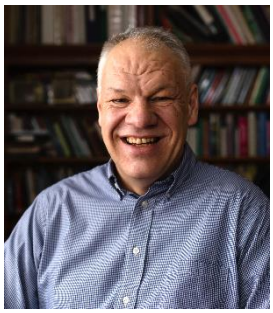
UBC NEWS

University Baptist Church
1219 University Ave SE
Minneapolis MN 55414
Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN
JUNE 2024

From the Pastor

Stability is a Privilege



On May 18th, Deidre Druk, Jesse Nitzschke and I attended the Open Doors Minneapols event at Mother St. James AME church. It was good to renew budding friendships with the good people of Mother St. James. As you may remember, they held their 160th anniversary celebration at UBC last July. One of the reasons for that was some history that we share. In the 1860s we shared space with an unnamed Black congregation, which we now believe was Mother St. James. It's even possible that we sold/gave one of our old buildings to this new congregation.

The event this May was an opportunity to see their current building and hear more of their history. While we knew of some the early history, they also told us of the reason for all of their moves over the years. A lot of it had to do with redlining and urban planners wanting to keep racial groups segregated. When the Marcy- Holmes neighborhood became a part of Minneapolis, they were told to move.

They relocated to the area near the Mixed Blood Theater. Their grand building was demolished to put in 35W. Later they moved to an area near some railroad tracks. The railroad wanted the land and ran trains so often as to squeeze them out. For the last 50+ years, they have been on E. 36th Street, between Hiawatha and Minnehaha Avenues. The area is residential, but their church sits in the shadow of a large grain storage structure.

At the Alliance of Baptists conference in April, I picked up a book entitled, *Our Trespasses: White Churches and the Taking of American Neighborhoods.* While the author was talking about Charlotte, NC, he could have been describing the Rondo neighborhood of Saint Paul or the neighborhood where Mother St. James had been before urban planners squeezed them out.

I think of how differently our church's history developed. Lumber barons donated building materials and we moved with the growth of the city. The churches built in the SE section of Minneapolis were plentiful and white. Baptist, Congregational, Christian Scientist, Methodist, Lutheran, Catholic, Mormon, Presbyterian, etc. Never were we challenged because of our racial makeup. We were challenged by belief systems, but that is also a sign of privilege.

In the last few decades several Black congregations would come and go from the neighborhood, many of them tenants at UBC. Lacking stability, funds and the preferential Sunday morning worship time, the churches eventually moved or disbanded. While UBC wanted to have relationships with these tenant

Continued on page 2

Pastor– continued

congregations, it was more in theory than in practice. We had different theologies, worship and cultural languages.

I'm glad that the discernment process is having us look more closely at our history and future as it pertains to our building. I hope and pray that we uncover not only the glory of our past, but the gory details of privilege and the ways it has made us myopic and tone-deaf to the ways that churches like ours continue to benefit from a racialized past and present. I'm hopeful that as we uncover truths, we will find a new voice that will help redeem our collective history and set us on the path to a more just chapter in our church's life.

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

UBC gardens and flags photo by Gayla Marty

Pastor's Health Update

My new surgery date is scheduled for June 19th. Since I have an MRI on the 18th, I'll begin my medical leave then. If all goes according to plan, I'll be in the hospital for two to five days and home recovering for the next three to four weeks depending on the outcome of the surgery. I'm setting the intention that everything will be great and I'll return with renewed energy and perspective. We have four fine preachers scheduled for the time that I am away.

Anne Supplee has again agreed to lead a team of people to take care of pastoral care needs while I'm recovering. Our fine staff, congregational president Jean Lubke, and the rest of the UBC Council will take care of the day-to-day operations of UBC. I plan to attend the Baptist Peace Fellowship's Summer Conference in North Carolina July 15-20.

You can follow my health journey on CaringBridge, https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/dougdonley

JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Theme: "Stay Awake"

June 2
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "Understand, Discern and Carry On"
Scripture: Hosea 14:1-9
Worship Leader: Jean Lubke

June 9
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "Multitudes"
Scripture: Acts 5:12-16
Worship Leader: Francisco Diaz

June 16
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "Seeds and Glands"
Scripture: Matthew 13:31-34
Worship Leader: Gayla Marty

June 23
Preaching: Matty Strickler
Sermon: TBD
Scripture: TBD
Worship Leader: Carrie Lubke

June 30
Preaching: Anne Supplee
Sermon: Misery and Mercy
Scripture: Lamentations 3:21-33
Worship Leader: Paula Moyer

Joint Worship Services with First Congregational Church in July

500 8th Ave SE

The tentative schedule is:
July 7 @ FCC Paula Moyer preaching
July 14 @ FCC Maia Twedt preaching
July 21 @ UBC Chris Bohnhoff preaching
July 28 @ UBC Chris Bohnhoff preaching

Calendar for June

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
10 a.m. Worship Communion Joys & Concerns **11 a.m**. Potluck **11:30 a.m.** Annual Meeting	**11:15 a.m.** Meals on Wheels	**11:15 a.m.** Meals on Wheels **5:30 p.m.** Sacred Harp **7 p.m.** Memoir Group	**11 a.m.** Handcraft Grp **11:15 a.m.** Meals on Wheels	**9 a.m.** Garden Team **11:15 a.m.** Meals on Wheels **6:30 p.m**. Caregiver Support Group		**9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Worship Planning Retreat **1 p.m.** Book Group
9	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
10 a.m. Worship Honoring Tai Shigaki Joys & Concerns **11 a.m.** Coffee **12:30 p.m.** Council **4 p.m.** Sacred Harp		**7 p.m.** Anti-Racism Work		**9 a.m.** Garden Team		**1 p.m.** Card Club
16 Father's Day	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns **11 a.m**. Coffee **4 p.m.** Sacred Harp	**7 p.m.** Knitting Grp	**5:30 p.m.** Sacred Harp **7 p.m.** Memoir Group		**9 a.m.** Garden Team		
23	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns **11 a.m**. Coffee **4 p.m.** Sacred Harp		*Newsletter deadline*		**9 a.m.** Garden Team		**10 a.m.-7 p.m.** Pride Festival
30						
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Pride Festival **10 a.m.** Worship Joys & Concerns **11 a.m**. Coffee **4 p.m.** Sacred Harp						

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 ends – Joys & Concerns (also on Zoom)

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09

Following Joys & Concerns – Coffee time in the lounge

GROUPS ON HAITUS UNTIL SEPTEMBER:

- Forums and Sunday School
- Saturday Bible Study
- Journeys Bible Study
- Choir
- Bells
- Every Meal

UBC 172nd Annual Meeting and Potluck – June 2, 11 a.m. in the sanctuary. After the Sunday service we will have a potluck followed by our annual meeting. We will elect new officers and ministry team leaders and approve the budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. All are encouraged to attend. Please bring sandwiches or a side dish to share. See Betty Shaw if you can help with clean up.

Meals on Wheels – June 3-6. 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 marielafrance46@gmail.com.

UBC-FCC Daytime Handcraft Group – June 5 (1st Wednesday), 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.

Garden Team – Thursdays, 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 any questions, please contact Betsy Kerr at 763-529-7862 (landline) or bjkerr@umn.edu.

More of What's Going On

Caregiver Support Group – June 6 (1st Thursday), 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 829 0006 6861 Passcode 942930
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82900066861?pwd=RUQ1eGhYN1RzWTJCR0VTNG1JNFVsUT09

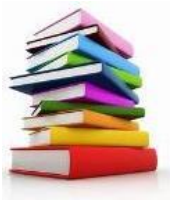
Sacred Harp Singing – June 4 & 18 (1st & 3rd Tuesdays), 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Sundays (except the first), 4-6 p.m. at UBC in Room 303. No experience or talent necessary!

Coming up..
July 12 and 13 - Sacred Harp singing convention at UBC. The group will be singing from the Shenandoah Harmony book. The event on the 13th is from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Adele Fadden Assembly Room. There will likely be a singing school on Friday the 12th in the evening.

Memoir Writing Group – June 4 & 18 (every other Tuesday), 7 p.m.
Prompts include *Forgiveness, Places I've Lived, Eclipse, Hospitality* 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

Worship Planning Retreat – June 8, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at UBC. Put on your thinking cap and help us decide on themes of our worship year that starts in September. You can also weigh in on music, art, seating, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Karole Graham at 703-966-2722.



***Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women* Book Group – June 8 (2nd Saturday), 1 p.m.** The book this month is *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi. If you have any 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=NG15ZlNlbDcwUElzTWFmLzRyZm5OQT09

UBC Anti-Racism Work – Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m. We will discuss Part Four, "The Rivers Before Us," in *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy* by Robert P. Jones. We are also planning activities for the coming months. All are welcome!

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlbDcwUElzTWFmLzRyZm5OQT09

More of What's Going On

Card Club – Saturday, June 15, 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 lubk0001@umn.edu or 651-295-7525.

UBC-FCC Knitting Group – June 17 (3rd Monday), 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.

Twin Cities Pride Festival – June 29-30, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (6 p.m. on Sunday) in Loring Park, Minneapolis. After a hiatus, UBC will again have a booth at the Pride Festival. If you can help staff the booth for a couple hours, please contact Betsy Kerr at 763-529-7862 (landline) or bjkerr@umn.edu.

Gender and Faith Workshops, Saturdays, June 8,15 & August 17,24, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Church of St. Francis Cabrini, Garvey Hall, 1500 SE Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis. Cabrini member Ray Hommeyer and their co-facilitator Max Yeshaye Brumberg-Kraus (tinyurl.com/ybe925ck) will offer four workshops:

- **June 8: Beginning the Gender Journey.** Introduction to the series and the embodied practices that help us dive into our personal relationships with gender and begin to share about them in sacred community.
- **June 15: Integration of Feminine and Masculine.** We will continue the journey by expanding our thinking and engagement with binary gendered language in scripture, song, prayer, and movement.
- **Aug 17: Crossing the Threshold**
- **Aug 24: Reading the Sacred Body**

Each workshop will offer embodied practices and reflective opportunities for exploring various ways we each experience, move, and relate to one another in our gendered bodies. Come join us for this gender journey! Attendees are encouraged to participate in all four sessions of the series, and anyone is welcome at any individual workshop. Open to all faiths, not exclusively Catholic. llffchair@cabrinimn.org

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The Anti-Racism Group is looking for people who might be interested in representing UBC at "Peace Camp": **July 15-20** at Mars Hill University near Asheville, NC—Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America Peace Camp

Please contact Pastor Doug or Denise Roy if you might be interested.

Equal Rights Amendment at the State Capitol

Trish Donley, Doug Donley, and Cody Sanders show their support

On Monday, May 13, the Minnesota House was to debate putting equal rights and abortion protections on the ballot in 2026. The issue did not make it to a vote due to time constraints.

The proposed amendment to the state constitution says that "the state shall not discriminate against any person in intent or effect on account of one or more of the following: race; color; national origin; ancestry; disability and sex," including "making and effectuating decisions about all matters relating to one's own pregnancy or decision whether to become or remain pregnant." The latter is intended to protect abortion rights and other reproductive health care.

See also:
https://www.goshennews.com/news/national_news/equal-rights-amendment-minnesota/image_4ed587a6-6d9c-5423-9618-ffd5a8980dae.html

https://www.mrt.com/news/politics/article/proposed-minnesota-equal-rights-amendment-draws-19455767.php

Left: UBC sign and gardens

Right: Jean Lubke leads the forum on May 19 recapping the May 11 discernment meeting, along with grandson Otto's "help"

Photos by Trish Donley

In Memoriam – Tai Shigaki

Photo of Tai from the Denison University Magazine.

Tai Shigaki passed away on May 30, 2024 in Evanston, IL where she had lived for the past two years. She leaves behind generations of people who were influenced by her spirit of justice, peace and resilience. There will be a celebration of life service for her at UBC on June 9 during our 10 a.m. worship service. It just seems like a fitting sendoff. June 10th would have been her 103rd birthday. A big part of who we are as a church is because of Tai's presence among us, not only in body, but in spirit.

Repeated below is an "All About You" article (as told to Howard Johnson*)* from the June 2021 newsletter in honor of her 100th birthday.

Tell us about your birth and early childhood
+ I was born in Gardena, California on June 10, 1921 to immigrant parents from Japan. I had two sisters and one brother of which I was the youngest and one sister deceased at an early age. I grew up in that community attending Sunday school and church in the Baptist church.

What path did your life take following high school? + I enrolled in college in Redlands, California for a short period and then attended Los Angeles Community College. After the war broke out with Japan, I was moved to a Relocation Camp in the desert. My parents moved to Salt Lake City, Utah and my sister and brother-in-law were moved to Arkansas. After three months in the Relocation Camp, I received a scholarship from the American Baptist Convention to attend Denison University in Granville, Ohio where I majored in physical education. *Read more about Tai's experiences in the Relocation camp in this article.*

Was that the end of your formal education?
+ Well, no. I had planned to become a phys. ed. teacher, but I became more involved with the church and soon discovered that God had other plans for me. I moved to Massachusetts and enrolled at the Andover Newton Seminary where I completed the requirements for the Masters of Arts degree in Religious Education.

Where was your first employment?
+ My first job was in a church in Honolulu, Hawaii where I was in charge of the church for summer while the minister took a much-needed vacation.

So, complete your work history forward to your retirement.
+ For my next employment, I received an internship at Calvary Baptist Church in Minneapolis where I worked at a community center in North Minneapolis. Fortunately, my sister and brother-in-law had settled here after the war and provided a reuniting of my family.

I moved on from there to become the Director of the University YWCA where I worked with students at the U of M for a few years while also studying for the Masters of Arts degree in Social Work.

Upon the completion of the Social Work degree, I landed a job with the Minnesota Department of Corrections where I became the Assistant Director of the Women's Prison at Shakopee. I later became Director of Training for all Minnesota Department of Corrections employees. Finally, I retired from the position of Assistant Director of Human Resources for the Department of Corrections.
Continued on page 9

Tai – continued

How and when did you find UBC?

+ When I began working at Calvary Baptist, I was living with my sister in St Paul. Taking the bus became too inconvenient for me, so I moved to Prospect Park where I became roommates with Harriet Johnson who worked at UBC. At the invitation from Harriet, I started attending UBC and became a member in 1957. I sang in the choir for many years and helped with numerous other functions throughout the years. I also became a delegate to several American Baptist Boards and have traveled all over the world on specific assignments.

What do you like most about UBC?

+ I have really appreciated the superb leadership that has always been present at this Church.

What surprises do you embrace?

+ Well, I guess that one of the biggest surprises occurred in September of 2007 when at age 86 I experienced my very first marriage to a widower, Spencer Parsons, whom I had known in both college and seminary. I moved to be with him in Worchester, Massachusetts. I remained there until 2013 when my husband passed away. I then returned to Minnesota and to 1666 Coffman in Falcon Heights. *Read more about Tai and Spencer in this article.*

Is there anything else that we would be surprised to learn about?

+ I think that most people would be surprised to learn that I know very little about Japanese culture. I was not raised in those surroundings at all.

So, now the proverbial question—what do you attribute to living such a long life?

+ Well, I am the last family member of my generation. I constantly ask, why am I still living? I guess I eat right, try to live right, keep healthy hours and socialize with the right kind of people.

How is your health?

+ Earlier this year, I saw my doctor for my annual physical exam. It turned out to be a social visit as we spent the time talking about old times because I have no health problems or concerns. I am taking no pills and have no diagnosis.

What do you eat for breakfast? Cold cereal mostly.

What is your favorite type of music? Church music and I love "Blest Be The Tie that Binds."

Jade Gray and Wyatt Elder married in Nebraska on March 23, 2024. Becca Donley was a bridesmaid. Jade's name is now Jade Elder.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Most of our income (57%) comes from pledges made by members. Pledges are what we would expect going into the last month of the fiscal year.

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

Expected annual rental income is 21% of our budget. Property Manager Patrick Mavity does a great job renting out spaces that don't have a regular tenant. In addition, we finally received funds from our online vendor for the Roots Cellar concerts last year. As a result, we have a surplus in this category.

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	$172,278	$173,143	$865
Rental Income	21	$70,000	$64,167	$67,158	$2,992
Misc income*	5	$15,000	$13,750	$23,918	$10,168
Subtotal		**$272,940**	$250,195	$264,219	$14,024
Foundation Contribution	17	$54,066			
Total Operating Income	100	**$327,006**			
Justice & Outreach		$15,000		$11,290	

*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

The dedicated offering for May/June is for marginalized communities and we have received $670 to date.

Chris Follett, Financial Secretary

You can scan this QR code on your phone to be directed to our web page 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. Upgrade of our blue hymnal.
7. New furnishings for the nursery.

Mission Giving July 2023-June 2024

July 2023 - Southeast Neighborhood Ministries
Every Meal - $300
Sanctuary support - $225
Southeast Seniors - $125

August 2023 - Special Offerings
George Floyd Global Memorial - $100
One Great Hour of Sharing - $250
OGHS Hawaii wildfire support - $500

September/October 2023 - Nicaraguan Ministries and Shigaki Travel Fund
AMOS - $300
Léon school - $320
Project Minnesota-Léon - $135
Scholarship program - $1315
Shigaki Travel Fund - $900

November/December 2023 - Justice Organizations
Avenues for Youth - $220
Beacon Housing - $220
Minnesota Council of Churches - $220
Simpson Housing - $220
Youthlink - $220

January/February 2024 – American Baptist Ministries
America for Christ - $600
One Great Hour of Sharing - $700
Retired Ministers and Missionaries - $610
Rochester/Genesee Region - $600

March/April 2024 - Childhood Health and Hunger
Every Meal - $155
Indian Food Shelf - $334
Minneapolis Crisis Nursery - $333
Northside Achievement Zone - $333

May/June 2024 - Marginalized Communities
$640 collected to date. Will disperse in July.

UBC Budgeted Missions
ABC-USA - $3,500
Alliance of Baptists - $400
Baptist Peace Fellowship- $300
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition - $100
Loaves & Fishes - $1,700

From Latisha Moening, Director of Volunteers and Outreach at Loaves & Fishes, "Thank you for your commitment to our Peace House meal site! We are grateful to have you all a part of this mission!"

From Rev. Chad Edwards, Pastor at Mother St. James AME church, "Thank you for your donation. With your generous gift, we are able to make an impact in our community."

Irises in the church garden

Photos by Gayla Marty

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 (**June 3-6)**. 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 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 bagged food for families of children at Marcy Open School who receive free and reduced-cost meals. Deliveries will begin again in September. 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. If you would like to join a team going over to the History Center sometime Wed-Sat, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1-4 p.m., please contact Gayla Marty at gaylamarty@gmail.com.

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

"Control"

A poem by Laura Justin, in honor of Pentecost

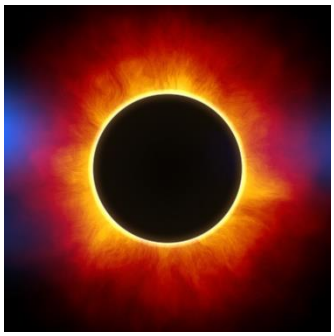
A spectrum of native life
Blooms and thrives.
Its broad diversity breeds strength,
Resilience, and deep connection.
Changing with the wind and light, learning
From the past and yearning
For what surrounds and is anticipated.
A network of silent messages announces the times:
To grow,
To share,
To prepare
To burn.

Contribution from the UBC Memoir Group

Solar Eclipse 2024

By Jill J. Griffiths

Some people chase after jobs, investments, mates. Then there are eclipse chasers. After experiencing totality on a mountaintop in Oregon seven years ago, I set out this time across the Midwest, with my dog, and four pairs of certified eclipse glasses. In Whitewater, Wisconsin I stayed at the most charming Bed & Breakfast managed by Nancy and Jerry. The kind of place where sheets are dried on the line, then ironed. Nancy served white chocolate scones in the morning – and in exchange received two pairs of eclipse glasses.



Overloaded with predictions for cloud cover on April 8, I drove across the sloping hills of Wisconsin past barn quilts, the gems of American folk art. I skirted Illinois then settled upon a sand dune on Lake Michigan. The sky was piercing blue, the wind robust, and the water shades of jade. The dog explored while I sat back and experienced the two-and-a half-hour display.

It wasn't totality but it was totally awesome. At 94% with a tiny crescent visible, a boy skipped in the sand, and a group of seniors waded into the frigid lake holding hands. What struck me both times was the calm. In Oregon the birds stopped singing, the temperature dropped, and all became dark, and still. On the great lake for a brief time the wind quietly shifted, the waves slowed. It also drew darker. But even with 6% of the sun shining, the power of that 6% was astounding.

Each time I felt alone, but also in community. There is something about being perched upon a planet and seeing the rotation that is centering. I felt the world slow down. Mahatma Gandhi said, "There is more to life than increasing its speed." Were wiser words ever spoken? The wonder of our natural world is the reason to chase eclipses and northern lights and rainbows and dreams.

April 9 was a reverse migration across the U.S. For an hour I trailed a Subaru with a tent strapped to the top and a NASA sticker on the bumper. At highway rest stops people passed each other wearing Eclipse 2024 t-shirts with a smile and a nod.

While driving along I heard reports from others. My mother in Minnesota was transfixed to real-time television coverage as the epic arc spanned the globe from Mexico to Canada. The daughter I named Sky closed shop in Ohio to run onto a nearby golf course with her colleagues. My younger daughter with car trouble near Boston was rescued by a van of hopeful students and together they landed in a field in Vermont just minutes before totality.

And back in Whitewater? Nancy, age 89, marveled at the moon's shadow from her front porch, then couldn't help herself. She stopped passersby on the sidewalk insisting they take a turn with the eclipse glasses and look up. She went so far as to wave down a man on his Harley Davidson. He shrugged then pulled over. His response upon viewing was almost disbelief.

Cheers to the small businesses who taped a *Closed for the Eclipse* sign on their door. To the schools who turned this into a teaching moment. To the museums and community centers that passed out glasses and presented programming. To all who looked up.

In a world that often feels out of alignment, the perfect alignment of the sun, moon and planet Earth is (totally) worth our awe.

Left:
Otto, Andrew and Peter hang out in the courtyard at University Lutheran Church of Hope during the discernment retreat on May 11.

Right:
Otto and friend explore the garden.

Photos by Gayla Marty

June Birthdays

4 Melissa Mavity
6 Dylan Ross
7 Chang Kiu Lee
11 Curt Naumann
14 Shirley Roy, Deborah Shaw
17 Laura Shaw-Wright
19 Kevin Branting
21 Valeria Susana Diaz Montiel
22 Randy DeMent
23 Rebecca Lee Lomax, Liz Weinfurter

June Anniversaries

2 John Medeiros & John Rossakis
5 Diane & Alan Ehr
9 Anne & Roger Johnson
11 Carrie & Jonathan Lubke
15 Shirley & Mel Roy
23 Luisa Garmers & Will Murphy

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