



God Has the Best Plan for Your Life



The Burj Khalifa has been the tallest building in the world since 2010, It seats on top of world majestically in its Dubai location with a height of 828-metre (2,717 ft) tall it is also called Burj Dubai.

Definitely a lot of thought was put into what it will take to build this skyscraper; professional builders, designers, engineers, financial experts and architects and many more came together to hatch out what it would take to make this dream of having the tallest building in in that location. This dream became a reality \$1.5Billion USD dollars later. Don't worry it is still not the most expensive building in the world, that will be about \$15Billion, so please breathe.

It takes a plan to build a dream. It takes commitment and cooperation to see it come to pass.

Edifices such as this require a premeditated plan to have such a glorious outcome. God's word also say that you are God's Masterpiece and premeditation plan with a glorious outcome.

Ephesians 2:10- "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Jeremiah 29:11- "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

From this first verse, we are reminded that God holds your life in His hands, and nothing that happens is a surprise to God. God can turn all things around for you. So do not give up or be tired no matter the circumstance. God knows what his plan is for you, and it is good.

A human creator thinks about what his creation will do and be before creating, how much more will our Heavenly Creator?

Romans 8:28-30 reminds us that God knew, called and justified and glorified us. God knows your needs and He is a provider and Promise Keeper-**Psalm 23:1**.

What has God promised you? **Luke 21:23**, which tells us that God can work miracles when we trust in Him. The word of God is surer than any foundation, buildings and intellect of any professional builder or architect. God's word endures forever, and **John 1:3** says nothing came to be except through Him. God can do all things.

Remember Romans 8:28; "And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose."

How can we know what God has for us? "Loving God unlocks his secret plans for your life. Think about this. " When you love someone, you are willing to give of your time, resources, strength, holding back almost nothing. God love you and He will hold back nothing good from you. Earthly things are temporary, but what is Godly lasts forever. Check how you love against how God loves. How often are you willing to forgive? Decide to love others even when they fail, for God loves you the same way. He has loved you beyond your flaws, the same way He loved Peter after he denied Jesus three times.

John 14:23, where it is said "If you love me, obey my commandments". Prove your love for God and unlock His awesome plans for you keep trust Him. **Proverbs 3:5-6**, which says that trusting God is the way to express His wonderful plans for your life. When you trust in Him, He will open doors for you that you could not imagine. God makes a way when there is no way. He will make a path for you through darkness and confusion. This plan God has for you is one "to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." **Jeremiah 29:11**.

-----Pastor Gabriel Araba-----



United Baptist

CHURCH *Sharing God's love everywhere!*

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

April 2023

THE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER *Editors: Steph Hattie and Gabriel Araba-Vol. 0035*



**HOLY
COMMUNION**

You are invited to the Lord's Table

Communion Sunday Service is on May 7, 2023. Thanks for your participation. Communion elements will be provided for the in-person attendees. We implore online attendees to prepare their own bread or biscuit and juice/wine to share the Holy Communion together. Pastor Gabriel will pray for the bread and wine and church family. We give God all the thanks. God bless you.

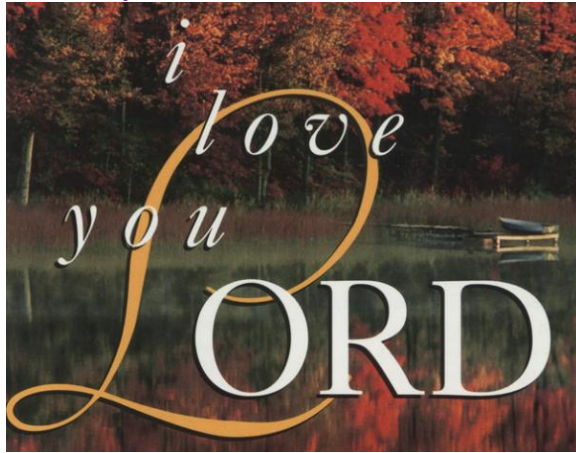
In-Person Sunday Service, Via Zoom Platform & Now on YouTube 10:30am.

For Youtube and no more sound issues, Click on a new link that will be provided Sunday morning by Pastor Gabriel, or if you prefer, use the usual provided Zoom link. Please be a part of this amazing time.

All safety precautions are observed and we can look forward to an awesome time, every Sunday.



Please join the in-person Bible study, Praise & Prayer Every Thursday at 6:30 pm at the church main sanctuary.



To help care for the spiritual growth and soul revitalization of our family and friends, we have scheduled Thursday evenings as a time to **Recharge, Relax, Reactivate, Refresh and Revive** in the spirit, Soul, and body. It's always an awesome time.

Time: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Main Sanctuary. It is interactive 🗣️

Every first and third Thursday are dedicated to prayers, while the second and fourth are dedicated to Bible study.

Please plan, pray, prepare, and invite others to attend. This is a great opportunity for our church to:

1. Stay connected with the Living word of God, which is **food for our Soul, Spirit and Light for us** which we require to grow effectively. Get Divine Wisdom and Understanding from God's word. Get Recharged and Activated by God's Spirit towards fulfilling your God-giving Purpose.

Psalm 119:105 : " Your word is a lamp for my feet, light on my path." 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."

2. This allows us to **be strong** and stay **in touch with God's Will.** James 5:16: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

A Bible believing, Praying and Praising Church is a Victorious Church!

God Bless you all.
Pastor Gabriel Araba



UBC REVITALIZATION UPDATE

We are grateful to God for many things for the United Baptist Church family. God has been so good to us and with much gratitude we are counting our blessings.

- On Easter Sunday, we had about 175 people in attendance which a record high since the pandemic disrupted everything. We have had on average 130 in attendance over the past couple of months. The Lord has kept our doors open and many families from different nations of the world have joined us.

Do you know we have a family from Iraq? Good is good eh!



- The Sunday school is blooming with over 30 children on record. Don't you just love their energy every Sunday during the service? We are trusting God for a children's Choir in the future.



- We now have many more hands-on decks. Many more people are volunteering. Vibrant committees are busy serving with committed members making a difference in both little and huge ways.

The United Baptist Church was selected as one of the CBOQ churches to share their journey of Revitalization amidst the challenges many Churches face today.



A video crew from CBOQ *all the way from Toronto* visited UBC on the morning of Thursday April 20th, 2023, to conduct an interview with Pastor Gabriel.

It was a highlight of all the amazing things happening at United Baptist and how the Lord has kept our doors open. We have come full circle from *"survive until we can thrive"* to looking forward to making an even greater difference, by the Grace of God, in our community.

Watch out for the full video soon to be announced.

God is Good to us at UBC!

Currie McPhail May Mission Circle Meeting

Tuesday, May 9th, 2023.

11:30 Lower Hall -Brown Bag Lunch and Meeting.

1:00 Tour of Harvest Algoma at 446 Second Line W (formerly Croatian Hall)

1/2-1 hour in duration – fully accessible

IMPORTANT-Please **confirm** with Susan- **705-882-1369** or vanatte@explornet.com

Come Join us!





IN OTHER NEWS, APRIL 2023.



..... **Pretty much says it all!**

Following are some highlights of the most recent **Board of Deacons** and **Board of Management** Minutes as they faithfully meet the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6:00pm on Zoom.

Deep appreciation to **Mary Ellen Johns** and **Susan Van Atte** for their diligence and expertise in preparing these Minutes as well as **members of both boards** for their continuing dedication and time given.

- Work continues to develop a **Policy for Weddings** at UBC.
- Updates were provided regarding **two teams of volunteers** providing assistance with **cleaning**.
- **Pastor Gabriel** will host a plenary session at the upcoming Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec (CBOQ) June **Assembly in Toronto**; - a first ever for UBC! And **Teni Araba** will participate on a panel for Pastors' wives - another first!
- **Pastor Gabriel**, **Rod Stone** (Chair of Board of Deacons), and **Steph Hattie** (Northern Association Rep) will be attending the upcoming **Northern Association Spring Assembly of Baptist Churches** on May 12th and 13th in Sudbury (First Church Garson). UBC can send **two additional voting delegates** whose expenses are reimbursed. **Interested?** Contact **Rod Stone** or **Pastor Gabriel**.
- For March 2023, **Total Revenue** was \$16,092.48 (**65.57% increase** over the same period last year) and **Total Expenditures** were \$13,847.61 (**42.71% more** than the same period last year) leaving a **Net Income** of \$2,244.87.
- The **good news** is that for the 3 months ending March 31st, the **overall Net Income** was \$8,881.03. **A follow-up congregational meeting** is to be held on **Sunday, May 7th** in the sanctuary **following the morning service** to discuss **revisions to the 2023 budget**.
- At the **Social Committee's** suggestion, a **water cooler** will replace the purchase of water bottles, which are costly, will deter the present significant wastage that is occurring, ease the workload of our dedicated Social Committee **and** help the environment! **Win/Win/Win!**
- The Board approved the detailed and impressive **Outreach Committee's** report to CBOQ for the period of 6 months ending March 31, 2023 - a requirement of receiving the grant.
- The Board approved a **Confidentiality Policy for the Care Team**; noted that **additional volunteers are needed**. *Expectation is that training of volunteers will take place in May.*
- A Request for Proposals (RFPs) will be issued shortly for **brick repairs** to the church tower and for corners of the building.
- Quotes were reviewed for the **replacement of carpet** with approval to proceed with replacement of carpet in the **sanctuary, narthex, and hallway leading to the offices**; **costs to be partially covered by Savings**.
- The Board approved expenditures for **painting in the Narthex, washrooms, stairwells, and lower hall**.
- **A Fundraising Campaign** is needed to cover **Capital Expenditures such as** the replacement of carpets, painting, tower repairs, and more – *the wish list that will be discussed on May 7th.*
Plan to attend and be a part of the discussion and the solution.

Lost -ring with **white gold band** with a **purple** stone.

If you find it, please leave it in the office.

Thanks - Verna Scott





TWO New at UBC

- 1. A new and improved recycling area is now once again available in the lower hall.

WHAT are we collecting and WHY?



Aluminum pop tabs are collected by The March of Dimes and recycled to generate funds to buy, repair and maintain a wide variety of mobility/assistive equipment, empowering people with disabilities through research, education and advocacy, as well as supporting families through vital facilities such as Ronald MacDonald House. DID YOU KNOW? A million pop tabs weigh about 800 pounds /363 KG and are worth \$366 US.



Locally owned and operated, Lock City Dairies has partnered with the Sault Ste. Marie Humane Society to provide funds for every outer milk bag collected, avoiding these plastics going into the landfill, as well as ensuring the Humane Society of needed funds for support of the animals for such necessary expenses as food, pet toys, blankets, beds and always in demand - expensive veterinary costs.



Stamp out Poverty with your old Stamps is the motto of Oxfam, an international non-profit organization operating in over 87 countries worldwide. Oxfam Canada alone, in 2021, generated nearly \$30,000 for the cause. Their focus is on the needs of women and girls – fighting poverty and injustice and promoting rights. Not only do they collect stamps- preferably trimmed to 1 cm - also the entire envelope if there are clearly identifiable town/village/city postmarks as well as registered or special delivery postmarks.

Gender is the most persistent predictor of poverty and powerlessness in our world today.



Since 1925, the 1.4 million members of the 48,000 Lions Clubs around the world have been champions in helping combat vision impairment, blindness and hearing loss, by providing care, education and access to glasses and hearing aids that might otherwise be out of reach for many worldwide.

Our local Lions Club is also actively involved in the Annual Rose Day in May, where bouquets of roses, carnations or a mixed bouquet can be ordered and will personally be delivered by a Lions' member to the recipient of your choice. The funds raised are used to support a Vision Screening programme for Senior Kindergarten pupils, now expanded to Junior Kindergarten as part of their Eye See Eye Learn Programme, occurring annually from October to April.



Our local Soup Kitchen Community Centre. Located on James Street in the west end of the city, is one of the numerous organizations that is striving to provide vital food security for residents of our city and surrounding area. Soup Kitchen Director, Ron Simms, has indicated that while any and all - non-perishables food is welcomed, their present greatest need is for canned milk, Peanut Butter, Crackers and Kraft Dinner.

2.

SMILE - you're on CAMERA!

There has long been considerable concern about the undesirable activity occurring in the protected alcove of the lower-level door, resulting in, not only the area being strewn frequently with garbage, but it also, more recently, becoming a serious safety issue.

GREAT NEWS The recent installation of a surveillance camera and accompanying sign, seems to be having the desired results. Our sincere thanks to the donor as well as Roger for the installation.





Ready. Set. Grow! **By: Pastor Jae**

Bamboo. That is what I think of when I think of UBC's Youth Ministry. For a long time, there were no visible signs or evidence that anything was happening. BUT something WAS happening. For years people of UBC **prayed** and **believed God** for new life. They prayed fervently. They prayed faithfully.

The Lord heard.

And now, we get to see the answers to these prayers. The growth in the Youth Ministry (YM) just SHOOT UP like bamboo stocks!! Each week there are more young people being added to the roster. Each week these youth are asking with eagerness, "When is the next gathering?!" They are **HUNGRY** for a place to belong and they have a **DEEP DESIRE for Jesus**. And I believe that this is only the beginning.

Praise the Lord!

As the YM grows, I want to highlight just one of many reasons why YM is important **We reap what we sow.** The faith we nurture in youth will help determine how deep their roots grow. The depth of their roots will determine: if they can withstand the coming storms of life; the measure of belief in God's promises; and the strength of faith they will pass onto their children.

How strong do we want the faith of the church to be?

For any ministry to work, and for any faith to grow, it's going to take **PRAYER**. Here is how we can pray for our youth. Pray for:

- Courage** – to stand against peer temptation
- Identity** – to discover who they are in Christ
- Peace** – to turn from anxiety and lock their



focus on Jesus

- Dreams** – to discover passion and gifts
- Belonging** – to know true deep Christian Community
- Faith** – to have unshakable belief in Jesus Christ.

Pray with me: Holy Spirit, we are so GRATEFUL for the life You are breathing into the Youth Ministry. Thank you for the HUNGER these young people are having for You. Hear the pleas of the youth. Reveal to them their direction and purpose. Strengthen their faith as they become pillars of the church. May their place of community be strong and safe. And Lord I ask, what else would you have me do to support the Youth Ministry? Lord, may You be GLORIFIED in the lives of these youth. In Jesus name, Amen.

We join together to celebrate several **significant milestones**, for both our own **UBC Family** and the **greater CBOQ family**.

On May 31st, **Iris Chalmers**, a member of our church, a **veteran** and recent resident of Pathways retirement Home, will be celebrating her **97th birthday**. She remains active with regular outings and in *regularly supporting her fellow residents*.



In a **historic** appointment, **CBOQ** has named **Rev. Leanne Friesen**, who has written about the challenges faced by female Pastors....*being judged, ostracized, criticized and rejected based on their gender*, as CBOQ's **first ever female Executive Director**, bringing a deep and vibrant love for Christ, visionary leadership, innovation, a strong theological foundation, and commitment to our Baptist identity - building supportive relationships with CBOQ pastors and churches, empowering them to thrive within local communities through missional discipleship.



Congratulations Iris and Leanne- Be blessed!

Editors' Note: Have a milestone to share with the Church Family -we'd love to hear about it and share!