



UBC NEWS

University Baptist Church

1219 University Ave SE

Minneapolis MN 55414

Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

November 2023

From the Pastor

Blessed are the Peacemakers

I wrote this on Oct. 13, but it still feels relevant three weeks later as we mourn the deaths of so many in the Middle East.

*This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

On Oct. 7, Hamas militants launched a coordinated attack on people in Israel. The attack was swift, bloody and reprehensible. Its ripples are felt across the world, especially among Jews, many of whom carry in their bodies the painful memories of past trauma done to their people. And we are not okay. We will not get over this soon.

The Hamas fighters may well have thought this misguided series of attacks was retaliation for decades of blockades in Gaza and human rights abuses by the Israeli government. But really, it was another step in a generational cycle of violence that solves nothing. And now their Palestinian kinfolk are being targeted by an Israeli military that feels the need to respond in kind. We abhor and condemn the violence of this week and the violence that led to this week. Israelis and Palestinians each have a right to exist.



In the midst of all of this bloodshed, it is easy to point the finger and to lay blame on one side. While that may help in the short term as we try to make sense of the horrors of war, our stance as peacemakers and justice seekers needs a different

and better voice. There is another way forward, rooted in scripture and painted on our hearts. Jesus' most radical words were "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." He didn't say how, he just said to do it. He also said "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

God, save us from the easy answers. God, help us to live with Gospel-inspired courage to forge a way in this wilderness of despair.

God, point us toward the path of peace. The path is strewn with the shells of homes, the stench of bloodied corpses, the smoke of a thousand dreams. We pause on this path, and tend the wounds of those torn apart in body, mind and spirit. Help us to not demonize an entire race or religion because of the

Continued on page 2

Pastor – continued

violent actions of the most extreme zealots. And it is our job to forge a path toward peace, while caring for those who have been hurt. So, we pray for our Jewish kinfolk, traumatized again. Help us to eschew generalizations and demonizations of our Jewish kinfolk in our own scriptures.

We pray for our Palestinian kinfolk, forced to live in the Gaza Strip that is both narrow, and narrower. Homes appropriated, land stripped, resources inhumanely confiscated. Multiple wrongs do not make a right. We pray for an end to the colonial annexation of Palestinian land. We pray that clearer heads and compassionate hearts will forge a new path to peace that embraces justice for all people in the Holy Lands.

May we live into the vision articulated by the Prophet Isaiah:

*If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted...
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.*

*O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.*

Peace, Salaam, Shalom,

Doug Donley

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Theme: “Stay Awake”

Nov. 5

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Extremists: Healers”

Scripture: Mark 3:1-6

Worship Leader: Deidre Druk

Nov. 12

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Extremists: Abolitionists”

Scripture: Revelation 18:1-13

Worship Leader: Gayla Marty

Nov. 19

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Extremists: Zealots”

Scripture: Matthew 10:34-39

Worship Leader: Jean Lubke

Nov. 26

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Extremists: Living in Hope”

Scripture: Matthew 10:40-42

Worship Leader: Megan Dahlberg

Special Offering for November & December Justice Issues

The Outreach missions for Nov. and Dec. are focused on programs that tackle justice issues in the Twin Cities. In the past, these have included homeless organizations, voting rights groups, refugee services, LGBTQ+ groups, etc. Your donations are appreciated as we try to heal our cities and neighborhoods.

You can drop your offering in the donation box, send a check to the church, designate a gift directly from your bank, use the QR code below, or use our online portal for giving on the UBC website, www.UBCmn.org.

Thank you for your ongoing Outreach support!!

Kim Donley and Deidre Druk, Outreach Co-Chairs



Calendar for November

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			11 a.m. Handcraft Grp 6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	6:30 p.m. Caregiver Support Group		9 a.m. Bible Study
5 All Saints	6	7	8	9	10	11
10 a.m. Worship Communion Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels 5 p.m. Inter. Spanish 6:15 p.m. Beg. Spanish	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels 5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels 3 p.m. Worship Team 6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels 4:30 p.m. Adv. Spanish Conversation	11:15 a.m. Every Meal	1 p.m. Book Group
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee 11:30 a.m. Forum/Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Council 4 p.m. Sacred Harp	5 p.m. Inter. Spanish 6:15 p.m. Beg. Spanish		6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	4:30 p.m. Adv. Spanish Conversation		9 a.m. Bible Study 1 p.m. Card Club
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee 11:30 a.m. Forum/Bible Study 4 p.m. Sanctuary dinner @UBC	5 p.m. Inter. Spanish 6:15 p.m. Beg. Spanish 7 p.m. Knitting Group	5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group	6 p.m. Choir	THANKSGIVING DAY THANKSGIVING DAY THANKSGIVING DAY		Newsletter deadline
26	27	28	29	30		
10 a.m. Worship Bells play Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee 11:30 a.m. Bible Study 4 p.m. Sacred Harp	5 p.m. Inter. Spanish 6:15 p.m. Beg. Spanish	5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp	6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	4:30 p.m. Adv. Spanish Conversation		

What's Going On



Sunday Morning Worship

10 a.m. – Worship in the UBC sanctuary

10 a.m. – Or join via livestream on the [UBC YouTube](#) page (search University Baptist Church Minneapolis MN).

When the livestream has ended – Joys & Concerns (also on Zoom)

Following Joys & Concerns – Coffee time in the lounge

11:30 a.m. – Forum in the lounge (also on Zoom)

11:30 a.m. – Bible Study “Journeys” in the library

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09>



UBC-FCC Daytime Handcraft Group – Nov. 1 (1st Wed.), 11 a.m. at First Congregational Church (500 8th Ave. SE) in the Parlor. Bring your craft project and lunch if you like. If you are interested and want to be on a distribution list, please let Marilyn Burns (from FCC) know at mbsnoobear@mac.com or see Chris Follett for questions.

Choir and Bell Rehearsal – Wed. evenings in the church sanctuary. Please see the calendar for specific times.



ESPAÑOL

Spanish classes – Mondays (Intermediate 5-6 p.m., Beginners 6:15-7:15 p.m.) and Thursdays (Advanced Conversation 4:30-5:30 p.m.).

The Beginning Class focuses on vocabulary development and verb conjugation. If you are comfortable with basic Spanish, the Intermediate Class would be a good fit for you, with a focus on reading, writing and discussing. The Advanced Class meets on Thursdays for conversation practice. If you have any questions, please contact Anielka Montiel at anymontiel33@gmail.com or 651-295-4590.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 870 8785 1406 Passcode: 634591

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87087851406?pwd=K2VPL1NrNWJMSDN3Wm5CeXRZYUNwUT09>

Caregivers Support Group – Nov. 2 (1st Thurs.), 6:30 p.m. UBCers who have an elderly parent meet for support. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lubke at lubk0001@umn.edu.



ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 810 4075 0220 Passcode 251436

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81040750220?pwd=bm82eExWUC9EMy9Tb2tHYk0yb1d3UT09>

More of What's Going On



Bible Study – Nov. 4 & 18 (1st & 3rd Sat.), 9 a.m. On Nov. 4 we will discuss James 1 and on Nov. 18 we will discuss James 2 and 3. New and occasional members are always welcome. No special background, skill, or preparation is required. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ehr at

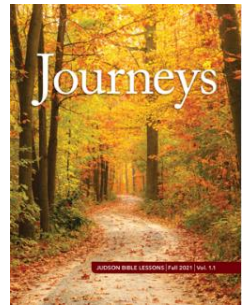
Why read the Bible? Because it's the one best story of our faith.

DianeEhr@q.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 886 6992 0103 passcode: 613038

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88669920103?pwd=dnozWEYzQUh1RU5HUTFWcVd3ZFZlZz09>

NEW “Journeys” Bible Study– Sundays starting Nov. 5 at 11:30 a.m. in the Char Follett Library.



- * *Journeys* is an opportunity to read and explore the meaning of Scripture together.
- * *Journeys* offers helpful background information and invites questions.
- * *Journeys* sessions stand alone. Choose to attend occasionally or regularly.
- * *Journeys* is structured and uses curriculum from American Baptist Churches.
- * Bible passages and themes:

Nov. 5: Matthew 23:1-12, Humility, a countercultural spirituality

Nov. 12: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Possibility, believing in a limitless God

Nov. 19: Judges 4:1-7, Faithfulness, obedience required

Nov. 26: Psalm 95:1-7a, Praise, praise changes things

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ehr at DianeEhr@q.com.



Meals on Wheels – Nov. 6-9 (M-Th first full week of the month). Meals are picked up around 11:15 a.m. and the route in SE Minneapolis usually takes less than two hours. We're always looking for substitute drivers. If you have any questions, please contact Marie LaFrance at marielafance46@gmail.com.

Sacred Harp Singing – Nov. 7, 21 & 28 (1st & 3rd Tues. + extra date), 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Nov. 12 & 26 (2nd & 4th Sun.), 4-6 p.m. in Room 303. No experience or talent necessary!



Memoir Writing Group – Nov. 7 & 21 (every other Tues.), 7 p.m. Prompts include *Baseball*, *Indigenous*, *Coming Out* and *Fright* or anything else you feel called to write about. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Donley at patricia.donley63@gmail.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 831 4584 1908 Passcode: 313775

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83145841908?pwd=djhuSmMwZ1NESXZ5SExNOURXa2FNQT09>

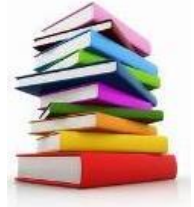
More of What's Going On



Every Meal – Nov. 10 (2nd Fri.), 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. at Marcy Open School in SE Mpls. Volunteers are needed to deliver meal bags to student backpacks in their lockers during the school day. If you are interested, please contact Denise Roy at denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu.

Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women Book Group – Nov. 11 (2nd Sat.), 1 p.m. The book this month is *Murder on the Red River* by Marcie Rendon (who will join us on Zoom.) If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.

ZOOM INFO: meeting ID 815 2376 4072 passcode 525996
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81523764072?pwd=Q1hlc2VFdnIOMEl1VWhXNzdKRDdjQT09>



Card Club – Sat., Nov. 18, 1-4:30 p.m. at Jean Lubke's home. This group meets monthly to learn card-making techniques, share ideas, and make beautiful greeting cards. Due to the limited space and the need to prepare materials, registration is needed for each month's session. If you are interested, please contact Jean at lubk0001@umn.edu or 651-295-7525.

UBC-FCC Knitting Group – Nov. 20 (3rd Mon.), 7 p.m. at Kris Felbeck's home. The group is made up of stitchers from UBC and First Congregational Church. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.



Don't forget to set your clocks BACK one hour on Saturday night, November 4



Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 9 – Roots Cellar – Beau Baker Band
Dec. 17 – Potluck lunch/kids provide dessert
Decorate the sanctuary for Christmas
Dec. 22 – Lubke Caroling Party in Roseville
Jan. 7 – Undecorate the sanctuary
Jan. 27 – Roots Cellar – Men of New Hope

Save the Date:

The summer conference of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America~Bautistas Por La Paz (AKA Peace Camp) will take place **July 15-20, 2024** at Mars Hill College outside of Asheville, NC.
Let's have a good showing from UBC this year!

NOVEMBER FORUMS

Forums are 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. after coffee time.

Nov. 5—All Saints

Extended coffee hour

Nov. 12—The vision of modern abolitionists

Abolition of slavery was a movement at the time our congregation formed in 1850. Today's abolition movement envisions an end to imprisonment, policing, surveillance, and the reasons they exist. Lauren Thrift attended the Alliance of Baptists spring gathering with the theme "To Set the Captives Free." She will guide a discussion of co-director Dr. Elijah Zehyoe's presentation grounded in Luke 4:18.

To get ready for the forum, see

<https://allianceofbaptists.org/events/annualgathering2023/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzCx5GmV8hU&t=9s>

This will be the first in a series over the next few months.

Nov. 19—War in Gaza

On Oct. 7, the militant group Hamas attacked Israel, and in the ensuing weeks, Israel struck back. Thousands of civilians have died. In this forum, we will be invited to share our perspectives and questions and to learn more together about this tragedy and terror of our time and options for action. The Alliance of Baptists community on Justice in Palestine and Israel is providing resources.

<https://allianceofbaptists.org/a-reflection-on-the-violence-in-palestine-and-israel/>

Nov. 26—No forum

Extended coffee hour.

October Forums

Oct. 1—ISAIAH listening session

Ben Whalen, the Minneapolis congregational organizer with ISAIAH (a multi-racial, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition fighting for racial and economic justice), updated us on the wins at the state legislature this year—paid family leave, clean energy, expanded voting rights, expanding healthcare, funding childcare—and gathered info to shape goals for the upcoming year. He can be reached at bwhalen@isaiah.org



Oct. 15—A call to South Africa



Rev. Toya Richards, who preached in our morning worship, talked about her call to full-time mission service with International Ministries. She is endorsed to serve as a teacher and professor at Cape Town Baptist Seminary. Rev. Richards is currently building her Mission Partnership Team and raising the funds needed to begin her ministry in South Africa. She can be reached at trichards@internationalministries.org

Oct. 29—Bell Tour to Ireland (Part 2)

Jean Lubke and fellow bell ringer Lauren Thrift shared pictures and history of Dingle, Killarney, Cork and other places they visited in Ireland with the bell tour and afterwards.



Photos by Chris Follett

UBC children and families are back!

By Megan Dahlberg

A final sign that the pandemic is over (though COVID-19 is still around) is that the children are back. Doug is leading children's time each Sunday (brave fellow that he is) and the nursery is hopping. Megan is teaching a circle time in the nursery near the end of the service each Sunday when she is not worship leader. If you want to fill in for her on her worship leader Sundays, just let her know. The kids are getting quite good at coming over to "sit right down" when she starts singing and have plenty of ideas of "let's do X together" (wiggle our ears, hop on one foot). They then settle in for a brief story (e.g., little boy...are any of you boys? Yes, Otto, Andrew, Peter, Finn...well, here is a story of a boy who shared his lunch and helped Jesus get 5,000 people to share theirs too). And usually a song that goes with the story. "Sharing is Caring" is the theme for the fall.

Peter Justin comes almost every Sunday, but Jackson Hartman lives far enough away that he and his sister

Clara plan to come one Sunday a month. On those Sundays, Peter and Jackson (who are school age) will have a real Sunday school class. The class will take place during the church service, after Doug wrangles the kids for his time with them. Carrie Lubke is teaching the first session on Nov 5. The parents decided they wanted a more ecumenical content oriented to moral development. Megan found a lovely free curriculum from our friends the Unitarians, called "Moral Tales." The first session is "We are all one" meaning all of us on earth, animal and human. Caring for all of us is our responsibility. If you would like to take a Sunday, please let Megan know. The curriculum is easy to follow.

We have two lovely infants who are too young for the nursery, but the parents are ready to be part of a parent group. The other parents also crave parenting together. Excellent! We have a parent-child group! This group has begun to create memories together.



L to r: Otto, Jackson, Clara, Finn, Peter, Andrew

This fall they went out for pumpkins. On a lovely day in October the families met at a pumpkin patch near the Hartman's house and found their pumpkins, one really large, that they decorated for the church.



L to r back row: Jonathan Lubke, Lindsay Hartman, Laura Justin, Claire Mavity, Chris Loch, Ben Justin, Carrie Lubke;
front row: Jon Hartman, Clara Hartman, Andrew Justin, Jackson Hartman, Otto Lubke, Peter Justin, Finn Loch



Eloy carves a very large pumpkin!

Continued on page 9



Photos by Laura Justin
(except online cookie photo below)

Kids – continued

Then the kids hosted a spooky coffee hour on Oct 22. Wow! Really scary. Otto, Peter, and Andrew (left) made ghost slime punch, pumpkin brownie monsters, roasted pumpkin seeds, etc. Laura and Carrie get great kudos. Fun was had by all.



The families plan another family event on Dec. 16 when they will gather at the church to make cookies together. It would be great if one of us older folks volunteers to be there to take some time to wrangle kids so the parents can de-stress together for a bit while the cookies are baking!



Then the kids will host the TREAT time on Dec. 17 when we have a potluck lunch and decorate the sanctuary. SOOOOO if you plan to bring cookies, forget it! Bring something else to share. The kids (and parents) have the treats covered!

SAVE THE DATES

Dec. 16—Children and families bake cookies at UBC!

Dec. 17—Decorating party in the sanctuary—treats provided by UBC children and families

Watching the U of M Homecoming parade on September 29



Left: Laura, Peter and Andrew Justin, Howard Johnson and Otto Lubke.

Right: Autumn, Camille, and Liz Weinfurter.

Photos by Doug Donley



October 29 Coffee Time



Don and daughter Chris Follett (left), with cake for Don's 90th birthday celebration.

Photo by Kim Donley

Don (below) acknowledges the "Happy Birthday" singing.

Photo by Doug Donley



Ani and daughter Valeria ham it up for Halloween.

Photo by Doug Donley



Doug snuggles with three-month old "bear" Elyas.

Photo by Lynnette Fraser



Costumed youth pose with the UBC pumpkin. L to r: Clara, Otto, Jackson, Peter, Andrew.

Photo by Laura Justin

October 29 Coffee Time (continued)



Parents in the background (Laura Justin, Jon Hartman, Jonathan and Carrie Lubke) and kids in the foreground (Clara, Jackson, Andrew, Otto, Peter)



The kids went door-to-door in the halls of UBC (those with pumpkins on them to signify treats within) and UBCers Denise Roy (above right), Kim Donley (left), and Megan Dahlberg (below) passed out treats.

Photos by Doug Donley



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Most of our income (57%) comes from pledges made by members. As of Oct. 29, we are ahead of where we would expect due to some pre-paid pledges.

Expected annual rental income is 21% of our budget. Patrick does a great job renting out spaces that don't have a regular tenant. This amount does not yet include end of month rent payments.



Other gifts and miscellaneous income provide 5% of our budget. We have had some generous donations of late.

The Foundation distribution is 17%, which includes \$33,399 for the property manager position. The Foundation funds are transferred to the UBC checking account as needed by the treasurer.

Operating Income 2023-24	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	57	\$187,940	\$62,647	70,098	7,452
Rental Income	21	\$70,000	\$23,333	22,079	-1,254
Misc income*	5	<u>\$15,000</u>	\$5,000	9,870	<u>4,870</u>
Subtotal		\$272,940	\$90,980	\$102,048	11,068
Carry-forward from 2022-23	0				
Foundation	17	<u>\$54,066</u>		-	
Total Operating Income	100	\$327,006			
Justice & Outreach		<u>\$15,000</u>		5,455	
Total Budget		\$342,006			

*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

The dedicated offering for Sept/Oct is for Nicaraguan Ministries and we have received \$1,895 to date (of that total, \$560 was designated for scholarships and \$600 for the Tai Shigaki Travel Fund.)

Chris Follett, Financial Secretary



You can scan this QR code to be directed to our webpage where there are a variety of causes to donate to.

UBC Wish List for 2023-24

These are items that don't fit in the budget but would be really nice to have.

1. A new church sign on University Ave. that faces oncoming traffic.
2. A big welcoming banner on the west side of the building visible to people driving or walking on University Ave.
3. Funds for a marketing communications consultant and/or graphic designer.
4. Funds for assistance migrating financial records from Money 2005 to QuickBooks Online.
5. Upgrade or replacement of our playground equipment.
6. Update blue hymnal.

Volunteer Opportunities

Meals on Wheels

UBC has an opportunity to participate in Meals on Wheels on M-Th of the first full week of the month (**Nov. 6-9**). Meals are picked up around 11:15 a.m. and the route usually takes 1-2 hours. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a ride-along, please contact Marie LaFrance at marielafrance46@gmail.com.

Little Free Pantry

We are looking for individuals who might be willing to stop by the church at least once a week to stock the pantry, as well as your donations of money and/or items such as:

- Toiletries (toothbrushes, deodorant, sample sized shampoo/body wash/hand sanitizer, razors, feminine hygiene products)
- Boxed mixes that only require water to prepare
- Bars/cracker packs
- Ramen/instant soup in a cup, mac & cheese
- Rice/pasta/quinoa/
- Tuna packets

If you would like to help, please contact Kim Donley or Deidre Druk, Outreach co-chairs.

Every Meal

UBC participates in *Every Meal*, a program that distributes meals over weekends and school breaks for families of children who receive free and reduced meals when school is in session. UBC is scheduled to distribute at Marcy Open School on the **second Friday of each month (Nov. 10)**, 11:15 a.m. to about 1 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Denise Roy at denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu

UBC History Research

At the Minnesota History Center, UBC has 19 boxes of files and other materials. There is a lot of sleuthing to do! We are able to schedule appointments and reserve a table on Wed-Sat, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.

If you would like to join a team going over to the History Center some time, please contact Gayla to let her know of your interest and availability at gaylamarty@gmail.com or 612-845-8417.

Looking for Volunteers

Coffee hosts – Sign up in the lounge

Communion prep – Contact Terri Wottrich

Sunday school teachers - Contact Megan Dahlberg

Ushers – Contact Chris Follett

Worship leaders – Contact Deidre Druk



November Birthdays

- 1 Stella Wright
- 4 Megan Gunnar Dahlberg
- 6 Keith Gray
- 7 Becca Donley
- 9 Jin Lee
- 11 Antonio Luca Snyder
- 20 Cliff Dahlberg
- 21 Tha Dah
- 27 Ruby Rott, Francisco Diaz
- 30 Don Dresser, Kymberly Wilbrecht

November Anniversary

- 26 Christiane Frey & David Martyn

Searching for UBC history



Left to right: Howard Johnson, Betsy Kerr, Betty Shaw, and Trish Donley. Not shown: Jonathan Lubke and Gayla Marty.

Photo by Gayla Marty

On Sept. 28, six UBCers met at the Minnesota History Center's research center to explore just a few of our 19 boxes archived there, with materials going back to 1850. The handwritten scripts and fading ink make reading our oldest records a challenge! Our current goal is to find materials to inform our 175th anniversary celebration in 2025.

Some topics of interest right now include documenting our interactions with Black and Indigenous communities, impact of the 1918 pandemic, impact of the Scopes trial in 1925 that ignited the creation/evolution debate and divide, and much more. What are you interested in learning about? Contact Gayla Marty to find out when the next visit might be scheduled

Our Upcoming 175th Anniversary!

Are you feeling our age? It may be because we are about to celebrate our **Terquasquicentennial!** – our 175th anniversary as a congregation! Very few congregations in Minnesota can claim that many continuous years of ministry and social justice work. So, in 2025, to celebrate our 175 years and tell our story to others who may be needing our type of ministry, we will have a celebration – dates and activities to be determined. But large celebrations need some foreplanning.

We will be creating a committee of folks who would like to help plan our celebration. If you are a great party planner, an historical buff, graphic designer, a social media communicator, and/or someone who wants to help tell our great story, please contact Jean Lubke or Pastor Doug. The committee will be organized later this year.

Meanwhile, be thinking of creative ways to celebrate who we were and who we are!

Winter clothes needed!

Francisco Diaz's sister Nazareth Belén and his dad Cairo will be arriving Nov. 24. Cairo will be staying 2 1/2 months; Belén will be living here for at least 2 years!

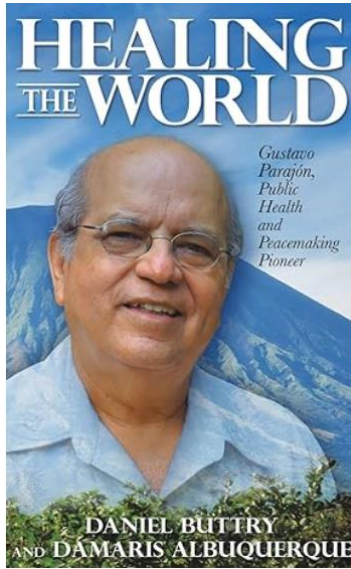
They will need winter clothes - men's size M; women's size S. If you have any winter clothes you don't need, please give them to Jean Lubke or Anielka Montiel. Thanks!

(We're also trying to figure out how we will transport 5 adults and an infant in a car with 5 seat belts...)

-Jean Lubke

Book Review

I had the great pleasure of reading Dan Buttry and Damaris Albuquerque's book, *Healing the World: Gustavo Parajón, Public Health and Peacemaking Pioneer*. It's hard to believe that it's been over ten years since his death. This book paints a picture of a man of deep faith, audacious courage and soul-filled humility. I'm sure it was hard to choose which stories to include of this great man's life. Gustavo impacted so many people in his life—Nicaraguans, for sure, but also international peacemakers and justice seekers.



I was one who was so influenced. Way back in 1984, I made my first trip to Nicaragua. I went with my home church in Cleveland who had commissioned Gustavo and Joan in the 1960s and later David and Laura in the 1990s. The Somoza regime had been toppled in 1979 and the US-sponsored Contra War was raging. Our church had gone to Nicaragua to build health clinics with Provadenic for decades.

Gustavo told us, "We can build our own clinics and dig our own latrines. We need you to visit, hear our stories and then change US policy." We accompanied Gus (and Damaris) to the Honduras border to receive hostages, we visited the health clinics (some of them recently attacked), and witnessed the resilience of the people.

I remember one Bible study at the First Baptist Church of Managua. We were reading the story of the Good Samaritan from Luke's gospel. It's a story about who is Jesus' neighbor and how we should act around them. At one point, a young man dressed in ubiquitous military fatigues spoke up and said, "I'm a Sandinista. I support the revolution. I am here to defend my country and my family. My cousin was recently kidnapped by the Contra (Counter-revolutionaries supported by the US). They have told

him if he doesn't fight for the Contra, then they are going to kill his family. So, we have guns pointed at each other, figuratively, and perhaps literally. In this context who would Jesus say is my neighbor?" I don't remember Gustavo's answer. Maybe it was just to let the question lie in the air and let people engage with it. It engaged with my heart too. I never have to ask those kinds of questions from my first-world perspective. And I realized how shallow my religious upbringing had been.

Gus didn't tell us what to believe, but invited us to be a witness to brutality and grace and make our own decisions. Like many before and after, I was changed by this experience. It has shaped my ministry ever since.

I highly recommend this book. It's a biography, but it's also a book to help you imagine your part in creating a better world.

I have seven copies of this great book in my office. They are \$20 each and the money goes to support AMOS Health and Hope in Nicaragua.

- Doug Donley

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Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-331-1768, info@ubcmn.org
www.ubcmn.org
Rev. Douglas M. Donley, Pastor
Please send contributions by
the 25th of the month to
Chris Follett, Editor at
chrisf2828@yahoo.com