



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

ROOTED IN JUSTICE,
WORKING FOR PEACE

1219 University Ave SE Minneapolis MN 55414
Established 1850 at Owámniyomni/St. Anthony Falls, MN



Welcome to our new rental/office manager
HARPER LEIGH STEINBACH
(They/Them)

Harper has taken the position of rental/office manager at UBC starting August 11. Formerly, Harper was a full-time grant writer at Fraser, a mental health and autism services non-profit. They are transitioning into their new role to take on more of a project management and community-centered approach to their career. Outside of UBC, they work as a consultant for small businesses and run their own business, Crafty Queens Club. Harper received a BA in Art History and Museum Studies from Seattle Pacific University in Washington state. Harper enjoys spending time in their at-home studio, gardening, and roller skating. They currently are married and live with their spouse, Jess (they/them), and their dog, Leah.



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LETTER FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR, REV. CODY J. SANDERS

DEAR UBC,

There are a couple of things I'm really looking forward to in the coming months:

First, there's the celebration of the **Feast of Creation on September 6**. This special feast day was added to the Revised Common Lectionary that many mainline churches around the world use just this year by the Consultation on Common Texts. This festival day was inspired by the Eastern Orthodox church, which, since the 8th century, has celebrated a September 1 feast day marking God's creation of the world. Since 1989, the Orthodox church has invited the whole Christian church around the world to celebrate this festival day alongside them in light of the ecological crisis we all face as a planetary community. This year, many other Christians will be joining their Orthodox siblings in this celebration, including those of us here at UBC!



Second, there's the new sermon series beginning September 13 and running through November 15 titled, "Why Jesus?" I'm excited to start the fall with a reinvigorating look at the life and ministry of Jesus, upon which a church dedicated to peace rooted in justice is centered. I want to treat this series as sort of a highlights reel of Jesus's mission and ministry for a church that is centering its life on his message and example, looking mostly at narrative texts from the Gospels. These sermons will give specific attention to the ways that the mission and ministry of Jesus can shape the life of a community of faith in the era in which we live.

Here are two ways you can participate in the series beyond just attending Sunday services.



1. I want to invite anyone in the congregation who wishes to join me in reading a book by Jewish New Testament scholar, Amy-Jill Levine, titled *Jesus for Everyone: Not Just Christians*. I think you'll find this book an invigorating look into the life of Jesus and the ways his life and ministry speak to pressing questions of our day. If you've never read Levine, I think you'll especially enjoy her brilliance and humor. We won't have a weekly book study, but we will gather at some point—a time or two—during the 10 weeks to talk about how we're engaging the book alongside the sermon series.

continued on page 3

Interim Pastor letter, continued

2. I also invite you to read through the entire Gospel of Mark during this 10-week series. Most of the sermons will be rooted in texts from Mark, and Mark is also the first of our four canonical Gospels to be written (and the shortest). You can read Mark alongside the Levine book, or just choose to engage Mark's Gospel alone. I think it will make the sermon series a much richer experience for you if you're also moving through the Gospel narrative on your own.

Finally, as you read in a recent weekly enews article, **I am calling for folks who are interested in starting a Congregational Care Team to get in touch with me.** One way to strengthen the bonds of any community is to democratize the practice of care within the community. Many churches have a top-down approach to care (usually called "pastoral care"), in which the pastor is the center of the care practices of the community. That is an outdated model that rarely works well. I'm of the conviction that everyone in a community is a care provider for someone at some time, and that care works best in community when every person has a little bit of equipping to be of help to others when the need arises.

Here's my hope: That there are at least six people in the UBC community who would like to be part of a Congregational Care Team. I would like for these six (or however many others wish to join) to read my book, *Spiritual Care First Aid: An All-Hands Approach for Church and Community*, and meet periodically over the next year for a little training in care skills and to dream together how to strengthen the formal processes and practices of care at UBC. If that sounds like good news to you, then send me an email and let me know you'd like to be part of that process!



When your next settled pastor arrives a year or so from now, it will be a gift to that person to come into a congregation where people are trained to work alongside the pastor in the caring ministry of the congregation. This team won't do *all of the care ministry* but will be a group of congregants with ever-increasing skillfulness who will help cultivate the care ministry of the congregation together, alongside me and, eventually, the next settled pastor.

Looking forward to these coming autumn months together!

Blessings,
Cody J. Sanders
Interim Pastor

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 6

Communion

Preaching: Cody Sanders

Worship Leader: Brittany Monson-Moffatt

Ushers: Trish Donley & Chris Follett

September 13

Preaching: Cody Sanders

Worship Leader: Paula Moyer

Ushers: Trish Donley & Gene Velasco

September 20

Preaching: Brittany Monson-Moffatt

Worship Leader: Violet Butler

Ushers: Chris Follett & Gene Velasco

September 27

Preaching: Cody Sanders

Worship Leader: Caroline Lubke

Ushers: Trish Donley & Terri Wottrich



Unable to Join Us in the Sanctuary?

You can watch the livestream via the [UBC YouTube](#) channel. You can also view any service any time on YouTube.

After the livestream has ended,
Joys & Concerns are on Zoom:

Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09)

[pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09)

FORUMS

September 20

Ghost of a Chance

Star Tribune columnist Eric Roper will bring his story of a journey that led to his six-part podcast, "Ghost of a Chance." When Roper bought a 113-year-old house in Minneapolis, he wanted to learn everything he could about its history. He became obsessed with a couple that owned the house 100 years ago. Harry and Clementine Robinson, one of a handful of Black families who owned houses in the whitest part of Minneapolis, sent him down a rabbit hole into an incredible history he'd never heard before. If you didn't hear the podcast in 2025, you can listen to it in advance of the forum. Search for it online—it's available through several media outlets.

September 27

Talking About Transition

Interim pastor Cody Sanders will lead forums about once a month on topics related to our transition between pastors. The first is scheduled for September 27.

If you have ideas for or questions about upcoming forums, please contact forum coordinator Gayla Marty at gaylamarty@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
		5:30pm Sacred Harp	11am Handcraft Group	9am Garden Team 5:30pm Public Discipleship series (#2 of 3) 6:30pm Caregiver support group		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10am Worship 11am Coffee 4pm Sacred Harp		11:15am Meals on Wheels 5:30pm Sacred Harp 7pm Racial Justice Team	11:15am Meals on Wheels 6pm Choir	9am Garden Team 11:15am Meals on Wheels 5:30pm Public Discipleship series (#3 of 3)	11am Every Meal 11:15am Meals on Wheels	1pm Book Group
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am Worship 11am Potluck Picnic	7pm Memoirs	5:30pm Sacred Harp	9am Brittany's coffee shop office hours 6pm Choir 7:30pm Bells	9am Garden Team	6:30pm AWAB Annual Lecture: "The Power of Queer Religious History"	9am Bible Study
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am Worship 11am Coffee 11:30am Forum 4pm Sacred Harp	7pm Handcraft Group	5:30pm Sacred Harp	6pm Choir 7:30pm Bells	9am Garden Team	6pm Brittany's pub office hours <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	10am Spanish Conversation group 1pm Card Club
27	28	29	30			
10am Worship 11am Coffee 11:30am Forum 4pm Sacred Harp	7pm Memoirs		6pm Choir 7:30pm Bells			

WHAT'S COMING UP

Racial Justice Team will meet on Tuesday, **September 8, 7pm** via Zoom to report on and debrief the August 25 Alliance of Baptists Organize & Resist session on Justice in Palestine. We will also talk about plans for the October THRIVE retreat and Alliance pilgrimage in New Orleans, as well as other ideas for future undertakings. Let Denise Roy know if you are interested.

Memoirs group starts again **September 14, 7pm** via Zoom and will meet every 2nd and 4th Monday. Let Jean Lubke know if you are interested.

Bible Study resumes Saturday, **September 19, 9am** via Zoom with the study of the 22nd chapter of Luke. The group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday going forward. Let Diane Ehr know if you are interested.

Journeys will begin Sunday, **October 4**, with a lesson on the OT prophet Ezra. The group will meet in the Char Follett Library during forum time. Let Diane Ehr know if you are interested.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlYDcwUElzTWVmLzRyZm5OQT09>

Meeting ID: 517 697
6753

Passcode: 602794

WELCOME BACK POTLUCK PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

AWAB ANNUAL LECTURE

"The Power of Queer Religious
History"
by Dr. William Stell

6:30pm lecture followed by
reception

More info and registration:

www.awab.org/lecture

CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR!

Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 9, at 6pm, in the lounge. If you like to sing with others, please join us!

MORE OF WHAT'S COMING UP

BRITTANY'S SEPTEMBER COFFEE SHOP AND PUB OFFICE HOURS

Join Brittany Monson-Moffatt, Pastoral Associate for the Interim, for one or both of these informal times of conversation at your convenience. Note location changes from last month's office hours!



A big group met with Cody at Makwa Coffee shop in Roseville August 11.

Coffee-Shop Office Hours, Wednesday, September 16, 9am, at Makwa Coffee Shop, 2805 Hamline Ave N, Roseville, 55113

Pub Office Hours, Friday, September 25, 6pm, at Urban Growler, 2325 Endicott Street, St. Paul 55114



The Justin Family joined Cody at Venn Brewing in Minneapolis August 20.

Come for as little or as long as you'd like during these "office hours."



**BELL CHOIR
RUMMAGE
SALE**



SAVE THE DATE: 9/24-27



DONATIONS NEEDED!



UBC will hold a four-day rummage sale to support our Bell Choir's 2027 concert tour of Finland and the Baltics. Clean out your closets, basement, and garage! Let your friends know, if they are clearing out spaces, too! Bring donations to UBC by Sunday, September 6.

Then come, bring friends, and shop! Find great deals on craft supplies, tools, clothing, household items, small furniture, etc.

Thursday, September 24, 9am-6pm

Friday, September 25, 9am-6pm

Saturday, September 26, 9am-6pm

Sunday, September 27, 11am-4pm

The Alliance of Baptists is hosting two amazing events in October, both in New Orleans—a THRIVE (for racial justice) Retreat October 13–15 and the Alliance of Baptists Fall Pilgrimage October 15–17. If you would like more information or might like to go to one or both, please contact Denise Roy. We especially want to encourage attendance by folks who haven't had a chance to participate in THRIVE or Alliance gatherings. Help with travel costs will available.

CREATIVE INDIVIDUALS WANTED! SHARE YOUR TALENTS AT THE HOLIDAY BAZAARS!

First Congregational Church has invited UBC to join its traditional Holiday Bazaar before Christmas, where individuals can sell their artisan products—knitting, sewing, cards, canning, artwork, etc. To accommodate both locations and more artisans, we're expanding to include a Sunday at UBC as well as the Sunday at First Congregational to provide more opportunities for shoppers and crafters!

The bazaar will be at UBC on Sunday, November 29, 11am–1pm (with set-up on Saturday 10am–12pm).

The bazaar will be at First Congregational on Sunday, December 13 (with set-up Saturday 11am–1pm).

If you are interested in participating in either or both dates of the bazaar, please complete the Google form using the link below by October 31, indicating:

- your participation dates
- size of table needed (3' to 8')
- type of craft
- your contact information
- any special information (need a different set-up time, electrical outlet, etc.)



USE THIS LINK TO REGISTER: <https://forms.gle/kx9sEp8b7WepjsBs6>

If you have questions, please let Xan Laurence (xanlaurence@comcast.net) or Jean Lubke (jeanlubke01@gmail.com)

There will be a limited number of tables at each location.

Artisans are asked to donate a portion of their proceeds to a charity of their choice. Either of the churches and the UBC 2027 bell tour qualify as recipients!

HYMNAL PROJECT UPDATE

Our grant deadline has come and gone, but the hymnal project is not yet finished. So far, we have:

- named the new hymnal "Hymns for a Beloved Community"
- created the front and back covers (thanks, Maura!)
- digitized 104 hymns, 11 more are in process, and 95 still need to be digitized (210 total)

Kevin Branting and Jean Lubke now have the software and are working (slowly) on the remaining hymns. We have:

- eliminated 7 hymns that we couldn't get permissions to use
- obtained copyright permissions for 145 hymns; 65 more to obtain
- obtained licensing reprint permissions for 185 hymns; 25 more to obtain
- created Title, First Line, Subject, and Scripture indices; the Hymn Tune index still needs to be created
- selected the printer (Minuteman Press Mpls) and pre-paid the printing. Minuteman Press is a BIPOC-owned business that has helped Maura create signs and posters.

When the hymnal is finally complete, we will have quite the celebration!

BELL CHOIR OPEN TO NEW RINGERS

If you've always wanted to play bells (or wear white gloves and be fashionable!), we have openings in the bell choir this year. You don't need to have played bells before, but you do need to know how to read music—either treble or bass scores. Beginning September 16, we rehearse Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9pm. Childcare is provided. If you are interested, please contact Jean Lubke jeanlubke01@gmail.com



2026-27 UBC WISH LIST

The following items 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. Update or replacement of our playground equipment
2. New bell-table covers (\$3,000)
3. New furniture (couch, chairs, etc.) for the nursery (\$3,000)
4. Two additional benches under the crabapple tree (\$2,500)
5. Fireplace insert for the parlor
6. Wiring and electric stoves for the apartment and lounge kitchens (\$6,000)
7. New appliances for the lower-level (big) kitchen and wiring for an electric stove (\$20,000)
8. Refinish gym balcony, wood floor, and replace gym floor
9. Baptistry heater (\$700)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Operating Income 2026-27	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	49	\$186,857	\$31,143	\$35,750	\$4,607
Rental Income	24	\$90,000	\$15,000	\$8,157	(\$6,843)
Misc income	7	<u>\$26,000</u>	\$4,333	\$4,050	(\$284)
Subtotal		\$302,857	\$50,476	\$47,957	(\$2,520)
Foundation Contribution	20	<u>\$76,820</u>			
Total Operating Income	100	\$379,677			

We received \$530 for the July/August special offering for SE Minneapolis ministries.

—Chris Follett, Financial Secretary

GIVING AT UBC SPECIAL OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER Refugees and Immigrants

The Outreach mission focus for September and October will support local organizations that focus on refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants in our community, along with the Tai Shigaki Travel Fund.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide in supporting these important ministries and helping us extend our care and welcome to others.

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!!

Violet Butler and Zena Hamilton,
Outreach Team Co-Coordiators



THE GARDEN TEAM TACKLES WEEDS!



Above, Betsy pulled a very large thistle weed near the front sidewalk. Right, Nancy cleared the rear walkway of weeds.



Betsy, Nancy, and Chris have been busy this summer pulling weeds! The bottom two photos show the corner near the back sidewalk, before and after the weeds.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS NEEDED

Southeast Seniors is looking for help to support seniors in our community with tasks like driving people to appointments, checking in on those with limited social contact, and helping with gardening and seasonal chores. Opportunities range from once or twice per year to weekly (or more), depending on availability. Please email connect@seseeniors.org or call the Southeast Seniors office at 612-331-2302 for more information.



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.

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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