



UNIVERSITY
BAPTIST CHURCH

UBC NEWS

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS
SEPTEMBER 2025

**1219 University Ave SE
Minneapolis MN 55414**

Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

From the Pastor

New Steps on the Journey

I always look forward to September. Not only is it the start of the academic year but it is also the start of our worship and program year. We have our Welcome Back picnic. We launch our next season of the Roots Cellar. We start Sunday School. Our vocal and bell choirs return. Our classes and groups that have been on summer hiatus return. And we get to meet new people who arrive just outside our doorsteps.



I wonder how we will be perceived by our new neighbors. I know we have lots of welcoming signs out there on our lawn and on our building. We have a new logo. We'll even have a billboard up near Seven Corners (let me know if you notice it). But will that be enough to make UBC compelling enough that new people check us out? There is a whole plethora of data out there that says young people don't trust organized religion. They are products of families that don't trust organized religion, products of a culture that disparages faithfulness and sees Christianity as suspect at best and evil at worst.

And yet, people come to the University campus searching for meaning. Sure, they are preparing for degrees and eventual careers. But with every new discovery, a piece of their world is modified. Sometimes those changes can be slight, sometimes they can be monumental. The church is a place to help people find meaning. And I look

forward to the new aspects of God that new people bring to us.

But more than that, as they search and perhaps find this old building as a refuge, a sanctuary for their questions, I hope we are all open to the wonder that is at the root of this search for meaning. Faithfulness is a commitment to trust that meaning will be revealed and re-revealed if we keep at it long and diligently enough.

Here's to new steps on the journey.

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

September Worship Schedule

Worship Theme:

"Faithfulness: Then and Now"

As we continue to commemorate our 175th anniversary as a congregation, founded on July 13, 1850, we'll spend time in worship looking at what faithfulness meant back in the earlier days of our church and what it looks like now. We'll celebrate the ones who have gone before us. We'll mark the milestones. We'll consider blind spots and what contributed to them. And we will look at how we can move forward as faithful people, bringing this Gospel of liberation and hope to a new generation of people.

September 7

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: "Let Everybody In"

Scripture: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Worship Leader: Megan Dahlberg

September 14

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: "Fashioned in the Clay"

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:10, 18:1-12

Worship Leader: Paula Moyer

September 21

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: "Blessed is the Building"

Scripture: Jeremiah 7:1-7

Worship Leader: Gayla Marty

September 28

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: "God's Priorities"

Scripture: Amos 5:14-15

Worship Leader: Deidre Druk

Later Start for After Service Activities

The Council decided that since the service is going past 11 a.m., we would officially change the times scheduled to honor those who have prepared coffee time, forum presenters, and Sunday School teachers.

Starting September 14, coffee time will be 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. and forum, Sunday School, Journeys bible study will be 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

SEPTEMBER FORUMS

Forums are held 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., after coffee time. We do our best to provide a Zoom option for remote participants.

September 14—Brainstorm about fund-raising for UBC

Join us for the first forum of the new year to brainstorm about fund-raising ideas! The UBC Council is seeking any and all ideas for identifying new revenue streams including creative ways to use our amazing space. John Medeiros will facilitate.

September 21—Picturing the Past

Architectural historian and Augsburg professor emeritus Kristin Anderson will give an illustrated presentation of our congregation's several locations in St. Anthony, which became Southeast Minneapolis in the 1870s. Known for her engaging presentations, Anderson will bring our history alive, from sharing space in a schoolhouse near the falls in 1850 to our current location since the 1920s. This forum is one of our 175th Anniversary events.

See page 3 for more information.

September 28—Hymnody 101

As we turn our focus to updating the music we use for worship at UBC, we will talk about the value of hymns and their difference from other worship music. Is a chorus, a chant, or a call and response the same thing as a hymn? In our work to publish a new and updated music supplement to our worship experience, what do we prioritize? Worship music holds messages in different formats. What speaks to us? Many of us appreciate the complexity of the poetry found in hymnody. We are also comforted and sometimes challenged by the melody and harmonies. Pastor Doug and music director David Lesniaski will lead the discussion.

UBC at 175

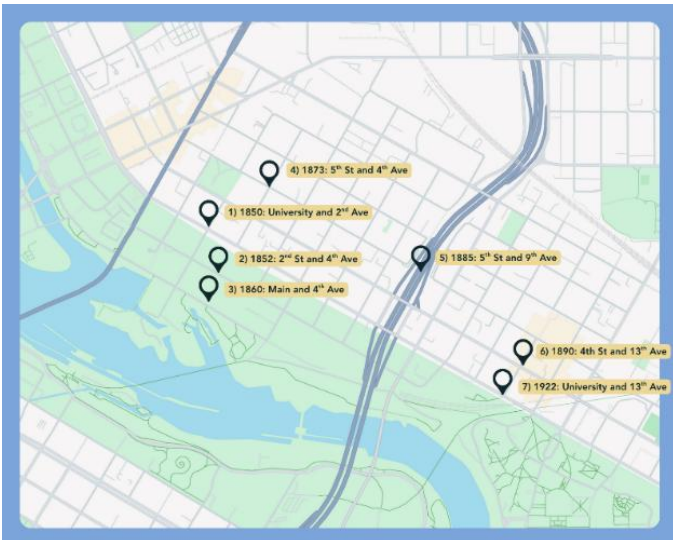
Picturing the Past: An Illustrated Presentation

Sunday, September 21, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Adele Fadden Assembly Room, lower level

Featuring Kristin Anderson, Professor Emeritus,
Department of Art, Augsburg University

For over a century, University Baptist Church has occupied its lovely building at the corner of University Avenue and 13th Avenue SE. In light of this stability, it's amazing to consider the dynamic pattern of building and moving seen in the congregation's earlier history, when it used at least six different spaces in a period of 70 years or so.



Not only did UBC have many different worship places, but the church also preceded and succeeded other religious communities in particular buildings: nearly all these groups were on the move in those early years. Such intertwining stories and relationships were part of the fascinating saga of the "triplet" cities of St. Anthony, St. Paul, and Minneapolis, where allegiances and connections along neighborhood, geographical, and denominational lines formed the bedrock of the UBC building stories.

Professor Anderson's presentation is part of UBC's 175th Anniversary Celebration. Spread the word and bring your friends!

Read more about Professor Anderson at www.augsburg.edu/faculty/anderso3/



From 1890 to 1922, our congregation—then called Olivet Baptist Church—worshipped at 13th Avenue and 4th Street SE, current location of the Kollege Klub. We bought it from the Methodists and sold it to Perine Book Company. It was later home to the Contemporary Dance Playhouse, founded in 1962 by Loyce Houlton, which became the Minnesota Dance Theater. The old church building was destroyed by fire 1969.



On Sunday, October 29, 1922, the first service was held in our current building. We think this photo was taken that day. The Assembly Room was used for worship until 1927, when our sanctuary was completed.

Calendar for September

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<i>Office Closed</i>	11:15 am Meals on Wheels 5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group	9 a.m. Garden Team 11 a.m. Handcraft Group 11:15 am Meals on Wheels Noon UBC-FCC Task Force 6:30 p.m. Bells	11:15 am Meals on Wheels 6:30 p.m. Caregiver Support	11:15 am Meals on Wheels	
COME TO THE PICNIC ON SEPTEMBER 7!						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10 a.m. Worship Communion Joys & Concerns 11:15 a.m. Welcome Back ★ Potluck Picnic		5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp	9 a.m. Garden Team 6:30 p.m. Bells			1 p.m. Book Group 2 p.m. Wild Church 7 p.m. Roots Cellar
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11:15 a.m. Coffee Time 11:45 a.m. Forum/Journeys 4 p.m. Sacred Harp	7 p.m. Knitting Group	5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group	9 a.m. Garden Team 6 p.m. Choir (first rehearsal) 7:30 p.m. Bells			9 a.m. Bible Study 1 p.m. Card Club 5:30 p.m. Dinner for 8 w/FCC
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11:15 a.m. Coffee Time 11:45 a.m. Forum/Journeys		5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp	9 a.m. Garden Team 6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	<i>Newsletter deadline</i>		10 a.m. Spanish Conversation
28	29	30				
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11:15 a.m. Coffee Time 11:45 a.m. Forum/Journeys 4 p.m. Sacred Harp		5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group				

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).

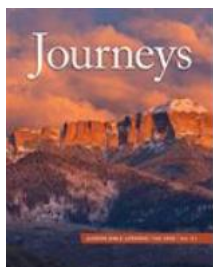
When the livestream has ended - Joys & Concerns (on Zoom)

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

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

11:15 a.m. Coffee time in the lounge followed by Forum

11:45 a.m. Journeys Bible Study in the Char Follett Library. Our meeting is an opportunity to read Scripture together, to learn something new, to ask questions, and to talk about your faith. No preparation is required. Please feel free to come once or regularly. See Nancy Myers or Diane Ehr for more information.



September 14—Commitment: Mark 8: 27-38

September 21—Prayer: Psalm 54

September 28—Leadership: Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-25



Meals on Wheels - September 2-5 (Tuesday-Friday 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 questions, please contact Marie LaFrance at marielafance46@gmail.com.

Sacred Harp Singing - Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Sundays (2nd & 4th), 4-6 p.m. at UBC in Room 303. No experience or talent necessary!



Memoir Writing Group - September 2, 16, 30 (every other Tuesday),

7 p.m. Prompts include *UBC Memories*, *Crying/Tears* and *Your First Sunday at UBC*. If you have questions, please contact Trish Donley at 612-386-2856 or patricia.donley63@gmail.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlYkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09>

Garden Team - Wednesdays, 9 a.m. Come help beautify our church gardens! We have tools and gloves available, and will mostly work on weeding, pruning and watering. Park in the Mormon lot or behind the church. Feel free to join us whenever you're available! If you have questions, please contact Betsy Kerr at 612-877-2018 or bjkerr@umn.edu.



More of What's Going On



UBC-FCC Daytime Handcraft Group - September 3 (1st Wednesday), 11 a.m. at First Congregational Church (500 8th Ave. SE). If you are interested and want to be on a distribution list, please let Marilyn Burns (from FCC) know at mbsnoobear@mac.com.

Bells and Choir Rehearsal - Wednesday evenings in the church sanctuary or lounge. Bell rehearsals start September 3 at for two weeks at 6:30 p.m. then 7:30 p.m. September 17 and after and the chorale rehearsals start September 17 at 6 p.m.



Caregiver Support Group - September 4 (1st Thursday), 6:30 p.m. UBCers who care for a parent, family member, or friend meet for support. If you have questions, please contact Jean Lubke at jeanlubke01@gmail.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 829 0006 6861 Passcode 942930

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82900066861?pwd=RUQ1eGhYN1RzWTJCR0VTNG1JNFVsUT09>

Welcome Back Picnic - September 7, 11:15 a.m. Please join us for our annual church picnic on the front lawn (weather permitting) after the church service. Please bring a dish with plenty to share as we welcome new students as well as old friends who may join us at the start of our anniversary year. If you can help with set up or clean up, please contact Margie Garmers at garm0001@umn.edu or 763-301-1817 or just pitch in!



Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women Book Group - September 13 (2nd Saturday), 1 p.m. The book this month is *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout. If you have questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZINlYDcwUElZTWFMZm50QQT09>

Wild Church Gathering - September 13 (2nd Saturday), 2 p.m. at the Peace statue by Nicollet Island Pavillion. We will join together with friends from other SE Minneapolis churches. During our time together, we will ground ourselves in scripture, poetry, and song before embarking on a time of wandering. We will close with a time of reflection and sharing. The Wild Church movement invites us to reshape our relationship with creation through outdoor worship. For more info <https://www.wildchurchnetwork.com/>



You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment. Fools stand on this island of opportunities and look toward another land. There is no other land; there is no other life but this.

—Henry David Thoreau

More of What's Going On



ROOTS CELLAR - Sadie Gustafson-Zook - Saturday, September 13, 7 p.m.

Every time Sadie Gustafson-Zook carves a linoleum block, sews a pencil case out of scraps, or admires the way the ink in her Pilot G-2 glides over her journal, she thinks, "I should be doing this all the time." The act of creating something tangible is the air Sadie breathes. Her songwriting is the same—weaving an internal dialogue, the stories she tells herself, warm melodies and clever chords into something real, something she can physically feel with her hands and her throat. And chances are that you'll be able to feel them too. For more info, go to <https://www.sadiegustafsonzook.com>. Tickets are \$20, available at the door or at <https://events.humanitix.com/sadiegustafsonzook>

UBC-FCC Knitting Group - September 15 (3rd Monday), 7 p.m. at the home of Barbara Franklin. The group is made up of stitchers from UBC and First Congregational Church. If you have questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.



Bible Study - September 20 (1st & 3rd Saturday), 9 a.m. At our first meeting in the new program year, we revisit our study of Luke (Chapter 10). New and occasional members are always welcome. No special background, skill, or preparation is required. If you have questions, please contact Diane Ehr at dianeehr82@gmail.com

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlYkRlcWUeZlZTWfMlZyZm50QT09>

Card Club - Saturday, September 20, 1 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 jeanlubke01@gmail.com or 651-295-7525.



Every Meal - September 26 (usually 2nd Friday), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

at Marcy Arts Elementary School in SE Minneapolis.

Volunteers are needed to deliver meal bags to student backpacks during the school day. If you are interested, please contact Denise Roy at denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu.

Spanish Conversation Group - September 27 (4th Saturday), 10 a.m. at Curioso Coffee Shop, 1712 Marshall St NE, Minneapolis. Join folks from UBC and First Congregational Church to practice your Spanish. If you have questions, please contact Deidre Druk at deidredruk@aol.com.



Dinner for 8

We will partner with First Congregational Church for a dinner on **September 20**.

Please sign up [here](#). If you decide to sign up to host, you can choose if you want to do a potluck or provide the whole meal. Groups will be assembled to ensure a mix of people from both congregations.

See Chris Follett if you have questions.

Coming up...

ROOTS CELLAR CONCERTS

(scheduled so far)

Saturday, September 13, 7 p.m. - Sadie Gustafson-Zook

Sunday, October 12, 6 p.m. - Jaspar Lepak

Saturday, November 8, 7 p.m. - Rachael Kilgour

Sunday, February 22, 7 p.m. - Katie Dahl/Hope Dunbar/
Rj Cowdery

Saturday, April 11, 7 p.m. - Crys Matthews

November 2, All Saints Service



U of M

Homecoming Parade
Friday, October 10, 6:30 p.m.

We'll be making s'mores as we watch the parade go right by the church lawn. Come join us!

Hymnal project

This summer, UBC received a grant from the Calvin Institute for Vital Worship. The grant will help us look at hymnody and music that has defined us as a congregation and expand our repertoire of music for worship in the future.

Way back in 1983, UBC produced our own inclusive language hymnal, years before other such hymnals came on the market. With this grant, we have the opportunity to update and expand our fine resource. The goal is by the summer of 2026 to have the entire blue hymnal expanded, updated, and digitized to reflect our present day.

Look for seldom-used hymns from the blue hymnal and others that we might like to add as part of our worship year. Watch for retreats, forums, and hymn sings, too. We'll tweak some of the language where needed. If the hymns are in other hymnals, we'll decide whether to have an alternative version. We'll also digitize this new resource and make it more readable. It's a practical application of our worship theme this year, Faithfulness Then and Now.

Pastor Doug Donley with Rev. Alicia Dixon-Garrard, Regional Associate Executive Minister of the Rochester-Genesee Region, our guest preacher on August 24. The service can be seen online.

Photo by Anne Johnson



UBC at 175

Help host the UBC block party!

Sunday, October 12, 12-6 p.m.



Plans continue to take shape for a block party at UBC, a creative party by and for the community as we invite our neighborhood into the yard and building. This is the Sunday on Homecoming weekend at the U. The afternoon will highlight visual and performance artists, live music, local food, and nonprofits. Neighbors in Dinkytown and adjacent neighborhoods are invited to celebrate and connect with food, interactive arts, and live music. Team-leads Elwyn Fraser and Claire Mavity are working to finalize logistics and a general outline of the event.



This is our chance as the UBC community to welcome and host our neighbors!

We'll need a total of 7 to 14 volunteers to host several identified spaces—at least one, ideally two per space:

- mingle and music space (outdoors under the portico and main lawn area)
- food-truck space (outdoors on the lawn near the street)
- dance and active art space (indoor stage and open area downstairs)
- open play / free-form youth space (indoor gym area)
- quiet/meditative/renewal space (indoor library room)
- cooking space (indoor volunteers to make desserts and bring them out)
- overall space (indoor/outdoor runners to help Elwyn and Claire resolve arising issues in real time)



In addition, the standing Shape Note singing at 4 p.m. and a Roots Cellar concert at 6 p.m. will be integrated into the day and round out the schedule of activities. Watch for more information and announcements on Sundays and online through September—and volunteer!

See also www.ubcmn.org/175th-anniversary.

I'd like to see the weekend framed and built to be inclusive of the neighborhood as well as our past. [...] I'm trying to get to the problem I see that we have—being on this corner and still lacking visibility. If we can tell our story and people can understand that 175 years is not just singing and praying and going home. This congregation was started by activists, who were DEI people 175 years ago! I don't think we can pass up the opportunity to form [our anniversary activities] so we become more visible in our immediate community as well as citywide as well as countywide.

—Howard Johnson

Financial Secretary's Report

Fiscal year 2025-26 began July 1. Several people have paid their annual pledge in full so we appear very robust in that income category. In addition to the regular distribution, the Foundation contribution includes funds to cover the facilities supervisor and marketing positions.

Operating Income 2025-26	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	47	\$207,933	\$34,656	\$51,812	\$17,156
Rental Income	18	\$80,000	\$13,333	\$11,066	(\$2,267)
Misc income*	7	\$31,500	\$5,250	\$3,368	(\$1,882)
Subtotal		\$319,433	\$53,239	\$66,245	\$13,007
Foundation Contribution	27	\$118,811		-	
Total Operating Income	100	\$438,244			

We received \$933 for our Southeast Minneapolis partners, the dedicated offering for July and August.

- Chris Follett, Financial Secretary

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Nicaraguan Partners and Tai Shigaki Travel Fund

The Outreach mission focus for September and October is for our Nicaraguan partners and the Tai Shigaki Travel Fund. In the past, these funds have included scholarships for students attending the church-sponsored school, the church in León, Project Minnesota- León and AMOS (A Ministry of Sharing). Thank you for any assistance you can provide!

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

Thank you for your ongoing outreach support!!

Kim Donley and Karole Graham
Outreach Team Co-Coordinator



Scan this QR code to be directed to our web page where there are a variety of causes to donate to.

2025-26 UBC Wish List

These are items that don't fit in the budget but would be really nice to have. Please contact Chris Follett if you would like to donate toward these items.

1. A big welcoming banner on the northwest side of the building visible to people driving or walking on University Avenue (\$300)
2. Upgrade or replacement of our playground equipment
3. New bell table covers (\$3,000)
4. Wiring and electric stoves for apartment and lounge kitchen (\$6,000)
5. New furniture (couch, chairs, etc.) for nursery (\$3,000)
6. Additional benches under the crab apple tree (\$2,500)

Looking for Volunteers

Coffee hosts - Sign up in the lounge

Communion prep - Contact Terri Wottrich

Meals on Wheels - Contact Marie LaFrance

Ushers - Contact Chris Follett

Worship leaders - Contact Megan Dahlberg

Garden team - Contact Betsy Kerr or show up Wednesday morning.

175th anniversary - Contact Gayla Marty. Help is needed at the October 12 Block Party.

UBC history research - Contact Gayla Marty

Welcome-back picnic set up and clean up - Contact Margie Garmers



Needed: Nursery Circle Time Volunteers

Megan Dahlberg is looking for volunteers to provide "mini" Sunday school for the youngest kids. This entails leaving the service at the start of Joys and Concerns and providing a circle time for the kids, minus Peter and Andrew, who are with Megan at that time in their own Sunday school class.

Circle Time typically would involve a song (to gather the children), a brief story, a song or two related to the story and a prayer. That's it. Megan has loads of suggestions for these mini lessons. Hopefully enough folks will volunteer that each only would need to do 4-8 Sundays. If you can help, contact Megan at Dahlberg.megan4@gmail.com or text 651-491-9698

Welcome Baby!

UBC hosted a baby shower for Katie MacAulay and Jacob Beier on August 3. The baby's due-date was August 24, and he arrived the morning of August 27, 8 lbs. and 20 inches.



Jacob and Katie showed off the cake and balloons as well as Katie's baby bump!

Photos by Chris Follett



Lynette gave directions for the games followed by opening gifts, including many books!

Greetings from the Lindholm Family

The Lindholm family has had connections with UBC since Fred and Thelma met at the University in the 1930s. UBC members Ernest Lagerstrom, and the Lindholm family all lived together over the Minnehaha hardware store in south Minneapolis for many years. Sons, Richard and David Lindholm attended Sunday school at UBC. Richard passed away in 2012 and brother David (83) passed away in April of 2025.

When Richard married Sheryl Gaddis in 1960, Sheryl joined UBC. Their two sons Timothy and Stephen, were baptized at University Baptist.

Sheryl lives in Hudson, Wisconsin, in the summer and Sarasota, Florida, in the winter.

Timothy and his wife Kathy Herbst live in Snowmass, Colorado. Stephen and his wife, Paola Giargia live in Brussels, Belgium. Fred and Thelma's great-grandson, Jari lives in San Diego, great-grandson Soren lives in Carbondale, Colorado, and great-granddaughter Sara goes to the University of Louvain, Brussels, Belgium.

"With many happy memories of UBC, Best wishes! 175th anniversary UBC!"

—Sheryl Lindholm

Stories from Our History

The Roots Cellar by Doug Donley

It all started with our church basement.

For 40 years, the Assembly Room and Parlor were the purview of Second Foundation School, a school for those who for some reason did not fit within traditional academic structures. The school was an open series of classrooms and they used all of the space and then some. It was in their lease that they would vacate the area for Palm Sunday each year, but the accumulation of school items made the space for our brunch a bit too narrow. I remember stacks of items precariously towering over flimsy partitions.

When the Second Foundation School closed and moved out of the UBC building in 2013, we seized on the opportunity to reimagine how we would use all the opened-up space in our fine old building. We got rid of the asbestos floor tiles and radiator covers. The stage emerged from its detritus and we discovered foot lights. We repainted the room. We named the rehabbed Assembly Room after the hospitality-gifted Adele Fadden, who died in 2011, just shy of 100 years old.

The Wesley Foundation campus ministry moved in, but the Adele Fadden Assembly Room was now shared space. We held choir rehearsals and had community meetings in that great space. We had more room for our brunches and we could hold wedding and funeral receptions there.

I kept floating the idea that we should use the stage for music—especially since Dinkytown had nurtured the careers of several iconic acoustic musicians. No one bit, no matter how much I pushed and prodded. Then I decided, well, if I want this program to happen, then I would have

to lead it. So, in the spring of 2015, I called up a few of my musician friends and asked if they would be willing to perform. Sherry Minnick and Pop Wagner quickly said yes and suggested a few of their friends. The Roots Cellar was born. We'd focus on Americana and roots music at an affordable price in the church basement. Roots Cellar—get it? I get to enjoy the music I like, and I get to make performers and audiences happy. A win-win situation.

We start this season of the Roots Cellar on September 13 with Sadie Gustafson-Zook. See page 7.

At first, we strung up some lights on a tree and pointed them at the stage. We used an ancient amp that was collecting dust for sound and launched ourselves. The audiences were always small but enthusiastic. Many waxed nostalgic about Mama D's, the Podium, The Ten O'Clock Scholar and other Dinkytown haunts that supported young artists, all of which have succumbed to developers. Are we the last holdout—stubborn or brave?

We have a simple business plan. We charge an entrance fee and the artist gets 75% of the door. They also

get 100% of the merchandise income. The church gets 25% of the door and 100% of the concessions sales. We share publicity. A year or so into the project, we got a grant from the Rochester/Genesee Region (I think it was \$4,000). We bought speakers, microphones, a snake, cords, permanent lights that we could
Continued on page 14



Roots Cellar - continued

hang above the stage, a light board, and a mixing board. It made set-up and take-down both easier and harder. We eventually used portions of this new system to facilitate outdoor services and events.

Over the years we have hosted 70+ concerts. We can cram about 125 people into the Assembly Room and at times, we have filled it to capacity for performers like Ann Reed and Peter Mayer. Once when the Star Tribune did a story on the Roots Cellar, we had 100 pre-sales in the span of three days. We held the concert for Rachael Kilgour in the sanctuary that cold January day with over 150 in attendance. But

most of the audiences are smaller. Post-COVID, getting people to a concert in a church is a harder thing. The nearby Varsity Theater doesn't seem to have a problem, though.

GAIA Democratic School, a prodigal child of Second Foundation School again uses the lower floors for their open school concept, but in the evenings and on weekends when the school is not in session, the Adele Fadden Assembly Room is used by theater groups, organizers and even congregations. I receive calls from people asking to hold an event in the Roots Cellar. It has a reputation—and a good one. I'm looking forward to the 12th season of the Roots Cellar in 2025-26...a Dinkytown institution.



September Birthdays

- 3 Aurora Wiseman**
- 4 Autumn Weinfurter, Marcy Schultz**
- 11 Anne Mavity**
- 18 Lewis Cramer**
- 19 Matty Strickler**
- 21 Betsy Kerr**
- 27 Jean Lubke**
- 29 Lynn Welton**

September Anniversaries

- 1 Lisa Patrick & Cliff Dahlberg**
- 14 Lindsay & Jon Hartman**
- 18 Katie Hartman-Waller & Jim Waller**



UBC NEWS

Published monthly
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