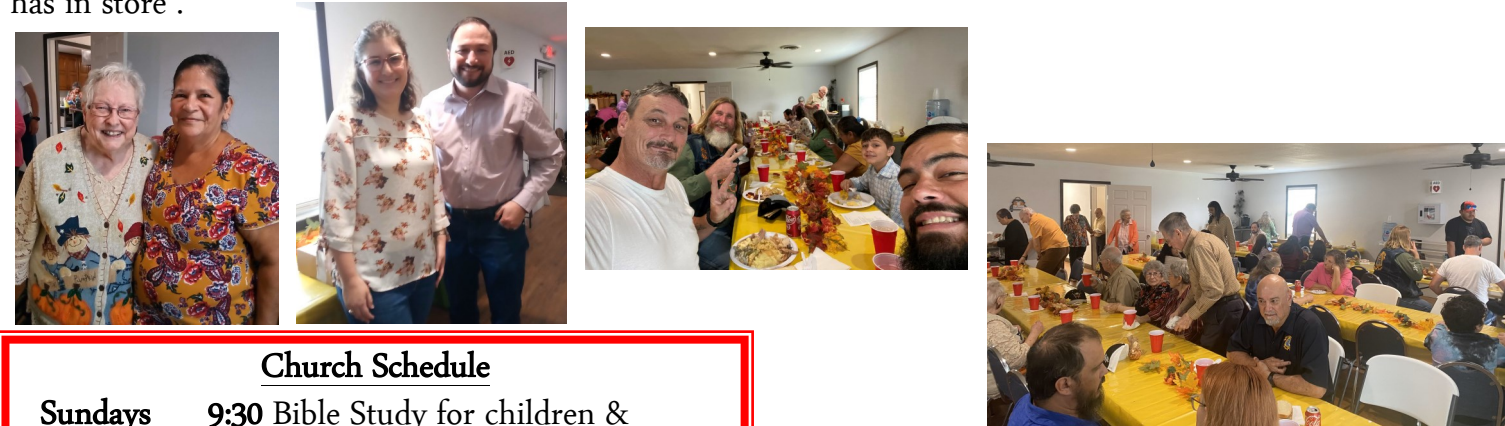


WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO IN 2023

On February 12th, we had our first official church service as the new church. At a called business meeting on March 12th, we voted on our new church name and became United Baptist Church with a slogan of "One Body in Christ". For Easter this year, we had a foot washing and Lord's Supper service on April 6th, and a service on Good Friday. It was decided that June 4th we be our official opening celebration. On June 4th, we had a church service, a meal of hamburgers and hot dogs, games and fellowship on the church yard. There were church members and guests alike at the celebration. In July, several members and the pastors went to the BGCT family conference in Laredo. Since August is 'school starting month', we passed out welcome bags to new students at the college. September was an exciting month. Pastor Jeremy was ordained on the 10th. On the 27th, members took a meal to the teachers at STEM Middle School down the street for. We also started up our online giving link on our website. We hosted a block party for National Night Out on October 3rd. There were games, hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones, and lots of fellowshiping with members and visitors and law enforcement. On Saturday the 18th of November, we had our next Agape Fellowship and combined it with our Thanksgiving meal. And on the 28th, we took lunch to the students at the BSM. It's been a busy year with a lot of in-reach to members and outreach to our community. And it's not even December yet! This year also saw our church grow with 6 new members, one of which was a baptism. We only lost one member. Great things are happening at UBC! We cannot wait to see what 2024 has in store .



UNITED

BAPTIST CHURCH

Serving you...

DECEMBER 2023

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Join Us

Staff

Pastor
Jeremy Prichard

Associate Pastor of Missions & Ministry
Mike Garrett

Music Leader
James Anzaldua

Secretary
Melanie Elkins

Worship With Us.....

~ Sundays ~
Bible Study 9:30
Service 10:45 am
Nursery provided
~ Wednesdays ~
Meal 6:00
Bible Study 6:30
~~~~~

**Office Hours**

Monday to Thursday  
9:00 am to Noon & 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm  
Closed Fridays

**Church Schedule**

**Sundays 9:30** Bible Study for children & adults  
**10:45** Church service

**Wednesdays 6:00** Meal  
**6:30** Bible Study

**Saturdays 9:00 a.m.** Men's Coffee at Church  
**10:00-11:00** Drive-up Prayer

**Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, December 2 9:00** Church Workday  
**Sunday, December 10 12:00** Called Business Meeting for the 2024 Budget Vote  
**Sunday, December 24 10:45** Church service only  
**Midnight** Facebook  
Youtube Candle Lighting

**GOD'S GIFT** A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!  
— 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 NIV

~ UNITED ~ One Body in Christ~

Pastor's Corner

Dear Church,

Wow, it is hard to believe that the year is almost over and that the Christmas season is already upon us. The holiday season often means time with family and friends. It is also a very busy season for many people. It is easy to become absorbed in all the places to go, people to see, gifts to get, and meals to prepare and we often miss opportunities to share Jesus with others. This holiday season, take some time to remember that we are called to a ministry of grace and love to all. In Luke 10:25-37 Jesus tells the parable of the good Samaritan. Many of you are familiar with this story. We remember it as the story of a man who showed compassion on another and took care of him when no one else would. While this is true, it is not the main point of the story. The story is an answer to a question that was asked of Jesus. A lawyer had asked Jesus who was considered his neighbor and the story answers that question by pointing to the fact that your neighbor may not be the person you expect. Jesus then challenges the man to go and do as the Samaritan did. That would come as a shock. He wasn't to be like the priest or the Levite, men to whom he would have looked up to, but like the man that he would have never even gone near. Boy, was his world shook up that day. If we are going to display Christ in our daily lives, we must be prepared to show love, mercy, and grace to everyone, and particularly to those who do not expect it. This Christmas season, show love to the "Samaritans" in your life. The people who feel that they are excluded from God's love for one reason or another. Take some time to show them that they truly are not excluded, but they are loved by God and by you just as they are. When you do this, you will be displaying fruitfulness on the frontlines of your life, not just on Sunday.

In Christ, Pastor Jeremy

Cell: 361-235-0513

Email: jeremy@btcvictoria.com

**GIVING**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their giving this past year. This has been a year of many exciting changes. In the short time we have been United Baptist Church, we have actually done a lot of in-reach and outreach! Your monetary gifts go to help these efforts as well as the running of the church and church building. We are spending our money according to the Great Commission. And it is showing. Lives are being touched and changed. So we thank you. Your continued giving helps grow the kingdom of God. We are already planning great things for 2024 and hope to begin our building and parking lot expansion in the coming months.

**BUILDING & GROUNDS ~ CHURCH WORKDAY**

Saturday, December 2nd at 9:00 a.m., we will have a workday at the church. Come help us get things organized and decorate for the Christmas season!

**TEAM & COMMITTEE NEWS**

**CALLED BUSINESS MEETING**

We will have a called church business meeting on Sunday, December 10th immediately following the morning service. This will be a short meeting to vote on the 2024 church budget.

**2023 GIVING REPORTS**

Giving reports for 2023 will be sent in the month of January. If you need to catch up on your gifts to the church, now is the time! If you want to know how much you have given so far this year, contact the church office. Melanie can get you that information.



December 2023



| Sun                                                                                            | Mon                                                          | Tue                                               | Wed                                        | Thu                                                        | Fri                              | Sat                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Regular Sun A.M. Schedule<br>Bible Study ~ 9:30<br>Worship ~ 10:45                             |                                                              |                                                   |                                            |                                                            | <b>1</b><br><br>*Linda Wetherbee | <b>2</b><br>9:00 Church Workday<br>10:00 Drive-up Prayer                         |
| <b>3</b> Regular Sun A.M. Schedule<br><br>6:00 pm The Chosen                                   | <b>4</b>                                                     | <b>5</b>                                          | <b>6</b><br>6:00 Meal<br>6:30 Bible Study  | <b>7</b>                                                   | <b>8</b>                         | <b>9</b><br>10:00 Drive-up Prayer<br><br>♥Larry & Alice Cockrell<br>*David James |
| <b>10</b> Regular Sun A.M.<br>*Called Business Meeting for Budget Vote<br>6:00 pm The Chosen   | <b>11</b>                                                    | <b>12</b>                                         | <b>13</b><br>6:00 Meal<br>6:30 Bible Study | <b>14</b>                                                  | <b>15</b>                        | <b>16</b><br>10:00 Drive-up Prayer<br>*Nancy Pena                                |
| <b>17</b> Regular Sun A.M.<br>6:00 pm The Chosen<br>*Terri Mason<br>*Kathryn Pena              | <b>18</b>                                                    | <b>19</b>                                         | <b>20</b><br>6:00 Meal<br>6:30 Bible Study | <b>21</b>                                                  | <b>22</b><br><br>*Rosemary Salas | <b>23</b><br>10:00 Drive-up Prayer                                               |
| <b>24</b> No Sunday School<br>Morning Service 10:45<br>Midnight Youtube/<br>Facebook Streaming | <b>25</b> Church Office Closed<br><br><i>Merry Christmas</i> | <b>26</b> Church Office Closed<br><br>*Liz Andres | <b>27</b><br>6:00 Meal<br>6:30 Bible Study | <b>28</b><br>Deadline for monetary gifts for the 2023 year | <b>29</b><br><br>*Tyler Leita    | <b>30</b><br>10:00 Drive-up Prayer<br><br>*Birthdays<br>♥Anniversaries           |
| <b>31</b> Regular Sun A.M.                                                                     |                                                              |                                                   |                                            |                                                            |                                  |                                                                                  |



Give online at  
www.ubcvictoria.org OR  
using this QR code

*Merry Christmas*

From the church staff

*Jeremy Prichard*

*Mike Garnett*

*Melanie Elkins*

*James Anzaldua*



*Patsy Howe and family in the passing of her husband, Harold Howe*

**The church office will be closed:  
December 25-26 &  
January 1.**

ANGEL  
BABY  
BETHLEHEM  
BIBLE  
BIRTH  
CENSUS  
DONKEY  
HAY  
HEROD  
INN  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
KING  
LUKE  
MANGER  
MARY  
SHEPHERDS  
STABLE  
STAR  
WORSHIP

**Christmas Word Find**

D U L A U J D O Q K T D K S G  
M O O E B O L M U I V W T B S  
E W N C G H S A X N I A E U P  
H H G K M N A H G G B Z S G Q  
E P Z A E L A Y E L Q N P E S  
L G R A W Y F G E P E F T X U  
H Y B I B L E S I C H V P C S  
T B I R T H C H V L X E H M E  
E K J O Y M S M A N G E R S J  
B I O D O R E H E K U L G D S  
K V S Q O N A J F V Q R R E S  
M K E W Y U W T O Z U Q S R R  
Z K P Z B K V J S A N E K W V  
S N H Z A R C Z J N M B A R Q  
H V M B B V C D I H T N D A X