



UBC NEWS

University Baptist Church

1219 University Ave SE
Minneapolis MN 55414

Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

June 15, 2021

From the Pastor

She/He/They

In this Pride month, we celebrate the ways in which we are blessed by the wonderful creative diversity of God's people. In the past few years, we have started to use explicit pronouns by our names. While most of us identify as he or she, there are others that do not feel they fit into those binary categories.



Since there is not a nonbinary singular pronoun besides 'it', some folks have started using 'they/them'. This affirms the fluid nature of gender identity and is an affirming way to identify some people. Ze/Za/X never caught on. I admit doing a double take when someone is referring to an individual as they or them. My adult daughters don't have this problem, so maybe it's a generational thing. On Zoom, we've gotten used to putting our preferred pronouns after our name. It's a good way of normalizing gender identity, and taking the pressure off of our nonbinary friends and family.

Then I got to thinking that many of us do the same kind of gymnastics around God language. For some of us, defaulting the He pronoun for God is commonplace. It's throughout scripture, hymnody and popular culture. It was downright radical when we started using 'Our Father/Mother who art in heaven' in the Lord's prayer. But I've gotten so used

to it that it's jarring to go back to just one gender for God. I read an ordination paper recently that talked about the 'Kingdom of God/Queendom of Shalom'. Now there's some provocative language.

Then it got me thinking about 'They' language for God. Genesis 1:26 has God saying, "Let us make humankind on our

image, according to our likeness.' This seems to be a wonderful affirmation of the holiness of creation beyond gender. Is the plural nature of God in Genesis a reference to the Holy Trinity? Maybe. But I think it's challenging us to broaden our thinking about the nature of God. If God is beyond human terms and identity, could we not find a better pronoun to refer to God? Maybe 'They' is more authentic than Father or maybe even Mother.

Whatever pronoun(s) you use, let's celebrate the diversity of our world. Let's admit that there's a Queerness to God's action in the world. That's something to celebrate.

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley



Photo of peonies in the UBC garden by Jim Ross.

**2020-21 UBC Worship Theme:
“Repairing the Breach/ Restoring the Streets”
Isaiah 58:12**

			<i>Worship Leader</i>
June 20	“Seeds”	Mark 4:26-34	John Medeiros
June 27	“God of Rainbow”	Revelation 4:1-11	Harriet Johnson

Have a Sermon Idea?

For July and August, we are going to pull sermon topics out of a grab bag. If you have suggestions, please send them to pastor@ubcmn.org.

Doug will make sure that the topics get put in the grab bag. Of course, if you come to an in-person outdoor church service you can submit your suggestion(s) in the grab bag. This year, we will be selecting topics two weeks before, giving us a bit more time to come up with content for the services.

ACTION NEEDED BY END OF JUNE!

Everyone in the **Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice** cohort (this includes UBC) will be asked to complete an online survey in this fall. Here is a [link](#) to sign up to receive digital communications from the Alliance of Baptists, which is how the survey will be distributed. The more people who complete the form, the more data we will collect, and the data we collect will be more accurate and representative of your congregation — as well as of the Alliance of Baptists! Please complete the form so the survey will land in your inbox.

If you would like help completing the form, please contact Denise Roy at 612-408-3582.

Thank you!

Calendar for June 2021

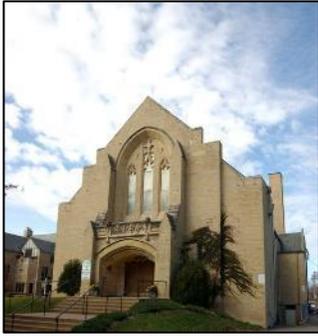
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		15	16	17	18	19
		7 pm Memoir Group		10 am Garden Team		9 am Bible Study
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 am Joys & Concerns 10 am Worship 11:30 am Council	7 pm Knitting Group		6:15 pm Bells	10 am Garden Team	<i>Newsletter deadline</i>	
27	28	29	30			
9 am Joys & Concerns 10 am Worship		7 pm Memoir Group	6:15 pm Bells			

Please note – the following reoccurring meetings are on hiatus for the summer:

- Forums
- Spanish classes
- Anti-racism film group
- Guided meditation
- Choir



What's Going On



Sunday Mornings

9 am – Joys & Concerns via Zoom

10 am – Worship (on the church lawn, weather dependent)

We will continue to have prerecorded services available, too. We will also continue to meet on Zoom before and after the 10 am worship hour. At 10 am, we will close out the Zoom meeting. **You can watch the recorded service by clicking on the link you'll find at <http://www.ubcmn.org>.** If we cannot meet outdoors at 10 am due to inclement weather, Pastor Doug will send an email at 8 am.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

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

Memoir Writing Group – June 15 & 29 (every other Tues.) at 7 pm

All are welcome! Come share your stories, and listen and give feedback to others. Feel free to write about anything you'd like. Here are some new ideas for prompts: turquoise, bread, sports. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Donley at crazyazgal@msn.com.



ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 810 6944 9838 passcode: 244380

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81069449838?pwd=ZWNIUmMzNXRSYIFYaHJUczk2ZmRoUT09>



Bells Practice – Wednesdays at 6:15 pm in the church sanctuary. (No rehearsal June 16.)

Garden Team – Thursdays at 10 am

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 Trish Donley at crazyazgal@msn.com.



Bible Study – June 19 (1st & 3rd Sat.) at 9 am

The Bible Study Group is reading Paul's Letter to the Galatians. Chapter 4 will be discussed Saturday, June 19 (9-1- am on Zoom). This letter has been important in the life and worship of UBC. The Affirmation most often spoken during Sunday worship is based on Galatians 3:26-28. New and occasional members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ehr at DianeEhr@q.com.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88669920103?pwd=dnozWEYzQUh1RU5HUTFWcVd3ZFY1Zz09>

More of What's Going On



UBC-FCC Knitting Group – June 21 (3rd Mon.) at 7 pm at the home of Jean Lubke. We will sit outdoors if the weather is nice, or indoors if not. The group is made up of stitchers from UBC and First Congregational Church. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.

NOTE: This is a change in schedule from the second Monday to the third Monday of the month going forward.

Volunteers Needed for Pride Booth

The *49th Annual Twin Cities Pride Festival* will be held at Loring Park on **July 17-18, 2021**, and will feature local BIPOC and LGBTQ+ vendors, food courts, and music. Due to time constraints Pride is foregoing the traditional Saturday night concert and fireworks this year, and at this time no Pride march/parade is planned.

As we have done in the past, UBC is partnering with Judson Baptist Church to host a booth at the festival. Hours will be 10 am to 6 pm both Saturday (July 17) and Sunday (July 18) at Loring Park in Minneapolis.

We are currently seeking volunteers who are interested in sitting at the booth to answer any questions people may have about UBC and the services we provide. This is a great opportunity to share our church with others in a way that is social, fun, and engaging.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact John Medeiros at johnthomasmedeiros@gmail.com and let him know your preference of day(s) and time(s).

Alliance of Baptists Juneteenth Vigil: Remembering and Reimagining Black Life Friday, June 18th at 2 pm CT.

Click here to [Register](#)

Hosted by the Sankofa Community of the Alliance of Baptists, the Juneteenth Vigil will hold space for us to remember our ancestors in the struggle for Black liberation and to reimagine a future where Black lives matter. Portuguese and Spanish interpretation will be available.

Sankofa is an Alliance community of Black/African-descendent leaders within the Alliance of Baptists committed to creating community, cultivating spiritual/leadership formation, and conjuring prophetic action to support the mission and vision of the Alliance of Baptists. If you are interested in joining this community, please contact email info@allianceofbaptists.org.

To learn more, go to <https://allianceofbaptists.org/>



Rose in the church garden.
Photo by Jim Ross

Summer Worship Plans

For June and July, we will:

- **Continue to create pre-recorded services** that will be found at links on our website (www.ubcmn.org)
- **Hold services outdoors, weather dependent.** Physically distanced seating of household pods will continue during outdoor worship. Once the service begins and people are seated, the worship leader will announce that people can lower or remove their masks as they stay seated. When sharing joys and concerns and when singing, they will put them back in place. At the end of the service, the worship leader will announce that masks should be put back in place, and stay in place while visiting/in the yard after the service. Physical distancing is required when unmasked. These services will not be live-streamed or recorded.
- **Continue to have a Zoom Joys and Concerns beginning at 9 am**
- **Not hold Zoom Coffee Time after the service or forums, which is our normal summer practice.**
- **Not have any in-person service if the weather does not permit.** Pastor Doug will make the decision by 8 am Sunday via email to cancel the in-person service.

We will not have joint services with First Congregational Church this July as in years past.

As we come back together, we will be making a few changes to our former worship traditions:

- **Communion** will be set up on multiple tables to keep elements separate and avoid crowds around a single communion table. We will use plastic disposable cups and cut pieces of bread separated on multiple plates. We individually will bring the elements back to our seats, wait for all to receive them, and then partake together.
- We may include the blessing and response of “Peace Be With You” and “And Also with you” in the service, but **we will not leave our seats or have physical contact with each other** (no shaking hands, hugs, etc.)
- **Offering** will not take place during the service. **Look for a box** at the usher’s table - and remember you can donate to UBC online now.

Hopefully, in August, we will begin to celebrate together in the sanctuary - pandemic permitting. We are investigating equipment that would allow us to live stream services from the sanctuary and incorporate some pre-recorded pieces (ex. Spanish scripture readings from Nicaragua) in the live service.

We are looking for people who are willing to help with some of the technology (sound, camera, etc.) on a rotating basis. If you are interested, please contact me.

Jean Lubke, Worship Chair

UBC's 170TH Annual Meeting Was Held – Again - Virtually



Partial Zoom Screen from Annual Meeting.
Photo by Chris Follett

UBC held its second annual meeting via “Zoom” (not in person) on June 13 due to do the corona virus still being prevalent, though greatly reduced from a year ago. Annual reports were distributed earlier via email and church members utilized them while communicating from home.

Among actions taken were:

- + Church members approved an annual operating budget of \$345,000, almost an eight percent increase over last year.
- + The congregation also passed a resolution that authorizes Pastor Doug Donley to sign the agreements required to accept the Rain Garden Grants on behalf of UBC.

- + We approved the nominating slate. Several key posts are yet to be filled including that of the president elect, church clerk and financial assistant. The congregation thanked Nancy Myers and Margie Garmers, who had been financial secretary and church clerk, respectively, for their dedicated service.

There was no new business brought before the congregation.

2021-22 Church Leadership:

- Pastor Doug Donley
- President – Denise Roy
- Treasurer – Mindy Lee
- Church Clerk – OPEN
- Communications Coordinator – Matty Strickler
- Outreach Co-Coordinators – John Medeiros & Kim Donley
- Church Life Co-Coordinators – Gayla Marty & Betty Shaw (NEW)
- Financial Secretary – Chris Follett (NEW)
- Property Coordinator - OPEN

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The UBC Foundation met after the annual UBC meeting and elected Board members to fill vacancies. Foundation president Deidre Druk reported that the Foundation Board acted to reduce its elected membership from nine members to six and terms from six to four years. The board also reported a positive performance of its investments for the past year.

Worship Feedback Forum

Several UBCers participated in a forum via Zoom on May 30 to provide feedback on their worship experiences at UBC over the past year. Many people commented on the surprising intimacy of the Zoom experience; we were able to look each other in the eyes and hear each other better than we had while worshipping in the sanctuary. The online time on Sundays allowed people, who would not otherwise been able to be present, to be together with the community.

We regularly had participants in other states or “at the cabin.” Pulling the Joys and Concerns out of the service into a separate time gave people a safe place to spend more time and share some items than they would have shared in the sanctuary. The 9 am hour became a valued time of intimate connection.

The pre-recorded services – well-assembled by Administrative Assistant, Trista McGovern – gave us the opportunity to include Spanish scripture from members from our sister church in Nicaragua and beautiful home recordings of music and spoken word. Participating in worship from home meant

that inclement weather, parking, getting up early, and even getting well-dressed were not barriers to our participation.

While we discovered many wonderful advantages of virtual worship, we missed singing hymns and reciting affirmations and prayers together. We missed seeing the UBC kids. We missed sharing communion together. And technology was hard for many people for many different reasons. It was a good substitute given the circumstances. It helped us stay in community. But it wasn’t the same as actually being together.

So now the Worship Planning Team has the task of figuring out what worship looks like when we are back together again. How can we keep some of the new elements we value – prerecorded pieces, connection to housebound and geographically distant, etc.? **The Worship Planning Team will have its annual planning retreat on Thursday, July 8, from 12 – 5 pm in the UBC lounge. Everyone is welcome!**

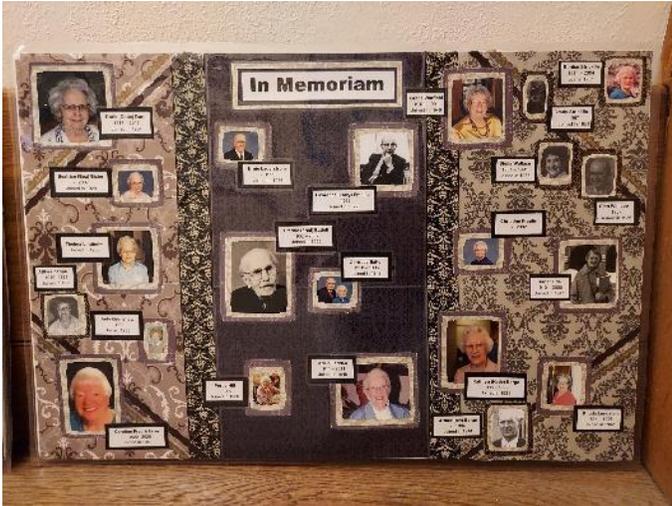
- Jean Lubke



Rose bush in the UBC garden. **Photo by Jim Ross**

The Coco™ Project – Remember Me

For the last few years, I had been intending to update the “In Memoriam” poster hanging in the UBC hallway. It looked sad – missing photos and information and subject to vandalism. Finally with retirement and the pandemic, I had the time and the motivation to tackle what I thought was a relatively small papercrafting project. But no.



When I started seeking photos, the names of more and more UBCers came up. And I kept hearing one of the songs from Disney’s movie Coco.

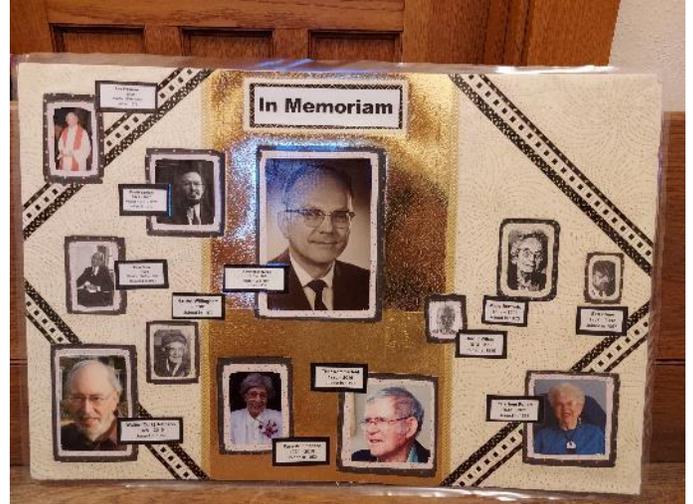
*Remember me,
Though I have to say goodbye,
Remember me.*



The premise of Coco is that our loved ones who have passed continue to live on as long as at least one person remembers them. (If you haven’t seen the movie, I highly recommend it.)

When I was asking for birth, death, and joining dates, I discovered that the UBC membership database had been modified over the last several years deleting those who had left us. I couldn’t stand the thought of all of the people who were pillars of the church when I joined – Katie and Art Berge, Stella and Glen Wallace, Janet Otis and sister Chris Fraulin, Bea and Dode Dunn, Herman and Babe Garmers, Gertie and Fred Battell, Grace Warfield, Harold Wilson and Millie Berthold, and Harriet Willingham, and others – being lost to our records. They helped create the UBC that we enjoy. They are an important part of our story – along with all of those who came before them. So that led to another project to re-create the UBC membership database; but that’s an article for next month!

When I started, I was going to update the one poster, but I quickly realized that we have many saints to remember. We now have three new posters with photos and dates of many of them.



A huge thank you to Don Follett for previously organizing and binding decades of our newsletters; that made it much easier to find photos and information. Thank you to everyone who shared photos of their loved ones.

Dear ones, we will remember you.

- Jean Lubke

Photos by Jean Lubke

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

As our fiscal year draws to a close, pledge income is having problems. As of mid-June, unpaid pledges total \$16,800. This is somewhat offset by \$3,200 in overpayments, for a net shortfall of \$13,700.



Other sources of income are strong and UBC also received \$5,100 from the Payroll Protection Program. As a result, UBC's total income already exceeds the budgeted amount by \$6,800.

However, next year's budget anticipates carrying forward a surplus of \$25,000. Whether or not that will happen depends on the remaining pledge income & expenses being less than expected.

Expected annual rental income of \$50,000 is 16% of our budget. As of mid-June, we've received \$58,700 in rents, a surplus of \$8,700.

Other gifts and miscellaneous income provide 3% of our budget. These are mostly gifts from members who did not pledge in 2020-21. Based on past years, we expected about \$10,000 during the year. To date, we've received \$16,700.

UBC's projected operating income for 2020-21 is almost \$305,000. This includes the \$20,407 carried-forward from 2019-20 and the Foundation distributions of \$48,000.

The percentage of our budget which comes from the Foundation has increased this year. The regular withdrawal, based on past earnings, is 7% of the budget.

The extra withdrawal, to fund the facilities supervisor position, is \$26,000 or 9% of the budget.

The Foundation Funds are transferred to the UBC checking account as needed by the Treasurer.

Operating Income	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	58%	\$176,455	\$176,500	\$162,800	(\$13,700)
Rental Income	16%	50,000	50,000	\$58,700	\$8,700
Other income*	3%	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>\$16,700</u>	<u>\$6,700</u>
Subtotal	78%	\$236,455	\$236,500	\$238,200	\$1,700
Carry-forward	7%	\$20,407		\$20,407	
Payroll Protection Program		-		\$5,100	\$5,100
Foundation	16%	<u>\$48,000</u>		<u>\$48,000</u>	
Total Operating	100%	\$304,862		\$311,707	\$6,845
Justice & Outreach		<u>\$15,000</u>		\$7,086	
Total Budget		\$319,862			

*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

Our budget anticipates \$15,000 in designated Justice & Outreach programs over the course of the year. Gifts for special offerings can be mailed to UBC.

The Mission Offering for May and June supports Refugee Services and the Sanctuary program here at UBC. We have received \$300 for this cause.

Nancy Myers, Financial Secretary

Nancy Myers Closes Her Financial Secretary's Book

Today's ever improving communications technology has a friend in UBC's long-time financial secretary Nancy Myers who is closing the church's books for the last time at the end of the fiscal year, July 1.

She likes the new technology. "I enjoy working with financial layouts and spreadsheets now made so possible through a computer," she says, concluding a 21-year tour of recording and explaining UBC's income ledger. It was actually Nancy's second time in that key post, having served as financial secretary in the early 1990s before her full-time day job took her to Indianapolis for a few years.

An actuary by profession, Nancy's background was a comfortable fit at UBC and the congregation has been so praiseworthy of her efforts. When asked if she would have done anything differently, she says only that she "would have worked earlier (in her tenure) to establish and employ specific software" to work with UBC's requirements.

Former Church Council President Jean Lubke worked several years with Nancy. "Nancy always kept the confidentiality and the wishes of the donors primary," notes Jean. "She was well able to juggle the varying responses and commitments and accurately estimate the amount that would eventually come from pledgers and other donors." On a lighter side, Jean adds: "She was very happy when we changed the position and excused her from the monthly church council meetings."

Like most information-gathering tasks, that of being a collector of funds for a church has greatly changed in just a few years. "For years, we had individual weekly church collection envelopes," Nancy recalls. "And we also had envelopes available in the sanctuary pews," which meant a more intense and time-consuming collection chore. Today's church members-giving comes in many forms—as a one-time check or from stock investment transfers or from individual retirement accounts. In short, not in nice,

equal monthly increments, which means the financial secretary has to calculate and project as the year moves along.

Recording incoming church funds, of course, means more than handling pledges, but several accounts, special offerings and gifts as well, all providing information for upcoming church programming. Those regular individualized giving reports you get are carefully generated by Nancy. "I get the most inquiries and feedback around tax time," she smiles.

An avid traveler, but having that curtailed this past year due to COVID-19, Nancy may have more time now to devote to that special interest. Chris Follett, who handled the collections during Nancy's time in Indianapolis, will now take on the financial secretary's duties again in the church's new fiscal year.

A quick review of the church's past annual reports shows the obvious value in having accurate and as timely records as possible available for decision making. UBC holds its annual meeting prior to its fiscal year ending, but careful income estimates from the financial secretary and others contribute to making it close to a true document.

Nancy's style in shepherding UBC members has been gentle and understated, but sometimes direct. One summary phrase from her in a recent annual report read: ***"The bottom line is: Please complete your pledge."***



Nancy Myers
An understated style
Photo by Jim Ross

Tai Shigaki - Birthday Queen!

Tai Shigaki and 52 of her UBC friends and family celebrated her 100th birthday during and after the outdoor church service on June 6.



Flowers and three cakes plus a decorated "throne" made Tai "Queen for a Day".

Below left: Tai, surrounded by her family, grandsons Akbar and Faheem and niece BJ.

Below right: Party organizer and long-time friend Howard Johnson and Tai confer.

Join the UBC Facebook Group and see more photos!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/82471051272/photos/>

Photos by Jim Ross



Special Offering for May and June Ministries for Refugees and Sanctuary

The special offerings for May and June will go toward ministries for refugees and sanctuary. We all know that the past 5 years have been a very challenging time for those seeking refuge or asylum in our country. While we hope that the election will lead to new policies, that has not yet been the case. Yet the number of people fleeing their homes because of war, ethnic cleansing, environmental disaster, and uncontrolled violent crime is at an all-time high. Sometimes our own government policies have led to the conditions that cause people to flee their country.

We have used these offerings in the past to support organizations like Refugee Services at the Minnesota Council of Churches and our own sanctuary coalition. Please consider a gift to our special offering to support our work to welcome the stranger.

- Mindy Lee



Rest of June Birthdays

- 17 Laura Shaw-Wright
- 19 Kevin Branting
- 22 Randy DeMent, Vicki Wilson
- 23 Rebecca Lee, Liz Weinfurter

Rest of June Anniversaries

- 15 Shirley & Mel Roy
- 21 Sara & Matt Lovat
- 23 Luisa Garmers & Will Murphy

Online Giving Available

You can now donate funds electronically via the UBC website. Here's how it works. First, go to ubcmn.org and scroll down to the middle of the page and click on "[Giving](#)" under "Quick Links." You will have several options for donations (pledge, Fellowship Fund, mission offering, etc.).

Click on one of them and indicate how much and often you want to give. Please choose the option to add a small amount to your gift to help reduce processing fees. You may want to set up an account with Vanco, our administrator, to keep track of your giving. If you have any questions, please see Denise Roy or Nancy Myers.

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the 25th of the month to
Chris Follett, Editor at
chrisf2828@yahoo.com*

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:
Starting in July, the newsletter will be published once a month, instead of twice, as it has been since April 2020.