

# UBC NEWS



**University Baptist Church**

**1219 University Ave SE**

**Minneapolis MN 55414**

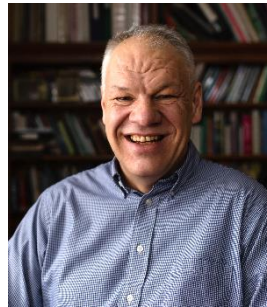
*Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN*

**April 2024**

## From the Pastor

### How Will You Commit?

**A**s we enter April, I am so thankful for this great congregation. Not only have you been a consistent and powerful voice for justice and peace over the decades. This season, you really showed your true colors as you supported me during my ongoing unexpected medical challenges. I have felt the congregation's support and prayers lifting me as I recover. I feel stronger every day, largely because of you.



As you know, our program and budget year begins on July 1st. Our Commitment Sunday is April 14th. We'll celebrate our commitments to UBC on that day.

This is also the season that we consider our commitments to living out the Gospel in this congregation. We send out a note like this every spring in preparation for our annual meeting, this year planned for June 2nd.

The UBC Council has started its work on a preliminary budget and the Talent Team has already begun surveying the congregation about the ways they might want to use their time and talent at UBC in the coming year. If all goes well, we'll have a slate of officers and a budget to vote on at our annual meeting.

For the past several months, we have been going through a discernment process to make plans for our short- and long-term future. The discussions have been rich and there is a great energy at UBC that is palpable. We just received a grant from the American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Regions (ABCRGR) to underwrite this work.

Commitment at UBC goes far beyond financial support. It's also about using our immense talent and valuable time in the best way possible. Stop by UBC and pick up a time and talent sheet and a pledge card. The Council and the Talent Team will use this information to help build leadership teams for various church-related tasks as well as a budget.

You can also make a financial pledge on our web site: <https://www.ubcmn.org/giving>. Kim and I have

*Continued on page 2*



## APRIL FORUMS

Forums are held 11:30–12:30 after coffee time in the lounge. We do our best to make them available to participants at home by Zoom using the same link as for Joys & Concerns.

### April 7—Sermon talk-back: Challenges from Dexter’s Garden

Learn more about Pastor Doug’s spring sermon series, Challenges from Dexter’s Garden, inspired by the garden at the Dexter parsonage, home of Martin Luther King, Jr., when he lived in Montgomery, Alabama. The garden contains benches marked with plaques for equality, hope, forgiveness, unity, peace, and understanding. Pastor Doug will also share reflections on his recent medical leave.

### April 14—Introducing The F Word: Stories of Forgiveness

Exhibit curator Louisa Hext will talk about the exhibit installed in the UBC sanctuary through April 26 and the Forgiveness Project, whose co-founder Marina Cantacuzino will join us from London next week.

### April 21—Forgiveness, an exploration

The Forgiveness Project cofounder Marina Cantacuzino will talk about her book, *Forgiveness: An Exploration*, published in the UK in 2022 and now released in the United States. Copies will be available for purchase.

### April 28—Decolonizing the Great Commission

Pastor Doug Donley and Gayla Marty are representing UBC at the 2024 annual gathering of the Alliance of Baptists in Charlotte, NC, April 12–14, and at a meeting of representatives from the THRIVE congregations on April 11. They will report on highlights.

OPINION EXCHANGE | *How we as Christians have contributed over the ages to Mideast violence* published in the March 25, 2024 StarTribune, signed by many clergy including Doug Donley.

<https://www.startribune.com/how-we-as-christians-have-contributed-over-the-ages-to-mideast-violence/600353984/>

### NEW ADDRESS

Francisco (Frank) Díaz Escoto and his sister (Nazareth) Belén Díaz have a new address effective March 29.

**8151 - 14th Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55425**

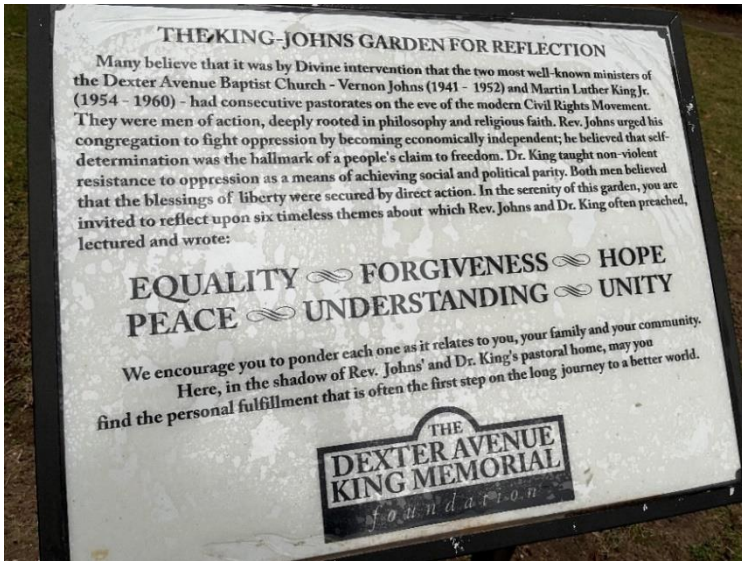
Belén's new phone number is 651-207-9250  
Frank can be contacted through Facebook Messenger and What's App.

### Palm Sunday Brunch, March 24

The threat of a major winter storm held off until after 10 a.m. so we had a nice crowd of about 60 people attending the annual Palm Sunday brunch, including some new folks and some we haven’t seen for a while. We had a fine spread of egg dishes, sausages, breads and sweet rolls and fruit to satisfy all. Eventually we had about 8 inches of snow on Sunday. (Sorry no photos!)

## Reflections from Dexter's Garden

Back in November of 2022, six UBCers visited Montgomery, Alabama, for an Alliance of Baptists Conference entitled, "Excavating our Roots". We visited the Legacy Museum and Monument (<https://legacysites.eji.org/about/museum>) and learned about the roots of White Supremacy and the Doctrine of Discovery.



A couple of us visited the parsonage of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church where Vernon Johns and Martin Luther King and their families lived (see photo below.) In the back yard, we came across a garden that held six benches, each one with a different word on which to reflect. So, during Eastertide, we're going to do exactly that. We're going to linger a week each on these six words – Equality, Hope, Forgiveness, Unity, Peace, Understanding – each a piece of the puzzle for a nonviolent lifestyle.

Photos by Doug Donley



# Calendar for April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>11:15 a.m.</b> Meals on Wheels <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp	<b>11 a.m.</b> Handcraft Grp <b>11:15 a.m.</b> Meals on Wheels <b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells	<b>11:15 a.m.</b> Meals on Wheels <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Caregiver Support Group		<b>9 a.m.</b> Bible Study
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship Communion Joys & Concerns <b>11 a.m.</b> Coffee <b>11:30 a.m.</b> Forum/Journeys		<b>7 p.m.</b> Memoir Group	<b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells		<b>11 a.m.</b> Every Meal	<b>10 a.m.</b> Card Club
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship Bells play <b>11 a.m.</b> Coffee <b>11 a.m.-2 p.m.</b> "The F Word" open <b>11:30 a.m.</b> Forum/Journeys <b>1:30 p.m.</b> Council <b>4 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp	<b>7 p.m.</b> Knitting Grp	<b>11 a.m.-2 p.m.</b> "The F Word" open <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp <b>7 p.m.</b> Anti-Racism Work	<b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells	<b>11 a.m.-2 p.m.</b> "The F Word" open		<b>9 a.m.</b> Bible Study <b>9 a.m.</b> Bell rehearsal <b>1 p.m.</b> Book Group <b>7 p.m.</b> Roots Cellar Concert
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship Joys & Concerns <b>11 a.m.</b> Coffee <b>11:30 a.m.</b> Forum/Journeys <b>3 p.m.</b> Bell Concert		<b>11 a.m.-2 p.m.</b> "The F Word" open <b>7 p.m.</b> Memoir Group	<b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells	<b>11 a.m.-2 p.m.</b> "The F Word" open  <i>Newsletter deadline</i>		<b>9 a.m.</b> Bell rehearsal @ Grove UMC
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship Joys & Concerns <b>11 a.m.</b> Coffee <b>11:30 a.m.</b> Forum/Journeys <b>3 p.m.</b> Bell Concert @ Grove UMC <b>4 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp						

## 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 (also on Zoom)**

**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

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

### Following Joys & Concerns – Coffee time in the lounge

**11:30 a.m. – Forum in the lounge (also on Zoom)**

**11:30 a.m. – “Journeys” Bible Study in the library**

**April 7:** FELLOWSHIP (Psalm 133)

**April 14:** AUTHENTICITY (Luke 24: 36-48)

**April 21:** PEACEMAKING (1 John 3: 16-24)

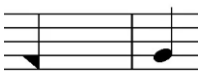
**April 28:** INCLUSION (Acts 8: 26-40)

If you have any questions or would like a book, please contact Nancy Myers or Diane Ehr.



**Choir and Bell Rehearsal – Wednesday evenings** in the church sanctuary. Please see the calendar on page 4 for specific times.

**Meals on Wheels April 1-4.** 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 [marielafance46@gmail.com](mailto:marielafance46@gmail.com).



fa sol

**Sacred Harp Singing – April 2 & 16 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays), 5:30-7:30 p.m. and April 14 & 28 (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays), 4-6 p.m.** at UBC in Room 303. No experience or talent necessary!

**UBC-FCC Daytime Handcraft Group – April 3 (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday), 11 a.m.** at First Congregational Church (500 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE) in the Parlor. Bring your craft project and lunch if you like. If you are interested and want to be on a distribution list, please let Marilyn Burns (from FCC) know at [mbsnoobear@mac.com](mailto:mbsnoobear@mac.com) or see Chris Follett for questions.



## More of What's Going On



**Caregiver Support Group – April 4 (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday), 6:30 p.m.** UBCers who have an elderly family member meet for support. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lubke at [lubk0001@umn.edu](mailto:lubk0001@umn.edu).

**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID 829 0006 6861 Passcode 942930

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82900066861?pwd=RUQ1eGhYN1RzWTJCR0VTNG1JNFV5UT09>

**Bible Study – April 6 & 20 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays), 9 a.m.** On the 6th we'll read the Letter to Titus, all 3 chapters. The Scripture for the 20th remains undecided. New and occasional members are always welcome. No special background, skill, or preparation is required. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ehr at [DianeEhr@q.com](mailto:DianeEhr@q.com).

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

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

**WHY READ THE BIBLE?  
IT'S IN OUR BAPTIST DNA!**



**Memoir Writing Group – April 9 & 23 (every other Tuesday), 7 p.m.**

Prompts include *Eggs*, *Holy* and *Grief* or anything else you feel called to write about. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Donley at [patricia.donley63@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.donley63@gmail.com).

**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID: 831 4584 1908 Passcode: 313775

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83145841908?pwd=djhuSmMwZ1NESXZ5SExNOURXa2FNQT09>

**Every Meal – April 12 (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Marcy Open School in SE Mpls. Volunteers are needed to deliver meal bags to student backpacks in their lockers during the school day. If you are interested, please contact Denise Roy at [denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu](mailto:denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu).



**Card Club – Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.** at Jean Lubke's home. This group meets monthly to learn card-making techniques, share ideas, and make beautiful greeting cards. Due to the limited space and the need to prepare materials, registration is needed for each month's session. If you are interested, please contact Jean at [lubk0001@umn.edu](mailto:lubk0001@umn.edu) or 651-295-7525.

**Stories @ First: A Story Slam Event – Saturday, April 13, 7-9 p.m.** Our friends at First Congregational Church (500 8th Ave SE) invite us to join in an experience of creating community through storytelling. The theme for the evening is "wonder." Snacks and mocktails will be served at intermission. If you would like to tell a story, please take a look at the [guidelines](#).



## More of What's Going On

# the f word: stories of forgiveness

Forgiveness cuts public opinion down the middle like a guillotine. It is a word that inspires and affronts in equal measure. To some, it is weak and offensive, while to others it is a form of self-defiance, the only way to live with the past without being held captive by it. These stories show the highly personal, diverse and complex nature of forgiveness.

The **F Word** exhibition was created by The Forgiveness Project, an organization that uses personal stories to explore how concepts of reconciliation, conflict resolution and dialogue can be used to break cycles of violence and restore hope.

### Guest speakers on April 14 and 21:

Louisa Hext will introduce the exhibit and the Forgiveness Project at the forum on April 14. Then on April 21, the Forgiveness Project cofounder, London-based journalist and author Marina Cantacuzino, will speak at UBC as part of her 10-day US tour around the release of her book, *Forgiveness: An Exploration* (Simon & Schuster, 2022 in the UK). She will give a lay sermon during the service, and the forum will focus on her book, which will be available for sale. Louisa will be present that day as well.



**The Book**  
*Forgiveness: An Exploration*  
by Marina Cantacuzino



More Information  
[theforgivenessproject.com](http://theforgivenessproject.com)

11 AM - 2 PM  
**TUES & THURS**  
APRIL 16, 18, 23, 25

**OPEN HOURS**  
ALSO AVAILABLE SATURDAY THE 20TH EVENING, AFTER CHURCH AT 11:30 ON APRIL 14 AND 21 - AND BY APPOINTMENT. AT UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Photographer, Brian Moody

**"The F Word: Stories of Forgiveness" will be on display at UBC April 14-26.**

[The F Word: Stories of Forgiveness](#) exhibition is a thought-provoking collection of arresting images and personal narratives exploring forgiveness in the face of atrocity. Drawing together voices from South Africa, America, Israel, Palestine, Northern Ireland and England, the exhibition examines forgiveness as a healing process, a path out of victimhood and, ultimately, a journey of hope.

In addition, the forum on **April 14** will introduce the exhibit with a presentation by Louisa Hext, the North American curator. Cofounder Marina Cantacuzino will be here with Louisa on **April 21** while on her US book tour for [Forgiveness: An Exploration](#) and will preach and talk at the forum. (See page 2 for the sermon on April 21 and page 3 for the forums on April 14 and 21.)

**NOTE:** Volunteers are needed to watch over the display:

- Sundays, April 14 and 21, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (during forum)
- Before and during the Roots Cellar concert which is on Saturday, April 20, 7 p.m.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 16, 18, 23, and 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- On call for special viewing appointments

Please contact Kim Donley, [kim.donley4@gmail.com](mailto:kim.donley4@gmail.com) or 763-242-5990 if you are able to fill one or more of these spots.



## More of What's Going On



**UBC-FCC Knitting Group – April 15 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday), 7 p.m.** at Cynthia Hobbie'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](mailto:chrisf2828@yahoo.com).

**UBC Anti-Racism Work – Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.** We will continue discussing the Mississippi section in *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy*, by Robert P. Jones. We are also planning activities for the coming months (see also page 10). Next meeting is on May 14 via Zoom. All are welcome!

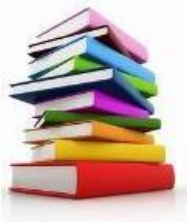


**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZINlYDcwUElZTWFMlZRYmZm5OQT09>

The Anti-Racism Group is looking for people who might be interested in representing UBC at "Peace Camp": **July 15-20** at Mars Hill University near Asheville, NC—[Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America Peace Camp](#)

Please contact Pastor Doug or Denise Roy if you might be interested.



**Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women Book Group – April 20 (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday), 1 p.m.** The book this month is *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at [chrisf2828@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisf2828@yahoo.com). NOTE: For February through May only, due to scheduling conflicts with the discernment retreats, we will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.

**ZOOM INFO:** meeting ID 862 1724 5904 passcode 651444

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86217245904?pwd=UnVucUtSRlp1Mmc3Vkhra1BuYmxVQT09>

**ROOTS CELLAR CONCERT: Charlie Maguire – Saturday, April 20, 7 p.m.**

Called "A legend in the Midwest" by the Winnipeg Folk Festival; a performer "Who can sing, really sing" by Diane Sawyer of ABC-TV; and whose songs are "Damn good and so are you" by Pete Seeger. He performs songs about the Great Lakes, small towns, farming, and the people who make life interesting. To learn more, go to <https://www.charliemaguire.com/> Tickets are \$20 and available here: <https://events.humanitix.com/charliemaguire>



### Mark Your Calendar...

**May 11** – Discernment Retreat #3

**June 2** – Annual Meeting

**July 7 & 14 at FCC; July 21 & 28 at UBC** - Combined summer services with First Congregational Church

**August 16-26** – Nicaraguan sister church visit

## More of What's Going On

### Joint Bell Concerts Coming

The bell choirs of University Baptist Church and Grove United Methodist Church (Woodbury) will perform joint bell concerts in April –

**April 21 at 3 p.m. at UBC**

**April 28 at 3 p.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, Woodbury**

A freewill offering will be taken at the April 21st concert for the 2026 concert tour to Italy (see below); the offering at the April 28th concert will be used for concert shirts for the Grove bell choir. The April 21st concert will also be livestreamed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwlsx-E46hk>

Come hear the bells!



**HAND BELL CONCERT**

FEATURING:  
THE GROVE STEEPLE BELLS &  
THE UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CARILLON CHOIR

<b>April 21</b> University Baptist Church 1219 University Ave Minneapolis	<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>April 28</b> The Grove Church 7465 Steepleview Rd. Woodbury
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DIRECTED BY  
**DR. JEAN LUBKE**

\*FREE WILL OFFERING  
AT BOTH CONCERTS

### UBC Bells Concert Tour #7 - a Italia!

UBC Bell Choirs and members of Grove UMC Steeple Bells have decided on our next tour - We're going to northern Italy in July 2026!

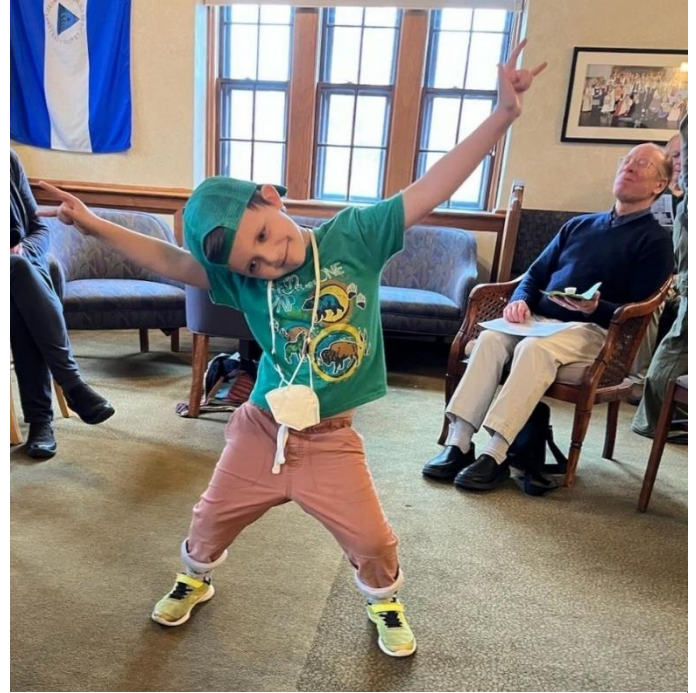
The tour will include visits to Venice, glass-making in Murano, a cooking class, wine-tasting, Milan, and the amazing 400-600 C.E. paradise mosaics in Ravenna.

The cost will be approximately \$4500/person. We will be looking for fundraising opportunities. Also, if a trip like this sounds like fun to you, join us as a roadie!! The tables and almost all of the bells will already be in Europe, so we'll have much less to carry!

### Sacred Sites Tour

The Antiracism Group is planning a Sacred Sites tour in the spring/summer led by Jim Bear Jacobs from the Minnesota Council of Churches. We are forming a group with representatives from UBC, First Congregational Church and University Lutheran Church of Hope. For more information, contact Denise Roy.

## Wearing (and eating) of the Green! Kids Host St. Patrick's Day Coffee Time



Left: Andrew, Peter, Finn and Otto admire their work. **Photo by Carrie Lubke.** Above: Andrew strikes a pose. **Photo by Doug Donley**

### Appeal to support policies for increased wages for early childcare educators and providers, and for funding to cap childcare costs

By Megan Dahlberg

Dianne Haulcy is one of my sheroes. She is the President and CEO of the Family Partnership which is an organization that has been around for decades in the Twin Cities whose work is to disrupt intergenerational cycles of poverty, adversity and trauma through mental health service, early childhood education, family home visiting, anti-sex trafficking and advocacy services.

She also works with MPR to produce the Early Risers Podcast which discusses ways that parents can raise anti-racist children. Finally, she is the chair of the Northside Achievement Zone board.

In an editorial in the MinnPost she recently wrote to highlight the dividends that our state's investments in children and families will pay in both monetary and social outcomes. The purpose of the article, though, was to urge individuals to contact their legislators and argue for them to support policies that increase wages for early childcare educators and providers and for funding to cap child care costs. Please follow this link to her editorial and please join me in advocating for our families and young children.

Here is the full article:

<https://www.minnpost.com/community-voices/2024/03/investments-in-children-and-families-pays-economic-and-social-dividends/>

## Celebration of the Life of Lu Carman



We celebrated the life of Lu Carman at a moving service on March 23. The sanctuary was decorated with some of the beautiful Indian saris and fabrics donated to UBC by the Carmans.

Granddaughter Anna Perkins shared her memories. She also sang a solo. (Photo on left)

The UBC Choir was joined by a group of Lu's family to sing the Carman family hymn, "O love that will not let me go." (Photo below)

About 70 people were in attendance for the service, which was followed by fellowship and a luncheon.



## UBC Discernment Process Update

On March 9, 19 UBCers met in person and 9 UBCers joined via Zoom to further the work of our discernment process. We brainstormed, discussed, listened, challenged, word smithed, wrestled, and listened some more. Our direction is beginning to come into focus.

We've reached consensus on our practical vision. These are not a succinct Vision Statement as we may be accustomed, but rather areas that answer the question: **"What do we want to see in place in 2-5 years as a result of OUR actions?"** (NOTE: These are not listed in any sequence or priority order.)

- An imaginative, sustainable building plan
- Relationally inclusive ministry, partnerships, and leadership
- Realistic growth strategies
- Efficient and accessible organizational operations (including staff and volunteers)
- A thriving, diverse, and collaborative music program
- A clear definition and claiming of our identity and our voice
- Active participation and support of social progress and justice
- A sense of belonging through intergenerational support and growth

Then we dug deep and answered the really difficult question: **"What is blocking US from moving toward our vision?"**

- (Our) perfectionism blocks (the) development of strategic action plans and realistic expectations.
- Not prioritizing professional marketing and communication has inhibited our sustainability and mission.
- The fear of losing US is causing a lack of consensus about the building and stopping the congregation from seeking long-term solutions.

- (The) imbalance between our human resources and (our) congregational actions is interfering with the accomplishment of our internal operations and outreach missions.

Whew! Our next steps will occur on **May 11**. We will begin by identifying our **Key Directions – what are the actions WE can do to remove our blocks to achieving our vision?** Get your creative, out-of-the-box juices flowing – let's dream! Then we'll **analyze the opportunities and craft a Year One priorities action plan**. Get ready to act!



Our facilitators, Richard and Travis.  
Photo by Chris Follett

### PLEASE RSVP

To register for our May 11 discernment retreat, please use this link to complete your registration. (NOTE: The previous registration only included the February and March retreats.)

<https://forms.gle/qGQMfKzGMX5aNshaA>

Look for the new Discernment Bulletin board outside the office!

- *Jean Lubke, Congregational President*

## Commitment Time is Here!

Just as we are discerning the future of UBC, it's time for each of us to discern how we will support the work and ministry of UBC – with our time, our talents, and our financial resources in our next program year (from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). An email with the commitment packet - including a proposed budget for 2024-2025, a Time and Talent sheet, a Leadership sheet, a pledge card, and a Wish List – has been sent electronically to you. Hard copies are also available.

**Our Commitment Sunday will be April 14th.** Please read over the information provided in the packet and discern where your energy, gifts, interests and talents can best be used to serve the ministries of UBC. What do you enjoy doing? What are your special skills? Find areas to participate and mark your willingness on the Time and Talent sheet. Are you called to coordinate or lead one of our core ministries or to serve on the church Council?

The proposed budget shows a tentative financial plan for next year's work of the church. Based on the pledge commitments, the Council will meet in May and try to reconcile the anticipated ministry needs and the anticipated pledge income. Your financial commitments are crucial to help the Council plan staff compensation, building projects, and ministry work. The Wish List contains ideas that don't fit into the budget but would benefit the work of the church. Consider your financial situation and discern how you are able to contribute – does it work best for you to make regular payments, to make one lump sum payment for the year, or to purchase (or contribute to) one of the wish list items? Please complete the pledge card or contact Chris Follett ([Chrisf2828@yahoo.com](mailto:Chrisf2828@yahoo.com)) with your decision.

Either bring your completed forms to church on Sunday, April 14, when we will ceremoniously deliver our commitments during the worship service, or send them to church or Chris prior to April 14th. (If you send them via mail, please email Chris to let her know.)

### The UBC Talent Team wants to hear from you!

Spring is the time for all of us to look at opportunities for growth, both personally and as a Church. As we approach the new church year, let us look at ourselves in terms of the unique skill set each of us has.

The Talent Team has begun their work to fill the UBC Ministry Nominating Slate for 2024-2025. We would like to know what each of you wants to do. How do you feel that you can contribute to our wonderful church community? And above all...what is your passion?

We are open to looking at new ways of filling positions. There are opportunities to creatively share, shadow, or co-team lead. Or, are you called to create a new area we haven't explored before, such as having a Grants Team? Our church has a reputation of helping others; how do we continue to build that into our community?

From the perspective of our small committee, it is amazing that such a small church has such a great wealth of creative talents. Please help us to determine how best to use these. You can either fill out and return the Time & Talent sheet that comes in the pledge packet, or contact Margie Garmers, Sue Wester, or Marcy Schultz directly. We look forward to hearing from each of you!

On approximately May 19th, you will receive UBC's Annual Report for 2023-2024 including the proposed slate of leadership nominees and the proposed budget, based on your input. On Sunday, June 2, after the worship service, we will have our Annual Meeting celebrating our past year, voting on the new leadership candidates, and approving a budget for 2024-2025. The meeting will also be available for online participation via Zoom.

- Jean Lubke, Congregational President

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Most of our income (57%) comes from pledges made by members. Pledges are slightly ahead as some people prepaid their annual pledge.



late. In addition, not noted in this chart, we received a grant from American Baptist Churches – Rochester Genesee region to partially cover the expenses for our discernment retreats.

Expected annual rental income is 21% of our budget. Property Manager Patrick Mavity does a great job renting out spaces that don't have a regular tenant. As a result, we have a surplus in this category.

The Foundation distribution is 17%, which includes \$33,399 for the property manager position. The Foundation funds are transferred to the UBC checking account as needed by the treasurer.


Other gifts and miscellaneous income provide 5% of our budget. We have had some generous donations of

Operating Income 2023-24	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	57	\$187,940	\$140,955	\$144,918	\$3,963
Rental Income	21	\$70,000	\$52,500	\$54,469	\$1,969
Misc income*	5	<u>\$15,000</u>	\$11,250	\$21,223	\$9,973
Subtotal		<b>\$272,940</b>	\$204,705	\$220,610	\$15,905
Foundation Contribution	17	<u>\$54,066</u>		-	
Total Operating Income	100	<b>\$327,006</b>			
Justice & Outreach		<u>\$15,000</u>		\$10,615	

\*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

The dedicated offering for March/April is for children's health and hunger programs and we have received \$1,000 to date.

Chris Follett, Financial Secretary



You can scan this QR code on your phone to be directed to our web page where there are a variety of causes to donate to.

### UBC Wish List for 2023-24

These are items that don't fit in the budget but would be really nice to have.

1. A new church sign on University Ave. that faces oncoming traffic.
2. A big welcoming banner on the west side of the building visible to people driving or walking on University Ave.
3. Funds for a marketing communications consultant and/or graphic designer.
4. Funds for assistance migrating financial records from Money 2005 to QuickBooks Online.
5. Upgrade or replacement of our playground equipment.
6. Upgrade of our blue hymnal.
7. New furnishings for the nursery.
8. And others not listed here...

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Meals on Wheels

UBC has an opportunity to participate in Meals on Wheels on M-Th of the first full week of the month (**April 1-4**). Meals are picked up around 11:15 a.m. and the route usually takes 1-2 hours. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a ride-along, please contact Marie LaFrance at [marielafance46@gmail.com](mailto:marielafance46@gmail.com).

### Little Free Pantry

We are looking for individuals 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.

### Every Meal

UBC participates in *Every Meal*, a program that distributes bagged food for families of children at Marcy Open School who receive free and reduced-cost meals. UBC is scheduled on **April 12**, 11 a.m. to about 1 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Denise Roy at [denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu](mailto:denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu)

### UBC History Research

At the Minnesota History Center, UBC has 19 boxes of files and other materials. If you would like to join a team going over to the History Center sometime Wed-Sat, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1-4 p.m., please contact Gayla Marty at [gaylamarty@gmail.com](mailto:gaylamarty@gmail.com).

### Looking for Volunteers

**Coffee hosts** – Sign up in the lounge

**Communion prep** – Contact Terri Wottrich

**Sunday school teachers** - Contact Megan Dahlberg

**Ushers** – Contact Chris Follett

**Worship leaders** – Contact Deidre Druk

## Special Offering for March and April Childhood Health & Hunger Programs

The Outreach mission focus for March and April will be for organizations combatting childhood hunger and supporting children's health. Groups who have received funding in the past include: the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Avenues for Youth, Every Meal and the Northside Achievement Zone. Thank you for any donations you can make to support programs that help our children and youth.

You can drop your 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](http://www.UBCmn.org).

Thank you for your ongoing Outreach support!!

*Kim Donley and Deidre Druk,  
Outreach Co-Chairs*



## Contribution from the UBC Memoir Group

### A Neighborhood Corporation

By Harriet Johnson

The young homeowners of our Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood were deeply concerned in that spring of 1965 as we witnessed a number of family-owned very nice older homes around us being bought up by one particular absentee landlord and converted into shabby cheap rooming houses. He bought with cash from unsuspecting older widows who had raised their families in the big homes and needed now to move out quickly for health reasons.

The neighborhood had always been a mixture of owner occupants with young children, students and faculty at the University, and some young working folks as well as some older long-term residents. But the mix was rapidly deteriorating as many absentee landlords were converting homes to rental property and exploiting the younger renters. It was a rapidly changing neighborhood, and mumblings of concern rose up from number of young families who were worried about the changes.

One beloved older resident suggested that a group gather together to discuss the problem and plan some course of action. "Could we meet at your place?", she asked us. "We need as large a living room as we can find. And your boys are little and go to bed early so we can meet at your house nicely".

Cork and I agreed to serve as the gathering place and the meeting was set for our house. We knew that feelings would be strong and plans needed to be made quickly so we gathered all the chairs we could find and put out all our ash trays for the large group that would be sharing intense feelings in our living room. It turned out to be a smoky room with some people even sitting on the floor. Folks were invited to come informally and to bring their friends who might also share their concern and want to look for solutions. It was warm enough to keep the front door open as 23 folks straggled in to the circle of neighbors.

I perched on my stairway for a seat and surveyed the crowd below me. There was a Republican businessman, a Medical School faculty member, an older housewife, a Democratic City Councilman, a young graduate student, and a high-school biology teacher. The list was as varied as our community.

One of the long-time residents outlined for us the extent of the problem and presented some suggestions. It was finally decided to form a legal company called The First Southeast Corporation. We all agreed to fund it by buying stock in our company. One of our neighbors who was a lawyer offered to do the legal work pro bono. Another neighbor who was a realtor agreed to work for us at no cost. We elected a Board of Directors who could proceed to buy properties quickly when they came on the market and as they used the neighborhood grapevine. They would do what needed to be done to renovate the property, and then sell to an owner occupant who would live in the home. The stocks were \$100 a share, and \$9000 was raised that very evening as people opened their check books and wrote out the amount of stock they were purchasing.

After the last neighbor left, Cork and I folded the bridge table chairs, picked up the pillows, and emptied the ash trays. We sank down on our sofa and looked at each other in amazement. We had just bought 3 shares at \$100 each with our meagre savings. It was in a new company and we might never see that money again; but we had joined with our neighbors in a real plan to hold the line against absentee landlord exploitation. It was exciting and awing, and there was work to be done.

Our first property was acquired the next month in July of 1965 with a down payment of \$750. We knew by the neighborhood grapevine about the coming  
*Continued on page 18*

*Neighborhood – continued*

availability of that particular house and had wanted to beat out the absentee landlord in purchasing it before him. Later we sold it to a family after a year of renovation and negotiation, and at a small profit to the First Southeast Corporation. Actually, our corporation never declared dividends because we just plowed any profits back into the next house that we bought. From that historic meeting in our living room in 1965 until 2002, the First Southeast Corporation handled 20 properties, helped families become homeowners, and made an impact on the community simply by its existence. It said to the current, existing homeowners: “We are here and we are at work and you do not need to flee to the suburbs.” It was our community at work in an unprecedented way.

A new opportunity opened for us after a few years as the Federal Government under L.B. Johnson and the Congress provided additional funds and different ways to provide affordable housing in city neighborhoods.

This time developers of Section 8 Housing were given funds to encourage them to build new housing, but they must work with a non-profit organization in the local area. Since we were a for-profit organization, we could not help in this unless we made a change. The Board and the stock holders quickly decided to continue our for-profit organization called The First Southeast Corporation and its work, but in addition to form a not-for-profit organization called The Second Southeast Corporation. Now we had a way of accepting Government Funds and applying for grants.

Under this umbrella a number of new housing units were built as Section 8 Housing for renting to families—families, again, in the widest sense of the word. You can see these buildings today at 35W between Como and Talmage Avenues.

Sometimes, though, even our two new corporations were not able to move fast enough to buy a good property before the absentee landlord arrived with his cash in his hand. One day my telephone rang with

Diane's frantic voice on the other end of the line calling to ask my help. “We need to move right now—today—if we are going to buy Marie's property that just came on the market today! I can't get hold of the Chair of the Foundation who is working. What can we do?” It was a desperate situation. We knew the former owner who had died; we knew and had met in her house while she was an active member of our Board; we knew the urgency of buying in that particular block.

So, the two of us—two young mothers at home with tots-- contacted the Realtor and put down the Earnest Money ourselves between the two of us with checks from our personal family bank accounts. It was with a bit of concern that I contacted my husband later and informed him we had just bought a house together with another couple. We also contacted the Chairman of the Board of the First Southeast Corporation and asked him to get his Board to buy it from us as soon as possible.

That evening there gathered in our living room before a flickering fire the Johnsons and the Lassmans with glasses of wine – two couples who were celebrating the wives who had bought themselves an extra house and the patient husbands who were astounded but agreed with the actions their wives had taken.

The First Southeast Corporation continued for 33 years buying, repairing, and selling houses in all three parts of Southeast Minneapolis. The Como and Prospect Park Neighborhoods joined with us after a few years, and properties were renovated there as well. Volunteers from all three neighborhoods gave of their time and effort as well as their money as they, too, purchased stock in the First Corporation. In the end it was the changes in Real Estate financing, the end of Government money, and the fatigue of the eager volunteers which finally brought about the closing of both Corporations. But the initial ideas and efforts had paid off in neighborhood stability for a long period of time; and investors did get their initial \$100 back-- but without interest. We had invested in our neighborhood.

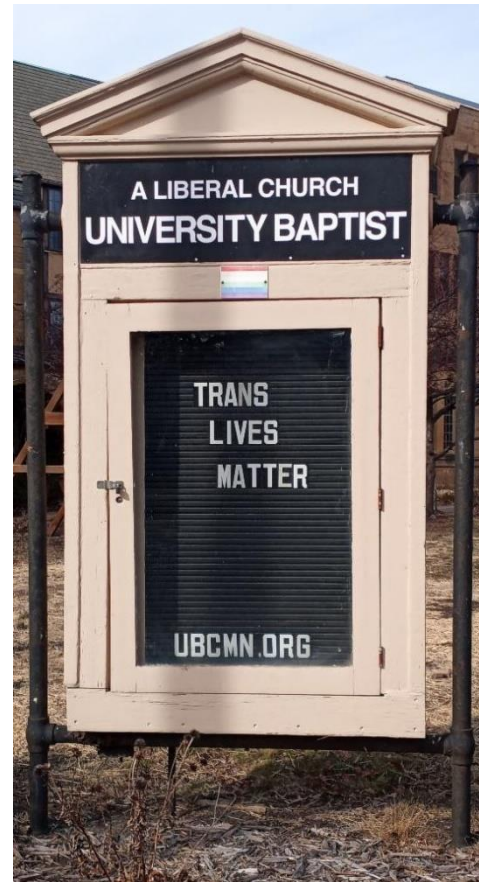


### April Birthdays

- 3 Kamiyah Walton
- 9 Betty Roy
- 10 David Martyn
- 12 Erica Garmers Perreault
- 19 Elwyn Fraser, Jr.
- 26 Denise Roy

### April Anniversaries

- 27 Rachael Acevedo & Zach Hoffman



Here's an Earth Day activity that might interest you!



*Sustainable Living: The 6 Rs of Recycling (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Repair, and Repurpose) at the Roseville Library on Sunday April 7 at 1:30 p.m.*

<https://rclreads.bibliocommons.com/events/65d664745e1ddf360059896f>

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