

UBC NEWS

University Baptist Church

1219 University Ave SE

Minneapolis MN 55414

Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

March 1, 2021

From the Pastor

Is It Spring Yet?

We have already gained two hours of daylight since late December. Every year around this time, I find myself watching the temperature. We had a polar vortex where it was too cold to walk outside. Then it was perfect cross country ski weather (sunny and in the 20's). Then it broke the freezing barrier.



in the backyard. I stoked the fire and watched it boil. The kids kept me company but got bored. The adults did too.

We finally boiled it down to three half-pint jars. It was sweet, but something tasted off about it. It turns out that sap can spoil. Who knew? But I'm a stubborn guy, so I tried again the next year – this time investing in a bigger cauldron and storing the sap in coolers buried in snow.

Most of you know that at the Donley household that means shoveling paths to the maple trees and activating our six tree sugar-bush. We got into doing this about fifteen years ago when my mom thought it would be fun to gift me with four spiles and a book about making maple syrup. I researched it and tried to convince my family that it was a good idea. I'm still trying.

The first year was an abject failure. I collected sap from the four taps, called spiles, in our two trees. I had dutifully stored the sap in a new, clean plastic garbage can in the garage. After five weeks or so, that garbage can was full. I invited my brother and his family over for the cooking that I did in a stockpot



Tapped trees

Continued on page 2

Pastor – continued

The one day that I had set aside for cooking started off fine, but as the day wore on, it started to sprinkle. We kept the fire going and tried to protect ourselves from the rain. I did not want to admit the obvious. Not only was it hard to keep the fire going in the rain, anything we might steam off was replaced by the sky's spring gift. So we covered the pots and waited the next day to finish the cooking.

We ended up with several pints of good syrup from that batch. Lessons learned. Our neighbors let us tap their trees. Now we have two cauldrons, and stacks of borrowed coolers in our backyard. As soon as we



A bounty of maple-y goodness!



Cauldrons bubbling

have enough sap, we'll make a batch. Rinse and repeat until the trees have flowered out and the sap stops retreating back to the roots. Last year we made 15 gallons of syrup.

Stop by. Keep your mask on. Stay six feet away from each other and enjoy this springtime ritual. Oh, and go home with a jar of syrup. It's kind of like a resurrection. Many church meetings have been held around this fire pit. Many sermons have been written and enhanced by the collective minds and hearts that gather.

Happy almost spring,

Doug Donley

**2020-21 UBC Worship Theme:
"Repairing the Breach/ Restoring the Streets"
Isaiah 58:12**

			<i>Worship Leader</i>
Mar. 7	Lent III "Fear Not Scarcity"	Matthew 14:13-21	TBD
Mar. 14	Lent IV "Fear Not the Storm"	Matthew 14:22-31	Megan Gunnar
Mar. 21	Lent V "Fear Not the Crowds"	Mark 11:27-33	Deidre Druk
Mar. 28	<i>Palm Sunday</i> "Fear Not, Daughters of Zion"	John 12:12-19	Gayla Marty
Apr. 2	The <i>Good Friday</i> joint service with Judson Memorial Baptist will be a Reader's Theater with scriptures, poetry and music from both congregations. Let Doug Donley know if you would like to participate. We have a deadline for videos of Mar. 15.		
Apr. 4	<i>Easter</i> "Fear Not the Empty Tomb"	Matthew 28:1-10	Jean Lubke

Calendar for March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	5 pm Inter Spanish 6:15 pm Beg Spanish	7 pm Key Doc Group	6 pm Choir	5:30 pm Guided Meditation 6:30 pm Caregivers Support group		9 am Bible Study 4 pm Anti- Racism Group
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9 am Social time 9:15 am Joys & Concerns 9:45 am Announcements 10 am Worship 11 am Forum	5 pm Inter Spanish 6:15 pm Beg Spanish	7 pm Memoir Group	6 pm Choir <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	5:30 pm Guided Meditation		4 pm Anti- Racism Group
14	15	16	17 	18	19	20
9 am Social time 9:15 am Joys & Concerns 9:45 am Announcements 10 am Worship 11 am Forum	5 pm Inter Spanish 6:15 pm Beg Spanish	7 pm Key Doc Group	6 pm Choir	5:30 pm Guided Meditation		9 am Bible Study 4 pm Anti- Racism Group
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9 am Social time 9:15 am Joys & Concerns 9:45 am Announcements 10 am Worship 11 am Forum 12:15 pm Council	5 pm Inter Spanish 6:15 pm Beg Spanish	7 pm Memoir Group	6 pm Choir	5:30 pm Guided Meditation <i>Newsletter deadline</i>		4 pm Anti- Racism Group
28 Palm Sunday	29	30	31			
9 am Social time 9:15 am Joys & Concerns 9:45 am Announcements 10 am Worship	5 pm Inter Spanish 6:15 pm Beg Spanish	7 pm Key Doc Group	6 pm Choir			

What's Going On



Sundays (all on Zoom)
9-9:15 am Social time
9:15-9:45 am Joys & Concerns
9:45 am Announcements
10 am Worship service
(Social time follows service)
11 am Forum

The service and bulletin will be available on Sunday on both the UBC web site www.ubcmn.org and the UBC Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ubcmn>

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09>

Spanish classes – Mondays (Intermediate 5-6 pm, Beginners 6:15-7:15 pm)

ESPAÑOL

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 810 5166 8898 passcode 292647
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81051668898?pwd=R1liaXBpMXJRMlFT0liZ2hTZVhXdz09>



Essential Documents Group – Mar. 2, 16 & 30 (every other Tues.) at 7 pm.

Join other UBCers for accountability to complete your essential documents such as your health care directive, obituary, funeral plans, and organize your financial records.). Bring your documents in progress and questions for discussion. If you have any questions, please contact Gayla Marty at gaylamarty@gmail.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 810 6944 9838 passcode: 244380
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81069449838?pwd=ZWNIUmMzNXRSYIFYaHJUczk2ZmRoUT09>

HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE INFO AND FORMS

Background on Health Care Directives:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/infobulletins/advdir.html>

<https://mn.gov/board-on-aging/connect-to-services/legal/advanced-care-planning/advance-directives/>

Here's a link directly to the form:

<https://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/handbooks/probate/HealtCareDir.pdf>

Honoring Choices is a user-friendly website focused on advance care planning. The forms on this website are easy to access and it appears that they are consistent with the statute-approved forms. There are short and long forms. You may find this site and the menu of forms useful:

<https://www.honoringchoices.org/health-care-directives/english>

Article [Is End of Life Its Own Stage of Life?](#)

A couple ideas for organizing files ahead of time

<https://www.aarp.org/home-family/friends-family/info-2020/when-loved-one-dies-checklist.html>

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/getting-your-affairs-order>

More of What's Going On



Virtual Choir Practice – Wednesdays at 6 pm

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 871 8601 2016 passcode: 113703

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87186012016?pwd=SjJ0eGJ2bVN1M1NZK0ljYkxkb1pYZz09>

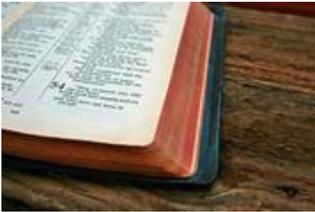
Guided Meditation – Thursdays at 5:30 pm

Join Kim Donley for 15-20 minutes of guided meditation to help us to stop, breathe, and focus on grounding ourselves.



ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 856 3650 9180 passcode: 484125

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85636509180?pwd=R3JldWQzbG5raEQrck50cWZPWStOUT09>



Bible Study – Mar. 6 & 20 (1st & 3rd Sat.) at 9 am. As we are in the Lenten Season, we'll be looking at the last week of Jesus' life as depicted in Mark. One chapter each meeting. On Mar. 6 we'll look at Mark 13. We'll finish Mark's Gospel right after Easter. New members are welcome! For questions, contact Diane Ehr, DianeEhr@q.com.

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

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

Anti-Racism Discussion and Action Group – Saturdays at 4 pm

Mar. 6 – [The Black Church](#) (1 hr, 49 min, PBS)

Mar. 13 – [Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders](#) (1 hr, Kanopy)

Mar. 20 – [Anita - Speaking Truth to Power](#) (1 hr, 16 min Kanopy)



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

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



Memoir Writing Group – Mar. 9 & 23 (every other Tues.) at 7 pm

We will discuss what the writing process was like for us, we will have a chance to share our work if we choose. The prompts for the next few weeks are: Seasons, Winter, Resilience, Essential or any other topic that you feel called to write about. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Donley at crazyazgal@msn.com or call/text 612-386-2856. (See some of the members' work on page 12.)

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 810 6944 9838 passcode: 244380

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81069449838?pwd=ZWNIUmMzNXRSYFYaHJUczk2ZmRoUT09>

PLEASE NOTE

The deadlines for submitting newsletter items have changed. They are now the 10th and the 25th of the month. Early submission appreciated! Please send your contributions to Chris Follett, chrisf2828@yahoo.com. Thank you!

UPCOMING FORUMS

Mar. 7 - All About International Women's Day

Paula Moyer will lead this forum on the eve of International Women's Day, March 8, including its history (originating in the United States), observation (widely known everywhere but in the United States), and ways to observe it, such as social media educational posts, Bible stories, music, and liturgy.

Mar. 14 - Racism, Violence, and White Supremacy: A Congregational Discussion

At this forum, we will discuss ideas about racism, violence, and white supremacy set out in a draft statement written by Laura Justin with some input from Council members. The statement responds to the Jan. 6 violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol but also addresses broader concerns and questions raised by racism and violence in the U.S.

The Council used this statement as inspiration for a focused statement condemning the insurrection, which was issued on Jan. 15, 2021. We now invite discussion of the broader ideas expressed in this draft. As you read the draft, consider: Which ideas speak to you? Which need explanation? Which trigger discomfort? What ideas would you like added?

A copy of the draft statement will be provided to those attending the forum. If you would like to look at it in advance, please contact Denise Roy at denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu for a copy.

Mar. 21 - Holy Land Travels

Betty Shaw will talk about her trip to Israel in 2009, where she saw the fields outside of Bethlehem, boated on the Sea of Galilee, walked the streets of Jerusalem, and much more. She will share images of selected sites and describe how the trip has affected her Bible study and experience of seasons including Lent and Easter. She will leave plenty of time for questions.

March 28—Palm Sunday—no forum

Do you have a favorite brunch dish to share?

Palm Sunday is coming up and unfortunately, we will miss another year of gathering for our annual Palm Sunday brunch. What is your favorite brunch contribution? Send me your favorite recipe and I'll put it in the mid-March newsletter (space dependent). Then we can all partake in brunch virtually.



Also, we will be putting together a new UBC Cookbook! The first edition was done by the UBC Loyalty Circle in 1994 and it's time for an update!

Please send me your tried-and-true recipes (make sure they are not copyrighted) for categories of appetizers, salads and vegetables, soups and stews, main dishes, bread, cookies/bars/desserts. Make note if your item is vegetarian, gluten-free or vegan.

Did you serve something wonderful for Palm Sunday Brunch – or for a Dinner for Eight? Do you have a knack for soup making? Or cookies? (I'm looking at you Terri Wottrich!) Please share! We will be working on this project over a period of months so you have time (and there will be reminders!) Thanks!

– Chris Follett

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please be with those among us who are grieving.
- Gayla Marty asks for prayer for her friend Nadia for recovery from COVID-19.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mar. 6, 11 am-1 pm

Drop in Day for our food and shelter-challenged neighbors

at University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave SE, Mpls.

Come by for a warm meal, to spend some time out of the cold, get a haircut, and find some resources and connections. Masks are required and will be provided to all guests. Sponsored by UBC, FCC, ULCH, The Arvonne Fraser Library, The DBA, The Aliveness Project and the MHNA.

Mar. 23, 7 pm

Discrimination in Housing Opportunities: Redlining and Racial Covenants Then and Now

Register at <https://www.rclreads.org/>

Co-hosted with Ramsey County Library Roseville, Kirsten Delegard, co-founder of Mapping Prejudice and Kari Collins, Ramsey County Community and Economic Development Director will help us understand how racial covenants were used in the past to discriminate, how the impacts of this discrimination still manifest today and what current barriers to equitable home ownership may be.

If you have an announcement for the newsletter or would like to put forth a prayer request, please send the info to Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com

March is Women's History Month

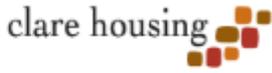
The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. Click here to learn more <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

The National Archives also has wealth of info at <https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/womens-history>

Attend the forum on March 7 as Paula Moyer talks about International Women's Day.

SPECIAL OFFERING for MARCH & APRIL

Our special offering for March and April supports four local organizations that work in housing. The four organizations are Clare Housing, Families Moving Forward, Simpson Housing Services, and Tubman.



Clare Housing provides housing and healthcare services for people living with HIV/AIDS. Based in Minneapolis, Clare provides affordable and supportive housing for more than 150 people. They operate community-based care homes, supportive housing, and scattered site housing.



Families Moving Forward, a program of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, provides hospitality, shelter, and services for homeless families in Hennepin, Scott and Carver counties. Families stay overnight in one of over 60 congregations. The program works with 12 families at a time and about 75 families each year. They work with people to find permanent housing and employment.



Simpson Housing Services works to house, support and advocate for people experiencing homelessness. They work to help people achieve housing stability. Simpson has emergency shelters and permanent subsidized rental housing for single adults and families with children. They provide services for children and youth to help break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.



Tubman is Minnesota's largest provider of domestic violence shelter services. They provide shelter, transitional housing, mental and chemical health services, legal services and elder care.

If you like, you may designate your gift to an individual housing program, otherwise the donation will be split among the four. Please note your request on your check and send to the church, or donate online.

– Steve Lee

Online Giving Available

You can now donate funds electronically via the UBC website. Here's how it works. First, go to ubcmn.org and scroll down to the middle of the page and click on [DONATE HERE](#). This will take you to several options to donate to (pledge, Fellowship Fund, monthly mission offering, etc.)

Click on one of them and indicate how much and often you want to give. Please choose the option to add a small amount to your gift to help reduce processing fees. You may want to set up an account with Vanco, our administrator, to keep track of your giving. If you have any questions, please see Denise Roy or Nancy Myers.

President's Column

Death—A Challenging Fact of Life

"...nothing is certain except death and taxes." – Benjamin Franklin in 1789.

Many of us avoid planning for the end of life. It could come at any time, but denial helps us cope with that difficult fact. We are busy and distracted living our lives. Aspirations to plan for death in the midst of daily, pressing reality easily fall off the to-do list. When the end of life comes for someone we love, we are forced to deal with the reality and ubiquity of death and loss. From both perspectives—planning and coping—dealing with death is hard, at least in mainstream U.S. culture.



Grief Group. UBC does not have an ongoing grief group. If you are interested in participating in or facilitating a grief group, contact Chris Follett.

Joys and Concerns. Every Sunday morning, we have a time to lift up joys and concerns for communal prayer.

Connect via Zoom. To make a prayer request at other times or through other means, contact Pastor Doug Donley at 612-331-1768 or pastor@ubcmn.org.

Church can be a source of encouragement, comfort, strength, and resources to help us face those challenges. Here is some information about UBC's resources and support.

Essential Documents Group. This group offers encouragement and information about resources to help get you on track to complete important documents such as a health care directives, wills, and funeral plans. It meets every other Tuesday at 7 pm. Contact: Gayla Marty.

Caregiver's Support Group. This group supports people with elderly parents and others facing challenging care-giving situations. It meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Contact: Jean Lubke.

Share the Care. This resource was started many years ago by Char Follett, who recently passed away but left a legacy. Share the Care provides help with urgent needs such as meals and transportation in times of crisis, including death of a loved one, hospitalization, or acute illness. Contact Trish Donley to request assistance or be put on an email list of interested in helping.

Announcements and Prayer Requests Section in Newsletter. UBC's newsletter has a space for individuals to share information and requests with the community, including requests for prayers around terminal illness and death and recommendations for helpful events and resources. Contact: Chris Follett

Funeral/Memorial/Celebration of Life Planning. UBC has resources to help plan for and memorialize plans for end-of-life services, memorials, and celebrations. Pastor Doug Donley is available to discuss questions and plans and can provide questionnaires to guide and memorialize planning. In addition, Pastor Doug also keeps track of people's informal comments about what they want and don't want for their services. He can also hold onto important documents, including cremation society paperwork. Music Director David Lesniaski is available to help with music planning and performance. Contact: Pastor Doug Donley.

Pastoral Care. UBC's Pastor, Doug Donley, is available for grief counseling, planning, and general help with problem-solving when struggling with the pain and brain fog that comes with death of a loved one. He can help identify funeral homes.

Continued on page 10

President – continued

Funeral/Memorial/Celebration of Life Reception. When we are able to gather in person, help is available to confer about a gathering with family and friends. Contact: Pastor Doug Donley.

Other UBC groups offer opportunities to process and cope with fears about and grief around death. **Guided Meditation** is available every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Contact: Kim Donley.

The **Memoir Writing Group** alternates with the Essential Documents Group on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Contact: Trish Donley

All times are in Central Time, and all meetings are on Zoom for the time being. See pages 4-5 for more details and links to Zoom meetings. For additional help reaching out to any of the people mentioned here, please contact UBC at 612-331-1768 or info@ubcmn.org.

– Denise Roy

The ABCUSA Anti-Racism Task Force: A Call to Just Action

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered in the streets of Minneapolis. His name was added to the already too long litany of saints: Trayvon Martin, Eric Gardner, Sandra Bland, Rayshard Brooks, Daniel Prude, Breonna Taylor, Atatiana Jefferson, Aura Rosser, Stephon Clark, and the names go on and on and on.

For many, the murder of Mr. Floyd was the Road to Damascus moment when they encountered the voice of Jesus in Mr. Floyd's final words, "I can't

breathe." These three words connected us to the humanity of a father, a son, a brother, an uncle, a friend. . . a child of God. Like the Apostle Paul, our ears were pierced with the words of Jesus, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

[Click here to learn more](#)



Want to change your Zoom background?

At the bottom left of the Zoom screen, press the **Start Video** button to make sure your camera is on. Click on the **up arrow ^** for a drop-down menu, then **Choose Virtual Background**. You'll see a menu pop up with several choices, including blue skies, the Golden Gate Bridge and the northern lights.

Select the image of your choice, or if you'd rather, you can upload your own by clicking the **plus + sign**. Zoom has [tons of additional backgrounds](#) available for free, and you're not limited to what is offered from Zoom.

Click to view the whole [article](#) from AARP

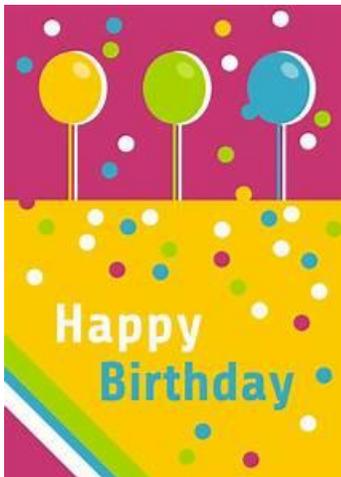
How do you know if your fruits & veggies are “clean”?

Ever wonder which fruits and veggies are grown with the most (and least) pesticides? I try to think of my food choices as an important investment in my health. So I use these lists to help me make my purchasing decisions. Each year, the Environmental Working Group (www.ewg.org) tests commercially-grown fruits and veggies for pesticide levels and publish their Dirty Dozen/Clean 15 lists. The Dirty Dozen is the list of the most heavily sprayed crops--and are best to consider spending the extra money to buy organic. The Clean 15 are items that generally do not need to be sprayed because they are less attractive to bugs and weeds.

Some shopping tips:

- Don't assume organic is always more expensive. Sometimes the cost is comparable to non-organic produce.
- Check for sales and check the price per pound.
- Check out the freezer section--often there are sales on organic berries or veggies like broccoli. Frozen fruits and veggies are often frozen at the peak of freshness.
- If the price of the organic item is close to the price of the non-organic item, consider opting for the organic item as an investment in your health. ❤️
- Keep in mind that many small local farms do not use pesticides but are not organic certified because the certification is cost-prohibitive. Support local farmers at farmer's markets or via Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) whenever possible.

- Trish Donley



March Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 6 Nadean Bishop, Teresa Snyder | 21 Karen Swenson |
| 9 Paula Moyer, Dan Murphy | 24 Terri Wottrich |
| 13 Julie Warner | 26 Diane Ehr |
| 15 Steve Lee | 27 Grace Lee |
| 17 Steven Schmidgall | 28 Mark Weinfurter |
| | 31 Mindy Lee |

March Anniversaries

- 9 Ginny Gray & Jim Williams
- 14 Megan & Dan Dahlberg
- 18 Randy DeMent & Mike Lambert

Contributions from the UBC Memoir Group

Hijacked!

By Betty Shaw

When I was nine years old, I made my first trip out of the United States. My dad had a client whose legal matter took us to Havana, Cuba. Mom and I went sightseeing while dad worked. I saw the Castillo where Castro was once held prisoner. I visited a rum distillery. That evening I went to a casino with a Vegas-like show. I felt very grown up because I was seeing things I thought were naughty and not meant for my young eyes.

My next trip to Cuba 17 years later (1968) was even more memorable. My new baby, 15-month-old Kathy, and I were headed to Florida to visit my parents. We were flying on Northwest Airlines' flight 756 leaving Minneapolis at 1:30 pm, with a stop in Chicago, arriving in Miami at 7:30 pm. On our plane a galley separated economy from first class. Kathy and I were sitting in the front row of economy class. A teenage boy was sitting by the window. We were almost to Miami airport where my parents were waiting with great anticipation to see Kathy, and me. As the pilot announced our descent I changed Kathy's diaper and gave her her last bottle of juice.

Moments later the flight attendant stood in front of me leaning against the wall panting and pale. I asked if she felt ill but she just waved her hand at me, took a couple of deep breaths and left to pick up the phone in the galley. I heard only her side of the conversation but I knew that something was really, really wrong. I looked out of the window and could see that we were no longer descending into Miami. There was lots of murmuring among the passengers and just then the teenager in my row started to throw up. Once that was settled, I could see that we were passing over the Florida Keys.

My parents and a plane load of people were waiting confused in the Miami airport. The board posted our flight as "on time," but then it changed to "delayed." Our flight was Minneapolis to Miami with a stop in Chicago which was then scheduled to turn around

and fly passengers back to Chicago and Minneapolis. After more than a half hour, angry passengers "were demanding to know where is the plane?"

Finally, the Captain's voice came on over the intercom telling us that the plane was being hijacked to Cuba and that we had been cleared for landing in Havana. A Cuban man who has been resettled as a refugee in Chicago had grabbed the flight attendant in first class by the arm, showed her a gun, and demanded to be allowed into the cockpit. Terrified the flight attendant had broken away from him and leaned against the wall in front of me. The hijacker then grabbed another flight attendant and entered the cockpit.

When we landed, the plane was surrounded by Cuban soldiers. Two soldiers came on the plane and escorted the pilot and hijacker off of the plane. Next they asked if there were any U.S. military personnel on the plane and took off the lone soldier. We all sat stunned and silent. Next they told us all to deplane but take nothing (not even a purse or diaper bag) with us.



Photo of Betty and Kathy from the Palm Beach Post
<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/06/30/minn-woman-recounts-1968-plane-hijacking-ordeal/>

See also interview on [You Tube](#)

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Hijacked – continued

Meanwhile back in Miami, the ground attendant told the milling people that Northwest was rescheduling their flight because they did not have a plane for the return flight to Chicago and Minneapolis. When my dad found out that the plane had been hijacked, he moved into high gear. He immediately called his Congressman and demanded to know what the government was doing to get the passengers back. The United States did not have diplomatic relations with Cuba so the Swiss Embassy was handling the negotiations. He assured my dad that his office would keep him posted.

So mom and dad headed back home to West Palm Beach. Back in Minnesota my husband Earl was watching a baseball game on television. Across the bottom of the screen a Breaking News banner rolled by letter by letter: “Northwest Flight 756 has been...” Earl said that by the time it came to the word “hijacked” he felt only relief. The plane had not crashed!

We passengers proceeded in an orderly fashion into the airport where we were each to be questioned by Cuban personnel. While we were waiting to be interviewed, we were given ham and cheese sandwiches and lemonade. We gave our names, addresses, occupations and where we were going in Florida. After that we all sat in the airport lobby area.

Kathy was wide awake and running around, sticking her hand in the sand bowls used for extinguishing cigarettes, climbing up and down any stairs she could find. Over the course of our stay she exhausted her mom, two flight attendants and the plane’s navigator.

The young Cuban soldiers loved Kathy. It was so much fun to watch them read Kathy’s animal book with her. Kathy would point to an animal and the soldier would say “gato” and Kathy would say, “NO, cat.” Then she would point to another animal and the soldier would say “pollo” to which Kathy would reply, “NO, chicken.” And so on and so on. A photographer from a major Cuban magazine took more than one

roll of film of Kathy as reporters came to cover the hijacking.

Trying to figure out what to do about this hijacked plane and its passengers was taking lots of time. We were the first commercial plane to be hijacked to Cuba. There was no precedent. As it neared midnight we were told we would be given a meal and then return on the plane to Miami. We had steak and potatoes and Coca Cola in the airport restaurant. Kathy’s diapers were on the plane so we used linen napkins from the restaurant. Her milk was in cartons from a large dairy in Florida. I wondered how that could be possible.

We were all getting excited about our midnight return to Miami when the news came that only the plane and crew would be going back because the runway was too short for our plane to takeoff fully loaded. We would be spending a sleepless night in the airport lobby.

Back in Florida mom and dad were driving back down to Miami to meet the midnight flight when they were stopped by the Florida Highway Patrol and given a message from Washington D.C. that the passengers would not be back on the midnight flight. The Swiss were negotiating our return on the daily refugee flights from the other end of the island. Mom and dad decided to go on and just wait at the airport.

The young soldiers were very excited to see Americans. Fortunately, my Spanish was quite good then so that I could converse and translate. They told me that they liked Americans, it was just our government that was a problem. They told us that the Cuban people were better off now. There was good medical care, and almost everyone was literate. Che Guevara’s Diary had just been published and they urged me to read it. It was interesting to see that the only thing in Russian was the name of the airport. All of the English subtitles, on bathroom doors, on shops and exits, etc. remained.

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Hijacked – continued

Knowing that we were safe and would eventually get back to Florida, conversations turned to concerns about whether hotel reservations had been cancelled, vacations ruined and how our families were coping with all of this. We were next told we would leave on the 6 a.m. refugee flight from Veradero Beach. Cuba had agreed to an extra flight so that no refugees would lose their place on the plane. About 5 am the school buses arrived and the Swiss officials sent them away saying they were too dirty and needed to be washed. We missed the 6 am flight and were rescheduled for the noon refugee flight. Obviously we would all have gladly gone on the dirty buses, but instead we waited.

Just before we boarded the recently washed buses, we were each given a complimentary Cuban cigar. The ride across Cuba was very interesting. We saw miles and miles of sugar cane fields. Some large billboards exhorted workers to higher productivity and others demanded that the United States get out of Vietnam. When we arrived at Veradero Beach we all boarded the propjet plane. There were not enough seats for all 97 passengers. No problem, we used flight attendant jump seats and squeezed together where necessary.

When we arrived in Miami, officials from Northwest Airlines wanted to know how we felt and whether we would fly again and would we fly Northwest again. Then there was the FBI who wanted details about the hijacking and our experiences in Cuba. Kathy and I were the first passengers released and we stepped out of the room into lights and cameras from television stations, radio and dozens of newspapers.

Kathy and I were dressed in bright mother daughter dresses I had made for us. My interview was aired on CBS and several radio stations. In fact Earl heard me on the radio before I could get to a phone to call him. Pictures of Kathy and me made the front page of the Palm Beach Post newspaper two days in a row. The day after I was back in West Palm Beach I was interviewed by two local television stations. My dad, a circuit judge, was running for re-election. He was teased at his Kiwanis Club meeting that week with, "What these Democrats won't do for a little free publicity!" So that's my story, my 15 minutes of fame, and I will always have a soft spot in my heart for Cuba.

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UBC building use until further notice

The UBC building is open to all renters, staff, and visitors with the following guidelines:

- Groups may be no larger than 10 people in one space (including the sanctuary) without advance permission from UBC.
- Social distancing of at least 6 must take place.
- All people must wear masks in the common areas of the building (entryways, halls, bathrooms, kitchen, lounge, sanctuary, etc.) They must wear masks in their own spaces IF there is more than one person in the room.

Congregational worship will continue via Zoom and Facebook Live for the foreseeable future. We hope to worship together in the sanctuary when it is safe to do so.