



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

ROOTED IN JUSTICE,
WORKING FOR PEACE

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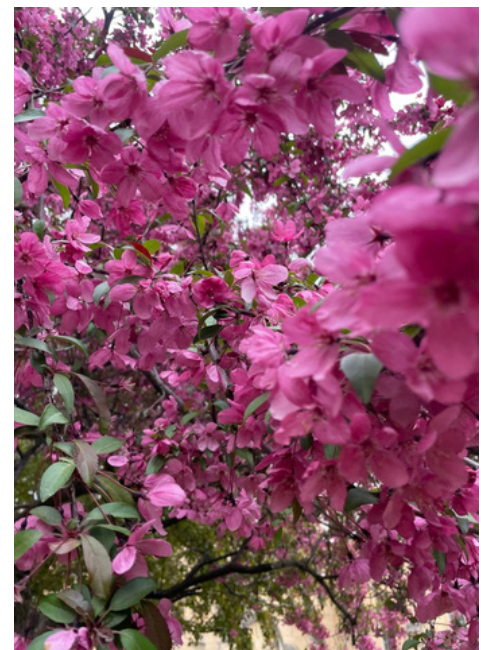


MESSAGE FROM
REV. CODY J. SANDERS,
UBC'S INTERIM PASTOR!
P. 2

GOODBYE REV. DOUG DONLEY
P. 9-14

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A LETTER FROM REV. CODY J. SANDERS

DEAR UBC,

I am so honored to join alongside you as interim pastor during this season of transition. In the weekly e-news articles, I'll provide some smaller reflections each week on the work and play that is ours to do together as interim pastor and congregation in the coming days. In the newsletters, I'll offer a bit longer reflection on themes pertinent to the coming days.

UBC has made pastoral transitions before. Some of you were around for those. But the congregation hasn't made such a transition in pastoral leadership in a quarter of a century. And, as some of you who have been around for a long time know, the congregation at UBC in 2026 is not the same congregation as UBC at the turn of the millennium. And the world is not the same in 2026 as it was the last time you made a pastoral transition, either.

Part of the task of a good transition is coming to know yourself as a congregation afresh. Looking at yourself in the many different mirrors we'll hold up, building upon the discernment work you've been doing the past few years. Looking anew at the community surrounding you and the world on a larger scale. Asking with sacred curiosity and holy wonder where the Spirit is leading UBC in the coming days to live out of our best sense of ourselves as a community called together in the way of Jesus.

There's a poem I've long thought about in relation to a congregation's life called, "The Way It Is," by William Stafford. The poem opens with these lines: "There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change." (You can [read the whole poem here.](#)) The poem ends, "Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding. You don't ever let go of the thread."

If I were to ask you (and I probably will before too long) to tell me what your own personal thread is, what would you say? What stories would you tell me to illustrate how you've been following that thread throughout your life?

Who helped you to see that thread as important to pursue? What changes and hardships and challenges have you endured that caused you to need to hold the thread even more tightly so that it didn't slip from your grasp?

And on a collective scale, what are the threads that UBC has been following in your life together as a church? What central values do you strive to uphold from generation to generation that are woven throughout all the decisions you've made and the paths you've pursued? No matter what happens in the church or in the world, what are the things you always want to be true about this place and these people at UBC, pursuing your sense of call together?

I look forward to discerning and pursuing that thread alongside you in these coming days of transition, weaving among all the things that change, yet centered in your best sense of who you are as a community called together by the Spirit, pursuing the way of Jesus.

Blessings,

Cody J. Sanders
Interim Pastor



Doug and Cody in May, meeting to discuss the pastoral transition.

JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Theme:
"Faithfulness: Then and Now"

June 7

Communion
Preaching: Cody Sanders
Sermon: "The Journey is the Destination"
Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
Worship Leader: Violet Butler
Ushers: Trish Donley & Terri Wottrich

June 14

Preaching: Cody Sanders
Sermon: "Reminders for a Journey into the Unknown"
Scripture: Exodus 19:2-8a & Matthew 9:35-10:23
Worship Leader: Deidre Druk
Ushers: Chris Follett & TBD

June 21

Preaching: Cody Sanders
Sermon: "The Peril and Possibility of Wilderness Journeys"
Scripture: Genesis 21:8-21
Worship Leader: TBD
Ushers: Gene Velasco & TBD

June 28

Preaching: Anne Supplee
Sermon: TBD
Scripture: TBD
Worship Leader: Violet Butler
Ushers: Terri Wottrich & Robbie Steele



UBC 175TH ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK - JUNE 7

After the worship 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 2026-27 fiscal year. All are encouraged to attend. **Please bring sandwiches or a side dish to share.** See Margie Garmers if you can help with set up or clean up.

WE'RE STAYING PUT!

On May 17 after a thoughtful discussion, the UBC congregation voted unanimously to remain in our grand old building for at least another five years. This will give us time to explore new rental and ministry partners, implement our marketing plans to increase rental income, further assess the physical space needs of the congregation, complete the historic designation application (which may open up the opportunity for more funding), explore other options for a physical presence, and allow for a new settled pastor to get on board.

We need to remember that we have done some great things since we began our discernment process over two years ago. We can continue to do great things in this building and on this corner in these years to come.

JUNE 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		11:15am Meals on Wheels 5:30pm Sacred Harp	11:15am Meals on Wheels	9am Garden Team 11:15am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Caregiver Support	11:15am Meals on Wheels	9am Bible Study
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10am Worship Communion 11:15am Potluck lunch followed by annual meeting		5:30pm Sacred Harp		9am Garden Team		1pm Book Group
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10am Worship 11:15am Coffee 4pm Sacred Harp	7pm Handcraft Group	5:30pm Sacred Harp		9am Garden Team		9am Bible Study
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10am Worship 11:15am Coffee		5:30pm Sacred Harp		9am Garden Team <i>Newsletter deadline</i>		10am-7pm Pride Festival 10am Spanish Conversation 1pm Card Club
28	29	30				
10am-7pm Pride Festival 10am Worship 11:15am Coffee 4pm Sacred Harp		5:30pm Sacred Harp				

WHAT'S COMING UP

SAVE THE DATES

July 5 & 12 – Joint services with First Church (at FCC, 500 SE 8th Ave)

July 19 & 26 – Joint services with First Church (at UBC)

NOTE: June 6 Work Day rescheduled to **July 11**



Mark your calendars for the Twin Cities Pride Festival
June 27 (10am-7pm) &
June 28 (10am-6pm).

To sign up for a 2-hour shift, email Zena Hamilton
(hamil921@umn.edu) or Carrie Lubke
(carrieicl@gmail.com)



Zoom link for
**Book Group, Racial Justice
Group, Bible Study**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlYmRlcUJlZTWFmLzRyZm5OQT09)

[pwd=NG15ZlNlYmRlcUJlZTWFmLzRyZm5OQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlYmRlcUJlZTWFmLzRyZm5OQT09)

Meeting ID: 517 697 6753
Passcode: 602794

ON HIATUS UNTIL THE FALL

- Forums
- Sunday School
- Journeys Bible Study
- Choir
- Bells
- Memoirs
- Every Meal
- Bible Study (will meet in June, then break until fall)
- Daytime Handcraft Group (will resume August 5)

HAPPENINGS



UBC hosted Border CrossSing for their "La Vida Es Un Carnaval" Heritage Choir Community Sing!



President Jean Lubke welcomed Karen Wottrich Thomas into membership on May 24. Karen joined UBC by expression of faith. She is Ty's sister and has been attending UBC for about a year. She moved to Minnesota after 25+ years in Kingman, Arizona. Welcome, Karen!

SAYING GOODBYE TO PASTOR DOUG



Music director David Lesniaski, soprano and president Jean Lubke, and Pastor Doug at his last choir rehearsal.



Doug gave an especially exciting next-to-last Children's Time, accompanied by the dolls and stuffed animals that sat in the pews during his pandemic sermons.



Administrative Assistant Trista McGovern and Pastor Doug on their last day in the office together.



Doug led a hymn during his last sing with the shape-note singing group that meets at UBC. He will continue to attend other shape-note sings around town.

FAREWELL POTLUCK AND PROGRAM



Nancy Myers, Betty Shaw, and former member Nancy Osborne.



Howard Johnson told a story of the search committee that called Doug to UBC in 2001. (above)



Daughters Amanda and Becca Donley regaled the crowd with dad jokes. Becca also served as the event emcee. (left)



Laura Justin read a limerick poem (a la Tony Garmers) written by Margie Garmers.

PARTING GIFTS FOR PASTOR DOUG



Megan Dahlberg presented a hardcover book of hikes in Minnesota.



Jean Lubke presented a handmade quilt of blocks including signatures of friends.



Sister Trish Donley presented a small toolbox with gag gifts—including a large set of keys.



Chris Follett presented a cash gift from the congregation and friends near and far.

[MORE PHOTOS](#)



PASTOR DOUG'S LAST SUNDAY - MAY 31



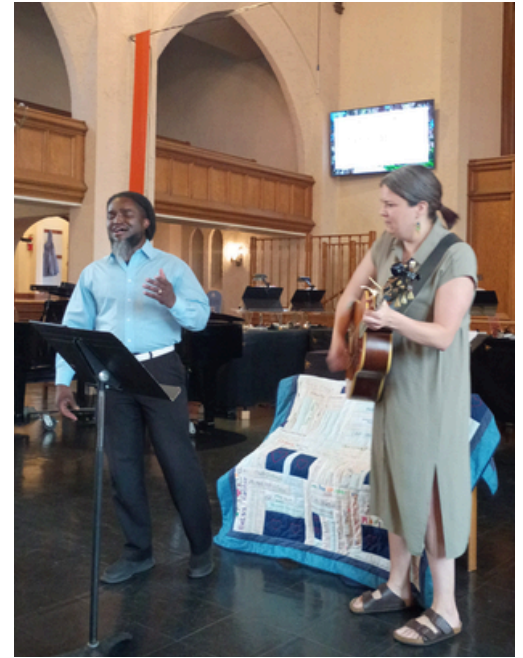
The Carillon Choir played prelude, offertory, and postlude—"Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "For Good," and "Now the Green Blade Rises."



The UBC Chorale sang "Homeland" as an anthem.



Above, UBC families presented Pastor Doug with an artwork incorporating the children's handprints and names. Left, in his final sermon as UBC pastor, Doug encouraged and exhorted us to continue to be guided by love and grace.



Above, Rev. Matty Strickler displayed the gift of the handmade quilt containing names of members and friends. Above right, Elwyn Fraser sang "Up to the Mountain" accompanied by Maura Dunst on guitar.



Above, the congregation gathered around the Donley family for a final blessing, led by Anne Supplee. Seated left to right, Amanda, Doug, Kim, and Becca.

Above, Doug (on the right) played with the Carillon Choir for the postlude.

CAKE BUFFET COFFEE TIME



We had over 14 different homemade cakes to satisfy all tastes!



Harriet Johnson, eldest member of UBC, and youngest member Peter Justin were both present for the occasion.



GIVING AT UBC

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MAY/JUNE

Marginalized Communities

The Outreach mission focus for May and June will be for organizations that help marginalized communities in the Twin Cities. In the past, we have supported CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations), Indian Food Shelf, Queer Space, and Clare Housing. Thank you for your donations, which will help support the important work being done for these groups.

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!!

Karole Graham
Outreach Team Coordinator



INTERESTED IN JOINING UBC?

We would love to learn more about you and help you learn more about UBC. We'll arrange time for a chat about Baptist beliefs, our congregation, and the logistics of joining. Please contact Paula Moyer, our New Member Facilitator, at paulamoyer52@gmail.com or 651-279-4152.



Alliance of Baptists

In the violent attack on the Islamic Center of San Diego in mid-May, we witnessed again the horrors that come with tolerance of hate and acquiescence to fear. Among the greatest commandments of our faith is that we love our neighbor, recognizing that all bear the image of God and are beloved of the Holy. We claim with commitment our call to oppose Islamophobia and stand publicly and consistently with our Muslim neighbors. We are kin to one another, part of the human family, created beings whose dignity and worth are inherent. We condemn wholeheartedly any act, word, or attitude that contributes to Islamophobia and commit ourselves to the ongoing work to address the harm it does to our entire society. Our prayers are with the victims of this most recent violence. They extend to Muslims around the world who feel the impact of this attack and who experience discrimination and violence in their own communities. Our prayers go beyond sentiment. They are a pledge. We will work toward a society that is free of injustice and is a safe place for all by speaking up in the face of injustice and equipping people with resources that lead to greater understanding and connection with one another.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our fiscal year ends this month. Our financial situation income-wise is healthy, with the one area of concern being the miscellaneous income budget item, which includes 15K in new funding/fundraising. Currently we are behind on that goal. We always welcome new ideas to raise funds! If you have not completed your pledge, please do so by the end of month, or, if you are unable to fulfill your pledge, please let me know ASAP.

Operating Income 2025-26	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	47	\$207,933	\$190,605	\$186,945	(\$3,661)
Rental Income	18	\$80,000	\$73,333	\$79,631	\$6,298
Misc income	7	\$31,500	\$28,875	\$20,471	(\$8,404)
Subtotal		\$319,433	\$292,814	\$287,047	(\$5,767)
Foundation Contribution	27	\$118,811			
Total Operating Income	100	\$438,244			

We have received \$1,043 so far for the May/June special offering for marginalized communities.

—Chris Follett, Financial Secretary

2025-26 UBC WISH LIST

These are items that don't fit in the budget but would be really nice to have. Please contact Financial Secretary 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)

STORIES FROM UBC HISTORY

UBC News by Don Follett

Don Follett was editor when the “UBC News” sprang into being, a change from its smaller, handout predecessor. Stories were laid out in newspaper style, four pages in a 8 1/2-by-11-inch format, the most important on page one, etc. There was a regular minister’s column and a “BCing U” (get it?) column emphasizing UBC committees, social events, and members’ activities in and out of the church.

“I remember giving hard-copy, typed stories to UBC office manager Marvel Kingsley, who then retyped them to fit the news columns,” says Don, who held the post for 10 years. “We got the larger headline fonts by transferring letters, one-by-one, from waxed-paper kits with different fonts; it was certainly rudimentary, a lot of cut-and-paste.” UBC News introduced photos, black and white in those days, of course, from photostats, and it was printed in a variety of color-paper stocks by a Dinkytown print shop. UBC News solicited many stories from its members.

Long-time church member and UBC News contributor Faye Kommedahl succeeded Don for the next 10 years. Faye had also joined the fledgling *Twin Cities Women’s Press* in a regular day job. UBC News continued as a monthly, mailed to members’ homes.

Different church members produced UBC News for shorter periods over the years until administrator Sheila Wolk retired in 2017. Then Don’s daughter Chris Follett assumed the editorship in an era of new technology, using internet email distribution and color photos, which expanded the format, frequently 12 pages and more. Today’s UBC News continues to support church operations and programming while maintaining a balance of feature stories about its members.

UBC IN THE NEWS

Keep an eye out for UBC on TPT, listen for our ads on MPR/Your Classical, and find us in the Minnesota Orchestra and Guthrie programs in June and July.



Also, click [here](#) to read a a great article about our retired pastor, Doug Donley in *Lavender* magazine.

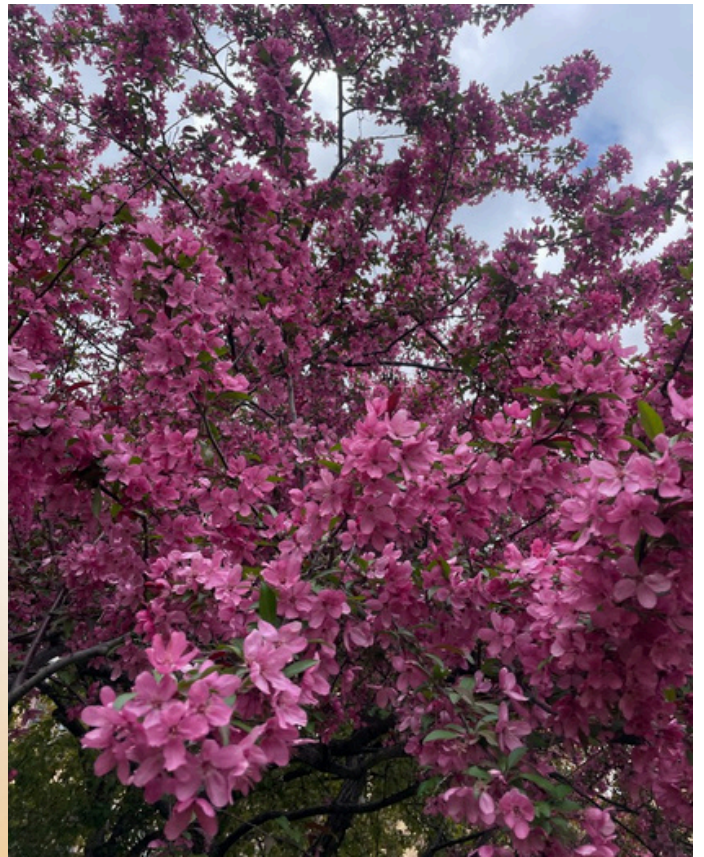
JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 John Medeiros & John Rossakis
- 5 Diane & Alan Ehr
- 11 Carrie & Jonathan Lubke
- 23 Luisa Garmers & Will Murphy



UBC Social Media: A Lot to Like!



Are you following UBC on Facebook and Instagram? If not, look us up and hit that follow button! And while you're at it, would you please "like" the posts you see? In addition, give a thumbs up to our videos on YouTube and subscribe to the [UBC channel](#).

UBC NEWS

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