



**UNIVERSITY**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# UBC NEWS

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS  
DECEMBER 2025

**1219 University Ave SE  
Minneapolis MN 55414**

*Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN*

*From the Pastor*

## Imagine a Better Future

It's Advent and already the stores and media are festooned in Christmas advertising. Of course the advertising is about consumption, spending, and the accumulation of stuff and possibly debt. Amidst all that, we certainly look forward to the celebration of Christmas, especially as we gather with family and relive old memories.

The Advent season also offers an opportunity for us to get into the mindset of the ancient residents of Palestine. The Hebrew people were living under occupation, and anyone who dared question the empire's authority was punished, tortured, or even killed. I can't help but see the parallels to today's situation. Can you?

The good news is that God breaks through all of the fear and despair and decides to live alongside those whom the empire has targeted. That's good news. Revolutionary good news.



This Advent, we're going to be reading scripture from a new translation of the New Testament called the First Nations Version. How might we understand the familiar stories with new language? How might our Native friends have encountered the story of the birth of Jesus that is divorced from its

endorsement of conquest and cooperation with colonialism?

I look forward to joining with the good people of UBC in making sense of our past and our present, and garnering the courage to imagine and work for a better future for all of God's people.

Blessings and Peace,

*Doug Donley*

## December Worship Schedule

Worship Theme:  
"Faithfulness: Then and Now"

### **December 7**

**Preaching:** Doug Donley  
**Sermon:** "You Are Not Alone"  
**Scripture:** Matthew 3:1-17  
**Worship Leader:** Megan Dahlberg  
**Ushers:** Joel Delikowski & Trish Donley

### **December 14**

**Preaching:** Doug Donley  
**Sermon:** "God's New Project"  
**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-45  
**Worship Leader:** Paula Moyer  
**Ushers:** Trish Donley & Terri Wottrich

### **December 21**

**Preaching:** Doug Donley  
**Sermon:** "A Magnificent Manifesto"  
**Scripture:** Luke 1:46-55  
**Worship Leader:** Gayla Marty  
**Ushers:** Trish Donley & Gene Velasco

### **December 24**

**Carols & Lessons from First Nations**  
**Worship Leader:** Kim Donley  
**Ushers:** Trish Donley & Chris Follett

### **December 28**

**Carol Sing**  
**Worship Leader:** Karole Graham  
**Ushers:** Trish Donley & Chris Follett

## DECEMBER 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.

### **December 7–Planned giving with UBC in mind**

Guest presenter Susan Hall from the American Baptist Foundation will join us and Judson Baptist virtually for a forum on planned giving. This is a topic the Church Council has envisioned for some time. Susan's PowerPoint presentation will be followed by time for questions. See more on page 7.

### **December 14–Carol singing from the blue hymnal**

It's time for the Christmas hymns! As we reenvision our blue hymnal, created in 1983, as a new and expanded music supplement to our worship at UBC, we are singing the hymns currently in the blue hymnal and evaluating them as to whether we want to keep them, and if so, identifying changes we want to make. Because there are not enough Sundays to sing all our Christmas hymns in the blue hymnal, this forum will be devoted to as many as possible that are not scheduled for regular worship. Please come ready to sing!

### **December 21–Sanctuary decorating party**

Join the fun as we hang the greens, trim the tree, and prepare the sanctuary for Christmas with a potluck lunch and treats. See more info on page 6.

### **December 28–No forum**

Extended coffee hour.

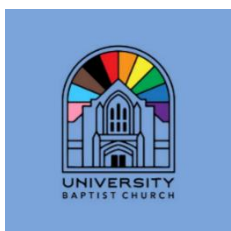
## Forum follow-up: Hope United Community Development Corporation

On November 9, our forum guest presenters Rev. Richard Colman and Mr. Norman Henderson from Hope United CDC spoke about establishing Hope Restoration LLC, dedicated to restoring the regional economy through the power of food. This would be a social-benefit subsidiary to invest in InCity Farms, a 190,000 square foot commercial aquaponics business producing fish and produce to support sustainable community development. Learn more at [www.hopeunitedcdc.org](http://www.hopeunitedcdc.org).

# December Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
		<b>11:15 am</b> Meals on Wheels <b>2 p.m.</b> Bell Concert @ Walker Residence <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp	<b>11 a.m.</b> Handcraft Group <b>11:15 am</b> Meals on Wheels <b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells	<b>11:15 am</b> Meals on Wheels <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Caregiver Support	<b>11:15 am</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>9 a.m.</b> Bible Study <b>7 p.m.</b> Sound Mind Project concert
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship Communion Bells Play <b>11:15 a.m.</b> Coffee Time <b>11:45 a.m.</b> Forum/Journeys		<b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp <b>7 p.m.</b> Memoir Group	<b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells		<b>11 a.m.</b> Every Meal	<b>1 p.m.</b> Book Group
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship <b>11:15 a.m.</b> Cookie Making/ Coffee Time <b>11:45 a.m.</b> Forum/Journeys <b>4 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp		<b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp <b>7 p.m.</b> Anti-racism Work	<b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells		<b>7 p.m.</b> Lubke Caroling party	<b>9 a.m.</b> Bible Study
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship <b>11:15 a.m.</b> Potluck and sanctuary decorating		<i>Newsletter deadline</i> <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp <b>7 p.m.</b> Memoir Group	<b>4:30 p.m.</b> Lessons & Carols	<i>Office closed</i>		
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship/Hymn Sing <b>11:15 a.m.</b> Coffee Time <b>4 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp		<b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp				

## 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).

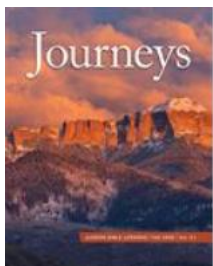
**When the livestream has ended - Joys & Concerns (on Zoom)**

**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 link 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.



December 7 - Anticipation: Luke 3:1-6

December 14 - Renewal: Zephaniah 3:14-20



### Meals on Wheels—December 2-5 (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](mailto:marielafrance46@gmail.com).

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



**UBC-FCC Daytime Handcraft Group—December 3 (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday), 11 a.m.** at First Congregational Church (500 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE). If you are interested and want to be on a distribution list, please let Marilyn Burns (from FCC) know at [mbsnoobear@mac.com](mailto:mbsnoobear@mac.com).

**Bells and Choir Rehearsal—Wednesday evenings** in the church sanctuary or lounge. It's an exciting time of year as we prepare music for the Christmas season, including Christmas Eve. Please see the calendar on page 3 for the current rehearsal schedule.



**Caregiver Support Group—December 4 (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday), 6:30 p.m.** UBCers who care for a parent, family member, or friend meet for support. If you have questions, please contact Jean Lubke at [jeanlubke01@gmail.com](mailto:jeanlubke01@gmail.com).

**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID 829 0006 6861    Passcode 942930

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82900066861?pwd=RUQ1eGhYN1RzWTJCR0VTNG1JNFVsUT09>

## **More of What's Going On**



**Bible Study–December 6 & 20 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday), 9 a.m.** We will discuss Luke 12:35-13. 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](mailto:dianeehr82@gmail.com).

**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlYkRwUElzMWZyZm5OQT09>

**Sound Mind Project's Winter Concert - Saturday, December 6, 7 p.m.** at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 1900 7th St. NW, New Brighton. Doug and Kim Donley sing in this choir that raises money for youth mental health programs.



**Memoir Writing Group–December 9 & 23 (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](mailto:patricia.donley63@gmail.com).

**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlYkRwUElzMWZyZm5OQT09>

**Every Meal–December 12 (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday), 11 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 Denise Roy at [denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu](mailto:denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu)



**Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women Book Group–December 13 (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday), 1 p.m.** The book this month is *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes. If you have questions, please contact Chris Follett at [chrisf2828@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisf2828@yahoo.com).

**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlYkRwUElzMWZyZm5OQT09>

**Second Annual Cookie-making and Baking with UBC Children and Families–Sunday, December 14, 11 a.m** (or whenever you can come after the service or forum!) in the Adele Fadden Assembly Hall. Join UBC kids and families making and decorating cookies that they will serve at the sanctuary decorating party on December 21. For more info, contact Claire Mavity at [s.clairecat@gmail.com](mailto:s.clairecat@gmail.com).



**NOTE: The UBC-FCC Knitting group on December 15 has been cancelled.**



## More of What's Going On



**UBC Anti-Racism Work–Tuesday, December 16, 7 p.m.** In November we participated with Judson Baptist in a presentation for the ABC Rochester-Genesee Region on our congregations' responses to the murder of George Floyd. Join us as we look ahead to 2026 activities and priorities. All are welcome!

**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlbnBhcWUeZlZTWfmlZm5OQT09>

### **The 40th Annual Lubke Caroling Party, Friday, December 19, 7 p.m.**

at Jean Lubke's home, 2215 Ferris Lane, Roseville, 55113. Jean's townhome provides a neighborhood ready-made for easy caroling. So, weather permitting, we will bring our caroling books and carol at a few of the neighbors' and then we'll return to the house for wassail and goodies—and more singing around the piano and the fireplace!



Please come, bring family and friends, bring a Christmas treat to share, and come ready to enjoy the music, food, and fellowship of the season!

RSVPs are very helpful so Jean knows how much wassail to make. Let her know if you can come at [jeanlubke01@gmail.com](mailto:jeanlubke01@gmail.com) or 651-295-7525. Hope you can join us!



**Tree and Sanctuary Decorating and Potluck Party, Sunday, December 21, 11:15 a.m.** in the sanctuary. Join us after the morning service to decorate the Christmas tree and sanctuary. Many hands make quick work! Please bring a food contribution to share. Cookies will be provided. Contact Margie Garmers if you can help with set up or clean up at [mgarmers01@gmail.com](mailto:mgarmers01@gmail.com).

**Christmas Eve Service - Wednesday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m.** Invite your friends and family to this annual Christmas Eve tradition at UBC. The service begins with a music prelude at 4:30 p.m., followed by the Christmas story told by various speakers, interspersed with carols, and concluding with a candlelight singing of "Silent Night." The service should be finished around 6:15 p.m. It will be livestreamed and available on [UBC's YouTube](#) channel.



### **Mark Your Calendar**

**January 4** - Undecorate the sanctuary  
**January 10** - Cleanup day (see page 20)  
**January 18** - Joint service with FCC at FCC  
**February 7** - Cleanup day (see page 20)  
**February 15** - Joint service with FCC at UBC

Please note the deadline for the January newsletter is earlier than usual— **December 23**.

Please submit any stories or photos by that date, if possible.  
- Chris Follett, editor



University Baptist Church and Judson Memorial Baptist Church invite you to stay after worship on Sunday, December 7, 2025, for an informative presentation.

The season of thanksgiving and rejoicing in the birth of Christ is the perfect time to reflect on our blessings and consider new ways to show our love and appreciation. We will talk about:

- Giving as worship (sometimes without writing a check)
- Growing your savings
- Investing in missions and ministry
- Ensuring the future of your church
- Establishing generational wealth and security

Let us take the first step on Sunday, December 7, immediately following worship.

~ COME  
~ HEAR

~ SHARE  
~ GROW

This is your invitation to join Pastor Doug, Pastor Travis and Susan Hall, guest presenter from the American Baptist Foundation.



This presentation is available via Zoom at the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83947257444?pwd=cFZCWEdqUkR0RDgwT0JwT3hrQ3FpUT09>

# WELCOME

## New Members - Ivan Beda and Randy Huyck

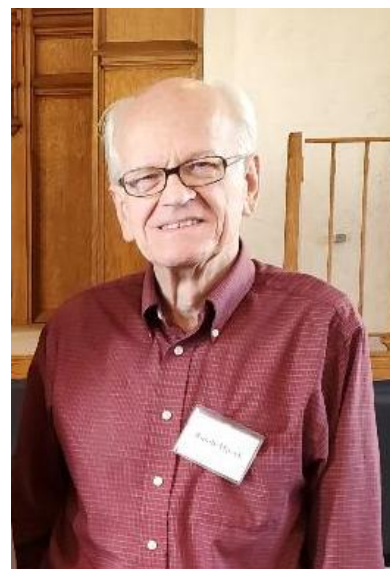


**Ivan** was born in Moscow and attended public school, focusing slightly more on STEM-related subjects like physics and math. In 2005 he started his studies in biology, genetics, and veterinary courses at the Russian State Agricultural University. He has always been curious about how nature is organized. It was there that he met Erik and they have become inseparable ever since. After the university, he worked at several zoological parks as an animal care officer.

Ivan enjoys hiking and walking around the neighborhood, being in nature to examine various animals and plants. He also really enjoys creating computer graphics and cartoons and likes to read, especially non-fiction, and to learn new things in general.

**Randy** joins as a community member (retaining his home church membership in Evanston, IL). Randy is the son of Rev. Ken Huyck, who was our pastor in the 1960s. Randy was away at college so didn't ever attend UBC. He visited the first time this summer as part of our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Randy attended Kalamazoo College in Michigan (historically but no longer affiliated with American Baptist Churches), started graduate work at the University of Chicago, but left to help support his family with a career in the insurance business.

Now retired after 50-plus years in the Chicago area, he moved to Northfield in 2024 to be near the family of one of his three sons. He likes to read about the connections and disconnections between religion and science, and enjoys very much living in Minnesota.







## Employee Appreciation

Annually we show our appreciation for our full- and half-time staff members with a monetary gift presented at the end of the year.

### Contribute to the Staff Appreciation gift by December 24 using one of the following methods:

- Put your contribution in the offering plate.
- Send your check or make a payment through your bank (payable to UBC, 1219 University Ave. SE, Mpls, MN 55414.)
- Donate online at [www.ubcmn.org](http://www.ubcmn.org). Click on the "Giving" button at the top of the page and then select "Staff Appreciation."

If you pay by check, please note "Staff Appreciation" on the memo line. Please do NOT specify any particular staff member; it will negate your tax-deductible benefit and complicate the distribution process. The Personnel Committee will determine the final distribution.

Personnel Committee:  
*Megan Gunnar Dahlberg and Steve Lee*

## Looking for Holiday Carolers

Holiday caroling visits are being organized for Saturday, December 20, and Sunday, December 21. If you would like to join in as a caroler, or if you know of someone who might enjoy a visit, please contact Margie Garmers at [mgarmers01@gmail.com](mailto:mgarmers01@gmail.com).



## Poinsettias to Decorate the Sanctuary

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve, please put \$15 per plant in one of the special envelopes available in the pew racks or send the money electronically with a note identifying it for poinsettias.

If you would like the poinsettia to be in honor or in memory of someone, please indicate that on the envelope or electronic contribution. Then, feel free to take it home with you after the service.

**Poinsettia purchases must be made by Sunday, December 21.**



We are looking for childcare coverage when our current student workers are unavailable.

- Wednesday, 12/17, 6-9 p.m.
- Sunday, 12/21, 9-12
- Wednesday, 12/24, 4-6 p.m.
- Sunday, 12/28, 9-12
- Wednesday, 12/31, 6-9 p.m.
- Sunday, 1/4, 9-12
- Wednesday, 1/7, 6-9 p.m.
- Sunday, 1/11, 9-12

Please let Amanda Donley know if you can help at [amanda.donley4@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.donley4@gmail.com).

## Stories from Our History

### Baptism By Fire

1996, as remembered by Jean Lubke

Christmas is a favorite time for most of us UBCers; and the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service is one of the highlights of the year. Fresh spruce garlands are swagged from the three balconies adorned with red bows. A large Christmas tree, decorated by the congregation, stands behind the pulpit. An empty handmade manger sits spotlighted in the middle of the stage.

The two candelabra candle holders hold tall, new candles and wear red bows like large bowties. The handmade green painted wooden platforms hold the clear glass candle holders and the red tapers in each window. The hanging flags have been changed from the blues of Advent to the reds and greens of Christmas.

Since at least 1954, the service has begun at 4:30 p.m.—sunset in Minneapolis—with a 30-minute prelude of various combinations of keyboards, choir, bells, soloists, and other instrumentalists. It's the concert before the service, and almost everyone is there for the concert. The lessons and carols format service then begins at 5:00 p.m.

On Christmas Eve 1996, an extra special event was being added to the program—13-year-old Susanna "Claire" Mavity had decided to be baptized.

At UBC, baptisms take place in the tiled baptistry located at the front of the sanctuary in the center

of the platform (stage). Its large wooden doors are removed, revealing to the congregation a blue and beige-tiled backdrop reminiscent of the Roman baths. Narrow tiled steps from each side provide access and regress, and in the



**Pastor Doug Donley at the UBC baptistry**

*Photo by Chris Follett*

earlier years provided easy access to the changing stalls in the room behind. The baptistry is filled about four feet deep with water heated by the old, somewhat unreliable boiler in the basement.

That night, it was cold in the sanctuary, and steam was visible rising from the baptistry water. Since the pastor needs to perform the baptism and then get dried off to officiate the rest of the service, baptisms are usually conducted early in the service, also giving the baptismal candidate time to dry off and return before the end of the

*Continued on page 11*

*Baptism - continued*

church service to be welcomed into church membership. On this Christmas Eve, the baptism was scheduled to immediately follow the opening carol, about 5:05 p.m.

Baptismal candidates usually select a mentor to help them through the process including providing towels to cover the back-stage carpet, calming nerves and providing reassurances, providing a firm hand to help them out of the sometimes-slippery tile baptistry, and wrapping them in towels on their way to the changing room. I was honored that Claire had selected me as her mentor.

Claire's family sat in the front pew on the left side of the sanctuary to get the best views. Even Papa Pat, her father, was there. At that time, Pat served as the church's janitor and didn't often come to services.

I had planned to get everything ready backstage, throw on my choir robe to sing with the choir for the prelude, race backstage, take off my robe, help with the baptism, put my robe back on, and be back in place with the sopranos by the first choir carol. Best-laid plans!

4:25 p.m. In getting everything ready backstage, there seemed to be more than the usual amount of steam wafting from the baptistry. Pastor Nadean put her toe in the water, gasped, and yanked it back out. I checked the water and nearly scalded my hand. I knew it was way too hot for anyone to enter.

How do you quickly cool down a large tank of hot water? It was clear I wasn't going to sing in the prelude, so I went to the side sanctuary door and signaled to music director Sonja at the piano to keep going without me.

I raced down the hall to the kitchen sure of finding plenty of ice. I raced back down the hall with two ice cube trays and a half-filled bag of ice and quickly dumped them in the large pool. Psssst! The ice cubes were immediately consumed by the scalding water. We need lots more! We had a white Christmas—there's snow outside! How to get it inside?

4:55 p.m. Back to the side door of the sanctuary, this time to signal for Pat's help and to let Sonja and the worship leader know to start the service without the baptism. Pat located large buckets, immediately began filling them with snow, and hauling them, unseen by the congregation, dumping them into the baptistry from the side steps. Psssssssssst!

The mounds of snow melted slower than the ice cubes as they floated across the surface of the baptismal waters. 5:10 p.m. But we needed bucket after bucket after bucket after bucket. The water level was rising dangerously close to the top of the sill opening onto the platform. I wondered what everyone was thinking as they saw piles of floating snow. 5:30 p.m. More snow.

5:45 p.m. It was now or never. Nadean, Claire, Pat, and I tried the water. It was still really hot! "Nadean, just get in there." I said, "Dunk her quickly and get out of there! No extra prayers!" I signaled to the worship leader that we were ready. Nadean and Claire were in and out of that baptistry faster than any baptism we'd seen before—but they were intact!

Baptisms are supposed to be a memorable spiritual experience for the candidate. I know Claire's baptism was memorable!



## Celebrating all our saints at UBC



Lots of bells were ringing at UBC on November 2 as we celebrated all our saints, an annual tradition with added history this year on our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Among our Great Cloud of Witnesses, we named our 10 founders and many others who contributed to our survival and life as a congregation.

We welcomed a number of former members, including Jan Curtis and interim pastor Jim Ketcham from Troy, NY; Randy Huyck, son of former pastor Ken Huyck (see also page 10) from Northfield, MN; former congregational president Dave McAllister from Mankato, MN; and Allen McCormack from Indiana, who brought the bell-banner concept to us in 1984 as well as serving on the search committee that brought Pastor Nadean Bishop in 1992.

After worship, we enjoyed a potluck dinner in the Adele Fadden Assembly Room (lower left), followed by reflections from the 1800s on politics, religion, and being human by Mark Twain as channeled through Jim Ketcham (lower right). Thanks to everyone who joined this wonderful reunion!

*Photos by Maura Dunst*





## In Memoriam–Mel Roy, 1929-2025



Beloved former UBC member Melvin “Mel” Roy died November 2 at his home in Belton, Missouri, at the age of 96. Born in Minneapolis and the elder brother of longtime UBC member Doug Roy (1934-2022), Mel served as a pastor with his wife, Shirley, and three children at several churches during his career. In retirement, Mel and Shirley returned to Minnesota, active at UBC until 2013, when they moved to Belton to be near their children.



Shirley Roy, center, surrounded by her children, nieces and nephew.



Pastor Doug travelled to Kansas City, where he spoke at Mel’s celebration of life on November 15. “Mel was a fine person and fond of saying, ‘If you were brought up on charges of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?’” Pastor Doug says. “He said this not to be judgmental but to encourage us to take our faith seriously.” Please be in prayer with Shirley and the rest of the Roy family. You can read Mel’s obituary [here](#).



## Getting to know our building's history



Local architectural historian team Lauren Anderson and Shannon Smith from the Southeast Minneapolis firm New History led a fascinating guided tour of University Baptist Church building on November 16. Lauren and Shannon are the grant-supported team who wrote our successful application to the Minnesota Historical Preservation Office and is now preparing the application for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.



Our building was designed by Hewitt & Brown, a leading local architectural firm of the early 1900s, which also designed such noted buildings as St. Mark's Episcopal and Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church. The style is called Late Gothic Revival, with a mix of Tudor and contemporary elements. Construction began in 1921, with the educational wing completed in 1922. Our congregational then met in what is now the Adele Fadden Assembly Room for several years until the sanctuary was completed in 1927.

Lauren and Shannon's tour focused on the sanctuary, sky-blue-tiled baptistery, exterior, assembly room, and gymnasium beneath the sanctuary, noting the beautiful windows, woodwork, and chandeliers and sconces made by a noted Minneapolis foundry. A huge thanks to them for their continued work with us as we appreciate our century-old home on University Avenue!



*Photos by Jean Lubke*

UBC members joined an interfaith gathering for a special dinner November 25 served at All Nations Indian Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> and Bloomington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Pastor Doug serves in a clergy group and network of support for All Nations, where a mother-daughter team—Pastors Joann Conroy and Kelly Sherman-Conroy—now leads the congregation.

A photograph of a 'Healing' altar set on a wooden table. The altar includes a white cloth with the word 'Healing', a book titled 'The value of playfulness', a book titled 'The lost spells', a small bowl of nuts, a red carnation, a purple pen, and several jars of jam. The altar is decorated with autumn leaves and a small orange pumpkin.

Centerpiece at the UBC table  
created by our team  
*Photo by Deidre Druk*



*Photo by Doug Donley*

## Root River Jam



## Books we recommend

In the forum on November 23, a bunch of us shared some favorite books we've been reading. Maybe this list will generate some ideas for the season of gift-giving, too!

**The Serviceberry** by Robin Wall Kimmerer

**Hello Beautiful** by Ann Napolitano

**High Tide in Tucson** by Barbara Kingsolver

**Gone for Good?: Negotiating the Coming Wave of Church Property Transition** by Mark Elsdon

**We Aren't Broke: Uncovering Hidden Resources for Mission and Ministry** by Mark Elsdon

**WTF God?!: A prayer book** by Jen Lessard

**First Nations Version - An Indigenous translation of the New Testament**

**Christ in the Rubble** by Munther Isaac

**Tales from the Trail: Keeping it Real on the Camino de Santiago—One African American Woman's Quest for Clarity** by Jacqueline Saxon



**Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus** by Reggie Williams

**Why Fathers Cry at Night** by Kwame Alexander

**The Fifth Witness** by Michael Connelly

**Suspect** by Scott Turow

**The Demon of Unrest** by Erik Larson

**While Justice Sleeps** by Stacey Abrams

**For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional** by Hanna Reichel

**Middlemarch** by George Eliot

**Elmer Gantry** by Sinclair Lewis

**Disciples of White Jesus** by Angela Danker

**How to Age Disgracefully** by Clare Pooley

**Ordinary Grace** by William Kent Krueger

**The Third Gilmore Girl - A Memoir** by Kelly Bishop

**At the Corner of Past and Future: A Collection of Life Stories** by Pamela Carter Joern

**American Precariat - Parables of Exclusion** essays by various authors

**The Best American Essays 2024** edited by Wesley Morris

**The Swedish Art of Aging Exuberantly** by Margareta Magnusson

**Palestine 1492: A Report Back** by Linda Quiquix

**Educated: A Memoir** by Tara Westover

**Forged: Writing in the Name of God—Why the Bible's Authors Are Not Who We Think They Are** by Bart Ehrman

**West with Giraffes** by Lynda Rutledge

**Emma, Pride and Prejudice** or really anything by Jane Austen

**The Only Woman in the Room** by Marie Benedict

**Backyard Bird Chronicles** by Amy Tan

**Birding to Change the World: A Memoir** by Trish O'Kane

**The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America** by Richard Rothstein

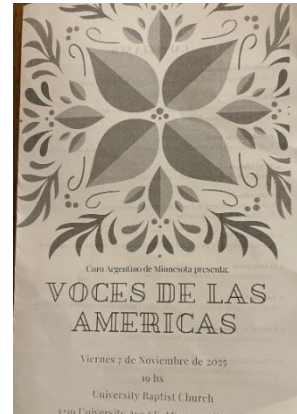
**Fair Play: How Sports Shape the Gender Debates** by Katie Barnes

**The Premonition: A Pandemic Story** by Michael Lewis

**The Radical Fund** by John Fabian Witt

**Stolen Pride: Loss, Shame, and the Rise of the Right** by Arlie Russell Hochschild

## November 7 concert by Voces de las Americas



*Photos by Doug Donley*

### Join the Bell Choir on its 7th Bell Tour—to the Baltics!

If you've always wanted to see Finland, Estonia, and/or Latvia, but didn't know how you were going to get there, you can join the bell choir on our next tour in 2027 as a roadie or a ringer!

The tour, arranged by Witte Tours, will be **June 25-July 7, 2027**. The estimated cost of \$6,320 includes airfare, 11 nights in hotels, breakfasts, two other meals, private bus with driver and guide, all entrance fees and tips.

We will be touring and giving concerts in Helsinki, Finland; Tallinn and Parnu, Estonia; and Riga, Latvia. We will tour national parks, UNESCO World Heritage cultural sites, cathedrals, and museums. We will be touring and performing with an Estonian bell choir!

The cost of the tour is the responsibility of the individual traveler. We will be giving concerts and performances and other activities as fundraisers to bring down the cost per traveler. The cost is based on 20 travelers. We have 20 signed up! If we get more travelers, the per person cost will decrease!

If you are interested in learning more about the tour, please contact Jean Lubke ([jeanlubke01@gmail.com](mailto:jeanlubke01@gmail.com)).

If you are unable to join the tour but would like to help defray the costs, please donate to the bell tour online or by sending a check earmarked to the bell tour.

Thanks for your support!

## Center Stage

### Upcoming events featuring UBC members or staff

#### Pat Mavity - Wednesday, December 3, 4-6 p.m., 7-9 p.m.

**Local bluegrass band Pistol Whippin' Party Penguins**, with Pat Mavity on fiddle, will be guests live on Harold Tremblay's House Party radio show, which airs 4-6 p.m. on radio KFAI 90.3 FM. Then Harold and the band go down to the 331 Club, 331 NE 13th Avenue, Minneapolis, where they play on stage 7-9 p.m. No cover.



#### Kim and Doug Donley - Saturday, December 6, 7 p.m.

**Sound Mind Project Community choir** presents "Of a Snowy Evening" at Christ the King Lutheran Church, New Brighton. For more info see page 5 and <https://www.smpchoir.com/>

#### Pat Mavity - Saturday, December 6, 7:30-9 p.m.

Fiddler Pat Mavity plays with the **Pistol Whippin' Party Penguins** at the Oak Center General Store, 67011 Highway 63, Lake City, MN. The store is a throwback seemingly out in the middle of nowhere, but the moon will be full for the drive, about an hour southeast of St. Paul - roughly midway between Lake City and Zumbrota. \$24 at the door and \$21.50 online. <http://oakcentergeneral.store>



#### Andrew Justin - December 11, 5-7 p.m.

**Bancroft Elementary Arts Night** - Artwork and singing by Andrew!  
3829 13th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55407

#### Pat Mavity and Maura Dunst - Friday, December 19, 8-10:30 p.m.

**The 18th Annual Yuletide Sweater Ball** at the Hook & Ladder Theater, 3010 Minnehaha Av. S., Minneapolis, will feature a line up this year including fiddlers Pat Mavity with the Pistol Whippin' Party Penguins and Maura Dunst with the Foxgloves!! \$20-25—this show sells out, so advance tickets are recommended! <https://thehookmpls.com/upcoming-events>



*Do you have a concert, presentation, exhibit, performance, or other event that you'd like to share?*  
Send details to [marketing@ubcmn.org](mailto:marketing@ubcmn.org).

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## Hymnal Taskforce Update

By Jean Lubke

The hymnal taskforce (Jan Curtis, Megan Dahlberg, Doug Donley, Trish Donley, Lynnette Fraser, Karole Graham, Laura Justin, Betsy Kerr, David Lesniaski, Jean Lubke, Paula Moyer, Jim Pfau, Terri Wottrich) have been busily tabulating and evaluating all of the great feedback we've been getting from you every Sunday. We are starting to eliminate a few hymns that don't speak to the majority of us. We are also eliminating ones that are now in the black hymnal (New Century) or the paperback

*A Singing Faith* hymnal and that are the same or better than the blue hymnal's versions. (Several that are in the black are being kept because we prefer the poetry or the verses in the blue hymnal.)

We are finding, in true Baptist fashion, that very few of the hymns we have reviewed are liked by everyone. Most hymns have some people rating them a "1" and some people rating them a "5." Some people don't like hymns if they don't have a harmony to sing, some people love chants, some don't; some like singing in other languages, some don't; some don't like hymns that are unfamiliar to them; some love theologically "weighty" texts, some prefer "upbeat" songs of praise. The richness of diverse viewpoints!

So we are looking at the hymns that are liked by "most" of the respondents (average more than 3 on 5-point scale).

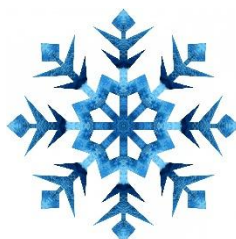
Between the 122 hymns in the blue hymnal and 168 other hymns/songs submitted (so far), we have evaluated 118 hymns. Of those, we have eliminated 38; 58 needed text updating; 21 needed something done to the music (change key, add harmony, find accompaniment, etc.). We are working through the changes

needing to be made, and we now have 23 hymns ready for digitizing and copyright permissions!

We have two more hymn-sing forums planned, for December 14 and January 11. We will continue to evaluate hymns through the end of January (not on Christmas Eve!), and then we're done. If

there are hymns you haven't heard yet and want to make sure get considered, please send them to Jean Lubke ASAP.

We also decided that instead of conducting a national hymnal competition, it would be more representative of UBC if the newly composed hymns came from our own creative talents. If you are interested in composing a hymn to be considered for the new hymnal, please contact Jean Lubke.



## Palmer Grant Update

By Jean Lubke

The \$40K Palmer grant we received from the American Baptist Foundation is to "enhance the vitality and sustainability of churches" by "optimizing or expanding current facilities." Our work with these funds will come in 5 different areas:

- **A team will participate in Rooted Good's Good Futures Accelerator process**, a requirement of the grant. The team (Doug Donley, Zena Hamilton, Laura Justin, Carrie Lubke, Jean Lubke, and Claire Mavity) will follow a self-facilitated discernment process with seven 2-hour in-person sessions (which we will condense to 6 sessions based on the work we did in our discernment process a year ago). There will be two opportunities for the whole congregation to participate in two structured activities in the middle of the process; one will be an extended forum time (including lunch) on Feb. 22. The purpose of this discernment process is to help us determine if it's possible to better use our building to serve the local community and to increase our rental income to cover all of our regular annual building expenses. This process will take about 8 months.
- **We will have the opportunity and resources to spruce up the spaces we want to rent.** We will have two work days, on Saturday, January 10, and Saturday, February 7, where we can all gather to clean, sort, repair, and paint several spaces we'd like to rent more. Food, supplies, and childcare will be provided by the grant. Mark the dates on your 2026 calendar. We will need all kinds of help! Robbie Steele will be coordinating these work days.
- **We will add microphones and possibly lighting at the front of the sanctuary** to improve the recorded / streamed sounds of actions at the front (e.g. bells, choir, concerts).
- **We will document the live streaming technician's tasks and train more individuals to help.**
- **We will devote more resources to market/ advertise our available space.**



If you'd like to help with any of these activities, please contact Jean Lubke or Robbie Steele (for the workdays).



## Financial Secretary's Report

We are almost half way into our fiscal year and running a bit behind in expected pledge income. In fact, we are running behind in all sources of income. Hopefully things will even out by the end of the year. In addition to the regular distribution, the Foundation contribution includes funds to cover the facilities supervisor and marketing positions.

<b>Operating Income 2025-26</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expected</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Over (short)</b>
Pledge Income	47	\$207,933	\$86,639	\$84,620	(\$2,019)
Rental Income	18	\$80,000	\$33,333	\$30,349	(\$2,984)
Misc income*	7	\$31,500	\$13,125	\$9,847	(\$3,278)
Subtotal		<b>\$319,433</b>	\$133,097	\$124,816	(\$8,281)
Foundation Contribution	27	\$118,811		-	
Total Operating Income	100	<b>\$438,244</b>			

We have received \$973 so far for the special November/December offering for organizations addressing justice issues.

- Chris Follett, Financial Secretary

### **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR November & December Justice Issues**

The Outreach missions for November and December are focused on programs that address justice issues in the Twin Cities. In the past, these have included homeless organizations, voting rights groups, refugee services, etc. Your donations are appreciated as we try to heal our cities and neighborhoods.

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](http://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)

## **MORNING PRAYER - NOVEMBER 2, 2025**

Creator God, maker and holder of our saints and all those beloved for whom we grieve and whom we honor,

Holy, holy, holy are you in all the Earth and heavens. How can we conceive of you attending to each of us in our small and humble lives? And yet our brother Jesus has revealed to us that your eye is on the sparrow. All those who have gone before us are held in your grace. All those in whose midst we dwell are your beloved. We praise you for the glory of creation that surrounds us this day and every day, though we may not see it. Open our eyes to your presence, manifest in beauty and mystery at hand. Your realm, your commonwealth once known only by the word kingdom, now called economy, is the world in which we breathe, in which our bones rest when breath is done.

Creator God, we tremble at the thought of you as a God of hosts, the warrior god. Yet we beg you to crush the evil that besets us in this vale of tears and cruelty. Have mercy on humankind, so proud and petty, spiteful and careless, but spare us not from learning humility and compassion. Forgive us our sins of commission and omission, and teach us your ways of justice and mercy. Make us instruments of your love and peace, givers of relief and healing to the suffering, speakers of truth to power.

Today we come before you giving thanks for those who have gone before us and who have left us in their wake. Those of generations past, we have just a glimmer of how they shaped our lives and made them possible. Those who walked with us here, we miss, we long for, we ache to hold, and cannot. They, too, have shaped our lives, and we lift our broken hearts in gratitude.

Hear us now as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

"Creator of all life and this Earth that is our home, who is all around us,

Hallowed be thy name. Thy commonwealth come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

For thine is the realm, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."

- By Gayla Marty



### December Birthdays

- 2** Kim Donley, Greta Garmers
- 5** Betty Shaw
- 6** Colleen Moravek, Edmund Meinerts, Andrew Justin
- 8** Lisa Roy
- 9** Peter Justin
- 15** Rachel Acevedo Hoffman
- 27** Jonathan Smith
- 29** Erik B.

### 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!

### 2026 Books for the UBC Book Group

- Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver
- The Dictionary of Lost Words** by Pip Williams
- Godpretty in the Tobacco Field** by Kim Michelle Richardson
- I Heard Her Call My Name: A memoir of transition** by Lucy Sante
- Just Keep Walking** by Erin Soderberg Downing
- The Love of My Life** by Rosie Walsh
- Oh, William!** by Elizabeth Strout
- The Perfumist of Paris** by Alka Joshi
- The Salt Path** by Raynor Winn
- The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry** by Gabrielle Zevin
- The Women** by Kristin Hannah
- This Is How It Always Is** by Laurie Frankel

If you would like more info about the group, contact Chris Follett.

### UBC NEWS

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*the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December for the*  
*January issue* to  
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