



UBC NEWS

University Baptist Church

1219 University Ave SE

Minneapolis MN 55414

Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

September 2023

Stay Awake

It's September at UBC. That means that we once again welcome students back to campus. This is the first somewhat "normal" year in an entire four-year school generation.

During the COVID pandemic, we learned how to go virtual. We learned how to livestream our services. We learned how to communicate on Zoom.

We also re-aligned our priorities. Some of us got involved in church more and some less. And our involvement shifted. If we tuned in once in a while, we considered ourselves involved. For some of us, that was all we could handle. And it was enough.

I wonder about the implications of four years of virtual involvement for our young people. They may not have had the habit or felt safe enough to gather in a close space with others.

Maybe we need to do things a bit differently in order to connect with this college-age generation. Maybe we need to not do what we have always done. Maybe we need to do something beyond opening our doors and hoping people will come in.

How might we deeply listen to our new neighbors? What do they need? About what do they dream? What,



besides school assignments and the occasional party, keeps them up at night? How can their need and our skills intersect? I like to think that our hospitality and our willingness to ask hard questions are some of our greatest assets.

This year, our worship focus is entitled "Stay Awake". What about religion has put people to sleep? What about religion has become an "opiate of the people"? What trauma or abuse gets covered over by a religious facade? Those are the easy categories to explore. But in this era where being awake to racism and sexism and homophobia is seen as a political threat, maybe we need to remember that the Bible is full of admonitions to stay awake and also full of criticisms of people who are asleep while injustice and idolatry run rampant.

Maybe we can offer ourselves as neighbors who are awake to the needs of a new generation of students. If we listen attentively enough, they may well point us in a better direction. I look forward to walking alongside this new generation as we awaken together to a world in need of some good news.

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

Photo: UBC garden by Chris Follett

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Theme: "Stay Awake"

Sept. 3 (outdoors)

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: "Awake to Love and Work"

Scripture: Psalm 57:7-11/108:1-5

Worship Leader: Gayla Marty

Sept. 10 (outdoors)

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: "Signs"

Scripture: John 2:23-3:2

Worship Leader: Paula Moyer

Sept. 17

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: "Missionary Instructions"

Scripture: Luke 9:1-5

Worship Leader: Megan Dahlberg

Sept. 24

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: "Stay Awake Through a Great Revolution"

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-5

Worship Leader: John Medeiros

SEPTEMBER FORUMS

Forums resume this month, held 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. after coffee time.

September 17—Summer review and preview of the year ahead

Join us for the first forum of the new year to hear and share what we've been up to during the past summer! We'll also take a look at the year ahead including a preview of our worship theme, "Stay Awake."

September 24—Ringin' in Ireland

In June, six of our bell choir joined 50 other ringers from the U.S. and Canada in a massed ringing concert tour of the Republic of Ireland. The four choirs joined a bell choir from Estonia and gave concerts in cathedrals in Galway, Cobh, and Dublin between touring. Come to the forum and see pictures, hear stories from the travelers, and watch concert videos.

Church Picnic – Sept. 10

The students have returned to the University making summer officially over. Our last Sunday on the lawn is our annual church picnic. It is time to show off your culinary talents! Please bring a dish to share. We will be eating outside (weather permitting) after the church service.

See Betty Shaw if you can help with set up or clean up.



**U of MN Homecoming
Parade Sept. 29 at
6:30 p.m.**

We'll again be making s'mores as we watch the parade go right by the church lawn. Come join us!

Calendar for September

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 a.m. Worship Communion Joys & Concerns	(No Meals on Wheels)	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels 5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group	11 a.m. Handcraft Group 11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels	9 a.m. Garden Team 11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels 6:30 p.m. Caregiver Support Group	11:15 a.m. Every Meal 11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels	10 a.m. RGR meeting and social time 1 p.m. Book Group
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Picnic			6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	9 a.m. Garden Team		1 p.m. Card Club
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee time 11:30 a.m. Forum 1 p.m. Church Council	5 p.m. Inter. Spanish 6:15 p.m. Beg. Spanish 7 p.m. Knitting Group	5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group	6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	9 a.m. Garden Team 4:30 p.m. Adv. Spanish Conversation		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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 <i>Newsletter deadline</i>		6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	9 a.m. Garden Team 4:30 p.m. Adv. Spanish Conversation	2-7 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 6:30 p.m. U of M Homecoming Parade	

What's Going On



Sunday Morning Worship

10 a.m. – Worship in the UBC sanctuary (except Sept 3 & 10, outdoors)

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 live and on Zoom.

Following Joys & Concerns – Coffee time in the lounge (starting Sept. 17)

11:30 a.m. – Forum in the lounge (starting Sept. 17)

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

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



Meals on Wheels – Sept. 5-8 This month there is no delivery on Labor Day, but we will add Friday instead. 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.

Sacred Harp Singing – Sept. 5 & 19 (1st & 3rd Tues.), 5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. in Room 303. No experience or talent necessary!



Minnesota State Sacred Harp Convention – Sept 23-24 – Sat. indoors at Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Ave., St Paul 55104. Sun. outdoors at The Landing, 2187 Highway 101 E, Shakopee 55379. For more info go to https://mnfasola.org/?page_id=163



Memoir Writing Group – Sept. 5 & 19 (every other Tues.), 7 p.m. Prompts include *Where I'm From*, *Barbie*, *Labor* or anything else you feel called to write about. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Donley at patricia.donley63@gmail.com.

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

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

UBC-FCC Daytime Handcraft Group – Sept. 6 (1st Wed.), 11 a.m. at First Congregational Church (500 8th Ave. SE) in the Parlor. Bring your craft project and/or a contribution for a salad bar if you like, or your lunch.



If you are interested and want to be on a distribution list, please let Marilyn Burns (from FCC) know at mbsnoobear@mac.com or 612-617-0017 or see Chris Follett for questions.

More of What's Going On



Garden Team – Thursdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (weather permitting). **Save the date— on Sept 7** we are doing some transplanting. We hope to have as many helpers as possible that morning to make the work lighter for all. Park in the Mormon lot or behind the church. Feel free to join us other Thurs. mornings whenever you're available! If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Kerr at 763-529-7862 (landline) or bjkerr@umn.edu.

Caregivers Support Group – Sept. 7 (1st Thurs.), 6:30 p.m. UBCers who have an elderly parent meet for support. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lubke at lubk0001@umn.edu.

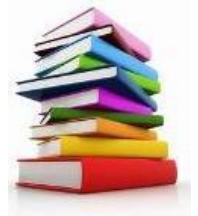


ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 810 4075 0220 Passcode 251436
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81040750220?pwd=bm82eExWUC9EMy9Tb2tHYk0yb1d3UT09>



Every Meal – Sept. 8 (2nd Fri.), 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.

Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women Book Group – Sept. 9 (2nd Sat.), 1 p.m. The book this month is *What's Mine and Yours* by Naima Coster. 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=Q1hlc2VFdnIOMEl1VWhXNzdKRDdjQT09>



Bells and Choir Rehearsal – Wednesday evenings starting Sept. 13 in the church sanctuary. Please see the calendar for specific times.

Card Club – Sat., Sept. 16, 1-4:30 p.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 or 651-295-7525.



More of What's Going On

ESPAÑOL

Spanish classes – Mondays starting Sept. 18 (Intermediate 5-6 p.m., Beginners 6:15-7:15 p.m.) and Thursdays starting Sept. 21 (Advanced Conversation 4:30-5:30 p.m.). If you are new to Spanish or not yet ready for

conversation, the Beginning Class is a great option for you, with focus on vocabulary development and verb conjugation. If you are comfortable with basic Spanish, the Intermediate Class would be a good fit for you. The focus is on reading, writing and discussing. The Advanced Class meets on Thursdays. If you have any questions, please contact Anielka Montiel at anymontiel22@gmail.com or 651-295-4590.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 870 8785 1406 Passcode: 634591

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87087851406?pwd=K2VPL1NrNWJMSDN3Wm5CeXRZYUNwUT09>

UBC-FCC Knitting Group – Sept. 18 (3rd Mon.) at 7 p.m. at Chris Follett's home. The group is made up of stitchers from UBC and First Congregational Church. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.



Loaves & Fishes – Fri., Sept. 29 at 1816 Portland Ave. S., Mpls 55404. Parking is available on Portland Ave. or in the small lot on the alley west of the building. We'll need about four people for preparation between 2-5 pm and about six people for preparing to-go containers from 5-6:30 pm. And we'll need a couple people to help with clean-up until about 7 pm. Let Steve Lee know if you would like to help at steven.lee@thrivent.com or 612-844-8194 or 763-645-9499. *Next date: Dec. 29.*

UBC to Host Regional Meeting

On Sat., Sept. 9 UBC will host (virtually) the Sept. meeting of the American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region (ABCRBR). The formal part of the meeting will take place at 11 a.m. in the UBC sanctuary.

ABCRGR Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Sandy Hasenauer will be on hand and will broadcast the meeting to our other RGR churches across ten states. The combined local RGR churches, UBC, Judson and the Minnesota Lisu Church of Jesus, will provide music for the opening worship.

We'll gather at 10 a.m. for fellowship between the three congregations. After the formal part of the meeting ends, we'll have even more opportunities to visit with the three congregations and our Executive Minister. We expect the gathering to go from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or so.

Looking ahead...

Bible Study will start up again

Oct. 7. Here is the tentative schedule (1st & 3rd Saturdays):

Oct. 7 – Romans 12 and 13

Oct. 21 – Romans 14, 15 and 16

Nov. 4 – James 1 and 2

Nov. 18 – James 3 and 4

Dec. 2 – James 5

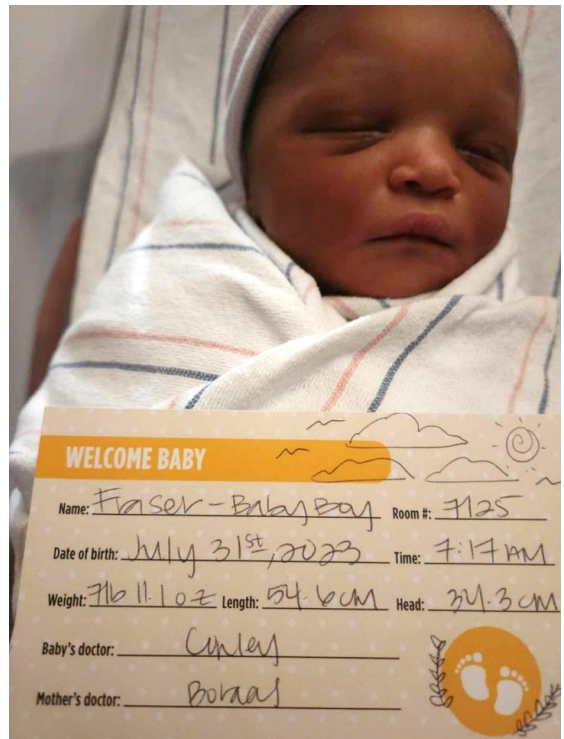
Dec. 16 – An Advent and/or Christmas passage

Welcome

Elyas Templeton Fraser!

Born July 31, 2023 at 7:17 a.m., 7 lbs 11 oz. Big brother Eloy is very excited as are parents Lynnette and Elwyn Fraser. Welcome little one!

Photos by Elwyn Fraser



Andrew Justin proudly shows his Tooth Fairy dollar coin and gap in his front teeth at the service on Aug. 20.

Photo by Chris Follett

Fun to see Catherine Follett and daughter Jaelyn Johnson visiting from Washington and Mel and Shirley Roy visiting from Missouri at the service on Aug. 27.

In Memoriam - Don Wester

Donald Robert “Don” Wester of New Hope, MN passed away with grace on July 7, 2023. Don’s tolerant, generous, kind company is missed by his wife of sixty years, Sue Wester; by his sister Jeri Cooper; by his children Stephen, Adrienne, Ian, and Kymberly; and by the many grandchildren he welcomed into his life. Don loved his family deeply, and they lit up in his presence.



Born on Sept. 30, 1933 in San Diego, California, Don was the son of Harriet Beatrice (Aspinwall) Wester and Robert Donald Wester. His early childhood was spent moving between bases following his father’s naval career. Bea Wester’s little family lived modestly, carrying what they could from coast to coast and to places like Panama and Hawaii. Don’s memories of those years were of makeshift Quonset hut rooms and few possessions, but he remembered Navy families looking out for each other, and that “doing without” was always a relative thing. He recalled later that his mother met their itinerant life as an adventure to enjoy together.

Moving at least once during each school year, and following World War II through pinned maps at home and his father’s letters from the Pacific theater, Don experienced more of the world’s geography than many children. His curiosity and openness about the world lasted his lifetime.

His first full year in a single school was his Junior Year in High School, after Don had moved to Edna, Kansas to live with his paternal grandparents.

After two years at Kansas State University, Don saw his draft number approaching and enlisted

in the U.S. Army as the Korean war ended. Childhood experiences influenced his Army specialty, and Don served three years with a mapmaking unit, partly in Japan. He was the sort of soldier who attracted boot camp trouble over the angle at which he wore his cap, and who stopped to sing under the domes of Tokyo train stations. Army friendships and a beloved Austin Healey roadster returned with him across the ocean.

Don returned to college, changing his major to International Relations. It was at a Baptist youth group meeting that he met Sue Hiebert. For the next 60 years, Don and Sue would have been lost without each other. Sometimes, too, they happily got lost together.

Don and Sue married in 1962. The couple moved to Minneapolis to continue their graduate programs at the University of Minnesota, and began attending University Baptist Church. Sue, though, became pregnant while in medical school. To support their family Don began work at Mark Hurd Aerial Surveys. His fascination with maps and the company’s overseas

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Photo montage of Don and Sue Wester provided by Sue.



Don Wester – continued

projects made this a not-unhappy compromise, and Don worked the rest of his career with Mark Hurd. He found travel with the company fulfilling, visiting places like the Philippines, the Gambia River basin, and Greenland.

His home filled with stories and art from the cultures he visited. His children remember family drives by topo maps held out between the front seats, and peering into stereo aerial photographs at the long shadows of elephants walking through the savannah.

Home life included three more children. Don and Sue moved from their tiny med school apartment into the first of two longtime homes. Don relished the stability of this home life after his wandering childhood. As his children grew, and then as grandchildren arrived, he found the accomplishments and happiness of his growing family deeply satisfying and meaningful.

In retirement Don and Sue continued to travel in the same engaged, curious spirit. Don's growing interest

in their ancestries guided much of that travel. Their many trips reflected their deep love of family and their amazement at the natural world. They saw every corner of the United States and much of the planet, and they shared those experiences generously.

Don was a man of decency, conscience, and steady delight. He lived out a faith with true humility, singing harmonies in true fellowship. Don offered the world depth and a generous, abiding joy. His extended family, and all his friends, are testament to the fact that those gifts will last.

A memorial service was held on Aug 26 at University Baptist Church.

Donations in memory of Don can be made to the World Wildlife Fund, the Parkinson's Foundation, University Baptist Church, or the religion of your choice.

Text from the Star Tribune obituary published Aug. 20, 2023

Our Upcoming 175th Anniversary!

Are you feeling our age? It may be because we are about to celebrate our **Terquasquicentennial!!** - our 175th anniversary as a congregation! Our congregation was founded in 1850 (before Minnesota was a state) as the First Baptist Church of St. Anthony. The congregation had several locations by the river and the mills before building our beautiful church on University Avenue and changing our name to University Baptist Church.

Very few congregations in Minnesota can claim that many continuous years of ministry and social justice work. So, in 2025, to celebrate our 175 years and tell our story to others who may be needing our type of ministry, we will have a celebration - dates and activities to be determined. But large celebrations need some foreplanning.

We will be creating a committee of folks who would like to help plan our celebration. If you are a great party planner, an historical buff, graphic designer, a social media communicator, and/or someone who wants to help tell our great story, please contact Jean Lubke or Pastor Doug. The committee will be organized later this year.

Meanwhile, be thinking of creative ways to celebrate who we were and who we are!

222 Nicaraguans

The 222 Nicaraguans are people who were arrested, some tortured, imprisoned and then stripped of citizenship and put on a plane and flown to the U.S.

They are in the United States indefinitely. Many do not have family here, nor do they speak the language. Their immigration status is 'parole' which does not give them any of the supports that they need.

The situation faced by the 222 former Nicaraguan political prisoners continues to be critical. They are faced with daunting challenges in negotiating our government's asylum process, which they need to do rather quickly.

Unfortunately, the early goal of getting the US congress to act quickly in granting these former Nicaraguan political prisoners refugee status has been stalled in committee, apparently by people who are angry about current immigration policies, even though that has virtually no bearing on the 222. We believe it was still worthwhile to contact your representative and senators simply to educate them about the plight of the 222 former Nicaraguan political prisoners.

Please make a call to your senators and representative to ask them to support an "expedited asylum process" for the 222 former Nicaraguan political prisoners.

A sample message could be:

"I am calling/writing to ask Representative/Senator _____ to support an expedited asylum process for the 222 former Nicaraguan political prisoners."

Thank you!
Deidre Druk, Outreach Co-chair

NOTE: Our Mission offering for August was for this group.

Special Offering for Sept./Oct. Nicaraguan Ministries and the Tai Shigaki Travel Fund

The Outreach mission focus for Sept. and Oct. are our Nicaraguan partners and the Tai Shigaki travel fund. In the past, these funds have included scholarships for students attending the church-sponsored school, the church in Leon, Project Minnesota-Leon and AMOS (a ministry of sharing). We are in need of further funds in the Tai Shigaki fund to help bring up a team from Leon next summer. Thank you for any assistance you can provide! As usual, your gifts are much appreciated. Thank you!

You can drop your offering in the donation box, 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!!

- Kim Donley and Deidre Druk, Outreach Co-Chairs

Mission Offerings for the rest of 2023-24

Sept./Oct. - Nicaraguan Ministries and the Tai Shigaki Travel Fund

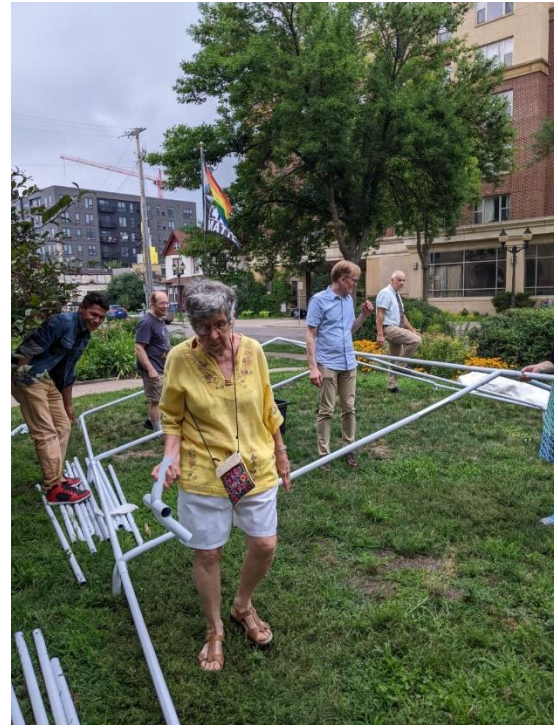
Nov./Dec. - Justice Organizations (including organizations helping the homeless)

Jan./Feb. - American Baptist Churches, USA (In particular, ministries which are not covered in the UBC budget)

Mar./Apr. - Childhood Health and Hunger

May/June - Organizations working with marginalized communities in the Twin Cities

'It takes a village. . .' many hands helped put up the large tent on the church lawn on a warm and then stormy Sunday, Aug.6 (The instructions on the table, below, were minimally helpful!) 😊



Photos by Trish Donley, except bottom right by Doug Donley



We have since enjoyed services outdoors
(and will continue to through Sept. 10).



Top two photos by Chris Follett, bottom two by Denise Roy. Bottom right photo by Doug Donley



Left: Eli, our childcare worker, helps Jack and Clara Hartman draw with chalk while Otto Lubke examines the pebbles in the play area.



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 (for Sept. it will be T-F) (**Sept. 5-8**). 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.

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 (Sept. 8)**, 11:15 a.m. to about 1 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Denise Roy at denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu

UBC HISTORY RESEARCH: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

At the Minnesota History Center, UBC has 19 boxes of files and other materials. Betsy Kerr and Gayla Marty spent several hours there in July and found primary sources documenting our congregation's interaction with what we believe to have been the St. James AME congregation.

There is a lot more sleuthing to do! For example, the 175th anniversary of our congregation is coming up in 2025.

We are able to schedule appointments and reserve a table on Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10-1 and 1-4.

If you would like to join a team going over to the History Center some time, please contact Gayla to let her know of your interest and availability at gaylamarty@gmail.com or 612-845-8417.



**Sept. is
Suicide
Awareness and
Prevention Month**
For resources and to
learn how you can
advocate, click [here](#).

Looking for Volunteers

Coffee hosts – Contact Betty Shaw or sign up in the lounge
Communion prep – Contact Terri Wottrich
Garden Team – Contact Betsy Kerr
Ushers – Contact Chris Follett
Worship Leaders – Contact Deidre Druk
Worship Technology Support - Contact Personnel Committee



Safety Walking Group

Join us. Together we make for a safer community.

We will walk every Thursday and Saturday from 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm.
Meet in front of Frank and Andrea's Pizza. Join us when you can! No sign-up is needed. Just show up!
Thank you for helping us make Dinkytown a safe and welcoming area!

Thursdays	Saturdays
August 17, 24, 31	August 12, 19, 26
September 7, 14, 21, 28	September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
October 5, 12, 19, 26	October 7, 14, 21, 28
November 2, 9, 16	November 4, 11, 18



The U of MN has started a Safety Walking Group!

This Walking Group is a collaboration of Greeks, Athletes, Alumni, parents, and community members.

Walks will take place in Dinkytown every Thurs. and Sat. from 8-11 p.m. until Thanksgiving.



Bon Voyage!

We had a send-off/laying on of hands for Becca Donley on Aug. 20 as she leaves for a two-year master's program in Theater Directing at Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland.

Photo: Becca, Ani, Valeria and Laura by Doug Donley

Contribution from the UBC Memoir Group

Diploma

By Kathleen Tice

"I'm going to learn to read and write" sang Molly Brown^[1]. That scruffy little tomboy has always reminded me so much of myself. Because first of all, yes, I was a tomboy. And, more than that, I wanted, oh so badly, to go to school when my older brother and sister went. When I was four, they were five and six; they went to school; I stayed home. Oh, I tried.

One day I took the babysitter's three-year-old son by the hand and walked down my road toward where their bus picked them up. When the road came to a junction at a right angle, I turned right just as I had seen the bus do when it took them to school in the morning. We walked and walked until I could see their school. They were all at recess and saw me coming and kept shouting, "Kathy, go home, go home." When I turned around, there, trailing behind us by a few acres was the babysitter walking toward us, a big switch in one hand.

I had to go back and content myself with looking through the pages of the *Book of Knowledge* we had somehow acquired. I could not crack the code alone and had to content myself again with just looking at the pictures. No reading or writing yet.

I did, of course, eventually get to school. When I was in high school, I always took college prep courses, but no one in my family had ever spoken about college. It was pie in the sky. No one in my family had ever been to college. In fact, few had even finished high school—not my parents, nor my older sister. There was no encouragement from any quarter.

Then I was sick during my junior year in high school—I spent a month in the hospital and lost just enough time and credits that it would have put off my graduation by another year—just for four more necessary credits. My fiancée had made plans to go to a specialty school in Chicago in the spring, so in the end it seemed easier if both of us moved to Chicago right away and got on with our lives. Which we did. This solved two problems. On my part it enabled me

to get out of an abusive situation at home. And for him it meant he could pursue his career full time because someone else was paying the rent: me, the high school dropout.

It was only a year after we moved to Chicago that I had my first child, but ten years before I got into a classroom again, this time with two kids and no husband. The classroom was the University of Minnesota. Thanks to night classes I started college life from the very beginning-- with Freshman English. I was learning to read and write-- especially write. So, I just kept going to classes and getting A's until I had about thirty credits of all A's. Then I officially applied to matriculate as a regular student.

The registrar's only comment: "You aren't our average student, are you?" he said as he pulled out a Magic Marker and wrote at the top of my transcript, "NON-GRAD" in big black letters.

This whole "learning to read and write" thing, was not coming easy to me and it was another ten years before I got my diploma (and a copy of my transcript with that indelible notation: NON-GRAD).

Like so many other women of my generation, I went on with the life I was handed. For me that included times of depression, of illness and want, but also strength and courage.

I managed eventually to get a degree from the University of Minnesota, despite the lack of a high-school diploma.

More years went by: Busy years; tough years. Then peace.

When that long hard journey was behind me, I thought of myself as happy at last. I knew that it was God's love and grace that had brought me through, and I was thankful beyond measure. But with that gratitude came the realization that I could not waste

Continued on page 16

Diploma – continued

the rest of my life just being happy; I hoped that I might somehow be in a position to help another woman—or women—to find happiness. This would take more education, of course, so I enrolled in seminary.

I had more of a spring in my step as I continued to hone my reading and writing skills. I had been living and working in New York City, so I started taking classes at New York Theological Seminary, a part-time, evening school for folks who had day jobs. It was a wonderful, warm, encouraging atmosphere, and provided a terrific education for many folks who otherwise could not fulfill their own call without that Master’s of Divinity degree.

Because New York Seminary it is a part-time school, it took me two years to finish one year of course work. At that point, the Dean sat me down and suggested I might transfer full time to Princeton Theological Seminary—his *alma mater*. So, I did. Princeton was a good school; they taught me well and paid my tuition, to boot.

Each school had its own culture and attracted different students.

The differences between the two were many, the make-up of the student body, to start with. I was a minority at both schools—but New York Seminary’s students were nearly all minority students. There were about 30 percent each of Black, Hispanic and

Korean students. Then seven percent of us were Caucasian.

Most of the student body at Princeton was white. And young. And male, but the male population—at that time (1995) wasn’t an overwhelming majority. Forty-seven percent of the student body at Princeton were women. But in no way were 47 percent of its women graduates called to a pastorate. Not from New York Seminary; not from Princeton. Nor from any other place I knew of.

Princeton was a train ride from NYC, but I did not commute; my husband, David, the free-lance pianist—did.

I spent my first semester living in a dorm and studying the Hebrew language morning, noon, and night. After that intense summer session, Dave and I moved into family housing on campus while he continued to commute to NYC and other places.

I completed my coursework in the next two years despite another illness with hospitalization during my senior year. It was a long road from that country school where I first got the itch to learn anything they would teach me. I sang Molly’s song often over the years. I was never sure when my education would end. Or if it would. Maybe I can rest on my laurels now that I have a diploma from Princeton Theological Seminary. This diploma has no black notation on the top. Instead, perhaps as a sign to me that I have finally learned to read and write, THIS diploma is written entirely in Latin.

*^[i] *“I Ain’t Down Yet”* from *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Receipts to date are in line with expectations.

Most of our income (57%) comes from pledges made by members. Expected annual rental income is 21% of our budget.



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. These are mostly gifts made by pledgers beyond their pledge or from people who did not pledge.

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



You can scan this

Operating Income 2023-24	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	57	\$187,940	\$31,323	28,706	-2,617
Rental Income	21	\$70,000	\$11,667	11,628	-39
Misc income*	5	<u>\$15,000</u>	\$2,500	1,148	<u>-1,352</u>
Subtotal		\$272,940	\$45,490	\$41,482	-4,008
Carry-forward from 2022-23	0				
Foundation	17	<u>\$54,066</u>		-	
Total Operating Income	100	\$327,006			
Justice & Outreach		<u>\$15,000</u>		1,340	
Total Budget		\$342,006			

*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

The dedicated offering for August was for emergency needs and we have received \$700 to date.

*Chris Follett,
Financial Secretary*

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. Update blue hymnal.



Photo: UBC garden and portico by Trista McGovern

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Congratulations!

September Birthdays

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

September Anniversaries

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



Bob and Lu Carman celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Aug 30!

Photo: Doug Donley