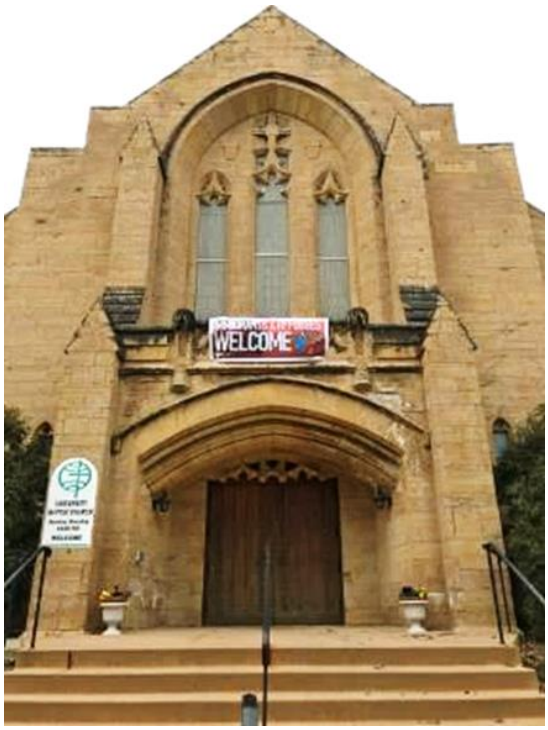


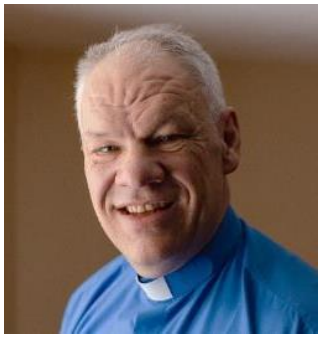
UBC NEWS

University Baptist Church
1219 University Ave SE
Minneapolis MN 55414
Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

March 2022

From the Pastor

Jesus Weeps, Again



As I write this, Russian bombings have begun at the Ukrainian border. The lead up to this war was as predictable as it is absurd. Ukraine is not a threat to anyone, at least militarily. But like Kuwait, it is a strategic geographic anomaly. It houses pipelines crucial for Russian oil needs. It has a nuclear nonproliferation agreement, meaning that it has no nukes on its soil with which to defend itself, nor will it serve as a base for Russian nuclear arms.

Is this a pretext to lure the U.S. and other allies into a larger war? Will the U.S. commit troops to defend Ukraine's sovereignty? Or will we beat our chests and denounce till the cows come home like we did with Crimea? Will the sanctions work? What does Mr. Putin want? The ability to grab land unimpeded? Is there a Russian expansionism that is seen by the region's people as okay?

Before we get on our high horse about expansionism, we need only remember that we did the exact same thing 170 years ago, declaring that land west of the Mississippi was ours and that the proud nations that occupied the land either didn't exist or didn't deserve the land.

What is our response? I know I have been trying my best to ignore this pesky threat of war an ocean away. But I fear we will be dragged into this. It's time to educate ourselves. In the coming weeks, the Baptist Peace Fellowship will be holding a seminar about the Ukrainian crisis. I'll let you know when that goes live.

Watch out for the ways that Jesus gets pulled into this argument. For once Jesus is declared on one side, then the other side is declared pure evil and must be destroyed. I think Jesus looks at all of this and weeps.

May this crisis be over, like Lent, in just a few weeks.

In the meantime, please join me in praying for the people of Ukraine, and the people who hold their lives in their hands.

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

Calendar for March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
		7 pm Anti-Racism Group	**6 pm** Choir **7:30 pm** Bells	**4:30 pm** Adv Spanish Conversation **6:30 pm** Caregivers Support Group	**9:45 am** Every Meal	**9 am** Bible Study **1 pm** Card Group
6	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
10 am Worship Joys & Concerns	**11:15 am** Meals on Wheels **5 pm** Inter Spanish **6:15 pm** Beg Spanish	**11:15 am** Meals on Wheels **7 pm** Memoir Group	**11:15 am** Meals on Wheels **6 pm** Choir **7:30 pm** Bells	**11:15 am** Meals on Wheels **4:30 pm** Adv Spanish Conversation		**1 pm** Book Group **7 pm** Roots Cellar Concert
13	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**
10 am Worship Joys & Concerns **1 pm** Council	**5 pm** Inter Spanish **6:15 pm** Beg Spanish	**7 pm** Anti-Racism Group	**6 pm** Choir **7:30 pm** Bells	**4:30 pm** Adv Spanish Conversation		**9 am** Bible Study
20	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
10 am Worship Bells Play Joys & Concerns	**5 pm** Inter Spanish **6:15 pm** Beg Spanish **7:00 pm** Knitting Group	**7 pm** Memoir Group	**7:30 pm** Bells	**4:30 pm** Adv Spanish Conversation		
27	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**		
9:15 am Drop in Choir **10 am** Worship Joys & Concerns	**5 pm** Inter Spanish **6:15 pm** Beg Spanish Group	**7 pm** Anti-Racism Group	**6 pm** Choir **7:30 pm** Bells	**4:30 pm** Adv Spanish Conversation		

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Theme: Sacred Spaces

Mar. 6 **Preaching:** Doug Donley **Worship Leader:** Jean Lubke **Scripture:** Luke 4:1-13 **Sermon:** "The Wilderness"	**Mar. 20** **Preaching:** Doug Donley **Worship Leader:** TBD **Scripture:** Genesis 2:25-3:24 **Sermon:** "Agency"
Mar. 13 **Preaching:** Doug Donley **Worship Leader:** Deidre Druk **Scripture**: I Samuel 28:3-25 **Sermon:** "The Witch"	**Mar. 27** **Preaching:** Doug Donley **Worship Leader:** Megan Dahlberg **Scripture:** Psalm 8 **Sermon:** "Destiny"

What's Going On

Sunday Morning Worship

10 am – Worship in the sanctuary

10 am – Livestreaming service on the UBC YouTube page (search University Baptist Church Minneapolis MN).

11 am (or when the livestream has ended) – Joys & Concerns in the sanctuary and on Zoom

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09_

There are no forums or coffee hour this month.

Anti-Racism Discussion and Action Group – Mar. 1, 15 & 29 (every other Tues) at 7 pm. We are discussing *Trouble the Water, A Christian Resource for Work of Racial Justice*, edited by Michael-Ray Mathews, Marie Clare P. Onwubuariri, and Cody J. Sanders. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Roy or Doug Donley.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 831 4584 1908 Passcode: 313775
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83145841908?pwd=djhuSmMwZ1NESXZ5SExNOURXa2FNQT09

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

Caregivers Support Group – Mar. 3 (1st Thurs.) at 6:30 pm. UBCers who have an elderly parent meet for support. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lubke at lubk0001@umn.edu.

ZOOM INFO: meeting ID 854 4842 3829 passcode 289297
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85448423829?pwd=R0d6eXNvcFdwTE5GRUpWQ3EvM1A1dz09

Every Meal – Mar. 4 (1st Fri.) at 9:45 am at Marcy Open School. Volunteers are needed to deliver meal bags to student backpacks in their lockers during the school day. If you are interested, please contact Denise Roy at denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu.

Bible Study – Mar. 5 & 19 (1st & 3rd Sat.) at 9 am. We will be discussing 1 Corinthians 7 & 8 (Mar. 5) and 1 Corinthians 9 & 10 (Mar. 19). Join anytime for an hour of discussion and informal conversation. New and occasional members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Diane Ehr at DianeEhr@q.com.

ZOOM INFO: meeting ID 849 4068 3516 3829 passcode 352350
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940683516?pwd=c1JuVURONHR1aFZMODZCVGlrQXdEZz09

More of What's Going On

Card Club – Sat., Mar. 5 at 1:00-4:30 pm at Jean Lubke's home. This group meets monthly to learn card-making techniques, share ideas, and make beautiful greeting cards. This month we are going to be making two very fancy (time-consuming) folding cards and then play with stencils, dye ink pads, and daubers to create our own art to go on the front of future cards.

All materials (except your scissors and adhesives) are provided in exchange for a $5 minimum donation to Project MN-Leon. Due to the limited space and the need to prepare materials, registration is needed for each month's session. All participants must be fully vaccinated. If you are interested, please contact Jean at 651-295-7525 or lubk0001@umn.edu.

Meals on Wheels – Mar. 7-10 (first full week of the month). Meals are picked up around 11:15 am and the route in SE Minneapolis usually takes 1+ hours. If you have any questions, please contact Marie LaFrance at marielafrance46@gmail.com.

Spanish classes – Mondays (Intermediate 5-6 pm, Beginners 6:15-7:15 pm) and Thursdays (Advanced Conversation 4:30-5:30 pm). If you are new to Spanish or not yet ready for conversation, the Beginning Class is a great option for you, with focus on vocabulary development and verb conjugation. If you are comfortable with basic Spanish, vocabulary and verb conjugation, the Intermediate Class would be good fit for you. The focus is on reading, writing and discussing. We have added an advanced conversation class on Thursdays. If you have any questions, please contact Anielka Montiel at anymontiel22@gmail.com or 651-295-4590.

ZOOM INFO: meeting ID 836 6517 4632 passcode 216793
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83665174632?pwd=Um9Pem0zOEZQcWpkMU5kYkNqNTFPdz09

Memoir Writing Group – Mar. 8 & 22 (every other Tues.) at 7 pm

Prompts include *thaw, president and heart* or anything else you feel called to write about. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Donley at patricia.donley63@gmail.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 831 4584 1908 Passcode: 313775
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83145841908?pwd=djhuSmMwZ1NESXZ5SExNOURXa2FNQT09

UBC *Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women* Book Group – Mar. 12 (2nd Sat.) at 1 pm. The book this month is *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.

ZOOM INFO: meeting ID 815 2376 4072 passcode 525996
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81523764072?pwd=Q1hIc2VFdnlOMEl1VWhXNzdKRDdjQT09

Daylight Saving Time – Mar 13. Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD ONE HOUR.

More of What's Going On

ROOTS CELLAR CONCERT - Curtis & Loretta – Sat., Mar. 12 at 7 pm at UBC, Adele Fadden Assembly Hall. Singer/songwriter husband and wife duo Curtis and Loretta feature extraordinary harmonies and proficiency on a parade of stringed instruments to create an alluring frame for their poignant original songs, and traditional pieces from America and the British Isles. Tickets are available ($20) at the door (entrance on University Ave) or online at https://curtisandloretta.bpt.me. Free parking is available next door at the Institute of Religion and the Arvonne Fraser SE Library and at University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave SE. Metered parking is available in Dinkytown, as well as pay parking at ramps at 428 13th Avenue SE (entrance on 5th St. SE) or 1625 4th Street SE.

UBC Handbell Choirs Concert – Sun., Mar. 20 at 3 pm at Hillcrest United Methodist Church, 9100 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55431. A freewill offering will be taken to help cover costs of the upcoming Scandinavian tour.

UBC-FCC Knitting Group – Mar. 21 (3rd Mon.) at 7:00 pm at Jean Lubke's home. The group is made up of stitchers from UBC and First Congregational Church. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.

COMING UP:

Palm Sunday – April 10 (a decision about Palm Sunday brunch is pending)
Easter Sunrise Service– April 17 at 6:30 am
Alliance of Baptists Virtual Gathering – April 22-24
https://allianceofbaptists.org/events/2022-annual-gathering/
Loaves & Fishes – April 29
Roots Cellar Concert – April 30 at 7 pm, Tret Fure

FORUMS

There will be no forums in March. Forums will start up again after Easter.

March is Women's History Month

All of the organ music this month is by women composers.

Learn about the vital role of women in American history at https://womenshistorymonth.gov/ and https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/womens-history-month

Want to Sing?

Are you interested in participating in the choir but are challenged by the rehearsal and performance schedule?

Feel free to "drop in" on **Mar. 27 at 9:15 am** for a 30-minute rehearsal and singing.

All are welcome!

Please contact David Lesniaski, Music Director, for more details.
(The drop-in choir meets on the 4th Sunday)

IN MEMORIAM

Nola Kathleen ("Kit") Burch (Horton), Age 96.
Beloved wife, mother, and grandmother left this life on February 15. She was predeceased by her parents Luna Dell and Marion Horton, sister Mabel Campbell, and the love of her life – her husband of 69 years William (Bill) Burch. She is survived by brother Donald Horton, daughter Jean Lubke, son John Burch and wife Robyn, grandson Jonathan Lubke and wife Caroline, grandson Michael Lubke and wife Kathryn, and the light of her life these last two years, her great grandson Otto Lubke.

Kit, as she was known by most, was born in 1925 in Kentucky and grew up in Middletown, Ohio. While attending Middletown High School, she sang in talent competitions on the radio. Upon graduation, she studied art at Miami University at Oxford, Ohio where she met Bill, a student in the Navy V-12 program and a football player. After his service in Korea, they moved to MN and raised Jean and John in Mendota Heights.

Kit was involved in leading Camp Fire Girls, the area garden club, bridge club, and volunteering. She and Bill served Meals on Wheels in St. Paul for Wilder once or twice a week for over 25 years. They loved to travel and spent much time on the North Shore of Lake Superior, in the UK, Canada, New York, California, and Colorado.

Kit was a bright spirit who will be sorely missed by all who were blessed to know and love her.
Memorials can be sent to the Wilder Foundation Meals on Wheels program.

The front of the sanctuary was beautifully decorated with flowers, photos and other memorabilia from Kit's life for the memorial service held at UBC on Feb. 19.

Photos by Jim Ross.

Volunteer Opportunities

Afghan Evacuee Resettlement

Alight (formerly the American Refugee Committee) has received funding to place Afghan families in the Twin Cities and our very own Trish Donley is spearheading the UBC volunteer effort toward that endeavor, which will involve arranging items that are brought to homes by others (i.e., staging the home for families, setting up kitchens, assembling/arranging furniture, making beds, etc.). **Volunteers can sign up at** volunteer@wearealight.org. If you have any questions, please contact either Teresa Janicke Devick (with Alight) at trjdevick@yahoo.com, or Trish Donley at patricia.donley63@gmail.com. COVID vaccines, background checks and masks are required.

Every Meal

UBC participates in *Every Meal*, a program that distributes meals over weekends and school breaks for families of children who receive free and reduced meals when school is in session. UBC is scheduled to distribute at Marcy Open School on the **first Friday of each month** from 9:45 am to about noon. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Denise Roy at denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu.

Photo by Doug Donley

Meals on Wheels

UBC has an opportunity to participate in Meals on Wheel on the first full week of the month (**Mar. 7-10).** We have four drivers currently and would love to add one or more to rotate in. Meals are picked up around 11:15 am and the route usually takes 1-2 hours. If you have any questions, please contact Marie LaFrance at marielafrance46@gmail.com.

Little Free Pantry

UBC is looking for backup volunteers to keep our Little Free Pantry stocked. We are looking for individuals who might be willing to stop by the church at least once a week to stock the pantry. We are also accepting the following donations for the pantry:

- Ramen noodles/instant soup (not canned)
- Bags of rice or beans
- Package mixes that only require water
- Tuna pouches
- Granola/breakfast bars and other snack foods
- Hand warmers
- Socks, hats, gloves

NOTE: We are not accepting liquids of any kind, canned goods or perishables.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Trish Donley, our Little Free Pantry coordinator, at patricia.donley63@gmail.com.

Coming Up:

Loaves and Fishes

UBC will host Loaves and Fishes on **Friday, April 29**. If you would like to participate, please contact Steve Lee at steven.lee@thrivent.com.

Pride Festival

The LGBTQ Pride Festival will take place in Loring Park on **June 25-26**. If you would like to participate in or help coordinate the UBC booth for this year's festival, please contact John Medeiros at johnthomasmedeiros@gmail.com.

MARCH AND APRIL SPECIAL OFFERING

The special Mission offerings for March and April will go to organizations which support **Peace and Justice** initiatives. There are many groups which may receive our donations and listed below are groups we have supported in the past.

The Alliance of Baptists began in 1987 as a prophetic voice in Baptist Life. They are a people of faith founded by a long tradition of dissent and historic Baptist freedoms, and seek to cultivate a beloved community, claiming their identity within the body of Christ. The Alliance welcomes and affirms all persons with full respect to gender, sexual, racial and ethnic identities. It embraces all persons with varying abilities, social standings or economic status.

Today, it has grown to be a justice movement and community of faith and its members are both laity and clergy, and people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, theological beliefs and ministry practices. It claims 4,500 individual members and roughly 140 congregations.

The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America is a nonprofit organization that seeks to gather, equip and mobilize peacemakers of faith across North America and beyond to engage in the work of peace rooted in justice. It provides resources and tools on a variety of social justice issues such as racial justice, justice for migrants and refugees, climate/environmental justices, justice for indigenous and native peoples and LGBTQ liberation etc. Founded in 1984, its mission is "Witnessing to God's peace rooted in justice---working together until it comes."

Women Against Military Madness is a nonviolent, non-profit, feminist organization that works in solidarity with others to create a system of social equality, self-determination and justice through education, action and the empowerment of women. Its purpose is to dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression.

Its core values are to: Act for social justice in U.S. foreign and domestic policy; Oppose the design, manufacture of military weapons by the U.S. government and corporations; Work to demilitarize U.S. society and create a climate of peace; Endorse education that promotes peaceful means to resolve differences; Support activists as they seek to create social change.

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH
COVID-19 PROTOCOL
FOR USE OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

INDOOR GUIDELINES

- For worship services and other formal and informal group gatherings, masks and six-foot distancing are required for all, whether or not vaccinated, including while singing and while speaking in-person during Joys & Concerns. Those speaking from the pulpit may remove their masks while speaking.
- Tenants and others who are alone in their own offices do not need to wear masks.
- Sanitizing hands and surfaces is strongly encouraged.

OUTDOOR GUIDELINES

- Masks and six-foot distancing are strongly encouraged; this includes singing.

Updated 9/19/2021

It's Almost Syrup Time!

March is Maple Syrup month at the Donley Household. For at least the past 15 years, the Donleys tap their maple trees and boil down the sap for maple syrup. It's a springtime ritual facilitated by warm days and cold nights (which is when the sap flows the best).

Look for announcements of when the fire is on and the sap is boiling. Anyone who stops by goes home with a fresh jar of syrup. If you time your visit right, you may get to drizzle hot syrup on snow or over ice cream.

Once the trees flower, the season is over. It can last anywhere from 3-7 weeks depending on the weather. You don't need to bring anything but your company (although we never turn away offers of firewood).

Photos by Doug Donley

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Two-thirds into the current fiscal year, operating income continues to be strong. Pledges, special and miscellaneous gifts and rents total $195,736, which is $29,070 more than the pro-rata expectation.

UBC's projected operating income for 2021-22 is a little over $345,000. This includes the final adjusted amount of $25,355 carry-forward from 2020-21 and the Foundation distribution of $54,739.

Most of our income (54%) comes from the pledges made by members. Our pro-rata expectation of $120,000 is exactly what we have received through Feb. 25.

Expected annual rental income of $60,000 is 18% of our budget. This category has a surplus of over $9,000 due to some late rent from last fiscal year and ad hoc rentals. (Thank you, Patrick!)

Other gifts and miscellaneous income provide 3% of our budget. These are mostly gifts made by pledgers beyond their pledge or from people who did not pledge.

Based on past years, we'd expect about $10,000 in donations for the entire year. Thanks in large part to several large undesignated donations and generous staff appreciation gifts, to date we have a surplus of nearly $20,000 in this category.

The Foundation distribution is 17%, which includes 9% ($29,406) for the facilities supervisor position. The Foundation Funds are transferred to the UBC checking account as needed by the Treasurer.

Operating Income 2021-22	% of Budget	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	55	$180,000	$120,000	$120,268.94	$268.94
Rental Income	18	$60,000	$40,000	$49,086.84	$9,086.84
Other income*	3	$10,000	$6,667	$26,380.69	$19,714.02
Subtotal		$250,000	$166,667	$195,736.47	$29,069.80
Carry-forward	8	$25,355			
Foundation	17	$54,739			
Total Operating	100	$330,094			
Justice & Outreach		$15,000		$8,143.07	
Total Budget		$345,094			

*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

Our budget anticipates $15,000 in designated Justice & Outreach donations over the course of the year. However, we will donate only as much as is raised from monthly special offerings. Currently we have received $8,143 for all special offerings.

The dedicated offering for Jan. and Feb. is for organizations providing supportive services to children. We have received $909 for this cause to date.

Chris Follett, Financial Secretary

From the President

THRIVE for Racial Justice Update—Preliminary Research Findings

The Alliance of Baptists has a new webpage for the THRIVE project! Take a look for information about project stages, participating churches, and project leaders: https://allianceofbaptists.org/thrive. I've included that information in previous missives and won't repeat it here.

Instead, I have an update on the research that the THRIVE sociologists have been conducting, including last fall's survey of church members and in-depth interviews of five UBCers. For the most part, the results seem consistent with what one might expect from Alliance (progressive) churches interested in addressing racial injustice. I'll hit some highlights here.

Survey. UBC had an outstanding response rate—94.6%! The 39 UBCers who registered their interest with the Alliance were asked to complete the survey and 37 did. Another 1,565 folks from about 175 U.S. Alliance churches completed the survey, a 48.9% response rate.

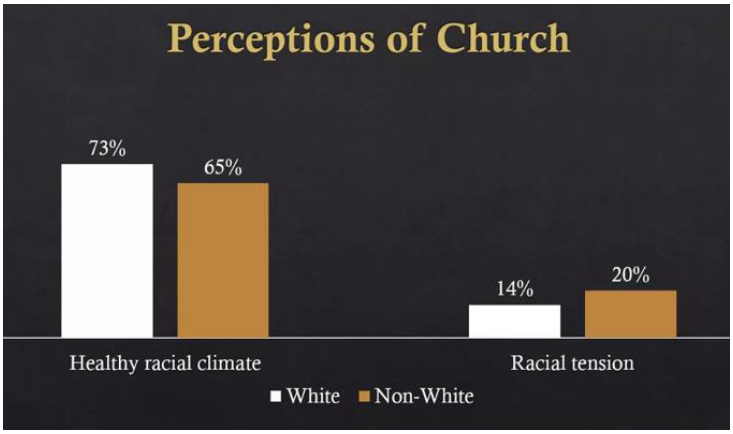
Here are a few findings of note that are generally consistent across respondents, including UBCers:

- A very substantial majority of respondents report being motivated or highly motivated to work toward racial justice.
- Significantly more current racial justice efforts are focused on personal actions (supporting others, praying, repenting) than on systemic reform efforts in areas such as criminal justice and employment.
- There are statistically significant differences in White and Non-White perceptions of the health of the racial climate and racial tension in their own churches. (Note that there weren't enough Non-White respondents to break results down among specific racial/ethnic categories.)

There is much more in the full survey, available here: THRIVE Fall 2021 Survey Results for UBC

Interviews. Sociology of Religion scholar Mark Mulder conducted in-depth interviews with Pastor Doug, Howard Johnson, Mindy Lee, Jean Lubke, and myself. The team of researchers shared the following "emerging themes" from interviews across the 26 THRIVE churches (in the researchers' words):

- Interviews affirm churches' progressiveness and whiteness.
- Progressivism on race isn't uniform.
- Anti-racism is "new."
- Black clergy and congregants are a "distinct" minority.
- Black participants wonder if addressing whiteness is "their" project.
- LGBTQ+ affirming central to church identity.
- Tension between LGBTQ+ inclusion and antiracism efforts.
- Worship practices favor white people but sideline people of color.



There is a lot to unpack on each of these points! We hope to soon make available a recording of the 1-hour webinar at which introductory survey and interview findings were presented.

- *Denise Roy*

Thank You Notes From Our Mission Partners

From *Every Meal*

Thank you for your financial contribution of $500 on June 30, 2021 to Every Meal.

Your partnership will enable Every Meal to continue to make a positive impact in the fight against child hunger.

We believe that no child should be hungry, yet over 200,000 children in the state of Minnesota live in food insecurity, including over 100,000 in the Twin Cities alone. The weekends represent a significant need in our community, as kids are at greater risk of missing meals than during the week, when they have access to food at school.

Your financial partnership plays an integral role in closing this weekend food gap. You have changed the story of child hunger for many kids. Thank you! I truly appreciate your support.

From *American Baptist Home Mission Societies*

On behalf of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), thank you for your generous gift of $100 on Aug. 31, 2021 in support of the America for Christ Offering 2021.

Your financial support to ABHMS is making a transformational difference across the United States and Puerto Rico. Your generous giving allows ABHMS to provide scholarships for American Baptist students and ministry leaders; to support our work with intercultural Ministries by providing resources and training that foster sharing and learning across cultures; to help those who are interested in chaplaincy and specialized ministries; to support churches, seminaries, colleges, church leaders, children in poverty and men and women re-integrating back into society from incarceration.

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