

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Monthly Newsletter of Ustick Baptist Church

Reaching and equipping all ages for a lifetime of following Jesus

The Next Chapter

Dear Church Family,

“For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11

One of the things I love to do is read. As I read, I especially enjoy opening a new chapter of a book. The past pages have set me up to find out what’s next in this new chapter. What course will the story now take and how will the characters move forward and what twists and turns will the plot take? This seems to be what people have in mind when they refer to “the next chapter in their lives”.

Well, Jeanelle and I find ourselves saying that as I write this last newsletter article in our transition of serving as your Senior Pastor for 32 years. It is a time where we do wonder what will come next in this chapter of our lives as well as in the life of this wonderful church. What twists and turns of the “plot” will unfold, what course will be laid out, how will the characters (you and us) move forward?

The Next Chapter for Us

As I step down as your Senior Pastor on January 10, 2021, it is our plan to take a three-month sabbatical. A time to refresh, pray, seek the Lord and rest. Jeanelle will be on call with her position as a writer with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). We plan to travel some in Idaho as well as spend a month visiting our children and grandchildren in California and perhaps explore some states in March. In April I plan to pursue full-time work but as of yet I am not sure what field that will be in (if you have any

contacts or ideas I’d love to know!) Most of all we plan to start a new chapter after 40 years of ministry with a time to let the Lord direct our steps in what He has for our next course. We are excited to see what He has planned.

We have agreed with the church leadership to not attend Ustick for at least six months or longer, depending on when a new Senior Pastor is chosen. Beyond that we are trusting the Lord to lead us as to where we can fellowship and serve.

The Next Chapter for Ustick

We recognize that this is a huge transition for our wonderful church and that this next chapter will also be a new course and a new “plot” for what God has in store for His church. It delights me to no end that we have an incredible staff and team of Elders in place and you all to work together to write this new chapter in the life of the church. The cheering you hear from the sidelines is Jeanelle and me as we support what the Lord is going to do with you and for you and through you as you continue to “reach and equip all ages for a lifetime of following Jesus”. The new Senior Pastor will be tremendously blessed to serve this part of the body of Christ!

Remembering the Author

As we begin our personal new chapter and as the church enters its new chapter, it is vitally important that we remember that our Lord is the Author of what comes next. That was Jeremiah’s reminder to the people of Judah during the dark days of the impending Babylonian captivity of the Jewish people. Yet God’s promise was not only to hold the plans of His people (and for His people) in His hands but to make

those plans one of blessing and welfare and not calamity. Ultimately God says that His “authorship” is to lead into “chapters” that give us a future and a hope. The confidence we have going forward with our new chapter and that we have for Ustick going forward in this new chapter of the church’s history is that the Lord is writing His good and glorious “book” to His glory and our good! So we trust the Author!

A Final Word

Jeanelle and I will never be able to express to this church family our gratitude for letting us have the privilege of serving with you these many, many years. We treasure every friendship, we celebrate any “fruit that remains” in our ministry together and we will never forget this chapter of our lives that has given us more joy and delight than we ever dreamed. We love you church!

Having served with you,



Pastor Greg Reider
Senior Pastor



SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Prayer Chain: This prayer chain is available for prayer requests concerning our church body and their immediate family. Prayer is a vital part of the Christian life and we have seen many prayers answered. If you would like to have your church family praying for you or an immediate family member, please contact the church office at 208-938-2121 (Tuesday—Friday) or secretary@ustickbaptist.org.

Helps Ministry: This ministry is under the umbrella of the Women’s Ministry here at Ustick. If you need help with meals due to illness, hospitalization, or family emergency, the women of Ustick Baptist would like to assist you through our Women’s Helps Ministry. Please contact Amy Wolin 208-412-0483.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you would like to schedule something at the church, please contact Teresa in the office at 208-938-2121 or secretary@ustickbaptist.org.

CHURCH STAFF

- Senior Pastor**
Greg Reider
pastorgreg@ustickbaptist.org
- Pastor of Care & Connections**
Mike Beaudin
pastormike@ustickbaptist.org
- Pastor of Worship**
Matt Beck
pastormatt@ustickbaptist.org
- Pastor of Discipleship**
Ryan Bear
pastorryan@ustickbaptist.org
- Pastor of Youth**
John Buren
pastorjohn@ustickbaptist.org
- Children’s Ministry Director**
Angie Jacobson
angie@ustickbaptist.org
- Administrative Assistant**
Teresa Dudley
secretary@ustickbaptist.org

ELDERS

We, the **Elders** of Ustick Baptist, want you to feel free to contact us with any concerns and cares that you have regarding our church ministries or with any questions. Our role is to oversee the church ministries and to pray for the needs of this body. Please feel free to contact us as we serve our Lord together!
elders@ustickbaptist.org

- Chairman** - Curt Goldgrabe
- Pastor Greg 208-938-2121
- Bob Bishop 208-921-7981
- Tim Crimmins 208-954-7325
- Curt Goldgrabe 208-921-8332
- Josh Lundberg 832-263-9862
- Jon Stadtlander 208-409-9614
- Mike Veit 208-860-4990

NEEDS MINISTRY

This team was formed early in 2020 as the Covid-19 Virus was starting. It is led by one of our Elders, Tim Crimmins, to help meet the needs in our church body. If someone in our church body has a need, please contact:
Office— Teresa
secretary@ustickbaptist.org
Deacons— Dave Moulin
dmoulin@cablone.net

OUR LIFE TOGETHER NEWSLETTER

is available on our website at ustickbaptist.org/media



Breeze is our Church Management System for our church. It is a great tool that we use to stay connected with each other.

We rely on pictures of our congregation, especially now when we can’t gather together. Sometimes it helps to put a “face with a name” to know who is being referred to or who is on the Prayer Chain, etc.

We would love to have a picture of every member/attender in Breeze, then a *photo* directory could be printed out.

We encourage you to take a couple minutes to put your photo in your Breeze profile. If you don’t know how or would rather not do it, then email it to Teresa at secretary@ustickbaptist.org and she will add it for you.

THANK YOU!



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Care & Connections Ministry Pastor Mike Beaudin

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.” Titus 2:11-14

Well 2021 is upon us and do we ever need the grace of God and the truth of His Word more than ever! So John 1:1 and 1:14 puts it this way, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

Don't you love God and His Word? I sure do! If you don't, please talk to me soon okay, as my office door and my heart are always open. The Bible is the foundation of my life, faith, and future as a Christ follower! It is also the authority, the first place priority, and the centerpiece of our church here at Ustick Baptist. If that ever changes, God forbid, I will not be able to stay, which by the grace of God, I do not see happening! But many churches and many well meaning believers are stepping away from or putting the Bible aside as second place or secondary in their lives and churches to their own thinking, reasoning, or commitment. Unfortunately, I know some personally doing this right now in our days and it is very heart breaking. I want you all to know that I am personally “re-committing” my allegiance to God's Word and plan to do this on a daily basis! With that said, I invite you to join me, and hope you will. **No matter what you “feel like” or “what you hear” or “what you see” in the world around us, stay committed to God and His Word, first!** Following Jesus (which includes knowing Him, loving Him, and serving Him) is what matters most! Here are some pictures I have collected of some fellow Christ followers here at UBC...serving Jesus or blessing others! Thanks friends!

Looking for our blessed hope, our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord...together with you all!



Mia & Jesse S.



Charlotte & Olivia B.



Dave B.



Rob C.



Lynn & Sue H. - fishin' hospitality



Mike J. praying with a stranger



Granddaughter Everly receiving her AOG Coin



Grandson Kyler changing time on our church clocks



Worship Ministry

Pastor Matt Beck

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.”
Galatians 4:4

The “fullness of time” reminds us that God’s will is always on time. It was just at the right time that the Christmas account happened. The same is true for our lives today. We know that all of human history is under our Savior’s control. We also know that He gives us the strength to handle the challenges that He allows in our lives, just as He did for Joseph and Mary.

This last year brought about many different kinds of challenges, but even though there were challenges God’s hope still rings true.

I want to say thank you to everyone who pulled together to help with our Christmas services this year! I know because of COVID-19 it was not ideal, but everyone did such a wonderful job! I am thankful for the team of people who played, sang and read verses during the month of December. May you all be encouraged by the hope that we have in the birth of our Savior.

Merry CHRISTmas! and Happy New Year!



Pictures from our Christmas Eve Services





Discipleship Ministry

Pastor Ryan Bear

As we head into January we head into a month of new beginnings. A new year, new resolutions, and hopefully a renewed world. But particularly for us at UBC, this January also brings in some sadness. Pastor Greg is retiring this month after 32 years. It's hard to believe. I want to take the opportunity to make this newsletter special and publicly tell Pastor Greg the impact he has had on my life.

Pastor Greg, we first met when I was 10 years old. The church was two weeks away from moving into the building that we are now based out of. I was a shy and quiet fourth-grader. What I remember from that time is that I could tell you cared about me. I wasn't some annoying kid that you brushed off to get to the people that really mattered; rather I could tell that you genuinely cared and wanted to be my friend. These are the little pastoral touches that you have that made such an impact on myself and countless others. Because I felt comfortable at UBC, because I knew the Senior Pastor actually cared about me, I listened to what I was being taught and I stayed in the church.

Throughout my junior high and high school years, you were a model to me of what a pastor is and what a pastor should do. Little did either of us know how important your example would be for my career. Week in and week out you preached a message that was faithful to the text. You blessed our congregation by being a pastor who didn't feed us pop counseling, psychology, or some flashy poem. Instead, you gave us a steady diet of the word of God with clarity and conviction. I also saw your care for the congregation and how you took the role of Shepard seriously. Through tragedy, funerals, marriages, divorces, celebrations, and trials you were there with your people.

It was under your pastoral care that I felt the call to ministry. The ministry of Ustick Baptist Church had grown my faith in Christ and my love for Christ. Your faithful ministry equipped me to launch out and do the work of ministry. Eventually, I felt the call from God to pursue vocational ministry. I am forever indebted to how you cared for me and grew my faith while here at UBC.



Fast forward through my undergraduate and seminary studies, it has been an honor and blessing to work alongside you here at UBC. I have really cherished our weekly meetings and talking about ministry and life. Thank you for believing in me and caring about me every step of my life. It is an honor that you want me by your side to carry out the ministry God has for us. Thank you for giving me advice, allowing me to try things (sometimes making mistakes), and for your encouragement throughout a tumultuous start to my pastoral ministry. Our church will deeply miss your wisdom, care, and love. In a time when it seems like more and more pastors are falling into sin; betraying their commitment to God and their congregation, it is an honor to say that to you, that you *"have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith"* (2 Tim. 4:7).

I wish you the best in retirement and will miss you deeply.

Love,

Pastor Ryan Bear





Jr/Sr High Youth
Pastor John Buren



I know it's very trendy to be excited for the departure of the year 2020, and I am indeed looking forward to a more promising and easy-going year. But I have to say, 2020 was a good year for the youth ministry. It's easy to "throw the baby out with the bathwater," and neglect the good memories as we discard the bad ones. I want to be careful to highlight how faithful God has been to us even when times brought to us some extra trials and uncertainties.

Some highlights from 2020 and the youth ministry include:

- In the spring, our students seamlessly transitioned to doing Wednesday night youth group and Sunday School on Zoom. I was especially impressed by this, as we did not lose any students in the transition, the whole squad showed up. There were so many good attitudes and flexibility that it took away a lot of stress from me.
- In the summer we transitioned to meeting exclusively outside, and it was so fun and edifying. When our summer camp venue escaped us on short notice, the entire church stretched on a moment's notice to allow us to hold our summer camp here on the church campus. God was seen loud and clear.
- In the fall, we made it up to Faith Heights Camp for a fall retreat where we focused on reflecting on God's goodness. There was a lot of things for us to reflect on, and being able to do it as a youth group community made the time even better.
- And just this past month in December, we had a lot to be thankful for. We wrapped up our series on Foundations of our Faith. We had our youth group Christmas party, a time of celebrating our Savior and having a lot of fun doing it. We had our appreciation night for our volunteer team outside at the Botanical Garden's Winter aGlow event. One of our students, Ben Putman, felt inspired to put on a youth Christmas Eve Service on the 23rd, so we had our own worship service for youth and their families.

Throughout the year we continued to see new visitors and new regulars. We enjoyed the great outdoors as much as we could with hikes, corn maze events, and doing simple games like Wiffleball and Kickball. We studied 10 different sermon series and had 3 different retreat themes. Not bad for a bad year, I'd say!

We are looking forward to all that 2021 will bring to us. Of course we will miss Pastor Greg, as he has been a strong advocate of the youth ministry and allowed us the freedom to take chances for the Kingdom and the encouragement to be bold for the Gospel. But we know God will provide for us everything we need.

In January we are starting a new Wednesday night series from the life of Solomon. Solomon was a complicated character, sometimes wise, and yet sometimes intentionally foolish. He wrote a few of our Old Testament books, including Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, yet he is not a perfect example for us to imitate. We'll use his life to learn lessons about living a life with pressure put on us, how to obtain and seek wisdom, the significance of purpose, and how compromise can lead to ruin. I am looking forward to it.



Speaking of things I am looking forward to, I am excited about our upcoming All Youth Winter Camp. Our theme is "Fix Your Eyes," which is right out of Hebrews 12:2, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." With so many things going on that fight for our attention, there is great benefit to keeping a fixed focus on Christ. To sign up, parents can head to ustickbaptist.org/ministries/blaze and fill out the form. The price is \$85, and there is scholarship help available, so talk to me if that's something you could use.





Children's Ministry
Angie Jacobson - Director

A *PICTURE* IS WORTH A *Thousand* WORDS!



UKIDS CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

Sunday, Dec. 20



I am very thankful to be a part of a church and children's ministry team that strives to partner with parents as they disciple their children. We are looking forward to a new year!

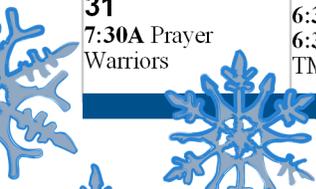


January 2021

Sunday Mornings

- ◆ Prayer Warriors 7:30am (rm 113)
- ◆ Worship Services 8:30 & 10:30am
- ◆ Nursery available for ages 2 and under (2nd service)
- ◆ Kid's Church: for ages 3-3rd grade (2nd service only) check in room 206

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>February Newsletter deadline is January 27!</p>					1	2
<p>3 7:30A Prayer Warriors</p>	<p>4 6:30P UKids 6:30P Women's TMBS Group</p>	<p>5 9:15A Women's Bible Study (off-site) 7P Young Adults</p>	<p>6 7P Jr/Sr High</p>	<p>7 6:30P Worship Team 7P Men's Bible St.</p>		<p>9 6P Retirement Celebration for Pastor Greg & Jeanelle</p>
<p>10 7:30A Prayer Warriors 12P Foreign Missions Comm. meeting</p>	<p>11 6:30P UKids 6:30P Women's TMBS Group</p>	<p>12 9:15A Women's Bible Study (off-site)</p>	<p>13 9:15A Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>14 10A Quilters</p>	<p>15 6:30P Worship Team 7P Men's Bible St.</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 7:30A Prayer Warriors</p>	<p>18 Martin Luther King Jr., Day 6P Trustee meeting 6:30P UKids 6:30P Women's TMBS Group</p>	<p>19 9:15A Women's Bible Study (off-site)</p>	<p>20 9:15A Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>21 6:30P Worship Team 6:30P Elder meeting 7P Men's Bible St.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 7:30A Prayer Warriors 6P Congregational meeting</p>	<p>25 6:30P UKids 6:30P Women's TMBS Group</p>	<p>26 9:15A Women's Bible Study (off-site)</p>	<p>27 9:15A Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>28 10A Quilters</p>	<p>29 30 Young Adults Winter Camp Fri., Jan. 29 - Mon. Feb. 1</p>	
<p>31 7:30A Prayer Warriors</p>	<p>6:30P UKids 6:30P Women's TMBS Group</p>	<p>7P Young Adults</p>	<p>7P Jr/Sr High</p>	<p>6:30P Worship Team 7P Men's Bible St.</p>		



Elders Corner

Let's Celebrate Pastor Greg's Ministry!

As you know, there are some special activities planned leading up to Pastor Greg's last day of leading us in worship on Sunday, Jan.10. Please sign up at our UBC website to attend a special evening Saturday, Jan. 9 at church to acknowledge and show our appreciation to Pastor Greg and Jeanelle for his 32 years of service to God at UBC. Also, if you would like to contribute to a retirement fund, you may do so on our church website, under the giving link. Click on the arrow next to the 'General Giving' line and click on the option "RR Fund".

Transition Planning

As Pastor Greg's ministry concludes in the next weeks, you may be asking how our church is planning to move forward in transition. The Elders and staff have taken several steps to move the mission of the church ahead over the next few months.

- ◇ The Elders have directed staff to put together the preaching series and schedule between Jan. 17 and Easter on April 4. They have designed a preaching series based on the book of Titus, plus the theme of loving God and loving others, following our great example, Jesus, leading up to Good Friday and our Easter celebration. Pastor Ryan will lead our preaching team and deliver the message three Sundays per month.
- ◇ Pastor Mike will assume Pastor Greg's pastoral duties and lead the staff. He will interact closely with the Elders and collaborate with Chairman Curt Goldgrave on the administration of UBC.

- ◇ With the November congregational budget meeting and the increasing use of online meeting protocols, we recognize the need to amend our church constitution to reflect the digital age of meetings and to allow for them as another means of moving the business of the church forward. The Elders will be looking at other possible constitutional updates that may be needed and distribute information on possible proposals in the next few months.
- ◇ We are working on some organizational structure items, including an organizational chart, updated job descriptions, an annual ministry calendar, a church planning document, and other items. The purpose is to clearly define who does what and provide a clear path for planning, both for our church and our new Lead Pastor.

Pastoral Search Update

In the Christmas carol "Joy to the World" we sing the words, "Let every heart prepare Him room." As we continue to ask you to pray for the search for our new Lead Pastor, we ask for you to pray that our church would be prepared to receive him. Just as Jesus desires room in our hearts to come live in us, so we also need to prepare room in our hearts for a new pastor to come and begin a new ministry with us. This is especially important for Ustick Baptist Church, since statistics about new pastors who replace long-term pastors (like Pastor Greg) indicate the new pastor many times lasts fewer than two years at the new church. Please keep this in mind as you pray for our next Lead Pastor. The committee has continued meeting during the holiday season. Please also pray for strength, stamina and patience for the committee members.

COVID Update

As Covid cases climbed after Thanksgiving, we paid close attention to trends and met to discuss our options. We concluded that we could safely meet if we followed the common protocols of wearing face coverings, distancing while meeting and using hand

sanitizer. We plan to continue with these protocols as they allow us to continue to meet safely, until such time as the vaccine has its effect and/or the pandemic subsides. We would like to thank those of you who attend services for your continued adherence to the protocols and for loving your neighbor in this way.

Next Congregational Meeting January 24

Please plan to join us **Sunday, January 24 at 6pm** for our annual meeting to hear about what God has done through our ministries in 2020. If there is no vote needed, we hope to make this meeting available on YouTube. Please watch for more information in the next few weeks.

Flying with Instruments

If you have talked to any pilot, they will tell you that you must rely on your instruments when flying through cloudy or stormy weather. Many pilots have lost their lives when flying by their sight and instincts in these situations. We have been asked by members, "*how do we know our church is still healthy and all together during these times where we don't see each other as often?*" It's a good question, since we many times rely on seeing people at services and check up on them this way.

In times like this, unprecedented for us as they are, we too rely on our instruments to help guide us. Certainly, with much prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are completely reliant on God's guidance and leading through this storm in the life of our church. We are thankful He also gives us some tangible instruments to know how we're doing. As we related in November's newsletter, our physical attendance at services and YouTube viewership numbers, along with weekly giving updates from Mike Canfield and our finance team tell us we continue to track in both categories at the same levels as last year. Our instruments are telling us that God continues to provide for us, and our church family is engaged with the church's mission as they have been.



Elder’s Corner continued...

Use the Zoom Rooms!

One last reminder--feel free to contact Teresa in the church office to reserve a Zoom Room to get together face-to-face with your Bible Study group, your Growth Group, or anyone who you need to see and have interaction with. All you have to do is tell her when you want to meet with someone, and she'll set up the meeting, send you a link by email, and you're set! Winter can be a hard time to be with others, but not with Zoom!

Please contact the Elders with any prayer requests or concerns for our church. You may email them at elders@ustickbaptist.org.

Curt Goldgrave
for the UBC Elders

**“WRAPPED IN GOD’S LOVE”
QUILT GROUP**

Our ministry makes lap quilts for those who are ill, having surgery, need encouragement, or just need to feel wrapped in God’s love. We also make baby quilts for Birthright. If you know how to sew and would be interested in making quilts (or learning how) we invite you to **join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month** 10am-2pm in the Fireside Room. You don’t need to bring anything but your lunch as we have all the supplies and equipment needed. If you know someone that could benefit from receiving a quilt (they do not necessarily have to be members of our church), please contact Ramona 208-895-8265 or Marguerite 208-340-4924.

No GEMS for January

GEMS is canceled for January due to our policy on no food for large groups at our church. We are so sorry. But let’s pray things open up soon, so we can meet again. Lee and I pray you are well and staying in the Word daily, singing hymns, and staying close to the Lord. We miss you and look forward to when we can once again meet for sweet fellowship. We are here for you if you have special needs, Lee & Judy Fossgreen 208-477-7148.

**Abounding sin is the
terror of the world,
but abounding GRACE is
the HOPE of mankind.**

AW Tozer

*Grow in the grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both now
and forever!*

2 Peter 3:18

