Christmas Cheer – dedicated volunteers make it happen year after year

A further **\$1,000**, previously set aside to send underprivileged students from Northern Heights Public School to camp, is now available to *children of our church family interested in attending camp*.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Brunch Sale in any way, making all of this all possible.



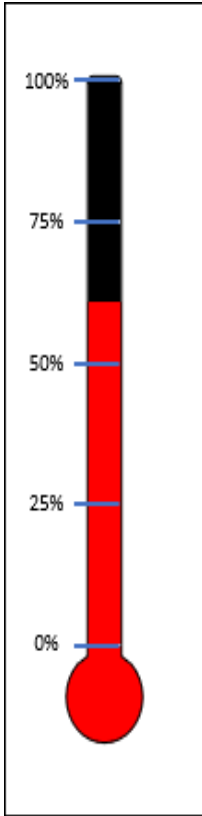
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TAKING THE TEMPERATURE OF OUR CHURCH

- Rod Stone – Chair Board of Deacons



This is the **seventh** 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 December meeting, as follows:

It is relatively easy to get members involved in ministries in my church.

What is visible and apparent are those who have joined the music worship team this year. Our new vocalists are **Tina, Esther, John, and Rebecca**. **Elizabeth** is on the keyboard and vocals. **Emmanuel** had been our drummer until he moved (out of Sault Ste Marie) and now **Mark and Elizabeth’s son Christopher** plays the drums. **Andrew** has joined to play the guitar and **Lorraine’s daughter Christine** played bass guitar for our Christmas Eve service. Those join **Lorraine, Teni, Kelly and Mary Ellen** for an **outstanding worship team** praising God and uplifting our services.

Less seen, are those serving in the children’s ministry in our **Sunday School and Nursery**. **Deni and Osa** have joined **Sandra** in the Sunday School. **Alice, Blessing and John** are ministering in the Nursery.

Up in the mezzanine are the **audio-visual team**. I will begin with **Mark**, who spends most of his time in the sanctuary monitoring and controlling the microphones and speaker system sound. **Romi** controls the power point and what is projected onto the screen and the picture in picture in the broadcast. Romi has been assisted by (or filled in for) **KT, Kathy and Samuel**.

At the **cameras and controls**, assisting **Roger** and **myself** has been **Meghan and Aldony**.

Another unseen “ministry” is those who volunteer to **drive those who do not have vehicles**, to church. These are **Kathy, Marino, and John**.

It has been such a **blessing** to our church to have **church family getting involved with our ministry**. This is *without mentioning those who reach out to and invite people in the community to see what is happening at UBC*.

Our church is good at developing new leaders.

We are working at it!

We need to make a personal connection, find a willingness, and offer leadership development programs. (Direct quote from the Deacons’ Meeting Minutes December 8, 2021).

We consider the **Young Adults group**, who have participated in worship services, and **Esther**, who has brought Sunday morning messages. When we allow our church family to use their God given talents, we develop their leadership skills as well.

I acknowledge the assistance of **Teni and Sandra** for the “members” involved in ministries.

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