

**Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)**

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Introduction

We live in a world of constant change, where "change" is a norm of the community, nation, country, business, and government. It is come and go.

Amid all these changes in human history, one institution has endured for thousands of years, which survived persecution, false teaching, being hated, mocking, spiritual attacks, and imprisonment of the faithful martyrs. It remains standing stronger than ever.

Sadly, some people see it merely as a building. Others think it is just another religious organization.

But how does Jesus view the church?

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" Various answers were given. Some said John the Baptist. Others said Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Jesus asked this most important question anyone will ever answer: Jesus said, "Who do you say I am?" And Simon Peter answered Jesus:

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:18

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

This verse contains the glorious truths about Christ and His church:

- The church belongs to Christ.
- The church is built by Christ.
- The church is preserved by Christ.
- The church is empowered by Christ.

Note

Let us consider these truths.

I. Christ owns the church.

Jesus said, "I will build My church."

Jesus did not say:

- I will build a church.
- I will build your church.
- I will build Peter's church.

But instead, Jesus said, "I will build My church." The church belongs to Christ.

The word "church" comes from the Greek word *ekklesia* which means "called out assembly."

The church is the people called out of darkness and called unto Christ. We belong to Him because He purchased us.

Acts 20:28

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

- Every believer is bought by His blood.
- Every believer is precious to Christ.

"The church belongs to Him because He redeemed it."

Christ is not merely the founder of the church. He is the Head of the church.

Ephesians 1:22

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

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Rev. Dr. William G. Sy
Head Pastor

UCA WELCOMES NEW SCHOOL YEAR

United Christian Academy (UCA) opened its doors for the start of S.Y. 2026-2027 last June 8, Monday. Thrilled, eager, and curious, students look forward to a year of holistic learning, worthwhile activities, and fun bonding experiences with friends and classmates.

Students are not just welcomed into the campus, but into a family! They are re-introduced to the rich history of UCA along with its God-given vision and mission, helping everyone understand the heart and purpose behind everything we do. Beyond academic excellence, the Lord will continue to use UCA to reach the lost sheep.

Praise the Lord for another year of growth rooted in shared values..



CLASS ORIENTATION

Teachers led students to a productive day by getting to know each other and introducing all UCA staff. This set the mood as UCA will become their second home. Teachers also ensured that each student get to effectively learn while also guiding them for any help they needed.



As part of UCA's vision, the school will continue to inculcate Christian values and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to their class.



New school year, new friendships are found along hallways and inside the classroom. Students have the chance to meet their teachers and new classmates, sparking smiles, laughter, and the start of wonderful memories together. It will surely be a year filled with learning, friendship, and fun.





Kicking off the school year right, students take part in a meaningful orientation on conflict resolution. This instills to them the importance of learning how to communicate, to listen, and to work through disagreements with respect and understanding, which is a good foundation for a peaceful and harmonious classroom community.



The students' campus best friend drops by and makes his rounds visiting classrooms, spreading smiles and excitement as students welcome the new school year with its beloved UCA mascot — Joyful Jake!



ONLINE ORIENTATION

Officially starting another school year, the distance learning students excitedly meet their teachers and classmates in the online orientation via Google Meet. Through getting-to-know activities, they had an opportunity to interact with their classmates online.



The teachers and facilitators deliberately discuss the UCA rules and regulation, as well as its humble beginnings to the school it is now.



This three-day orientation highlights the importance of conflict resolution, helping students build better relationships with their classmates.



Big things are coming not just for face-to-face students but for distance learning students, too! Through our online orientation, students and parents get a sneak peek at the exciting programs and activities lined up for this school year.



With an array of activities made specially for students' overall growth and rich experience, it is surely going to be an amazing journey ahead for our distance learners.



PHOTOBOOTH

The photobooth area was filled with delighted and excited UCA students and parents. Each photo captured the precious and meaningful moments of their first week on campus, together with their classmates, teachers, and families. The whole UCA family celebrates this successful week.



Holding their colorful props, the students strike creative and picture-perfect poses for each photo. Some students even get to take a picture with the UCA Mascot, Joyful Jake!



The parents accompanying their children also grab the opportunity to take pictures.





United Christian Academy, Inc.

OPENING OF CLASSES

S.Y. 2026 - 2027




www.facebook.com/UCAPhilippines
June 8, 2026

UCA PARENTS' ORIENTATION

UCA HOLDS PARENTS' ORIENTATION

UCA HIGHLIGHT

Rev. Dr. James Sy
School Head



REGISTRATION



ORIENTATION



Parents and guardians are warmly welcomed as they come to the school for the yearly orientation.

Alongside with the smooth and exciting opening of classes at United Christian Academy (UCA), parents and guardians attended the Parents' Orientation last Thursday, June 11.

The orientation began with School Head Rev. Dr. James Sy highlighting the school's vision and core updates. Facilitated by the UCA admin and staff, the orientation ran smoothly, guiding parents through various transaction processes, the academic system, and how to best support their children under the supervision of the school departments.

This school year will surely be exciting and meaningful for every student and parent, marking an experience that will leave a holistic and memorable impact to their lives. Praise the Lord!



Informative audio visual presentations (AVP) helps the parents to discover more about UCA. They are also able to ask questions for more clarification.

The Four...

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Note

Jesus purchased His church with His own blood. Therefore, Christ has the right to rule His church.

We must submit to His Word, obey His commands, and seek His glory.

II. Christ builds the church.

Jesus said, "I will build My church."

Who will build the church? Jesus said, "I will build..." The Greek verb is *oikodomeó*, which means "to build a house or to construct a building."

Jesus did not say:

- I might build a church.
- I hope to build a church.

He said, "I will build." The church is Christ's work.

Note

Certainly, He uses pastors, missionaries, teachers, and faithful believers, but they are only instruments. Christ is the builder.

1 Corinthians 3:6

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

- Paul preached.
- Apollos taught.
- But God gave the increase.

Many churches today are tempted to trust human method.

- Some trust programs.
- Some trust marketing.
- Some trust personalities.
- Some trust technology.
- Yet, none of these things can save a sinner.
- No preacher can regenerate human soul.
- No church program can create spiritual life.

- Only Christ can save (to eternity).
- Only Christ can transform hearts (life).
- Only Christ can build the church.

The burden of building the church does not rest on your shoulders, but in Christ. Our responsibility is to be faithful to Christ, to church, and to His ministry.

III. Christ preserves the church.

Jesus said, "...and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

- Jesus never promised an easy road.
- Jesus never promised that there will be no sufferings, trials, difficulties, persecutions, and others.
- But Jesus promised this:

Hebrews 13:5b

For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Jesus is guaranteeing the preservation of His church.

- The Roman Empire could not destroy it.
- False teachers could not destroy it.
- Communist government could not destroy it.
- Modern secularism could not destroy it.
- The church may be attacked.
- The church may be persecuted.
- The church may suffer.
- But, the church cannot be defeated.

Why? It is because Christ is preserving it. The existence of Christ's church depends on nothing else but Christ, and Christ never fails.

IV. Christ empowers the church.

Christ not only owns, builds, and preserves His church, He also empowers it.

The church would accomplish nothing apart from divine power. In the book of Acts 1:8, Jesus told His disciples that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon them.

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The righteous man walks in his integrity;
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Proverbs 20:7

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The Four...

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Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Greek word for "power" is *dunamis*, which refers to divine strength and supernatural ability.

The church does not operate merely by human wisdom. Its powers come from God.

- Christ empowers His church through the Holy Spirit.
- Christ empowers His church through the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- He empowers His church through prayer.
- He empowers His church through His presence.

Jesus promised this:

Matthew 28:20b

and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

The church cannot function accordingly apart from Christ. Our strength comes from Him.

- Depend on Christ.
- Depend on the Holy Spirit.
- Depend on the Word.
- Depend on prayer.

Note

The strongest and greatest church depends upon God.

Challenge

1. Love the church.

- If Christ loved the church enough to die for it, we should love it, too.
- The church is not perfect, but it is precious to Christ.

2. Serve faithfully.

- Every believer has been gifted to serve.
- Find your place and serve joyfully.

3. Do not fear oppositions.

- The church has survived every attack for two thousand years.
- Worry not. It will survive until Christ returns.

4. Support your ministry joyfully and generously.

- Christ builds His church through the preaching of the Gospel.
- Commit yourself to evangelism, discipleship, and mission works.

5. Trust Christ completely.

- Do not place your ultimate confidence in leaders.
- Do not place your ultimate confidence in programs.
- But instead, put your full confidence and trust in Jesus Christ, your only Lord and Savior.

SERMON NOTES

Write the points to remember from the sermon as you seek God in your life.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
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