

The Goodness



February 2025

The Goodness

Uptown Baptist Church

What Love Is

Pastor Nick Kim

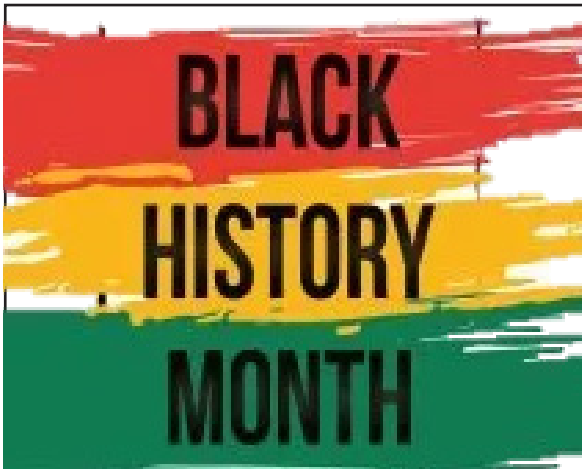
Recently there was an article that ranked the greatest love stories of all time. The winner was the 1813 novel by Jane Austin called “Pride and Prejudice.” In the story, Mr. Bennet can only pass on his inheritance to a male heir. He only has five daughters. It is imperative that at least one of the daughters marries well. One of the daughters is proposed to by a rich man who is rather arrogant and rude. She doesn’t accept and experiences the scolding of her mother and delight of her father. What happens? No spoilers here. I strongly disagree that this is the greatest love story ever.

I know of another love story where the subject was loved but thought they could do better. This rejection continued and things got really bad. Everything that was good was because of this love. This rejection led to a lot of darkness and the situation seemed hopeless. Despite everything that happened, the subject was still loved. The pursuer provided a way for it to be made right, but it

would cost the pursuer a lot. Would the subject be forgiven and find their way to the pursuer? That is only a question you can answer.

The subject is mankind, the pursuer is God, and this love story is told in the Bible. In February while you’re thinking about your valentine we’re going to explore what love is. God has a lot to say about love, but first we should recognize that love comes from God. “Love comes from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4-7-8. We also need to recognize that we love only because God first loved us. 1 John 4:19.

If you have gone through Valentine’s Day and felt unloved, You need to be sure to join us through the month of February. A novel isn’t going to tell you what love is. A sitcom isn’t going to show you what love is. A great movie might touch your emotions but it won’t feel like you feel. God is love, and He shows us what love is.



For Black History Month, we will be looking at black history made here in Chicago. We will look at significant churches that were at the forefront of The Great Migration and Civil Rights Movement. We will look at the history of Gospel of Music with most of its foundation here in Chicago. We will also look at people from Chicago who made history. We will look at events that shaped history. One of those events, the race riots of 1919 resulted in widespread self-imposed segregation seen in most churches still today. It will make us appreciate that we have a place in that same city, where we all worship and share in life together. Black history is American history, It is church history, and it is our history.

What Love Is

- 2/2 The Great Commandments
- 2/9 Do I Have Love?
- 2/16 Unconditional Love
- 2/23 Walk in Obedience



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In His Service



Rev. Dr. Tim Larkin

This month we're looking back at the roots of our ministry. Long before Taste4Grace, Daughters of the King, and our VBS and Children's Christmas party, there were people who God was using to build what would become Uptown Baptist Church. One of those people was Rev. Dr. Tim Larkin who led a lot of the early outreach efforts. This month we're reminiscing and catching up with Tim.

When the ministry that became UBC was taking shape, How did you know that God was moving?

Through transformed lives, people coming to Christ, college students catching the vision and experiencing the power of ministering and reaching out to the community.

From the earliest days of UBC what is your favorite memory?

It was cool seeing people from the neighborhood in the church. We had a Parish concept. We focused on Clark St. to the lake and Irving Park to Lawrence. Lindsay and Mindy did sports ministry, Kevin Kane did refugee ministry. We focused on ministering to people in the neighborhood. We would pick them up and bring them to church. We used to have a Saturday Praise night with God's People Choir (which included Vanessa Barrett).

When you look back at your time at UBC, what do you miss most?

I miss the people. There's a realness to the people of Uptown. I miss the relationships. I miss frontline

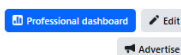
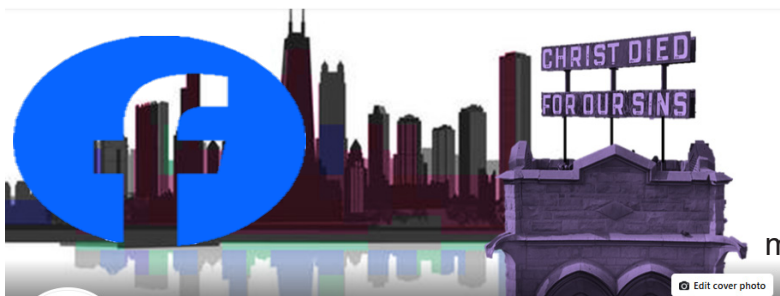
ministry to people. Jim Queen released us to do ministry. There was a freedom to minister at UBC. Jim would ask the question, what did God put on your heart? What are you passionate about? Go out and do it. Getting freed up to do ministry was key. Ministry was on the job training. Let God's compassion lead what you do.

How is God using you now?

I lead a bible study at Phoenix Rescue Center called "Changing Lives". It is a shelter for women and children. I attend an African American church. I enjoy teaching at Grand Canyon University where I can teach from a Christian worldview.

At one time, UBC has 26 different ministries. The Uptown community was skid row when UBC began. There were so many needs and people were hurting. Our vision was to meet people's social, emotional, and spiritual needs so that people could meet Jesus Christ. We wanted to remove those barriers to enable people to respond to Christ.

Interview by Pastor Mark Jones



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