UBC NEWS

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS
MARCH 2026

UNIVERSITY
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

From the Pastor

Small but Mighty

The occupation of Minnesota continues, even though it has taken on a different form. We are still recovering from December and January's intense caravans of ICE/CBP agents terrorizing Minneapolis neighborhoods, resulting in the deaths of two people and sending the city's residents into equal parts panic and organizing and recording and taking care of our neighbors. I am so proud and humbled to be doing this work alongside you. Now, the patrols seem to be moving to the suburbs and among the immigrant communities in St. Paul. While we hear that there is a drawdown of troops, we'll believe it when we see it, or don't see them. Still, people are on edge, people stay home, don't attend school or doctor's appointments. There is no real sense of accountability for the government's overreach nor the violence they have rained down on the good people of Minnesota.

At the same time, we have learned new songs of protest and solidarity. We have received letters and cards and candles and even material gifts from people across the country. They tell us that they are praying for us. They tell us that we are inspiring them. They tell us that they are organizing their communities. We are all starting to see what the beloved community looks like. It looks like people taking care of their neighbors. It looks like advocating and suing, and taking pictures and lifting our voices in unison. It looks like small communities like ours feeling mighty all of a sudden. I would say that we have always been mighty in our feistiness and our stubborn commitment to the Gospel.

So, as the weather gets warmer, and the ice naturally melts, may our hardened hearts be strangely warmed by the commitment and solidarity that abound in this season.

Blessings and Solidarity and Peace,

Doug Donley

Lent 2026 - Toward a Progressive Christianity

Each Sunday during Lent we will look at a different aspect of how we might live into a life-giving theology that can give us hope.

March 1– LENT II
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "Love that Will Not Let Me Go" - God is love, not a distant evaluator. Not a soft, sentimental love, but a fierce, feisty, healing, justice-seeking love. This kind of love leans in when the world falls apart.
Scripture: Luke 15:11-24
Worship Leader: Deidre Druk
Ushers: Joel Delikowski & Terri Wottrich

March 8–LENT III
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "Love on the Margins" - Those pushed to the margins teach us who God is. Justice is the lens through which we understand our faith. If those harmed by religion aren't thriving, then our faith isn't thriving. Marginalized folks are not to be simply tolerated, they are theologians of their own experience. Their wisdom reshapes our understanding of God.
Scripture: Luke 10:27-35
Worship Leader: Paula Moyer
Ushers: Trish Donley & Chris Follett

March 15–LENT IV
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "Is My God Better than Your God? - Other religions reflect God and humanity's search for meaning. God is bigger than our certainty. Curiosity of another tradition is a sign that faith is alive.
Scripture: Psalm 95
Worship Leader: Megan Dahlberg
Ushers: Joel Delikowski & Gene Velasco

March 22–LENT V
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "First or Last Place?" - Salvation is about becoming whole, not escaping this earth or even death. Salvation becomes practiced in community rather than earned by belief. It shows up in tending our wounds, dismantling harmful systems, and learning to live as if the world actually matters to God.
Scripture: Matthew 19:16-30
Worship Leader: Gayla Marty
Ushers: Joel Delikowski & Terri Wottrich

March 29–Palm Sunday
Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "An Insurrection of the Heart" - Jesus is love in human form. He lived like us, hurt like us, pushed us to be better. He confronted systems others feared. He told the truth when it cost him.
Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11
Worship Leader: Paula Moyer
Ushers: Trish Donley & Gene Velasco

FEBRUARY FORUMS

Forums are held 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., after coffee time. We do our best to provide a Zoom option for remote participants.

March 1—A sabbatical in Portugal
Come hear John Medeiros speak about his most recent adventures in Portugal, where he spent seven weeks on sabbatical. He will have photos and stories to share.

March 8—Women's History Month: Re-Imagining
In November 1993, more than two thousand Christians gathered in Minneapolis to celebrate the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women—called Re-Imagining for short. Among them was our own Pastor Nadean Bishop. Former UBC seminary intern Pam Joern was the youngest member of the Re-Imagining Coordinating Committee. On this International Women's Day, come join Pam and Pastor Emeritus Nadean, reflecting on Re-Imagining, Nadean's pioneering role and leadership through the 1990s—and celebrating her birthday this week!

March 15—The calling of Pastor Doug Donley
Paula Moyer will read her memoir about the "prequel"—how Pastor Doug came from sunny California to shepherd us here in Minnesota. Paula chaired the search committee that called him to UBC in 2001. Curious about the origin story of the longest pastorate in our congregation's history? Come to the forum to find out.

March 22—The Singing Resistance
Co-founder Conie Borchardt will talk about the hundreds-strong singing group that formed the week Renee Good was killed. Since then, they have been taking their voices to the streets all over the metro with songs like "Hold On" that we've been learning in worship. Learn how to take part or support the group. As music reviewer Jim Walsh wrote in MinnPost, "The sound of this chorus coming out of nowhere on a cold and dangerous night is a healing, hopeful, soulful blessing."

Women's History Month
Eliza Winston in Minnesota

In 1860, a wealthy Mississippi family vacationed in St. Anthony, Minnesota. Enslaved Eliza Winston came as part of their household, fled the family, and became the first and only enslaved person to gain their freedom in a Minnesota courtroom. As we learn more about the early years of our congregation—just a decade old at the time of Winston's flight and fight—her story sheds light on that early period in St. Anthony on the eve of the Civil War. Women's History Month is a great opportunity to visit an exhibit about Winston now at the Hennepin History Museum (near the Minneapolis Institute of Arts). You can also read about Winston in the Minnesota History magazine and in Pastor Jane McBride's sermon of last summer at First Congregational Church, which played a small role in Winston's story. If you're interested in seeing the exhibit as a group, or doing some research on our founders and early members (founder Charles Stearnes was a known abolitionist), please contact Gayla Marty, gaylamarty@gmail.com.

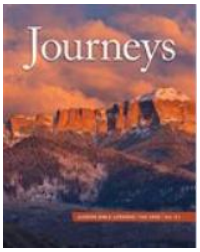
March Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
10 a.m. Worship Communion **11:15 a.m.** Coffee time **11:45 a.m.** Forum/Journeys		**11:15 am** Meals on Wheels **5:30 p.m.** Sacred Harp **7 p.m.** Memoirs	**11 a.m.** Daytime Handcraft Group **11:15 am** Meals on Wheels **6 p.m.** Choir **7:30 p.m.** Bells	**11:15 am** Meals on Wheels **6:30 p.m.** Caregiver Support	**11:15 am** Meals on Wheels	**9 a.m.** Bible Study Set your clocks ahead ONE HOUR.
8	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
10 a.m. Worship Bells Play **11:15 a.m.** Coffee Time **11:45 a.m.** Forum/Journeys **4 p.m.** Sacred Harp		**5:30 p.m.** Sacred Harp	**6 p.m.** Choir **7:30 p.m.** Bells		**11:15 a.m.** Every Meal	**1 p.m.** Book Group **1 p.m.** Card Club **7 p.m.** Roots Cellar
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
10 a.m. Worship **11:15 a.m.** Coffee Time **11:45 a.m.** Forum/Journeys	**7 p.m.** Evening Handcraft Group	**5:30 p.m.** Sacred Harp **7 p.m.** Memoirs	**6 p.m.** Choir **7:30 p.m.** Bells	**5-7 p.m.** Rooted Good		**9 a.m.** Bible Study **12-3 p.m.** Gospel Singing
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
10 a.m. Worship **11:15 a.m.** Coffee Time **11:45 a.m.** Forum/Journeys **4 p.m.** Sacred Harp		**5:30 p.m.** Sacred Harp **7 p.m.** Anti-racism Work	*Newsletter deadline* **6 p.m.** Choir **7:30 p.m.** Bells			**10 a.m.** Spanish Conv.
29 Palm Sunday	**30**	**31**				
10 a.m. Brunch **11 a.m.** Worship		**5:30 p.m.** Sacred Harp **7 p.m.** Memoirs				

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 channel (search University Baptist Church Minneapolis MN). You can also view any service any time on the UBC YouTube channel.
When the livestream has ended – Joys & Concerns (on Zoom)

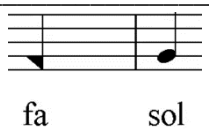
ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09



11:15 a.m. Coffee time in the lounge followed by forum (use Zoom info above)
11:45 a.m. Journeys Bible Study in the Char Follett Library. Our meeting is an opportunity to read Scripture together, to learn something new, to ask questions, and to talk about your faith. No preparation is required. Please feel free to come once or regularly. See Nancy Myers or Diane Ehr for more information.

Meals on Wheels–March 3-6 (Tuesday-Friday 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 questions, please contact Marie LaFrance at marielafrance46@gmail.com.

Sacred Harp Singing–Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Sundays (2nd & 4th), 4-6 p.m. at UBC in Room 303. No experience or talent necessary!



Memoir Writing Group–March 3, 17 & 31 (every other Tuesday), 7 p.m. Prompts include *Firsts,* and *Who is your ideal reader (as opposed to your inner critic)?* or whatever you feel called to write about. If you have questions, please contact Trish Donley at 612-386-2856 or patricia.donley63@gmail.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNIbDcwUElzTWFmLzRyZm5OQT09

UBC-FCC Daytime Handcraft Group–March 4 (1st Wednesday), 11 a.m. at First Congregational Church. If you are interested and want to be on a distribution list, please let Marilyn Burns (from FCC) know at mbsnoobear@mac.com.

Bells and Choir Rehearsal–Wednesday evenings in the church sanctuary or lounge. Please see the calendar on page 3 for the current rehearsal schedule.

More of What's Going On

Caregiver Support Group–March 5 (1st Thursday), 6:30 p.m. UBCers who care for a parent, family member, or friend meet for support. If you have questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 829 0006 6861 Passcode 942930
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82900066861?pwd=RUQ1eGhYN1RzWTJCR0VTNG1JNFVsUT09

Bible Study–March 7 & 21 (1st & 3rd Saturday), 9 a.m. We will continue to discuss Luke 17-18. New and occasional members are always welcome. No special background, skill, or preparation is required. If you have questions, please contact Diane Ehr at dianeehr82@gmail.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlbDcwUElzTWFmLzRyZm5OQT09

Every Meal–March 13, (2nd Friday), 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. at Marcy Arts Elementary School in SE Minneapolis. Volunteers are needed to deliver meal bags to student backpacks. If you are interested, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com

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Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women Book Group–March 14 (2nd Saturday), 1 p.m. The book this month is *I Heard Her Call My Name: A Memoir of Transition,* by Lucy Sante. If you have questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlbDcwUElzTWFmLzRyZm5OQT09

Card Club–Saturday, March 14, 1 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 jeanlubke01@gmail.com or 651-295-7525.

Roots Cellar–Root River Jam–Sunday, March 14, 7 p.m. Root River Jam combines elements of americana, country, rock and blues genres. Performing music with the spark of creativity and individuality from each musician, they produce songs and sounds that draw you in to their eclectic style! Tickets are $20, available at https://events.humanitix.com/rootriverjam

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UBC-FCC Evening Handcraft Group (formerly Knitting Group)–March 16 (3rd Monday), 7 p.m. at Kris Felbeck's home. Bring your embroidery, knitting, crocheting, or whatever project! If you have questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com

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20th Annual Shameless Gospel Singing – Saturday, March 21, Noon-3 p.m. in Room 303. Join Steve Schmidgall and friends to sing lots of different kinds of *a cappella* gospel music. It will also be a celebration of Steve's birthday (which is March 17)! Free and open to public, loaner books available. If you have questions, please contact Steve Schmidgall, 612-419-8142 steventschmidgall@gmail.com

More of What's Going On

UBC Anti-Racism Work–Tuesday, March 24, 7 p.m. All are welcome! Topics will include the Alliance "Organize and Resist" talk on February 24 and future sessions in this new series, other solidarity work before us, the Eliza Winston exhibit (see p. 3), and possible name change for our group. We also need to talk about UBC presence at the Alliance annual gathering "Reckoning With Our Roots" and adjacent THRIVE and Sankofa meetings in Chicago mid-April.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlbDcwUElzTWFmLzRyZm5OQT09

Spanish Conversation Group–March 28 (4th Saturday), 10 a.m. at the HarMar Barnes & Noble. Join folks from UBC and First Congregational Church to practice your Spanish. If you have questions, please contact Deidre Druk at deidredruk@aol.com.

Palm Sunday Brunch – March 29, 10 a.m. Bring your family and your appetite as we gather for our traditional Palm Sunday brunch. We will meet downstairs in the Adele Fadden Assembly Hall for a potluck of egg dishes, fruit, pastries, and other sundry food items. The service will start there and then we 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. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Shaw at bettyshawmn@yahoo.com.

Mark Your Calendar

April 5 – Easter

May 10 forum - We will update folks on the Rooted Good team's ideas for a social enterprise or other uses of our building, updates on the Historic Register process, and updates on building projects and potential financial solutions.

May 17 Congregational Meeting - We will vote whether to remain in the building for (at least) 5 more years while the social enterprise ideas have a chance to occur, while the Historic Register process finishes, and while we transition to a new permanent pastor.

May 30 evening – Pastor Doug Farewell potluck and program

May 31- Pastor Doug's last Sunday/ Farewell coffee time

June 6 – Work day

June 7 – Annual meeting

Midwest Mavens: The Foxgloves w/Special Guests Lanue and LaPlant Road

Tuesday, March 31
Doors open at 5:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m.
Our marketing manager, Maura Dunst, will perform with her band The Foxgloves at the Dakota on March 31! This event will round out Women's History Month and will feature local female musician change-makers. Enjoy a night of great music at the Dakota! Tickets available on the Dakota website:
www.dakotacooks.com

UPCOMING ROOTS CELLAR CONCERT

Saturday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Crys Matthews

Coming in April – an updated and user - friendly newsletter format!

Faith in Action

Doug attended a rally on Ash Wednesday at the Minnesota State Capitol, organized by ISAIAH.

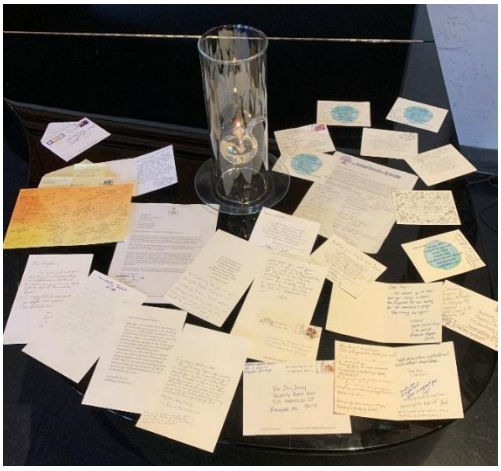
Read "Why I Went to Minneapolis" by former UBCer Jim Ketcham of Troy, NY, a testimony of his experience here at the January 23 protests.

Pastor Doug was interviewed by the Minnesota Daily U student media outlet for "Minneapolis communities push back on federal officials' characterization of the state" (Feb. 2).

On February 13, a ruling was handed down protecting houses of worship from ICE enforcement activities. Doug submitted an affidavit in support of this lawsuit and some of his words appear in the opinion. You can read more about it here.

Left photo: The oil lamp we received as a gift from First Baptist Church, Pottstown, PA.
Photo by Trista McGovern

Right photo: Notes of solidarity and the oil lamp.
Photo by Maura Dunst



Pastor Doug's Prayer from February 15

Joint service with First Congregational Church

Gracious and audacious God, we gather today as two congregations united a ministry of justice, mercy, compassion, and love. We gather here today seeking to be inspired and transformed.

We hear words from some of our elected and appointed leaders that the ICE activity is ending and the troop drawdown is imminent. While we rejoice in this announcement, we know from hard experience that such statements often provide political cover for continued cruelty. We know from the leaders who have emerged during this occupation that the work of caring for our neighbors takes many forms. It takes blowing whistles and holding phones up to tell the truth that we see. It takes holding banners on overpasses. It takes material aid to provide food and shelter and companionship to those whose families have been ripped apart. It takes legal action to hold the government accountable for the daily/hourly violations of our constitution. It takes constant vigilance.

But we have not only been fighting against a cruel regime. We have been struggling for a bolder vision of community. We have been working for a better sense of Gospel living. Help us to not gloat over the removal of troops. Help us to see them as lost siblings. Help us to do the hard work of community, not forgetting the abuse that they have done, but offering a way for us to once again, or for the first time, to share a meal together, a block party, a banquet.

While we wait for them to be transformed, let us be transfigured as well. Let us recognize in our neighbors:

* audacious activism;
* bucolic beauty;
* crazy curiosity;
* dazzling daring;
* elaborate eloquence;
* feisty ferocity;
* grace-filled gall;
* humble humor;
* infectious initiatives;
* joyous jocularity;
* Kairotic kineticism;
* luminous loving;
* mercurial mendacity and morality;
* nefarious nonviolence;
* opulent openness;
* pure passion;
* quirky queerness;
* roguish rebellion;
* stylish substance;
* tuneful tenacity;
* unapologetic utility;
* vivacious voracity;
* words bathed in wonder;
* extraordinary expressions of love;
* our yearning for a world yet to be;
* our zenith of Zen attitudes.

May we live lives not conformed to this world but transformed by the renewal of our minds and hearts.

Katie Dahl, RJ Cowdery, and Hope Dunbar performed together in front of a packed house at the Roots Cellar concert on February 22. *Photo by Doug Donley*

Spring Joint Bell Concerts

The UBC Carillon Choir and the Grove United Methodist Church Steeple Bells, joined by vocalists from UBC, First Congregational, and Grove UMC, will be presenting two big concerts in April as fundraisers for next year's bell concert tour to Finland, Estonia, and Latvia.

Sunday, April 19, 3 p.m.
University Baptist Church

Sunday, April 26, 3 p.m.
Grove United Methodist Church,
Historic Chapel, Woodbury

Please come, bring friends and family, support the bell choirs, and enjoy great music!

The UBC Talent Team Wants to Hear From You!

The Talent Team is beginning their work to fill the UBC Ministry Nominating Slate for 2026-27. We would like to know what each of you wants to do. How do you feel that you can contribute to our wonderful church community? And above all…what is your passion?

We are currently identifying which positions will be available in the coming year. There are always lots of opportunities to serve and we are always open if individuals want to creatively share, shadow, or co-team lead a position. Members of the Talent Team may be contacting you soon but always feel free to reach out to us if you have a position in mind. We look forward to hearing from each of you!

Talent Team
Margie Garmers, Mindy Lee, Sue Wester

New Music from Elwyn Fraser Jr.

Hear "Today We Truly Live," a new release on MLK Day. It's a multigenre *a capella* song to encourage empathy and community in the world. Don't miss the description about this beautiful song's origins and

Pastoral Search Committee Established

On February 22, the congregation voted to accept the slate of nominees from the Talent Team to serve on the pastoral search committee. They are: Megan Dahlberg, Diane Ehr, Elwyn Fraser, Betsy Kerr, Steve Lee, and Jonathan Lubke. In addition, President Jean Lubke will serve until her term is over June 30. At that time, the new President will serve on the committee.

Team Building Activities

Claire Mavity and Margie Garmers scraped and patched the stairwell wall near the office during the clean-up day on February 7. *Photo by Gayla Marty*

Joint service and coffee hour hosted by the UBC kids and parents on February 15. *Photo by Laura Justin*

Mission Possible: Design Thinking for Social Change

As part of the Rooted Good: Good Futures building-use discernment process, we had an extended forum time (including a catered lunch) on February 22 to play a game to introduce concepts of design thinking. Five teams of six people took a seemingly impossible mission and used the game to create a possible solution to address the problem. The Rooted Good team will take the creativity from this session to further their ideas of social enterprise for UBC.

Pictured above are several members of the Rooted Good team (facing: Laura Justin, Carrie Lubke, Claire Mavity; from the back: Doug Donley, Erik Beda, and Zena Hamilton). *Photo by Maura Dunst*

Are you as smart as our Sunday School kids?

This year our older kid class has been studying the ancient history of Israel. In February they challenged their parents to a contest. Who knew more about these stories in the Bible? The kids won, hands down. But how would you have done? What is your Bible IQ?

- *Before Israel got a king, who ruled Israel?*
- *Who was the first king of Israel?*
- *Who selected him to be king?*
- *Was the first king a good king?*
- *Who did God send to select the second king of Israel?*
- *To whose house did God send this person?*
- *What did David's family do for work?*
- *What type of slingshot did David use to protect the sheep?*
- *How old was David when his father sent him to see how his brothers were doing in the war?*
- *Who did David fight?*
- *About how tall was the man?*
- *How did David kill him? (Hint: He did not kill him with his slingshot.)*
- *There is a famous woman in the Bible who was King David's grandmother. What was her name?*
- *What famous thing did this woman say to her mother-in-law when she was told to go home to her own family?*
- *Why was it dangerous for a woman not to have a husband or family to care for her?*
- *When this woman and her mother-in-law got to Bethlehem, they had no money. So, this woman got them food by doing what?*
- *What was the name of the man that she married and why could she marry him?*
- *King David was a good king for many years, but then he strayed from God's ways. What did he do that was so wrong?*
- *A religious man named Nathan came to King David and told him a story that made him realize how badly he had sinned. Can you remember that story?*
- *Where was King David's palace?*

If there are some of these questions you can't answer, ask Andrew or Peter. They'll tell you.

—Megan Dahlberg

Stories from Our History

Elementary Sunday School Classes at UBC in the Mid 1970s

by Betty Shaw

My four children, who are now in their fifties, received and still remember some of their Bible-based Sunday school lessons from their elementary days. We did not have a purchased curriculum and it was impossible to find anyone willing to teach Sunday school for the entire year, but there were many fantastic teachers in the congregation who agreed to develop and teach a six- to eight-week unit on a portion of the Old or New Testament. The lead teacher developed the curriculum and the other teacher led one of the groups when we divided by age.

Adele Fadden (retired elementary teacher) led a unit on Miracles. One Sunday she was telling the story of how Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding in Cana. My skeptical second-grade daughter piped up and said, "I suppose next you are going to tell us that Jesus walked on water." Adele said it was all she could do to keep from laughing out loud. Anne Johnson (special ed teacher) always included lots of popular music in her lessons. She made special song books for each child and related the words of popular songs to the theme she was teaching. My daughter Lisa still remembers the lyrics "Believe it or not I'm walking on air. I never thought I could feel so free. Flyin' away on a wing and a prayer. Who could it be? Believe it or not it's just me." Nancy Myers (actuary) and Sue Wester (physician) often taught together. Nancy had a game called Bible baseball for which she wrote questions based on the unit they were teaching—David and Solomon and the building of the Temple. The temple was made of cardboard boxes large enough for the kids to go inside one by one. At the end of unit, they played "Who Am I," using Bible characters from their lessons. Drew Collins, one of the youngest and smallest boys in the class, gave his clues but stumped the entire group. He had chosen to be Goliath.

Paul escapes out a window in the Damascus city wall (Acts 9).

Dale Smith (professor of History of Medicine at the University of Minnesota) and I taught a New Testament unit on the journeys of Paul. As we followed the story in the book of Acts we created a slide show presentation. The children made the sets and I made costumes for us to act out each portion of Paul's journeys. At the end of the unit Paul is arrested, and sent to Rome. Our final event was a Roman banquet with kids dressed in togas reclining on the floor eating grapes and pomegranates from low tables and drinking non-alcoholic wine served by the students in the high school class. After the banquet we presented their slide show to the congregation during forum time.

A banquet in the Roman style, where Paul spent years under house arrest (Acts 28).

Financial Secretary's Report

Our pledge income balance to date is very healthy due to many folks paying their entire pledge at the end of the calendar year. Patrick has worked his magic to get our rentals up to budget. Our miscellaneous income budget item includes 15K in new funding/fundraising. Currently we are behind on that goal. We always welcome new ideas!

In addition to the regular distribution, the Foundation contribution includes funds to cover the facilities supervisor and marketing positions.

Operating Income 2025-26	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	47	$207,933	$138,622	$157,545	$18,923
Rental Income	18	$80,000	$53,333	$54,052	$719
Misc income*	7	$31,500	$21,000	$13,707	($7,293)
Subtotal		**$319,433**	$212,955	$225,304	$12,349
Foundation Contribution	27	$118,811		-	
Total Operating Income	100	**$438,244**			

We received $2,493 for the January/February special offering for American Baptist Churches USA

Chris Follett, Financial Secretary

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR March/April Childhood Hunger & Health

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

You can drop your designated offering in the offering plate, send a check to the church, designate a gift directly from your bank, or use our online portal for giving on the UBC website, www.UBCmn.org.

Thank you for your ongoing outreach support!!

Kim Donley and Karole Graham,
Outreach Team Co-Coordinators

2025-26 UBC Wish List

These are items that don't fit in the budget but would be really nice to have. Please contact Financial Secretary Chris Follett if you would like to donate toward these items.

1. A big welcoming banner on the northwest side of the building visible to people driving or walking on University Avenue ($300)
2. Upgrade or replacement of our playground equipment
3. New bell-table covers ($3,000)
4. Wiring and electric stoves for apartment and lounge kitchen ($6,000)
5. New furniture (couch, chairs, etc.) for nursery ($3,000)
6. Additional benches under the crab apple tree ($2,500)

March Birthdays

6 Nadean Bishop, Teresa Snyder
9 Paula Moyer
15 Steve Lee
17 Steven Schmidgall
21 Karen Swenson
23 Robbie Steele
24 Terri Wottrich
26 Diane Ehr
31 Mindy Lee

March Anniversaries

9 Ginny Gray & Jim Williams
14 Megan & Dan Dahlberg
24 Jade & Wyatt Elder

Kathleen Tice marked her 86th birthday at Lyngblomsten on February 25.
Photo by Doug Donley

UBC Social Media: A Lot to Like!

Are you following UBC on Facebook and Instagram? If not, look us up and hit that follow button! And while you're at it, would you please "like" the posts you see? In addition, give a thumbs up to our videos on YouTube and subscribe to the UBC channel.

The algorithm behind what social media shows you operates with a bit of a snowball effect: the more likes a post gets, the more feeds it will show up in. Next time you see a post from UBC, give it a like so that more people can see the great work we do here!

Scan this QR code to be directed to our web page where there are a variety of causes to donate to.

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