



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

ROOTED IN JUSTICE,
WORKING FOR PEACE

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



The Bell Choir Rummage Sale Fundraiser was a huge success! We had 425 visitors (only 17 from UBC) - mostly students! - and raised over \$3200. Many treasures were rehomed during the event, September 24-27.

A huge thank you to Jean Lubke for all her work and the members of the bell choir who put in countless hours collecting, moving, pricing and selling your generous donations. Thanks to Pam O'Hara for her on-the-scene social media boosts!

Since this was such a success, and so many of the students and neighbors asked when we would be having another sale, we're thinking about making rummage sales a regular community outreach and UBC fundraiser!

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

DEAR UBC,

Ms. Southern and Ms. Poore were two octogenarians in the Baptist church of my upbringing in South Carolina. I credit each of them with my childhood love of church and opening me to sensing a call to ministry.

Ms. Poore was my third grade Sunday school teacher. I would try to get to Sunday school early each week because Ms. Poore was fun to talk to, even with well over a half-century age difference. She would often cut out a comic strip from the Sunday newspaper that we would read together before the other kids arrived. I still remember how special it felt to laugh together about these comics.

Ms. Southern was eighty-one when she was my sixth grade Sunday school teacher (I looked up her obituary to be sure my youthful recollection hadn't aged her). Even as an awkward, nerdy pre-teen just starting middle school who loved the organ, she helped me feel seen and valued in my congregation. She and I were always the first to arrive in the classroom, so we also got to share stories that I remember being filled with laughter. Years later when I was a seminarian in Atlanta, I heard that Ms. Southern was in the ICU dying of an aortic dissection. I got in my car and drove two-and-a-half hours back to South Carolina to see her, arriving in the evening and sitting by her bedside and telling her what she had meant to me as a kid. (As I was getting ready to leave, *another* of my elementary Sunday school teachers was coming in to sit with Ms. Southern.)

I don't remember a single Sunday school lesson Ms. Southern or Ms. Poore ever taught me (though I do know I learned the stories of the Bible very well during my childhood, because they read them with me and helped me to explore them). But I think about those two women nearly every week for some reason or another. They saw me and wanted to know me and spend time with me when I showed up at church, even as a kid. And that mattered to me. They helped make me who I am.

As UBC's parents and Brittany, our pastoral associate, begin to dream about the future of children's ministry here, I want to invite you to envision how you might support that work.

It's a gift to have a paid childcare staff member or two. But a paid worker who comes for a semester or even a year and is replaced by a new worker after that and another after that is not a long-term relational ministry strategy. These childcare staff help care for our kids, which is a gift, but *relationally nurturing children's spiritual lives is a function of the congregation.*

Continued on page 3



Interim Pastor letter, continued

Further, having only one adult with the children during Sunday services can no longer be seen as an acceptable practice. This runs against even your own policy and is an unfeasible practice when children need help getting to the restroom, a parent needs to be retrieved from the sanctuary, or in the case of an emergency.

I've heard the rationale every time I've brought this up (educated liberal congregations are very good at rationalizing things that ought not be rationalized): "We've tried, but we've never been able to hire a second childcare worker." "Families like to go out to the big churches in the suburbs with the big children's programs." "We just don't have that many children...what if only one child shows up and we have two adults in the children's room?"

Don't let what bigger churches are doing limit your imagination. Relationships are what ground a community and a children's ministry. The fact is, you have several children in the life of the congregation, and they're really interesting kids! One of my favorite pub office hours thus far was sitting at a picnic table with Peter and Andrew hearing about their summer and all the things that they're interested in.

I wonder what might take shape if there were eight or ten adults in the congregation who wanted to spend a little time with the kids in the church. If a rotation of that many congregants (background checked and lightly trained on protocols) were to get started, that could mean one congregant joins the one paid childcare worker each week and each congregant would only be committing to being in the children's room once every two months.

I'm sure that some are nervous about what they would talk about with the kids, but the fact is, right before they go to the children's room, they've just had a brief children's time in the sanctuary, and they *always* want to talk more in that moment than time allows. Continuing that conversation for a few more minutes with a caring adult in the congregation in the children's room could be a real gift. (Otto has talked about Jesus walking on water for weeks after that lesson in children's time!)

There are also scads of good, progressive children's books that communicate a brief lesson that could prompt more discussion. Short Bible stories that invite wondering questions and conversation. And some simple imaginative play can also be a perfectly acceptable way to help form multigenerational relationships in congregations. It doesn't need to start out as a curriculum-intensive program.

I also want to be clear that the children's ministry of the church should be *informed by parents* of children, but parents *should not carry the load* of keeping the children's ministry staffed and running. My mom was an elementary school teacher with three children of her own, each spaced five years apart. She had children in her life every day for decades. She never once volunteered to teach children's Sunday school or lead children's programming at our church. My grandmother, on the other hand, taught fourth grade Sunday school for decades.

Interim Pastor letter, continued

Nurturing a multigenerational, relational children's ministry isn't just about the here-and-now. A church that is rooted in gospel values of peace and justice has a responsibility not just to preach and teach those values and practices to adults, but to help instill them in the lives of children who are fortunate to grow up with a congregation like UBC in their lives. (Fewer and fewer kids do these days.)

Early on in my ministry back in Cambridge, I was concerned about this same dynamic (you're never as unique as you think you are). We had a paid childcare worker. We had an associate pastor who curated the children's ministry. But hardly any adults in the congregation were involved in the ministry. One Sunday, after many lackluster attempts to invite adults to sign up on a rotation to be with the children in Sunday school once every other month or so, I preached a sermon on how important children's ministry was in the life of our congregation, no matter if we only had four or five kids on a Sunday. So, I vowed to them then if we were ever short an adult to work with the children on Sundays, I would forego being in the service with them in order to be with the children, and someone else could read the sermon I had prepared. Because the children were not less important than they were. (And if we take Jesus seriously, they may be *more* important. See Mark 9:36-37, 10:13-16, and Matthew 18:1-6.)

I can almost guarantee that when a prospective new settled pastor is interviewing you – because this will be a two-way interview – they are going to ask what's going on with children at UBC in their interview with the committee. They may even have their own kids to think about in a potential move. They won't be expecting to hear about droves of children and a grand children's program in a church the size of UBC. What they will be hoping to hear is that the church treats their ministry to children with intention and relational depth. I hope you'll be able to narrate such a ministry to them by the time you get to that point in the process.

The reality is you aren't coming at children's ministry in a position of deficit at UBC at all. You have children here. You have some paid childcare staff. You have some volunteers that try to keep the children's care going as best they can. You have a pastoral associate with years of elementary education experience and children of her own consulting with parents about the ministry. This is more about adding to the nascent strengths you already have by *nurturing possibilities* rather than talking yourself out of seeing them as possibilities at all.

Blessings,
Cody J. Sanders
Interim Pastor

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 4

Communion

Preaching: Cody Sanders

Sermon: "New Family"

Scripture: Mark 3:13-35

Worship Leader: Jonathan Lubke

Ushers: Trish Donley & Terri Wottrich

October 11

Preaching: Cody Sanders

Sermon: "Healing & Restoration"

Scripture: Mark 5; 10:46-52

Worship Leader: Megan Dahlberg

Ushers: Chris Follett & Gene Velasco

October 18

Preaching: Cody Sanders

Sermon: "Confrontations & Rejections"

Scripture: Mark 6:1-44

Worship Leader: Violet Butler

Ushers: Trish Donley & Chris Follett

October 25

Preaching: Brittany Monson-Moffatt

Sermon: "A Child-Focused Ministry"

Scripture: Mark 9:33-37

Worship Leader: Karen Thomas

Ushers: Trish Donley



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

Forums are held from about 11:30 to 12:30, after coffee time—or an hour from whenever we start (no later than 11:45!) We do our best to provide a Zoom option for remote participants.

October 4—All About You: Brittany Monson-Moffatt

Get to know Brittany, our pastoral associate for the interim, in this forum. Denise Roy will interview Brittany, with time for your questions, too.

October 11—Sleepers: The Exploits of Rip Van Winkle and Snow White

Kaleb Fischer and his team will give a behind-the-scenes view of the Trailblazing Theater Society Production Company's online mini-series.

October 18—Update from Tunisia

Gayla Marty will share highlights of her recent visit to Tunisia, where she studied in college and has returned many times over the years.

October 25—Talking about Transition

This will be the second forum in a series on topics related to our transition between pastors, let by interim pastor Cody Sanders.

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

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				9am Garden Team 6:30pm Caregiver Support Group		9am Bible Study 1pm Card Club
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am Worship 11am Coffee 11:30am Forum 11:30am Journeys		11:15am Meals on Wheels 5:30pm Sacred Harp	11am Handcraft Group 11:15am Meals on Wheels 6pm Choir 7:30pm Bells	9am Garden Team 11:15am Meals on Wheels	11am Every Meal 11:15am Meals on Wheels	9am-4pm Workday 1pm Book Group
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am Worship 11am Coffee 11:30am Forum 11:30am Journeys 1pm Council Meeting 4pm Sacred Harp	7pm Memoirs	5:30pm Sacred Harp	6pm Choir 7:30pm Bells	9am Garden Team		9am Bible Study
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am Worship 11am Coffee 11:30am Forum 11:30am Journeys	7pm Handcraft Group	5:30pm Sacred Harp 7pm Racial Justice Team	6pm Choir 7:30pm Bells			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am Worship 11am Coffee 11:30am Forum 11:30am Journeys 4pm Sacred Harp Newsletter deadline	7pm Memoirs	5:30pm Sacred Harp	6pm Choir 7:30pm Bells			

WHAT'S COMING UP

Racial Justice Team will meet on Tuesday, October 20, 7pm via Zoom to debrief the THRIVE and Alliance meetings that end on October 17th and talk about Advent ideas relating to Justice for Palestine

Memoirs Group meets via Zoom every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7pm. A separate Zoom link will be emailed. Let Jean Lubke know if you are interested.

Bible Study meets via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Saturday at 9am. Let Diane Ehr know if you are interested.

Journeys Bible Study meets during forum time in the Char Follett Library. Let Diane Ehr know if you are interested.

NOTE: Spanish Conversation group is taking a hiatus until January.

Zoom link for Bible Study, Book Group, and Racial Justice Team
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlbDcwUElZWmFmLzRyZm5OQT09>

Meeting ID: 517 697 6753
Passcode: 602794

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 be available.



Project MN-Leon

Saturday, October 24, 2-4pm.

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410

The meeting will include:

- An update on Nicaragua and folks involved with PML
- Discussion of the possible dissolution of PML
- Music and dessert!

OCTOBER 10 WORKDAY COMING!

During our July workday, we decided that we will commit to two workdays a year - fall and spring moving forward.

You are invited to help continue to spruce up our beautiful old building!

When: Saturday, October 10, 9am-4pm

Who: everyone old enough to help!

What: we'll be (finally) prepping and painting walls in the lower level, sorting out the kitchen cabinets, cleaning areas that can be rented

We have paint, supplies, and snacks remaining from the Palmer grant. Bring your own lunch or something to share!

Many hands make great progress!

Please register to help:

<https://forms.gle/HhTxjKmumhtjchMC9>

or contact Jean Lubke, jeanlubke01@gmail.com

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!

USHERS NEEDED!

We could use a couple more ushers. It's easy! Just arrive at 9:30am, greet people at the door, hand them a bulletin, take offering, and help visitors if needed. Commitment of approximately one Sunday every 4-6 weeks. See Chris Follett if interested.

FOOD AND FUN



The UBC Kids hosted the coffee time on September 6.

Pictured from left: Peter, Andrew, Odin and Otto.

Photo by Laura Justin

Due to rain, we brought the festivities indoors for our annual "Welcome Back" picnic on September 13.

Photos by Trish Donley



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



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

We are one quarter into the current fiscal year and our income numbers are healthy. (This report only includes income, not expenses. We will review the status of our budget at the Mid Year budget forum in January.) Pledges are running ahead of expected due to some folks paying their entire pledge this year. The miscellaneous income line includes contributions from congregants for Trista's severance package. Due to timing of this report, rentals look behind, but in reality our rental income is robust.

Operating Income 2026-27	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	49	\$186,857	\$31,143	\$60,580	\$13,866
Rental Income	24	\$90,000	\$15,000	\$13,867	(\$8,633)
Misc income	7	<u>\$26,000</u>	\$4,333	\$10,473	\$3,973
Subtotal		\$302,857	\$50,476	\$84,920	\$9,206
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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

14 Anna Lovat
19 Lilly Wright
21 Clara Meinerts
23 Anne Supplee
24 Morgan Gray
26 Don Follett (#93!)
27 Carrie Lubke
28 Atherton Wiseman



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

15 Jinsil & John Lee
23 Lucas Moravek & Pete Dawson
26 Mindy & Steve Lee



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](#).

PETER AND ANDREW JUSTIN FUNDRAISING FOR SCOUTS

Interested in ordering popcorn or a wreath? See links below.

Peter's popcorn sales:

<https://trails-end.com/store/scout/7EIDEGZC>

Andrew's popcorn sales:

<https://trails-end.com/store/scout/FM22C8KG>

Order wreaths using this Google form:

<https://forms.gle/bFMEvHoB9agwpx8r7>

and pay using Laura's Venmo: @Laura-Justin-1

NEW ADDRESS

Don Follett
Amira Choice Enhanced Care
2680 Lexington Ave N #110
Roseville MN 55113

UBC NEWS

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