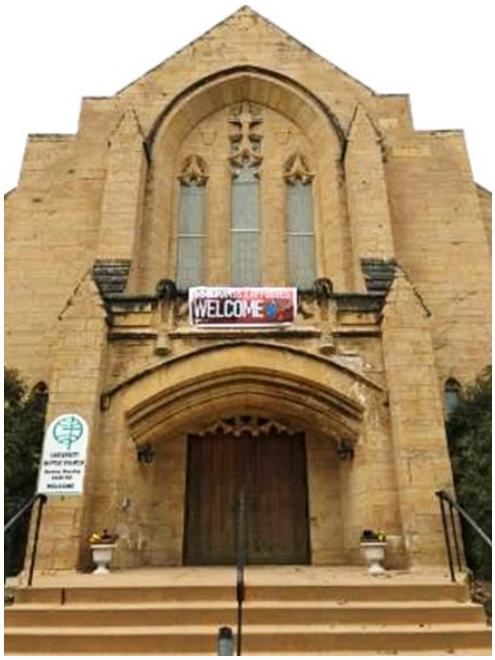


UBC NEWS

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

February 2023

From the Pastor

Visiting Nicaragua

By the time you read this note, I will be in Nicaragua. Jean Lubke, Deidre Druk and I are going to visit with our sister church, Second Baptist Church of León and will also visit with the community of the First Baptist Church of Managua. We'll play bells and sing in both churches.

While in Managua, we'll get updates on the work of AMOS Health and Hope. In León, we'll observe the remnants of the work begun by Project Minnesota León and we will see how the church and school have fared in the seven years since we last visited.

Photo of AMOS's building in Managua by Jean Lubke.

We are bringing down some material supplies (six suitcases worth of teaching materials and school supplies). We're also bringing down some generous monetary donations from the UBC community to help pay for scholarships for students at Colegio Bautista.

I'll help Jean and Deidre (great educators) lead a training for the teachers at the school. The trip is strategically planned for just before the new school year begins (the school year in Nicaragua goes February-November). I'll be preaching in Spanish on February 5th. Luckily, they believe in forgiveness—a reference to my Spanish skills.

But mostly, we are there to renew friendships and see what new aspect of God's face they show us. Certainly, natural and unnatural disasters have wreaked havoc on the people. And they remain resilient and faithful. When we get back, we'll have some time to reflect. Look for updates as we have internet connectivity.

One wrinkle in our relationship is that the Biden Administration has announced a program called Humanitarian Parole for Nicaraguans. This will allow

Continued on page 2

Pastor – continued

Nicaraguans interested in fleeing the country to arrive legally in the US if they have an economic sponsor in the US (a commitment of about two years of economic sponsorship). The council met on January 24th and decided that we as a church could not be the economic sponsor of new people at this point, at least without further conversation as a church. We plan to have long discussions with our sister church about how to support people in these challenging times. We'll talk more about this when we get back, I'm sure.

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beyond Atonement:
Reclaiming Paradise and Liberation

Feb. 5
Preaching: Matty Strickler
Sermon: "Queer Theology Redux"
Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12, I Corinthians 2:1-11
Worship Leader: John Medeiros

Feb. 12
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "Colonizing Christianity"
Scripture: Isaiah 52:3-6
Worship Leader: Deidre Druk

Feb. 19
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "Power in the Blood?"
Scripture: Lamentations 3:19-23
Worship Leader: Megan Dahlberg

Feb. 26
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "Reclaiming Baptism"
Scripture: John 1:19-29
Worship Leader: Anielka Montiel

February is Black History Month

Find interesting facts and resources here:
https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month

Minneapolis Winter Parking Restrictions

++ effective Jan. 26 ++

Unless otherwise posted, you can park:

✅ On the odd side of streets that are not Snow Emergency Routes

✅ On both sides of Snow Emergency Routes (see exceptions below)

✅ On both sides of parkways (where parking is allowed)

Do not park:

❌ On the even side of streets that are not Snow Emergency Routes

❌ Where temporary "No parking" signs are posted, including if any are posted on Snow Emergency Routes.

If a Snow Emergency is declared while Winter Parking Restrictions are in effect, Snow Emergency rules come first.

Streets that are Snow Emergency Routes have red "Snow Emergency Route" signs and blue street name signs.

For more information, visit https://www.minneapolismn.gov/.../winter-parking.../

NOTE: University Ave and 13th Ave SE are both Snow Emergency Routes (as are all streets in Dinkytown.)

Calendar for February

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	**2**	**3**	**4**
			6 p.m. Choir	**4:30 p.m.** Adv. Spanish Conversation **6:30 p.m.** Caregiver Support Group		**9 a.m.** Bible Study
5	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns **11 a.m**. Extended Coffee time	**11:15 a.m.** Meals on Wheels **5 p.m.** Inter Spanish **6:15 p.m.** Beg Spanish	**11:15 a.m.** Meals on Wheels **7 p.m.** Memoir Group	**11:15 a.m.** Meals on Wheels **6 p.m.** Choir **7:30 p.m.** Bells	**11:15 a.m.** Meals on Wheels **4:30 p.m.** Adv. Spanish Conversation		**1 p.m.** Book Group
12	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns **11 a.m**. Coffee time **11:30 a.m.** Forum	**5 p.m.** Inter Spanish **6:15 p.m.** Beg Spanish	**7 p.m.** Anti-Racism Group	**6 p.m.** Choir **7:30 p.m.** Bells	**4:30 p.m.** Adv. Spanish Conversation		**9 a.m.** Bible Study **7 p.m.** Roots Cellar concert
19	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns **11 a.m**. Coffee time **11:30 a.m.** Forum	**5 p.m.** Inter Spanish **6:15 p.m.** Beg Spanish **7 p.m.** Knitting Group	**7 p.m.** Memoir Group	**6 p.m.** Choir **7:30 p.m.** Bells	**4:30 p.m.** Adv. Spanish Conversation		**1 p.m.** Card Club *Newsletter deadline*
26	**27**	**28**				
10 a.m. Worship Bells Play Joys & Concerns **11 a.m**. Coffee time **11:30 a.m.** Forum	**5 p.m.** Inter Spanish **6:15 p.m.** Beg Spanish	**7 p.m.** Anti-Racism 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 in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

Following Joys & Concerns – Coffee time in the lounge

11:30 a.m. – Forum in the lounge

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

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

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

If you are new to Spanish or not yet ready for conversation, the Beginning Class is a great option for you, with focus on vocabulary development and verb conjugation. If you are comfortable with basic Spanish, the Intermediate Class would be a good fit for you. The focus is on reading, writing and discussing. The Advanced Class meets on Thursdays. If you have any questions, please contact Anielka Montiel at anymontiel33@gmail.com (NOTE NEW EMAIL) or 651-295-4590.

MONDAY LINK

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 869 8255 1038 Passcode: 275343
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86982551038?pwd=RnJ0WElEYk13YXhwZjFxN1dPK1Nndz09

THURSDAY LINK

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 870 8785 1406 Passcode: 634591
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87087851406?pwd=K2VPL1NrNWJMSDN3Wm5CeXRZYUNwUT09

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

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 810 4075 0220 Passcode 251436
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81040750220?pwd=bm82eExWUC9EMy9Tb2tHYk0yb1d3UT09

More of What's Going On

Bible Study – Feb. 4 & 18 (1st & 3rd Saturdays) at 9 a.m. On the 4th we'll focus on Romans 3 & 4; on the 18th, Romans 5 & 6. 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

Meals on Wheels – Feb. 6-9 (first full week of the month). Meals are picked up around 11:15 a.m. and the route in SE Minneapolis usually takes less than two hours. We're always looking for substitute drivers. If you have any questions, please contact Marie LaFrance at marielafrance46@gmail.com.

Memoir Writing Group – Feb. 7 & 21 (every other Tues.) at 7 p.m.
Prompts include *personal stories of racial awareness* 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

UBC *Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women* Book Group – Feb. 11 (2nd Sat.) at 1 p.m. The book this month is *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.

ZOOM INFO: meeting ID 815 2376 4072 passcode 525996
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81523764072?pwd=Q1hIc2VFdnlOMEl1VWhXNzdKRDdjQT09

Anti-Racism Group – Feb. 14 & 28 (every other Tues.) at 7 pm.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 831 4584 1908 Passcode: 313775
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83145841908?pwd=djhuSmMwZ1NESXZ5SExNOURXa2FNQT09

ROOTS CELLAR CONCERT – Annie Fitzgerald – Sat. Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at UBC. Annie's music has been described as "a blend of Tori Amos' intellectual appeal, Sarah McLachlan's mystical charm and Edie Brickell's baroque spirit". To learn more, visit https://www.anniefitzgerald.com/bio/. Tickets are $20, available at the door or at brownpapertickets.com.

Upcoming Roots Cellar Performances

March 25 - Lehto & Wright
April 22 (Earth Day) - Peter Mayer

More of What's Going On

UBC- FCC Knitting Group – Feb. 20 (3rd Mon.) at 7 p.m. at Chris Follett'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.

FEBRUARY FORUMS

Forums are held in the lounge, 11:30-12:30, after coffee time. We do our best to make Zoom attendance an option with the same link as Joys & Concerns.

February 5—No forum
Extended coffee hour

February 12—Report from Nicaragua
Pastor Doug and members Jean Lubke and Deidre Druk will report on their trip to Nicaragua January 26–February 6 to visit our sister church in Léon. It has been five years since Jean has visited and seven years since a UBC delegation has gone. They will share and reflect on what they learned.

February 19—Writing about race in our lives
What is your earliest memory of race or racism? How did your awareness happen? How has race and racism influenced your life? What is the history of UBC regarding race and racism? Members of the Tuesday night memoir-writing group will share from their writing on this important topic and invite others to do the same—or just come to listen and join the discussion.

February 26—UBC discernment and long-range planning
Many of us in the UBC community are feeling the need for another round of "discernment." Borrowing from Jean Lubke's recounting in the January newsletter, "discernment" may be "defined as 'a decision-making process by which God helps … reach the best decision that can lead to future action.'"

The felt need for such a process is prompted by recent changes—such as life with COVID, remote participation in worship and other gatherings, and UBC's anti-racism commitment—as well as by future uncertainties, such as an aging congregation and Pastor Doug's eventual retirement.

This forum will give us with an opportunity to talk about the possibility of embarking on a discernment process.

At the Arvonne Fraser Library (next door to UBC), there is a bin for folks to donate or help themselves to cold weather items. In addition, for a limited time, Every Meal is offering bags of food at the library as well.

Cold Weather Donations

Donate clean, gently used cold weather items of all sizes. Look for the donation bin near the library entrance.

Author Karla McGray read from her book, To Be Brave: A Memoir of Domestic Violence, Resistance, and Healing. **Photos by Chris Follett.**

Summary from the book:

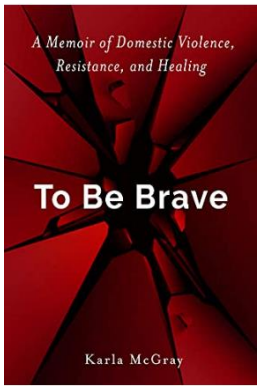
In 1959, in Garrison, Minnesota, a twenty-six-year-old woman shot and killed her abusive husband. A few years earlier, her sister had fled with her young daughter from Texas to Minnesota to escape a man who threatened to kill her, her child, and her entire family.

To Be Brave tells the story of how one Minnesota farm family experienced domestic violence and found a way to heal. To write it, Karla McGray had to unearth family secrets, acknowledge the courage asserted by her mother and aunt, and explore the lifelong impact of traumatic events.
This grace-filled story offers hope to individuals and families who live with domestic violence.

Jan. 22 Forum – Karla McGray reading from her book, To Be Brave

Rev. Karla McGray is a member at Judson Baptist Church in south Minneapolis and a longtime friend of UBC. In her work as a chaplain, she has come into contact many times with people suffering from domestic abuse or its lifelong aftermath. She decided to begin writing the story of her own family's experience after mentioning it at an annual event for a local outreach program, not long after her aunt had died. Writing the book took many years, and the result is a powerful and beautiful testament to the people and communities it touched and a gift to all of us.

Karla was introduced at the UBC forum by Paula Moyer. They met when someone suggested Paula as a writer to read Karla's early draft. Karla then read the riveting passage from the book about the night her aunt—then young, caring for a baby son, and trying to hide the marks of abuse—shot her abusive husband when he came home drunk.



She talked about the events described in the book and took questions from Paula and the audience about domestic abuse, resources, and the process of writing the book, including research, interviews, and interaction with family members (including her cousin who was the baby in the story) and people in the town and courtroom. She closed by reading another passage from the book, this one about the verdict in her aunt's trial and hearing from a relative of the sheriff in Garrison, Minnesota, at the time. Her aunt was acquitted, an outcome rare even today.

The COVID-19 pandemic lockdown created nightmare conditions in lockdown for families with an abuser—and nowhere to go, what has been called "a pandemic within a pandemic," Karla said. Effective programs were forced to close and it will take a long time to reopen and rebuild those resources. We are all called upon to learn more about domestic violence so we can be resources for people in our lives, as Karla's grandparents were in their time.

To Be Brave can be purchased through Birchbark Books or Magers & Quinn in Minneapolis or through Barnes & Noble or Amazon.

Jan. 29 Forum – Mid-Year Budget Review

Denise Roy, acting UBC president, center, and other UBC council officers conducted a mid-year (July- Dec. 2022) church budget review in a Jan.29 forum. To the left of Denise is Chris Follett, financial secretary, and Mindy Lee, treasurer. Gayla Marty, Forum coordinator and Zoom moderator, far left. **Photo by Don Follett**

The Church is on target with its expenses paid and income recorded at the budget's mid-year, although with the caveat that higher heating, snow removal expenses and building maintenance are still to be incurred.

Special Offering for January/February

Childhood Health and Hunger Programs

The special Outreach Offering for January and February is for organizations providing supportive services to children who are affected by poverty, racism and all the things we face in our society, but who lack a voice to make changes. Organizations like the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (www.crisisnursery.org) and Every Meal (www.everymeal.org) work to provide children with safe places to live and food to eat - basic human needs. We hope you will consider donating during these two months to help support important ministries and programs aimed at keeping children safe.

As usual, you can drop it in the offering with a note on the check or envelope, send a check to the church, designate a gift directly from your bank, use our on-line portal for giving on the UBC website, www.UBCmn.org, or use the QR code below.

Thank you for your ongoing Outreach support!!
- Kim Donley and Deidre Druk, Outreach Co-Chairs

Report from Jean Lubke in Nicaragua

Day One (Jan. 27)
Nicaragua - Managua - AMOS compound.
The suitcases with materials for the teacher training (combined with a required overnight stay in Houston) caused issues at check-in this morning and at baggage check at MGA (where 3 of them are spending the night and will hopefully be paroled after a return meeting tomorrow).

But it's 83 and breezy enough that the young mangoes are hitting the metal roof and littering the ground. Trees in the courtyard lean on the support of the trunks of dead trees. And the bananas (or plantains) and star fruit (carambola) are ripening in the trees.

Photo of starfruit by Jean Lubke.

Day Two (Jan. 28)
Nicaragua – Managua.
After a breakfast with wonderful fresh fruit (pineapple and watermelon) and jugo (juice, papaya?), I spent the morning experiencing the new government laws about donations. Three suitcases of supplies for the teacher training and the school were held, re-inventoried (my paper inventory inside each suitcase helped!), value assessed, held for the $65.50 "tax" I needed to pay (plus the $10 tip for the man helping - which was literally paid to him under the table!). Finally, I left with all three suitcases and their contents.

Through Managua traffic again to First Baptist to play with their handbell choir (who waited 1.5 hours for me). A delightful group who is bravely going to play two newly learned pieces for tomorrow's service.

Back through traffic to AMOS for a delayed lunch and a great presentation of the health work they are doing in 25 communities around Nicaragua.

Photo of bell choir by Doug Donley.

Then back to First Baptist to sing with members of the

amazing Paragon Dominguez choir (think of a cross between the Robert Shaw Chorale and Shaped Note singing with 25 people singing in a concrete bandshell!) - thrilling, every time!! And so wonderful to see our dear friend Joan Parajón, daughter Marta, granddaughter Debbie, Denis, and Peter again!

Left to right; Doug, Marta Parajón, Deidre and Jean. Photo by Doug Donley.

After service and lunch tomorrow, on to León to be with our brothers and sisters of our sister church Segunda Iglesia Bautista León Nic!

Continued on page 10

Nicaragua – continued

Day Three (Jan. 29)

Nicaragua - Managua & León

Amigos, cultos, y reuniónes! cultists, morning we had an uplifting service at Primera Iglesia Bautista en Managua filled with spectacular music from the choir and congregation. The bell choir played their two pieces very admirably, especially without a pre-service rehearsal.

Doug presenting the checks to the school and church. Photos by Jean Lubke

After lunch we were met by my sister Lesbia and son Lesbert Diazz who drove us and all the luggage with a stop to get quesillos (a Nicaraguan delicacy of cheese wrapped in a tortilla, put in a plastic bag, smothered with crema, and eaten through a small hole you bite in the corner of the bag!) to the church in León where we were welcomed home very warmly, participated in another spirit-filled service, and fed a huge traditional Nica feast of chicken, Gallo pinto (rice and beans) queso frito (fried cheese) and tamales.

The Sunday School youth's Liturgical dance.

Then home with our families, ready for the first day with the teachers tomorrow morning!!

Day Four (Jan. 30)

Nicaragua - León

In the outskirts of Managua we are awakened to the sound of the wind moving the metal roofs and tossing the unripened mangoes on them. The breeze keeps the temperature in the 80's. In León, we are awakened to sounds of life in the streets and homes - roosters crowing before dawn, vendors hawking their wares on foot or on bicycle, and midday, the public announcements broadcast from moving trucks.

The mural that we made together on our visit in 2010 is still there showing the sister relationship between our two churches, and two geographies.

During the first day of teacher training, they learned strategies for Priming the students for learning and embedded within the lessons were English vocabulary lessons. Deidre Druk, (left, in photo above) led community builders and brain breaks. Each teacher received a backpack full of teaching materials

Editor's note: You can follow Jean, Doug and Deidre's adventures on their Facebook pages. They will be in Nicaragua until Feb. 6.

Volunteer Opportunities

Meals on Wheels

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

Refugee Resettlement

Alight continues to assist newly-arrived Afghan families. Current volunteer opportunities include assisting with computer set-up, assisting with sorting donations in the warehouse, and assisting new families to "shop" at the warehouse. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact Volunteer@wearealight.org. If you have any questions, contact Trish Donley (patricia.donley63@gmail.com/612-386-2856)

Loaves and Fishes

UBC will host Loaves and Fishes next on **Friday, Mar. 31**. If you would like to participate, please contact Steve Lee at steven.lee@thrivent.com.

Mail Delivery Late?

So many people lately have been affected by late or missing mail as the post office deals with staffing shortages and weather events.

Did you know you can sign up to be notified about what mail is coming your way? This is called USPS Informed Delivery. Once you sign up, you will receive a daily email with a picture of each piece of mail (including packages) that are on their way to you. This way, you can follow up if you do not receive a mail item that you were expecting. If you want, you can also download the app on your phone.

Learn more and sign up here: https://www.usps.com/manage/informed-delivery.htm

Little Free Pantry

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

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

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

Drivers for Sanctuary Guests

Our family has had many more needs than we anticipated: Doctors, dentists, eye, prescription and Limb Lab appointments, grocery and bank errands, soccer, bus card, phone and miscellaneous tasks! Even if you can only help out one time a month YOU will make a difference because the core team is very small and has been doing all of this! Don't worry if you don't speak Spanish! If you can help or have any questions, please contact DeidreDruk@aol.com or 651-755-6631.

Volunteers Needed

Communion prep – Contact Terri Wottrich
Sunday School Coordinator – Contact Gayla Marty
Ushers – Contact Chris Follett
Worship Leaders – Contact Jean Lubke
Worship Technology Support - Contact Personnel Committee (Megan Gunnar, Jean Lubke, Gene Velasco)
President (or Co-President with Denise Roy). Volunteer will receive ample training, support, and encouragement, as well as endless appreciation. Contact Denise Roy.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

UBC's budgeted operating income for 2022-23 is $365,885. This includes the final adjusted amount of $22,875 carry-forward from 2021-22 fiscal year and the Foundation distribution of $64,720.

Most of our income (52%) comes from the pledges made by members. As of Jan. 29, pledges are running a surplus due to several folks paying their pledge in full.

Expected annual rental income for 2022-23 of $74,000 is 20% of our budget. This is a large increase over last year's $60,000. This item has a surplus as our largest renter received a grant and has pre-paid some rent.

Other gifts and miscellaneous income provide 4% of our budget. These are mostly gifts made by pledgers beyond their pledge or from people who did not pledge.

The Foundation distribution is 18%, which includes 9% ($32,053) for the property manager position. The Foundation funds are transferred to the UBC checking account as needed by the treasurer.

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

Operating Income 2022-23	**%**	**Budget**	**Expected**	**Received**	**Over (short)**
Pledge Income	52	$189,290	$110,419	124,819	14,400
Rental Income	20	$74,000	$43,167	49,505	6,338
Misc income*	4	$15,000	$8,750	11,819	3,069
Subtotal		**$278,290**	$162,336	$186,143	23,807
Carry-forward from 2021-22	6	$22,875			
Foundation	18	$64,720			
Total Operating Income	100	**$365,885**			
Justice & Outreach		$15,000		8,392	
Total Budget		**$380,885**			

*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

The dedicated offering for Jan./Feb. is for Childhood Health & Hunger programs and we have received $300 to date.

Doug delivered $2,893.98 for scholarships and $600 for other needs to our sister church/school in León, Nicaragua.

Chris Follett, Financial Secretary

Fall Gathering in Montgomery
November 10-12, 2022
Reflections by Lauren Thrift

In November, the Alliance of Baptists' fall gathering was held in Montgomery, Alabama. The theme was "Excavating Our Roots: Baptist History and the Origins of White Supremacy in the United States." UBC is a member of the Alliance, and six from our church attended: Pastor Doug Donley, Deidre Druk, Mindy Lee, Denise Roy, Betty Shaw, and Lauren Thrift.

I was one of six members of UBC who attended the Fall Gathering of the Alliance of Baptists in Montgomery, Alabama last November. I live in a city in the throes of a slew of racist White Supremacist institutions being called into question with national attention: Police excessive use of force and a housing crisis among them. Black people have been raising their voices here for many, many years and the legacy of White Supremacy still reigns strong. I live this conflict every day so this was a timely and deeply moving pilgrimage to Montgomery where I saw the legacy of these very same issues and their modern-day repercussions.

An early morning flight brought us into my birthplace, Atlanta, Georgia where my heart suddenly longed to see my grandmother in the next town over as we rented a car and headed out towards Montgomery. We stopped to eat at a southern food restaurant at the beckoning of myself and another UBCer who is also originally from the south. It was both comforting and had the pangs of a long-ago home.

The title of the gathering was *Excavating our Roots: Baptist History and the Origins of White Supremacy in the United States*. The whole weekend was exactly that, from the informative lectures and reflection sessions about the legacy of White Supremacy as Baptists to the incredibly powerful Legacy Museum and the different racial narratives and experiences in Montgomery.

We arrived in Montgomery to our sweet little Airbnb owned by a Black female entrepreneur in the working-class neighborhood of Martin Luther King Jr.'s (MLK) Parsonage, which we visited along with the church of his first posting. She mentioned evidence of current racial divisions in her experience, "White people who stay here don't like this neighborhood and sometimes get scared and leave early, I never have problems with Black people".

Our tour guides at the Parsonage were daughters and granddaughters of church members who worked alongside MLK during that time and who stood for Black Civil Rights with the pastor who preceded MLK and influenced him. As they shared personal accounts, their congregation felt relatable in a way you don't get from history books. I began to reflect on the parallels to the racial struggles my city faces.

The legacy of the civil rights movement greeted us everywhere from a statue of Rosa Parks to the painted footprints representing hundreds or maybe thousands who ended the March from Selma to Montgomery in front of the Alabama State Capital building. Then there was also the White Supremacist narrative infused throughout downtown as well. The river which ferried enslaved peoples into Montgomery and ferried out goods produced by enslaved people was honored by an exhibit at the wharf that told of how Montgomery was built by "commerce".

The plaque at the ornamental fountain in the city circle roundabout showcased the fountain's features but did not mention anything about how the fountain stands on what was originally the auction block for enslaved people or that the surrounding warehouses held enslaved people before sale and to labor in bondage.

Continued on page 14

Reflections – continued

When we learned that information later, the painted Black Lives Matter mural surrounding the base of the fountain took on new meaning as a reclamation of the Black experience narrative of Montgomery history. It reminds me of how I am constantly learning of the stark difference between Black and Native historical accounts of injustice in Minneapolis from the White narrative of pride in Minneapolis history.

The gathering challenged us to excavate our roots of personal ancestry and that of the church's involvement. Citing the terror bestowed from Catholic worldwide oppression as part of our own Christian legacy they reminded us, "we were all Catholic at some point" and that as a mixture of Northern and Southern delegates we are all still part of White Supremacy's reign.

I thought about how I was raised with the knowledge that my ancestors in both the South and the North fought in the Civil War and we always wondered if they ever faced each other in battle. I was raised with pride that my Southern ancestors were sharecroppers and not slave holders. With a start, I wondered for the first time what their reaction was to injustice towards Black people during the time of slavery and Jim Crow.

At the Legacy Museum we learned about the silencing of Black voices during slavery, lynchings, voter suppression, jailing and beating Civil Rights protestors, as well as the work of the Equal Justice Initiative to support voices caught unjustly in the prison industrial complex. The Legacy Memorial revealed there were lynchings in every county I lived in during my childhood and where my father grew up as well. Did any of my ancestors or the ancestors of my friends in those places turn a blind eye or even support slavery, lynching, and Jim Crow laws?

Hindsight is 20/20 and it is easy to scratch our heads in disgust at our ancestors or those who opposed the Montgomery bus boycott and think we would have made different choices, but is our response to today's activism really so different? Like the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Black people today are holding out and raising their voices at George Floyd Square and other locations around the country against racial injustice.

Many prominent Black voices we hear in Minneapolis today became activists because for 25 years they engaged in the "appropriate" method of speaking up through political means, forums, town hall meetings, petitions, and work groups at the city and state levels. They recall their efforts as being a waste of time and their voices still disregarded after decades.

White voices who aren't aware of this "legacy" tell these Black voices to stop being disruptive and go the "appropriate" routes to seek justice for themselves rather than holding White Supremacy accountable for justice. There is criticism of the George Floyd Square Autonomous Zone rather than criticism of the city for not fixing the problem that the Square is taking a stand against. If we listen and act in support of Black voices even when we are uncomfortable with how they're speaking up or with the exact demands are, we can change the legacy.

We asked ourselves as we concluded the Fall Gathering, "What Now?" To me it looks like showing up, listening, and engaging with what I do agree with –without turning away or standing in the way of Black voices when I am uncertain. If we aren't sure how to engage or what we think about a demand we can at the very least not get in the way. We can offer resources for Black voices to take care of their bodies, minds, and spirits as in Christ's teachings while they continue lifting their voices and their truth.

The most powerful lesson I walked away from Montgomery with is that our legacy of White Supremacy is not just a thing of the past but is ongoing, lived in our everyday lives and as Baptists.

When I am unhappy with the state of things and not sure what to do, I go listen and opportunities find their way to me. I show up at George Floyd Square to find out what is really happening. I show up when Black people call for justice for Amir Locke because the Police Officer who murdered him is still on active duty

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Reflections – continued

and recently was involved in yet another incident. I show up because I need to hear the Black narrative.

Activism will continue until Minneapolis is held accountable for changing how police treat Black people. Will our silence speak volumes for us in history or will our voices support Black activism and stand for justice? Whether I agree, disagree or am uncertain, it is not enough to stall out and think on it. Our liberation is tied up together, the future of our city and all of our wellbeing depends on Black voices being heard and action being taken, no matter how uncomfortable the process is. Montgomery was a lesson about solidarity despite discomfort. **We decide the future by how much we listen to and support Black voices taking a stand today**.

What we do with our legacy now is our mark on history.+++

February Birthdays

1 Ben Justin
2 Anielka Picado Montiel
5 Gayla Marty
8 Chris Follett, Harriet Johnson
9 Kit Martin
11 Mel Roy
12 Jonathan Lubke, Susie Sanchez
18 Trish Donley
19 Drew Cramer
20 Michael Lubke
24 Anne Johnson
25 Kathleen Tice
26 Karole Graham

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