



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

ROOTED IN JUSTICE,
WORKING FOR PEACE

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

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"As a church in the midst of this rather dystopian point in history, we have an unique perspective that demands to be taken seriously."

Read more on page 2.



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IN THE NEWS

*Christians Against
Christian Nationalism*



FROM THE PASTOR: SPIRIT OF DETERMINATION



In late March, the people of Minneapolis received the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. This is a great honor, and most of us in this fine city would say that we were just doing our part to be responsible neighbors in the midst of an occupation and deep cruelty. We did not resist in order to receive an award. We resisted because it's the moral thing to do. I dare say it's the Christian thing to do, when we are doing Christianity right. And the work continues.

www.jfklibrary.org/events-and-awards/profile-in-courage-award/award-recipients/the-people-of-the-twin-cities-minnesota-2026

I'm reminded that the people of Minneapolis have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Again, not an award or even a nomination the people of Minneapolis sought. We would rather not have to be in line for such awards. We would rather our government and its agents treat its people with respect, dignity, and compassion. We expect the government to obey the law and the Constitution. And when they are found guilty of violating the Constitution, is it too much to ask that they abide by court decisions? The work continues still.

As a church in the midst of this rather dystopian point in history, we have a unique perspective that demands to be taken seriously. We follow one who always preached compassion and mercy. Jesus stood in the gap and declared that everyone has dignity and worth. He called out the religious leaders who were being co-opted by the occupying forces.

He called us all to be good stewards of our spirit of determination. And when he told too much truth, he was publicly belittled, shamed, beaten, and ultimately executed. The horror is not so much his death, but the silence of the people who let it happen.

What if the Easter resurrection is not so much about Jesus' bodily resuscitation, but of his followers' newfound hope? Rome used the ultimate weapon at its disposal to put down Jesus' movement. Yet the movement not only went on, it got stronger. Maybe that's the work that continues.

Blessings and Peace, Doug Donley

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Theme:
"Faithfulness: Then and Now"

April 5 - Easter

Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "A Revolutionary Hope"
Scripture: Matthew 18:1-10
Worship Leader: Violet Butler
Ushers: Joel Delikowski & Chris Follett

April 12

Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "A Revolutionary Economy"
Scripture: Acts 2:43-47
Worship Leader: John Medeiros
Ushers: Trish Donley & Chris Follett

April 19

Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "A Ringing Endorsement"
Scripture: Psalm 92
Worship Leader: Megan Dahlberg
Ushers: Joel Delikowski & Terri Wottrich

April 26

Preaching: Doug Donley
Sermon: "Reckoning With Our Roots"
Scripture: Isaiah 58:9b-12
Worship Leader: Deidre Druk
Ushers: Gene Velasco & TBD



HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday, April 2

6pm – Simple potluck supper and service at First Congregational Church. Want to have a great potluck? [Sign up and share what you'll bring.](#)

Holy Friday, April 3

12–3pm – Interfaith pilgrimage to sites of current crucifixion in Minneapolis. Meet at the Say Their Names memorial near George Floyd Square (E. 37th St and Park Ave), and walk or drive to the Renee Good Memorial, the Alex Pretti Memorial, Karmel Mall, and other places of abduction and trauma in our city.

At each site, we will hear from a storyteller, a theological reflector, and join in some simple ritual and song. You are welcome to join for some or all of this experience. An RSVP is helpful to the event organizers (but not required). [RSVP via the Facebook Event](#)

7pm – Holy Friday service at UBC

Easter Sunday, April 5

8am – Sunrise service at the Stone Arch Bridge with our friends from First Congregational Church

10am – Easter service at UBC, including baptisms.

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			11am Daytime Handcraft Group 6pm Choir	6pm Maundy Thursday potluck and service @FCC	12-3pm Good Friday Walk 7pm Holy Friday service	9am Bible Study, <i>Luke 18:26</i>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Easter</i> 8am Sunrise Service, Stone Arch Bridge w/ FCC 10am Worship Communion 11:15am Coffee		11:15am Meals on Wheels 5:30pm Sacred Harp	11:15am Meals on Wheels 4:30pm Worship planning 6pm Choir 7:30pm Bells	11:15am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Caregiver Support	11:15am Meals on Wheels 11:15am Every Meal	1pm Book Group 1pm Card Club 7pm Roots Cellar-Crys Matthews
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Commitment Sunday</i> 10am Worship 11:15am Coffee 11:45am Forum/Journeys 2pm Stories@First 4pm Sacred Harp		5:30pm Sacred Harp 7pm Memoirs	6pm Choir 7:30pm Bells			9am Bible Study, <i>Luke 19</i>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am Worship 11:15am Coffee 11:45am Forum/Journeys 3pm Bell Concert	7pm Evening Handcraft Group	5:30pm Sacred Harp 7pm AntiRacism Work	<i>Earth Day</i> 6pm Choir 7:30pm Bells	5pm Rooted Good		10am Spanish Conv. <i>Newsletter deadline</i>
26	27	28	29	30		
10am Worship 11:15am Coffee 11:45am Forum/Journeys 3pm Bell Concert 4pm Sacred Harp		5:30pm Sacred Harp 7pm Memoirs	6pm Choir			



APRIL FORUMS

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

April 5 - Easter

No forum—extended coffee time

April 12 - THEN and NOW: 60 YEARS AT UBC

In 1967, the Follett family joined UBC. U of M journalism alumni Don and his wife Char (1932–2021) became active members, along with daughters Chris and Catherine, contributing to congregational life in countless ways. As a professional writer, editor, and storyteller, Don has held many roles, from Sunday school teacher and newsletter editor to (currently) board member of the UBC Foundation. Join us to hear Don’s reflections on UBC and Minneapolis “then and now.”

April 19 - Spanish Class Goes to Spain

Deidre Druk will talk about her travels last month in Spain with members of her Spanish class.

April 26—The Singing Resistance

As local 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.” Co-founder C 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. They sang on stage with Joan Baez on March 28 at the Capitol! Learn how to take part or support the group.

Read [Paula Moyer’s memoir](#) about the calling of Doug Donley that she read at the forum on March 22: ubcmn.org/donley-retirement#the-calling

GIVING AT UBC

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MARCH/APRIL

Childhood Hunger & Health

The Outreach mission focus for March and April is for organizations supporting childhood hunger and health programs. 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-Coordinator



SAVE THE DATES:

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.

April 19, 3pm

University Baptist Church

April 26, 3pm

*The Grove United Methodist Church,
Historic Chapel, Woodbury*

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

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, 5pm Pastor Doug Farewell,
including potluck and program

May 31- Pastor Doug's Final Sunday
Farewell coffee time with cake buffet

June 6 – Work day

June 7 – Annual meeting and potluck

ROOTS CELLAR - CRYSMATTHEWS SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 7PM

Join us for the final Roots Cellar concert of the season. For more info and to purchase tickets (\$20) events.humanitix.com/crysmatthews

"A passionate and powerful blend of infectious Americana melodies and folky instrumentation, Matthews delivers her honest songwriting through a beautifully raw and unfiltered lens. Oozing soul, her voice bleeds with emotion and gratitude, while simple piano melodies and upbeat percussion fill you with appreciation and love for the people around us who fight for change." — Ear Milk



STORIES@FIRST VOL. 5: FAILURE

Stories@First is back! Join our friends at First Congregational Church at **2pm on Sunday, April 12**, for a story slam event about failure. Come to hear a story. Come to tell a story. Come to build and to be in community. Snacks and conversation will follow the storytelling.

Would you like to be a storyteller? Consider the theme. We've all failed at things. Think of one of your memorable failures. Maybe you learned from it and overcame adversity. Maybe you're in the middle of it right now (oof). Maybe, looking back, you realize it wasn't even a failure at all. Why does it stick with you? How did it change you? Then begin crafting your five(ish) minute story.

[Read the Storytelling Guidelines](#)

If you would like to participate by sharing a story, please [email the First Church office](#), preferably by April 8.

ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS

The Alliance of Baptists annual conference will be held in Chicago, April 14-19. Doug Donley, Denise Roy, and Gayla Marty will be representing UBC. We'll hear reports from the THRIVE Initiative for Racial Justice (UBC has been a part of this initiative for the past five years and we have applied to be a part of the ongoing work of this Lilly Endowment-funded program). Doug Donley will be presenting a workshop on the recent occupation and uprising in Minneapolis.

EASTER EGGS AND EGG BAKE AND PALMS...

On Saturday morning, March 28, the UBC kids, parents, grandparents, and friends enjoyed a pancake breakfast and egg hunt. The next morning, we had our traditional Palm Sunday brunch in the Adele Fadden Assembly Hall, followed by a procession with flowers and palm fronds to the sanctuary for the conclusion of the service.





Top: Carrie and Otto at the No Kings protest at the State Capitol
Bottom: Doug and David at the Palm Sunday protest



Card Club made 38 baby cards for a metro area effort to support babies and new mothers of families affected by Operation Metro Surge, to deliver baskets of supplies gathered and made by mutual aid neighbor groups including handmade baby blankets and cards





***INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY*
REMEMBERING "RE-IMAGINING"
AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PASTOR
EMERITUS NADEAN!**

Pastor Emeritus Nadean Bishop and author Pamela Carter Joern were special guests at our forum on March 8. We also celebrated Pastor Nadean's 94th birthday!

We took the opportunity of International Women's Day to reflect on Pastor Nadean's pioneering role as the first openly lesbian person to be called to pastor an American Baptist Church, serving from 1992 to 2000.

Pam Joern, a seminary intern at UBC in the late 1980s and a member of Judson Baptist, joined us to share her perspectives and experiences in the Re-Imagining Conference and community of the 1990s. 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 were UBC Pastor Nadean and members including the late Faye Kommedahl, Tai Shigaki, and Vicki Wilson. Pam Joern was the youngest member of the Re-Imagining Coordinating Committee. She described the event as well as the incredible right-wing backlash that misrepresented the activities.

"What I remember most about the conference was the amazing sweet spirit that permeated everything," Pam said.

In the photo above, left to right: Pastor Nadean, Pam Joern, and forum facilitator Gayla Marty. Photo by Chris Follett

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12
SOME ROADS CLOSED
IN DINKYTOWN**

Goldy's Run on the U of M campus will be held Sunday morning, April 12. During the race, Fourth Street SE between Oak Street and 15th Avenue will be closed. Portions of University Avenue and East River Parkway will have lane restrictions. Please be prepared for delays. Consider carpooling. [Click here](#) for more Information.



DID YOU KNOW that in spite of a general decline in church membership and worship attendance in the U.S., Bible sales keep growing?

According to an article in the February 2026 issue of *The Christian Century*, as of September 2025, Bible sales were up 11 percent for the year.

COMMITMENT SEASON

This is the season that we consider our commitments to living out the Gospel in this congregation, how we will support the work and ministry of UBC – with our time, our talents, and our financial resources in our next program year (from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027). An email with the commitment packet – including a proposed budget for 2026-2027, a Time & Talent sheet, a Leadership sheet, a pledge card, and a Wish List – has been sent electronically to you. They are also available on the [UBC website](#). Hard copies are also available.

Our Commitment Sunday will be April 12.

Please read over the information provided in the packet and discern where your energy, gifts, interests, and talents can best be used to serve the ministries of UBC. What do you enjoy doing? What are your special skills? Find areas to participate and mark your willingness on the Time & Talent sheet. Are you called to coordinate or lead one of our core ministries or to serve on the church Council?

The proposed budget shows a tentative financial plan for next year's work of the church. Based on the pledge commitments, the Council will meet in May and try to reconcile the anticipated ministry needs and the anticipated pledge income. Your financial commitments are crucial to help the Council plan staff compensation, building projects, and ministry work. The Wish List contains ideas that don't fit into the budget but would benefit the work of the church. Consider your financial situation and discern how you are able to contribute – does it work best for you to make regular payments, to make one lump sum payment for the year, or to purchase (or contribute to) one of the wish list items? Please complete the pledge card or contact Chris Follett (chrisf2828@yahoo.com) with your decision.

Either bring your completed forms to church on Sunday, April 12, when we will ceremoniously deliver our commitments during the worship service, or send them to church or Chris prior to April 12. (If you send them via mail, please email Chris to let her know).

On approximately May 18, you will receive UBC's Annual Report for 2025-2026 including the proposed slate of leadership nominees and the proposed budget, based on your input. On Sunday, June 7, after the worship service, we will have our Annual Meeting celebrating our past year, voting on new leadership candidates, and approving a budget for 2026-2027. The meeting will also be available for online participation via Zoom.

Pledges and
Time & Talent
forms
due Sunday
April 12th

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our pledge income balance is doing well as some folks have already completed their pledge. Rental income is also up as we are almost at capacity with our rentals. 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 manager positions.

Operating Income 2025-26	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	47	\$207,933	\$155,950	\$166,020	\$10,070
Rental Income	18	\$80,000	\$60,000	\$63,537	\$3,537
Misc income	7	\$31,500	\$23,625	\$15,221	(\$8,404)
Subtotal		\$319,433	\$239,575	\$244,777	\$5,202
Foundation Contribution	27	\$118,811			
Total Operating Income	100	\$438,244			

We have received \$813 to date for the March/April special offering for childhood health and hunger organizations. - *Chris Follett, Financial Secretary*

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)

STORIES FROM UBC HISTORY

Ask and You Shall Receive

As remembered by Jean Lubke

At UBC, before 1990, the budget fit on a half-sheet of paper. It had a few categories (Personnel, Facilities, Mission Giving, Congregational Programming) with lump sum amounts. What was funded within each category was unknown except to the Treasurer and to Pastor Lee Freeman, who served as the Comptroller. The Board of External Ministries had the Mission Giving total to work with. The Board of Property Management had the Facilities total. But the Board of Internal Ministries shared the Congregational Programming total with the Board of Education and the Office expenses. If a board wanted to make a new purchase, Lee would need to be consulted to see if he thought there would be money available in the large accounts. As chair of Internal Ministries, in frustration at the lack of transparency, I would periodically refer to the financial buckets as "slush funds" – not a term that Lee or President Thor Kommedahl appreciated.

In 1990, we called Rev. Jim Ketcham to be our interim pastor after Lee retired. In his 1990 Annual Report he shared his priority for his interim. "I would work to push decision-making back down the ladder to the level of those who would have to live with the consequences of the decision. I hope..., the next pastor would have to fight to take back much responsibility." As part of that transition, the Council and boards began meeting monthly (versus quarterly), and the current 3-page budget with itemized budget codes was created.

In 1991, I started my first term as Congregational President. It took a couple of years of experience to be comfortable and accurate in budget estimations, but the congregation and the boards were delighted with the transparency the itemized budget gave us. One of the budgeting challenges was having the boards submit realistic budgets without including every aspirational desire of each board. The Council had started the year with a visioning retreat and we were budgeting based on the belief that if we focused on the vision, the resources would follow.



Caption

In the fall of 1992, as part of the budgeting process, we created a "Wish List" – a place for the Boards to put the extra things that they needed or wanted to buy which couldn't fit in the annual budget request. We sent the Wish List out with the stewardship packet and published it in the newsletter, hoping that some UBC angels would find something special that touched a chord and that they'd be willing to fund off-budget.

A month or so after the newsletter article introducing the Wish List was published by editor Faye Kommedahl and mailed, Pastor Nadean Bishop was on vacation, and I got a phone call from Church Secretary Sandy Price.

"Jean, we got a check! I don't know what to do with it!"

"Sandy, we regularly get checks at church. What do you usually do with those?"

"But, we don't usually get checks for \$10,000!"

"Wow! Who's it from?"

"Well, there's no return address. The name on the check is Clifford Anderson. Is he a relative of David Anderson?" David was then our bass soloist and chair of the Board of Property Management.

"I don't know. Is there a note?"

"Nope."

"OK, well, put it in Nadean's desk drawer, under something, and let her know as soon as she comes back!"

Continued on page 14

History - continued

By the time Nadean had returned, we had figured out that Clifford H. Anderson was not a relative of our David Anderson, but rather a former member who still received our newsletter. We later discovered he was the son of Mr. Elias Anderson, founder of Crown Iron Works, who made the wrought-iron light fixtures in our sanctuary and assembly room. Nadean went to visit Mr. Anderson, to thank him for his generous donation, and to ask him what he wanted the donation to be used for. Cliff said that he was delighted to see that UBC was still going; he explained that his deceased wife Kathryn was Catholic and had objected to his involvement in a Baptist church while she was alive. Now that she was gone, he was living in an assisted living facility and unable to attend services, but he loved the Wish List and wanted to help support the church's future. Thank you, Mr. Anderson!

The All-Church Council had the delightful task of allocating the funds among the various needs on the Wish List. Each Board received some funds:

- Worship received \$550 for liturgical cloths
- Christian Education received funds to update the nursery and Sunday School rooms. We bought a castle, a teepee, a kitchen, a workbench, new blocks, a new crib, bean bag chairs, and other wonderful playthings, thanks to super-shopper Terri Wottrich.
- The Property Board was allocated funds to purchase the sound system for the sanctuary, to renovate the lounge and library; and to add new handrails, exterior lighting, radiator valves, and hot-water heaters in the bathrooms.

That gift was the best motivation to get the Boards thinking about Wish List items! More creative thinking added more items to the Wish List, which we published again in the newsletter.

A few months later, in early 1993, while on a round of pastoral care visits, Nadean stopped in to see Mr. Anderson and to tell him what we had done with his generous gift. He was thrilled that his donation had made such a difference to so many areas of UBC's ministry.

A short time later, I got another call from the church office; this time from Nadean.

"Jean, we got another check from Clifford Anderson!"

"Wow! Another big check?"

"Yes! This one is for \$20,000!!"

"Oh my gosh! Did you call and thank him?"

"Yes, he was so happy with how responsible we were with his first gift, he wanted to help some more."

We had another exciting Council meeting sharing the new gift among the Boards' wishes:

- Jan Curtis and Allen McCormack convinced the Council that we needed a handbell choir at UBC as a multigenerational musical opportunity, so \$5000 was allocated to buying our first three-octave set of bells, tables, pads, and music.
- \$500 was allocated to a children's music program – buying percussion instruments.
- \$350 was allocated to update our hymnals (the New Century Hymnals were selected for purchase rather than spending time updating the blue hymnal).
- \$200 was allocated to purchase pew cushions for members and visitors who have difficulty sitting on hard oak pews.
- A videotape library and books for Sunday School and the outside playground were allocated to Education.
- The Library received funds to organize and upgrade.
- The Property Board received seed funds for the renovation of the Lounge kitchen and the secretary's office and to repair windows.
- External Ministries received a tithe of \$2000 for the Temple Baptist youth program.

When Nadean called Mr. Anderson with the long list of plans for this most generous gift, he was delighted and only had one request – to put a plaque on the playground equipment dedicating it to his Catholic wife Kathryn. "She'd hate that!" he said.

In 1995, one final check of \$10,000 came from Mr. Anderson. External Ministries allocated a tithe to Southeast Nursing Block Program (\$500) and Congregations Concerned for Children (\$500). We bought the water cooler (currently in the youth room), built the outdoor wooden sign, and updated the landscaping.

UBC owes a huge thank you to Mr. Clifford H. Anderson, who passed away in 1996. His response to our Wish List requests has made a lasting impact on the life and ministry of our congregation, even 35 years later!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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10 David Martyn
12 Erica Garmers Perreault
19 Elwyn Fraser, Jr.
21 Owen Lubke
26 Denise Roy

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

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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](#).

Mark your calendars for the Twin Cities Pride Festival - June 27 & 28. Watch for sign-up sheets to volunteer to staff our booth. Contact Zena Hamilton or Carrie Lubke with questions.



UBC NEWS

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University Baptist Church
1219 University Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-331-1768
info@ubcmn.org
www.ubcmn.org

Rev. Douglas M. Donley, Pastor
Please send contributions by the 25th of the month to Chris Follett, Editor at chrisf2828@yahoo.com

