



UBC NEWS

University Baptist Church
1219 University Ave SE
Minneapolis MN 55414

Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

April 2023

From the Pastor

Spring Will Come!

It's no accident that Easter comes in the spring. We need it. Something for which to look forward. No matter how much grief and hardship we endure, and we do endure, not just survive, Easter will come. It's as sure as the bulb popping out of the garden next to snow banks we have endured since November.



French horn and a congregational singing of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.

I think God knew that we needed some hope in our lives after a long winter and whatever despair that might accompany our lives. I think spring and Easter are both about looking forward. I don't know about you, but I could use that right now.

By the time Easter rolls around, there will still be snow in piles, but it will be old snow, insulated by leaves and debris. And I bet some crocuses and hyacinth will make their first appearance around the time that the stone is mysteriously rolled away from the tomb.

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

On our way to Easter (April 9), we'll have our Palm Sunday service (April 2), complete with a brunch for the first time in three years. We'll have a Holy Friday service (can we find a better name than Good Friday?) at 7:30 p.m. on April 7. We'll have a pancake breakfast/Easter egg hunt on April 8 from 10-12 (complete with Donley maple syrup).

Then on Easter, we'll have a 6:30 a.m. Sunrise service on the lawn. Our regular Easter service will be at 10 a.m. featuring the UBC Chorale, Margie Garmers on



Crocus in the UBC Garden March 31, 2020.

Photo by Jim Ross

April 2 – Palm Sunday

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Jesus the Revolutionary”

Scripture: Luke 19:28-48

Worship Leader: Deidre Druk

April 7 – Holy Friday

Leading: Doug Donley with 5 readers

Liturgy: "Seven Last Words," readings, music, and meditations on the intersection of ancient and contemporary texts

Scripture: from Matthew 27, Luke 23, John 19, Psalm 22, and more

April 9 - Easter

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Jesus the Savior”

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Worship Leader: Jean Lubke

April 16 – Commitment Sunday

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “The Church is Born”

Scripture: Acts 1:3-5, 12-14

Worship Leader: Gayla Marty

April 23

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “The Earth is Redeemed”

Scripture: Song of Songs 4:9-16

Worship Leader: TBD

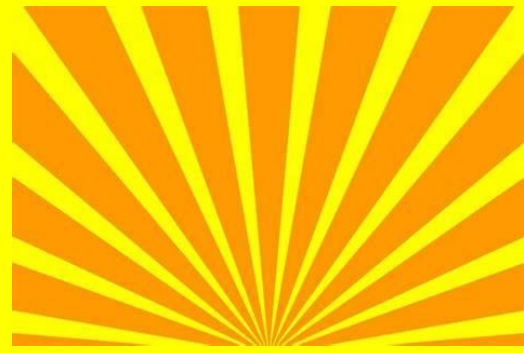
April 30

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Wisdom’s Legacy”

Scripture: Sirach 1:14-20

Worship Leader: TBD



**Sunrise Service
Easter Sunday, April 9
6:30 a.m.**

Please join us for an Easter sunrise service on the UBC lawn. Bring a warm beverage from home, maybe a lawn chair, and imagine what that first Easter sunrise was like for Mary Magdalene at the tomb.

The regular 10 a.m. Easter service will be inside and livestreamed.

**Some Roads Closed in Dinkytown
Palm Sunday, APRIL 2**

Goldy’s Run on the U of M campus will be held Sunday morning, April 2. During the race, Fourth Street between Oak Street and 15th Avenue will be closed. Portions of University Avenue and East River Parkway will have lane restrictions. Please be prepared for delays. Consider carpooling. Click [here](#) for more information.



APRIL 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.

April 2 & 9—No forum

Palm Sunday and Easter

April 16—Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Amanda Donley will talk about her work at Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence in River Falls, Wisconsin, where she is the sexual assault services coordinator. Turningpoint has been serving the community for more than 40 years and now provides 24-hour crisis counseling, shelter, legal system support, children’s programming, violence prevention education, safety planning, support groups, and emergency food and hygiene products.

Do you have a forum topic or speaker idea?

If you have an idea for a forum or would like to partner on finding forum speakers, please contact Gayla Marty.

April 23—Earth Day: Reclaiming paradise

Our worship theme this year— “Beyond Atonement: Reclaiming Paradise and Liberation”—carries a reminder of the early Christians’ focus on resurrection and the beauty and abundance of God’s creation. Please come to this forum prepared to hear, learn, and share what Earth-saving and honoring initiatives we are individually and collectively involved in.

April 30—Library dedication in memory and honor of Char Follett

Join in celebrating the naming of our UBC library, next to the Shepardson Lounge, for UBC member Char Follett (1932–2021). Char was an avid reader and book lover, a member of many book clubs and founder of several, and beloved to many kindred spirits. In coming weeks, you will see a couple of new comfy reading chairs and a reading lamp added to the space in the spirit of Char.



The Minnesota Freedom Band played to a full house in the UBC sanctuary on Mar. 19.

Photo by Doug Donley

Calendar for April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
						9 a.m. Bible Study 10 a.m. Brunch Setup
2 Palm Sunday	3	4	5	6	7	8
10 a.m. Brunch Communion Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Worship	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 6:30 p.m. Caregiver Support Group	7:30 p.m. Holy Friday Service	10 a.m. Pancakes and Easter Egg Hunt 1 p.m. Book Group
9 Easter	10	11	12	13	14	15
6:30 p.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service 10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee time	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	11:15 a.m. Every Meal	9 a.m. Bible Study
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day
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		7 p.m. Roots Cellar concert
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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 <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	4:30 p.m. Adv. Spanish Conversation		
30						
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee time 11:30 a.m. Forum						

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 and on Zoom (same link)

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

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



Bible Study – April 1 & 15 (1st & 3rd Saturdays) at 9 a.m. On the 1st we'll focus on Romans 9; on the 15th, Romans 10. 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>

Palm Sunday Brunch – April 2 at 10 a.m. Bring your family and your appetite as we mark the return of our Palm Sunday brunch. We will meet in the Adele Fadden Assembly Hall for a potluck of egg dishes, fruit, pastries and other sundry food items. We will start the service downstairs and then will process with palms and flowers in hand singing as we go outside and then into the sanctuary for the remainder of the service.



Sign up sheets are in the lounge for food contribution and set up and clean up help. Please see Betty Shaw if you have any questions.



Meals on Wheels – April 3-6 (M-Th, 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.



More of What's Going On

ESPAÑOL

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.).

The Beginning class focuses on vocabulary development and verb conjugation and the Intermediate class focuses on reading, writing and discussing. The Advanced class meets for conversation on Thursdays. If you have any questions, please contact Anielka Montiel at anymontiel33@gmail.com or 651-295-4590.

MONDAY LINK

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 869 8255 1038 Passcode: 275343
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86982551038?pwd=RnJOWEIEYk13YXhwZjFhN1dPK1Nndz09>

THURSDAY LINK

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

Memoir Writing Group – April 4 & 18 (every other Tues.) at 7 p.m.

Prompts include *Personal Stories of Racial Awareness*, *Our Endangered Values (in honor of Jimmy Carter)*, *Encounters with Trucks*, *the Equal Rights Amendment*, and *Influential Women at UBC*, 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>



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

Caregivers Support Group – April 6 (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=bn82eExWUC9EMy9Tb2tHYk0yb1d3UT09>



Pancakes and Easter Egg Hunt – Sat., April 8 from 10 a.m. to noon.

All our children up to age 12 (including babies expected in the next few months!) are invited with their families to a pancake breakfast followed by an Easter egg hunt on the lawn – rain, snow, or shine! Please join us! If you have questions, please contact Kim Donley at kim.donley4@gmail.com.

More of What's Going On



UBC Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women Book Group – April 8 (2nd Sat.) at 1 p.m. The book this month is *The Book Woman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson. 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=Q1hc2VFdnIOMeI1VWhXNzdKRdDjQT09>

Easter Services – Sun., April 9.

6:30 a.m. on the UBC lawn. Bring a warm beverage and maybe a lawn chair or blanket, and imagine what that first Easter sunrise was like for Mary Magdalene at the tomb.

10 a.m. in the sanctuary.



Anti-Racism Group – April 11 & 25 (every other Tues.) at 7 p.m.

On April 11, we will talk about potential opportunities for collaboration with the U of M. On April 25, we tentatively plan to hear a report of the Alliance of Baptists spring gathering in Atlanta.

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

Every Meal – April 14 (2nd Fri.) from 11:15 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.



UBC- FCC Knitting Group – April 17 (3rd Mon.) at 7 p.m. at Cynthia Hendricks'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.

NOTE: A new midday handcraft group is starting Wed., May 3, hosted by FCC. Details to follow.

ROOTS CELLAR CONCERT – Peter Mayer – Sat., April 22 at 7 p.m. at UBC. He writes songs for a small planet--songs about interconnectedness and the human journey--songs about life on earth and the mysterious and wondrous fact of our existence. He also writes about dress hats, pumpkins and pajamas, and other important stuff. Peter has eleven albums to his credit, and has sold over 100,000 of them. He lives in Stillwater with his wife and two daughters. For more info, see www.petermayer.net. Tickets are \$20, available at the door or at brownpapertickets.com.



HOLD THE DATES:

May 20 (evening) – All Church Discernment Retreat

June 4 - Joint baby shower for Anielka and Lynnette during the forum time

June 11 – UBC Annual Meeting

June 22-25 – ABC Biennial, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

June 26-30 – BPFNA Summer Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Fourth-grader Josie Mavity (granddaughter of Gayla Marty) is singing in Rosemount High School's annual OnStage! production this spring for the second time. It's a mix of popular songs and choreography connected by a theme, Connecting the Dots.

Senior citizen preview: April 26 at 3:30 p.m.

Evening performances: April 27, 28, 29, May 4, 5, 6 at 7 p.m.

Matinee: April 30 at 2 p.m.

Tickets will be on sale soon at <https://rhs.district196.org/arts/onsstage>

**From Music Director, David Lesniaski
Organ recital at 9 a.m. on Sat., April 15**

The Twin Cities chapter of the American Guild of Organists is sponsoring an "organ crawl" (kind of like the organist's equivalent of a progressive dinner) of SE Minneapolis churches and instruments. We're first on the list. The event is free and open to everyone.

I'll be playing a set of pieces for about half an hour or so in order to demonstrate the variety of sounds available on this instrument, and then there will be some time for any attendees to try their hands (and feet) on the instrument. The event should finish by 10 or so, since that's when the next venue (Univ. Lutheran Church of Hope) is scheduled.

I would be really grateful if a few people from UBC could be there—and really would appreciate a little help setting up—putting out brochures, etc., and just hosting people as they enter. Even a little coffee might be nice for those folks who are not morning people.

Any questions, give me a yell; hope to see you there.

-- David



In Memoriam

Kit Martin – Feb. 1984 -Mar. 2023

We were saddened to hear of the death of UBC member Kit Martin, just a month after his 39th birthday. Kit was a poet, scholar, educator and activist. He did his doctoral work at Northwestern. He worked tirelessly for peace in Southern Sudan. He curated and published sci-fi anthologies, including an essay by Doug Donley. He even edited our newsletter after he moved away for his doctoral work back in 2015. He contracted a rare form of lung cancer a little over a year ago that had sadly metastasized. His memorial service will be in Seattle on April 1. You can read more about it [here](#).

There will also be an [online release](#) of his poetry on April 15. You can find out more about Kit at kitmartin.com

Commitment Season

We still have heaps of snow on the ground here in Minnesota, but UBC’s “Commitment Season” is in full bloom! During this season we prepare for UBC’s next program year, which begins on July 1. Commitment Season will culminate with UBC’s Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 11.

Information about anticipated needs and opportunities for the coming year will go out shortly after April 1. We will be invited to pledge contributions of time, talent, or treasure by completing a Time and Talent Form or Pledge Card. Information and forms will be emailed, and access to the Time and Talent Form will be provided through a link allowing easy online completion. If you prefer communication by regular mail, please let us know by calling 612-331-1768 or emailing info@ubcmn.org.

The Talent Team—Maggie Garmers, Marcy Schultz, Sue Wester—will reach out to encourage us to consider how we might help, as we are able, to sustain the work and community of UBC next year. The Talent Team helps match passions and capacities with needs and opportunities at UBC. Along the way, the Team will also gather ideas for how UBC might better meet individual needs and interests.

This year pledges of time, talent, and treasure will be due by **April 16, Commitment Sunday**. Those able to worship in person will ceremoniously deliver our commitments during worship in the sanctuary. We will simultaneously celebrate commitments of those not able to attend in person, whether delivered by email, snail mail, or phone call.

After April 16, the Talent Team will continue seeking volunteers aided by Time and Talent information, and the Church Council will develop a budget proposal for next year aided by Pledge Card information. On or before June 4, you will receive UBC’s Annual Report for 2022-2023.

At the Annual Meeting, we will celebrate the many accomplishments of the past year, vote on candidates for elective offices, and approve a budget for next year. If weather permits, those able to gather in person may also enjoy a picnic lunch. In any event, the Annual Meeting will be accessible from afar through Zoom.

- Denise Roy, Acting President



Lehto & Wright performed in the Roots Cellar on Mar. 25.

Photo by Doug Donley



Volunteer Opportunities

Meals on Wheels

UBC has an opportunity to participate in Meals on Wheels on the first full week of the month (**April 3-6**). 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 marielafrence46@gmail.com.

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.

Every Meal

UBC participates in *Every Meal*, a program that distributes meals over weekends and school breaks for families of children who receive free and reduced meals when school is in session. UBC is scheduled to distribute at Marcy Open School on the **second Friday of each month (April 14)** from 11:15 a.m. to about 1 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Denise Roy at denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu

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 Deidre Druk at 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.



Making maple syrup in the Donley backyard.

Photos by Doug Donley



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.



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.

Most of our income (52%) comes from the pledges made by members. We have a surplus due to some pre-paid pledges. As we enter the last quarter of our fiscal year, please let me know ASAP if you have any changes to your expected 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.

Expected annual rental income is \$74,000 (20% of our budget.) This is a large increase over last year's \$60,000. Income to date for this item reflects a surplus as our largest renter received a grant and pre-paid some rent. In addition, we've received more than anticipated income from miscellaneous renters.

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	\$141,968	155,707	13,739
Rental Income	20	\$74,000	\$55,500	62,724	7,224
Misc income*	4	<u>\$15,000</u>	\$11,250	13,316	<u>2,066</u>
Subtotal		\$278,290	\$208,718	\$231,747	23,029
Carry-forward from 2021-22	6	\$22,875			
Foundation	18	<u>\$64,720</u>			-
Total Operating Income	100	\$365,885			
Justice & Outreach		<u>\$15,000</u>		9,277	
Total Budget		\$380,885			

*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

The dedicated offering for Jan./Feb. was for Childhood Health & Hunger programs and we received \$465. The dedicated offering for Mar./April is for Peace organizations and we have received \$300 to date.

Chris Follett, Financial Secretary



Contribution from the UBC Memoir Group

Preschool interracial experiences at UBC

By Harriet Johnson

The Nursery at UBC in 1962 was a busy place during the regular worship hour on Sunday mornings. Active two- and three-year-olds vied for attention from the students who were hired to take charge of the nursery and the kids for an hour and a half. There were toys, a box of costumes, picture books near a soft rug, building blocks, and very simple puzzles, and a rocking boat for big muscle play, and a rocking chair for comforting hurt feelings if needed. It was a happy place and was seemingly well-run to give the children fun while the parents had a chance for adult contacts and a worship service on Sunday morning.

One cold winter day in January, my phone rang, and it was Vicki Wilson, one of the young mothers of UBC who had two daughters. "I have an idea", she explained. I could hear her girls in the background playing at their house in the suburbs, and I knew it would be a quick call and she would have to get to the point while she could. My sons would need their lunch soon, too, so we both listened with one eye on our kids.

"There's a gym over there at the church that is unused during the day, and we have these cooped up kids here with the winter wiggles. Why don't we arrange a morning get together once a week for six more weeks, hire us a student caretaker, and provide coffee and conversation for ourselves? The kids could do some big muscle activity down in the Gym part of the time. Would you be willing to do this?" she asked.

There was a shriek in the background at her house and an ominous quiet in my living room around the corner. We both needed to be quick with this conversation. I thought she had a great idea. But then she went on.

"I'd like to make it a two-church event and invite a couple of young mothers I know from Zion Baptist Church on the North Side. Maybe we could really make some new friends and discuss some topics of interest to both groups". Vicki and I agreed that it would be a benefit to our own kids to have fun with kids of another color. That really did make it an inspiration to me, and I pitched in eagerly. We divided up the list of folks to call and of the jobs to do to make her idea a reality. We set to work.

Eventually we gathered the two groups of mothers into one group for coffee and our active pent-up kids of both races into another group for physical activity. Our Wednesday morning sessions were underway. For six weeks we began to have a little "interracial experience". It was a chore to have to bundle up a three-year-old in all his layers for a -20-degree temperature, make sure the baby was warm in his carrier, and drive the car through snow covered streets to church. But the reward of exercise for the three-year-old, and care for the baby along with coffee and conversation for me made it all worthwhile.

Can I remember the planned topics of our discussion as parents? No. But we did some real sharing of ideas and stories. Did those early childhood interracial experiences for our children make a big impression? Who knows. But it was a beginning, for us as young mothers and for them as preschoolers. And we all made it through another brutal Minnesota winter with some new ideas and active muscles. And Vicki and I had some new friends at Zion Baptist Church on the North Side.

+ + + +

Alliance of Baptists will consider proposal to adopt a statement on apartheid in Israel

By Gayla Marty

UBC is a longstanding member of the nationwide Alliance of Baptists. At the Alliance's annual meeting on April 1 (on Zoom in advance of the spring gathering in Atlanta April 21–23), one of the Alliance's endorsed communities, Justice in Palestine & Israel (JPI), will propose that the Alliance adopt the statement below. The situation in Palestine and Israel, and the U.S. role in that situation, has weighed heavily on my heart for many years. I began attending JPI meetings over the past year after I found them at the 2022 spring gathering. I want to raise awareness and, I hope, support for the Alliance in this thoughtful and critical effort. You can learn more about JPI on the Alliance communities page - <https://allianceofbaptists.org/communities/>

Proposed Statement for the Alliance of Baptists April 2023

We recognize that the government of Israel's laws, policies, and practices regarding the Palestinian people fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid. Apartheid is legally defined as inhumane acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over any other racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them. This occurs in Israel/Palestine through the following:

- A. *Establishing two sets of laws and unequal treatment under the law for Israelis and Palestinians. These laws and policies give preferential treatment to Israeli Jews and oppressive or inferior treatment to Palestinians, whether Muslim, Christian, or other, and whether they are residents of the Occupied Territories, refugees, or citizens of Israel;*
- B. *Causing fragmentation of Palestinian communities with multiple limited statuses, each with their own limitations on human rights (Palestinian citizens of Israel, Palestinians residents of East Jerusalem, Palestinian residents of the West Bank, Palestinian residents of Gaza, and Palestinian refugees);*
- C. *Expropriating Palestinian land and water for Jewish-only settlements and Israeli military activities;*
- D. *Forbidding free movement and self-government to Palestinians within the territories that are theirs under international law (the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip);*
- E. *Dividing the population along racial lines by the creation of separate reserves and ghettos for the Palestinians; and,*
- F. *Denying Palestinians the right to a nationality.*

The Alliance of Baptists urges members, congregations, and staff to seek appropriate ways to bring an end to Israeli apartheid, including through advocacy at the United States federal level with Congress and the administration. Further, we encourage all Alliance congregations to join us in making the following pledge, to be lived out as part of a national ecumenical movement in solidarity with Palestinians:

We, the Alliance of Baptists, affirm our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people. We oppose all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression, and we declare ourselves an Apartheid-Free Faith Community. To that end, we pledge to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

Special Offering for March and April Peace & Justice

The special Mission offering for March and April will go to organizations which support Peace and Justice initiatives. There are many groups which may receive our donations. Here are some groups we have supported in the past: CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations), Alight (formerly American Refugee Services of the MN Council of Churches), RCRC (Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice), WAMM (Women Against Military Madness), Alliance of Baptists, etc.

If you have suggestions for other organizations, please talk with or email Kim and/or Deidre.

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

Thank you for your ongoing Outreach support!!

- Kim Donley and Deidre Druk, Outreach Co-Chairs



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

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