

UBC NEWS

University Baptist Church

1219 University Ave SE

Minneapolis MN 55414

Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

February 15, 2021

From the Pastor

Fear Not

It's ironic that Presidents' Day 2021 comes shortly after the second impeachment trial. It also coincides with the beginning of the Lenten season.

Typically Lent is a season of introspection, repentance and preparation for a renewed commitment to a Christian walk. It would seem that such a walk would include the base tenets of Christianity – some of the things that we have collectively forgotten – like compassion, mercy, truth-telling, advocating for the outcast, and welcoming the stranger.

Much of this is the antithesis of the muscle-flexing, berating and violent culture that too often masquerades as Christianity. Part of our work is to reclaim the core of our faith and use that as the building blocks of our new or renewed culture.

One of the tenets of Christianity is the admonition to "Fear Not." We have already looked at this a good bit, especially during Advent. But there is so much good Biblical material about the ways that people have lived and thrived beyond fear. The Worship Planning Team decided on digging a bit deeper on our "Fear Not" posture during Lent.



Here is the schedule:

Feb. 17	<i>Ash Wednesday Service of Remembrance</i>	
Feb. 21	Lent I "Fear Not the Wilderness"	Matthew 4:1-11
Feb. 28	Lent II "Fear Not the Secret"	Matthew 10:26-33
Mar. 7	Lent III "Fear Not Scarcity"	Matthew 14:13-21
Mar. 14	Lent IV "Fear Not the Storm"	Matthew 14:22-31
Mar. 21	Lent V "Fear Not the Crowds"	Mark 11:27-33
Mar. 28	<i>Palm Sunday</i> "Fear Not, Daughters of Zion"	John 12:12-19
Apr. 2	<i>Good Friday</i> (possibly a joint service with Judson Memorial Baptist Church)	
Apr. 4	<i>Easter "Fear Not the Empty Tomb"</i>	Matthew 28:1-10

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

Calendar for February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:15 am Joys & Concerns 9:45 am Announcements 10 am Worship 11 am Forum 12:15 pm Council	5 pm Beg/Inter Spanish	7 pm Key Doc Group	6 pm Choir <i>Ash Wednesday Service of Remembrance</i>	5:30 pm Guided Meditation		9 am Bible Study 4 pm Anti- Racism Group
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:15 am Joys & Concerns 9:45 am Announcements 10 am Worship 11 am Forum	5 pm Inter Spanish Beg Spanish	7 pm Memoir Group <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	6 pm Choir	5:30 pm Guided Meditation		4 pm Anti- Racism Group
28						
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February 17
Ash Wednesday
Service of Remembrance

As we enter the Lenten Season, we remember our mortality on Ash Wednesday. This has been a year of loss for most of us, so we will remember those losses and commit ourselves to the Lenten introspection that reveals new truth.

The service will be recorded and available on the [UBC web site](#) and Facebook page on Ash Wednesday.

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)



ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 810 5166 8898 passcode 292647

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81051668898?pwd=R1liaXBpMXJRMlIIFT0liZ2hTZVhXdz09>



Completing Key Documents Group – Feb. 16 (every other Tues.) at 7 pm.

Join other UBCers for accountability to organize/complete your key documents (health care directive, obituary, funeral planning, organizing financial records, etc.). 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=ZWNIUmMzNXRSYlFYaHJUczk2ZmRoUT09>

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=R3lJdWQzbG5raEQrck50cWZPWStOUT09>



Bible Study – Feb. 20 (1st & 3rd Sat.) at 9 am. As we approach the Lenten Season (that begins Feb. 17) we'll be looking at the last week of Jesus' life as depicted in Mark. One chapter each week. On Feb. 20 we'll look at Mark 12. 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

Feb. 20 – [Imitation of Life](#) (2 hrs, Actvid)

Feb. 27 – [Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise](#) (1 hr 53 min, All Arts)

Mar. 6 – [Healing Racialized Trauma: A Conversation with Resmaa Menakem and Tara Brach](#) (1 hr, You Tube)



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

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



Memoir Writing Group – Feb. 23 (every other Tues.) at 7 pm

We will discuss what the writing process is like for us and 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 11.)

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81069449838?pwd=ZWNIUmMzNXRSYIFYaHJUczk2ZmRoUT09>

UPCOMING FORUMS

Feb. 21 – Travels to the Azores and Portugal

On his honeymoon in June 2018, John Medeiros traveled to Sao Miguel, the largest of nine islands that make up the Azores, birthplace of John's paternal grandparents. One year later, he traveled to Portugal. Come hear John as he reflects on his photos and shares the stories behind them.

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.

Feb. 28 – Taxes and Equity, Part 2

(rescheduled from Jan. 10).

In December, Mitchell Hamline School of Law Professor Denise Roy shared and led a discussion responding to data about racial inequities in U.S. tax law. This forum continues the discussion, focusing on what can be done toward effective change.

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

February is African American History Month

Notable names in African American History

*Martin Luther King * Sojourner Truth * Phillis Wheatley * Frederick Douglass * Harriet Tubman * Booker T. Washington * George Washington Carver * Scott Joplin * Colin Powell * W. E. B. DuBois * Barack Obama * W. C. Handy * Marcus Garvey * Marian Anderson * Satchel Paige * Duke Ellington * Rosa Parks * Quincy Jones * Jesse Owens * Ella Fitzgerald * Shirley Chisholm * Althea Gibson * Malcolm X * Bo Diddley * Ella Baker * Thurgood Marshall * Jackie Robinson * Ray Charles * Sammy Davis Jr. * Medgar Evers * Tina Turner * Maya Angelou * Gordon Parks * Muhammad Ali * Jesse Jackson * Aretha Franklin * Walter Payton * Steve Wonder * Henrietta Lacks * Mary McCloud Bethune * Michael Jackson * Richard Allen * James Baldwin * Jimi Hendrix * Arthur Ashe * Serena Williams * Kareen Abdul-Jabbar * Madam C. J. Walker * Huey Newton * Condoleezza Rice * Michael Jordan * Angela Davis * Zora Neale Hurston * Charles Drew * Tiger Woods * Bessie Smith * Halle Berry * Carl Lewis * Jean-Michel Basquiat * Beyoncé * Jerry Rice * August Wilson * Denzel Washington * Michelle Obama * Whoopi Goldberg * Alvin Ailey * Langston Hughes * Oprah Winfrey * Robert Abbot * Katherine Johnson * Jay-Z * Toni Morrison * Richard Pryor * Ida B. Wells * Joe Louis * Whitney Houston * Diana Ross * Nelson Mandela * Jackie Joyner-Kersey * Coretta Scott King * Winnie Mandela * Paul Robeson * Alex Haley * Anita Hill * Neil DeGrasse Tyson * Venus Williams * Prince * Misty Copeland * Nina Simone * Crispus Attucks * Colin Kaepernick * Mildred Loving * Hank Aaron * Julian Bond * Roy Wilkins * Richard Wright * Benjamin Banneker * Walter F. White * Hiram Revels * Mae Jemison * Garrett Morgan * Fannie Lou Hamer * John Coltrane * Ralph Bunche * Mary Church Terrell * Alain Locke * Benjamin E. Mays * Gwendolyn Brooks * Jack Johnson * Katherine Dunham * Kwame Ture * Maulana Karenga * Guion Bluford * Benjamin "Pop" Singleton * Ira Aldridge * Nat Turner * Paul Laurence Dunbar * Oscar Micheaux * Lorraine Hansberry * Carter G. Woodson * Dorie Miller * Billie Holiday * Cicely Tyson * Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander * Ruby Bridges * Kobe Bryant * Bessie Coleman * James Forten * Robert Guillaume * Francis Harper * Muddy Waters * Eldridge Cleaver * Willie Mays * Eubie Blake * Harriet Wilson * Earvin "Magic" Johnson * Barry White*

SPECIAL OFFERING for JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Every Meal – Fighting Child Hunger

UBC's special mission offering for January and February will be for *The Sheridan Story*—now known as *Every Meal*.



UBC has supported *The Sheridan Story* since early days in its fight against child hunger. “Sheridan” is a reference to the elementary school in Northeast Minneapolis where the organization first began. Its goal was to fill the school-year weekend gaps in food access for children receiving free and reduced meals at school.

Since March, *Every Meal* has responded to the skyrocketing increase in food insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Every Meal* currently provides over 200,000 meals a month across 31 school districts in Minnesota. *Every Meal* has adapted its food distribution methods based on the learning models implemented by its school partners and has added new sites. Meals are also available at YMCA locations across the Twin Cities, and *Every Meal* continue to work with partners to make food available at libraries, parks, community buildings, workshop centers, and fire stations.

Beyond donating money, UBCers also volunteer to help *Every Meal* fulfill its mission. Even in COVID times, Pastor Doug and others have participated in socially distanced food packing events. In “normal” times, UBC supports *Every Meal* by partnering with First Congregational Church and University Lutheran Church of Hope to provide food to students at Marcy Open School. On the 2nd Friday of each month during the school year, UBC volunteers, including stalwarts Anne and Roger Johnson, deliver about 30 bags of weekend meals to classrooms and lockers while students are at lunch or recess.

The rate of child hunger in Minnesota has reached the highest level in decades and is expected to remain at a high level for some time. To keep up with the rising food gaps, *Every Meal* needs to raise more funds so that every child has every meal. Your donation will help *Every Meal* fight child hunger during this historic pandemic and beyond.

If you would like to help, please send your check to UBC with “Every Meal” in the memo line or donate via the UBC website.

- Denise Roy

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 donation options (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.

UBC Adopts Support for Sanctuary State

Information on the Feb 7th UBC Congregational meeting

On Feb. 7, 2021 UBC held a Congregational meeting to consider becoming a member of the Minnesota Sanctuary State Coalition. The Coalition is a campaign of the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration to make Minnesota a sanctuary jurisdiction. Unlike *sanctuary congregations* (which refers to congregations that either host those who are vulnerable to deportation or support host congregations), the term *sanctuary jurisdictions* refers to cities, counties, or states that make their jurisdictions safe for those at risk of deportation by limiting their cooperation with Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE). The Minnesota Sanctuary State Coalition is advocating for the following five things:

- Minnesota state government entities will not share identifying information with ICE
- The state legislature will pass a law making drivers licenses available to all
- The state legislature will pass a law that prevents partnership agreements with ICE and closes detention facilities in Minnesota
- The state Attorney General's office or the legislature will expand legal aid services
- Minnesota will create a Bill of Rights for suspects considering a guilty plea. Public defenders will inform all individuals facing criminal charges of immigration consequences of pleading guilty, and individuals will have the right to consult with the consulate of their country

Being a coalition member means that UBC would support and endorse the actions of the coalition. We would also have the opportunity to designate up to two UBC members to volunteer to take a more active advocacy role.

Because membership in the Minnesota Sanctuary State Coalition is distinct from membership in the University Area Sanctuary Coalition, the Council thought it fitting for the Congregation to have further discussion and a vote on the matter. After explanation of and discussion on becoming a member of the Minnesota Sanctuary State Coalition, a motion was made that University Baptist Church join the Coalition. The motion carried.

- Margie Garmers, UBC Church Clerk



"Like"

on Facebook

Minnesota Sanctuary State Coalition

<https://www.facebook.com/MNSanctuaryState>

We are an interfaith and grassroots coalition united in our conviction that Minnesota should become a sanctuary state that stands alongside our immigrant neighbors by prohibiting state, county, and city law enforcement from collaborating with ICE.

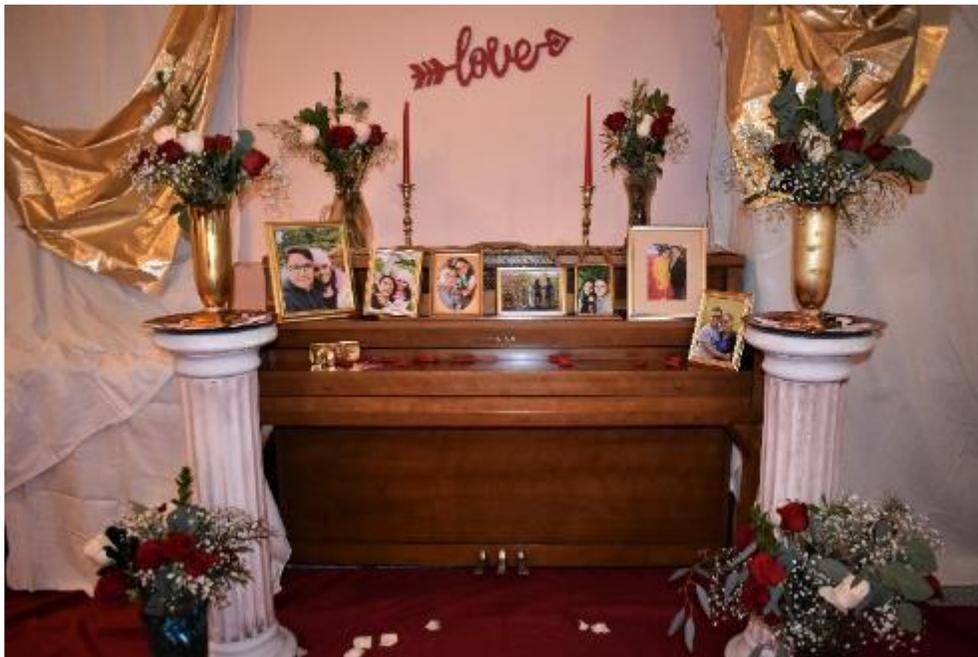
Wedding Saga Turns to Bliss

After three postponements, a family COVID scare; a change of wedding venue (from UBC to Jean's family room); a suit coat forgotten in Nicaragua; no personal attendant, ring bearer, or flower girl – **Anielka**



and Francisco finally were married in a beautiful completely Zoom wedding on Jan. 31.

Pastor Doug officiated and Kevin Branting provided gorgeous piano music from the sanctuary. John Medeiros read the I Corinthians 13 in Spanish from the UBC lounge in front of the gifts from our Nicaraguan friends and family. Francisco's "brothers" Jonathan and Michael respectively read a passage from the Song of Songs and a poem entitled "The Art of Marriage" – each from their own homes. Over 60 people participated in the Zoom service including the families of Anielka and Francisco from Nicaragua.



Michael Lubke picked up the flowers (from Costco) and Tres Leches wedding cake (from Keys), delivered them to the couple quarantined at Jean's house and delivered the marriage license (signed by Jean as one of the witnesses) to church so that Pastor Doug and John Medeiros (the other witness) would be able to sign it.

Doug delivered a suit coat for Cairo, Francisco's father. Kristie Hennig (PML Board member) delivered the beautiful mantilla that she had purchased in

Seville for her own wedding (but did not use). Kim stepped in to move the sanctuary camera while Amanda administered the Zoom from River Falls. Jean, Ani, Frank, and Cairo converted a section of Jean's family room (above) into the Lubke *Capilla de Amor* (Chapel of Love).

Continued on page 9

Wedding – continued



Jean and Cairo made the boutonnieres; Jean and Ani made the flower arrangements; and Jean took the wedding photos. It certainly does "take a village" - and Ani and Frank are so thankful for their Minnesota village!!



Left: Josie Mavity (flower girl) with her dad William.

Below: Michael reads a poem.
Photos by Jean Lubke.



What to do with your STUFF??

Doing some decluttering and not sure where to donate your unwanted items? There are lots of places to donate things. Here are a few you may not have heard of.

Donate Good Stuff (www.donategoodstuff.org) is a nationwide database where you can search by the type of item you want to donate, and find a list of organizations that are accepting that type of item, by zip code/radius. Another great organization is **Joseph's Coat** (www.josephscoatmn.org). Located in St Paul, they accept donations and then have a free store (by appointment only) where people can take what they need – no questions asked.

Hidden Treasures Thrift Store (www.hiddentreasuresmn.org) is a Christian thrift store in Saint Anthony that employs people in recovery and/or formerly incarcerated people. Finally, **Bridging** (www.bridging.org) accepts

furniture and household goods, then offers items for free to those who are experiencing poverty.

Animal shelters and animal hospitals might like your threadbare towels, sheets, and blankets too. And who knows? Maybe someday there'll be another bell choir garage sale! (Highly doubtful, but I'm sure a couple people chuckled at that!)

Also, if you are a Facebook user, most areas have a **BUY NOTHING** Facebook group that you can join, then post pictures of your item(s) (i.e. Buy Nothing Roseville, Buy Nothing Como Park, etc). You can also list free items on **Freecycle** (www.freecycle.org) or **Nextdoor** (www.nextdoor.com). For these groups, you sign up by location and you can choose where your items are posted. If you want to sell your item(s), you can list them on **Facebook Marketplace** or **Craig's List** (www.craigslist.org)

- Trish Donley

Happy Birthday!

Rest of February Birthdays

- 18 Trish Donley
- 19 Drew Cramer
- 20 Michael Lubke
- 24 Anne Johnson
- 25 Kathleen Tice
- 26 Karole Graham

From the Folletts - *Thank you* to everyone who brought us a meal and especially to Trish Donley for organizing the Meal Train.



Share the Care

Trish has agreed to take on the role of Share the Care coordinator that Char Follett used to do. She will work with Doug on the needs of members in crisis.

Contributions from the Memoir Group
Meeting the President - Fall, 1945
By Harriet Johnson

“ I got a letter from the White House today”, my father shared his big surprise news at the dinner table one evening with a twinkle. My brother, then 11, and I, then 14, looked up from our plates of food with real interest. We were full of questions. He explained that he and the Chairman of the Board of Deacons had written President Truman a letter inviting him to visit our church any Sunday to share in our worship service. It seems that Harry Truman was a Baptist in his home state of Missouri, and he had visited two of the larger Baptist churches of Washington, DC. since he now lived in the White House and was serving as President.

Our dinner conversation that night was all about the President's visit. We wondered if his wife, Bess, and daughter, Margaret, would be coming, too. We wondered what he would think of our church and of us and what he would look like and how he would feel coming into a strange church.

Our church was not as close to downtown as the other two he had visited, but we were on a direct path out 16th St. from the White House, and we were a large congregation like the other two churches. The letter from the White House was a response to my Father's invitation to him, and it stated that the President did hope to attend on Sunday a week later if there were no interfering crisis in the country. It explained that he wished to attend the regular service and in no way interfere with the regular worship of the congregation that Sunday.

That visit, even back in those days, meant accommodating the Secret Service as well as the President, and involved directions to the congregation for cooperation during the visit.

We were all to be seated when the President and his entourage entered; they paraded silently down the aisle and sat in the front rows. We were to remain seated after the Benediction and remain quiet while they walked back to the entrance door during the

Postlude. Nobody was to try to rush up and speak to him; it was not a political rally! But the Chairman of the Board of Deacons and his wife, and our family could slip out and meet him at the exit door during the closing music to thank him for coming before he was whisked out the door to his waiting car.

I remember standing in a small circle by the exit door and carefully looking at this man of great power and I remember several Secret Service men standing close by him. He seemed sort of an ordinary looking man to me, average size but he had a nice smile. It was a very brief encounter. I tried very hard to remember to "stand up straight, look him in the eye, and smile", which were words my parents were drilling into their shy daughter often in those days. And my younger brother tried hard just to behave properly. The visit still made an impression on me. Here was a man who cared enough to come to church to a worship service, but who could not stay and meet the people afterwards. He seemed surrounded by care-takers.



Harry S. Truman

I think I realized that an ordinary person could have a big job in government and needed help to carry out that big responsibility. Maybe it was a beginning of my interest in government.

Did he ever come back to our church? No. When he did attend church, he went to the one closer to the White House than ours out at Columbia Rd. and 16th St. Did my parents change their vote because of that visit? No, because nobody who lived in the District of Columbia could vote at that time. They may have switched to the other party later when they moved away from Washington but the visit probably did not affect their vote. Did the visit make a big impact on President Truman? Probably not, but who knows? It is a small memory of mine of a time of living in Washington, D.C.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT



UBC operating income continues to be strong. As of Jan. 31, donations and rents total \$164,900, which is \$27,000 greater than the pro-rata expectations.

Thanks to several pre-paid pledges, current pledge income is \$122,800, a surplus of \$19,900.

Expected annual rental income of \$50,000 is 16% of our budget. Through January, we've received \$34,600 versus \$29,200 expected.

Other gifts and miscellaneous income provide 3% of our budget. Income to date is \$7,500 vs. \$5,800 expected.

UBC's projected operating income for 2020-21 is \$304,900. This includes the \$20,407 carried-forward from 2019-20 and the Foundation distributions of \$48,000.

The percentage of our budget which comes from the Foundation has increased this year. The regular withdrawal, based on past earnings, is 7% of the budget. The extra withdrawal, to fund the facilities supervisor position, is \$26,000 or 9% of the budget. The Foundation Funds are transferred to the UBC checking account as needed by the Treasurer.

Most of our income (58%) comes from the pledges made by members. Expected pledge income for the 2020-21 fiscal year is \$176,455. On a pro-rata basis, we'd expect \$102,900 at the end of six months.

Operating Income	%	Budget	Expected	Received	over(short)
Pledge Income	58%	\$176,455	\$102,900	\$122,800	\$19,900
Rental Income	16%	\$50,000	\$29,200	\$34,600	\$5,400
Other income*	3%	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$5,800</u>	<u>\$7,500</u>	<u>\$1,700</u>
Subtotal	78%	\$236,455	\$137,900	\$164,900	\$27,000
Carry-forward	7%	\$20,407			
Foundation	16%	<u>\$48,000</u>			
Total Operating	100%	\$304,862			
Justice & Outreach		<u>\$15,000</u>		\$5,666	
Total Budget		\$319,862			

*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

Our budget anticipates \$15,000 in designated Justice & Outreach programs over the course of the year. Gifts for special offerings can be mailed to UBC.

The Mission Offering for January and February is for *Every Meal - Fighting Child Hunger*. We received \$400 in January for this cause.

Nancy Myers, Financial Secretary

Getting to Know . . . Wendy Kellogg

This feature highlights a member of our UBC family, answering select questions from a list provided.



Which individuals, living or dead, would you like to eat dinner with the most?

My dad passed away when I was 15 and unfortunately (but also maybe thankfully) he never lived to get a chance to interview or 'grill' any boy I brought home for dinner. If I could, I would love to have a family meal with my husband Ryan and my dad – I could predict that most of the conversation would be dominated by sports and I would be bored out of my mind, but it would be fun to see them interact. My dad never had any sons and I think would have enjoyed having a bro-buddy to talk to about such important matters.

How did you meet your spouse/partner?

This sounds awful, but– Ryan and I actually met on the infamous Tinder...LOL. We laugh now because neither one of us are the type that would have ever joined such a praiseworthy app, but we oddly were each other's first online-dates! My story is I had just arrived in Minnesota and one of my friends had suggested this would be a great way to meet new friends to show me around the city. I was 22, naive



and probably a little crazy for believing this but I wanted a native tour guide and maybe a free meal...and so, when Ryan's profile tagline read "they say I make a good cup of coffee", I decided to swipe right and give him a chance! Ryan and I started talking, and then he invited me to join him and his friends for a "Third Thursday" State Fair themed event at the MIA. And so, I hopped on a bus, met him and his friends at the museum and enjoyed laughing and bonding over arts and crafts and butter sculptures...now I'm married to my Minnesota tour guide and I'm really glad I swiped right. 😊

Most influential person in your life?

100% - the most influential person in my life is my grandma, Kay Matsutani. She recently passed peacefully last March, but wow did she have an incredible life. My grandma, who we called 'Baba', was a Japanese-American woman who persevered and worked hard for everything despite living through an era where Japanese-American women were discriminated against. When Baba was a teenager, she and her family were taken to an internment camp. I remember her saying to me that "internment was not so bad because it allowed her family to have a roof over their heads"...a perspective our generation I think would never understand.

After the war, Baba saved up and went to college on the east coast to study Chemistry because her dream was to be like Marie Curie. Sadly, although she was wicked smart and talented, there were no jobs for women in the labs (especially for Japanese American women) so she instead moved back to the west coast to work in a soap factory and raise a family.

My Baba never wasted a minute, never complained, and was always humble and the most gracious host. She cared about the environment and would save her dishwasher in Ocean Spray CranApple juice containers.
Continued on page 14

Wendy – continued

The way she lived life was always with great meaning and something I aspire to carry with me and live by each and every day.

Favorite color/color to wear?

I love PINK. Some say it's an obsession. Ryan says I have too much pink in the house, but in my mind there is never enough. If I could change the color of the sky, I'd make it pink. I even have pink tinted sunglasses to make this dream a reality. The color makes me genuinely happy and complete...I can't explain why. My family and friends think that I'm the easiest person to give gifts to because as long as it's pink, I will love it. It's just a fantastic and magical color!

Your favorite vacation or favorite place to travel?

My favorite place in the world is Disneyland. My sister and I grew up in San Diego and my parents would take us there every year twice a year for family vacations. We know the entire park by heart and have memorized when the characters come out and

what the proper order is to collect fast passes for all the rides so we can complete everything in one day. Ryan knew how much I love the park. He even surprise proposed right in front of the castle...of course every princess's dream! Everything Disney has always brought my sister and I so much joy, even now when I watch fireworks there I think about those family vacations with my dad and it brings me to tears. It truly is the happiest place on earth!



UBC Building Use Until Further Notice

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.

UBC NEWS

Currently published bi-monthly

University Baptist Church

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