

UBC NEWS

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

May 15, 2021

From the Pastor

Socks and Haircuts

n Saturday, May 8th UBC hosted a resource day for our unsheltered neighbors. We gathered under the tent on the UBC lawn. There were tables and booths from St. Stephen's Street Outreach, the Arvonne Fraser Library (they had a button-making machine), free haircuts, free food from Raising Cane's, food provided by Every Meal, socks and

toiletries provided by several churches and community organizations. I was especially grateful for the presence of The Aliveness Project. The Star Tribune is reporting an increasing number of HIV cases among the homeless community. The Aliveness Project offered free private testing and counseling for the guests. We got a chance to get to know our unsheltered neighbors better in a nonjudgmental environment. All in all, it was a successful day.



The most popular items we had, besides Raising Cane's was socks. Surprisingly, no one took us up on the offer to use the UBC showers, even though we had towels, soap and shampoo available.

Several people commented on the beauty of the gardens and the welcome that they felt on the church lawn. May it always be so. It was good to be with the larger

community on the lawn. Doing a joint project to help out our unsheltered neighbors seemed like a new normal for which we might strive.

As we have more outdoor and in-person events, may we embrace a new normal of caring and connection with each other.

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

Photo of sign in the UBC garden by Doug Donley

2020-21 UBC Worship Theme:

"Repairing the Breach/ Restoring the Streets" Isaiah 58:12

Worship Leader

May 16	"Who Takes up the Mantle?"	Matthew 4:12-23	Karen Swenson		
May 23	Joint Service with Rochester-Genesee region				
May 30	"Do Not Pass Us By"	I Samuel 16:1-13	Deidre Druk		

Calendar for May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						15
						9 am Bible Study
						4 pm Anti-Racism
						Film Group
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 am Joys & Concerns	5 pm	7 pm	6 pm	5:30 pm		4 pm Anti-Racism
10 am Worship	Inter Spanish	Memoir	Choir	Guided		Film Group
11:15 am Council	6:15 pm	Group	7:15 pm	Meditation		
No Forum	Beg Spanish		Bells			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9 am Joys & Concerns	5 pm		6 pm	5:30 pm		No film group
10 am Worship	Inter Spanish	Newsletter	Choir	Guided		
11:15 am Forum	6:15 pm	deadline	7:15 pm	Meditation		
	Beg Spanish		Bells			
30	31					
9 am Joys & Concerns No Spanish				A CONTRACTOR IN		

Free haircuts on the front lawn on May 8.

class

Memorial Day

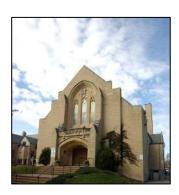
10 am Worship

11:15 am Forum

Photo by Doug Donley



What's Going On



Sunday Mornings

9 am – Joys & Concerns via Zoom 10 am – Worship (on the church lawn, weather dependent) 11:15 am – Forum via Zoom

We will continue to have prerecorded services available, too. We will also continue to meet on Zoom before and after the 10 am worship hour. At 10 am, we will close out the Zoom meeting. You can watch the recorded service by clicking on the link you'll find at http://www.ubcmn.org. After viewing the

service on your own (or attending the in-person service), we'll come back to the Zoom meeting for visiting and our Forum. If we cannot meet outdoors at 10 am due to inclement weather, Pastor Doug will send an email at 8 am.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

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

Bible Study – May 15 (1st & 3rd Sat.) at 9 am. We are reading the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Galatians. This letter has been important in the life and worship of UBC. The Affirmation most often spoken during Sunday worship is based on Galatians 3:26-28. The focus will be on background and chapter 1. New and occasional members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ehr at DianeEhr@q.com.



ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 886 6992 0103 passcode: 613038

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88669920103?pwd=dnozWEYzQUh1RU5HUTFWcVd3ZFY1Zz09



Anti-Racism Film Discussion Group – Saturdays at 4 pm

May 15 – Whispers of Angels: A Story of the Underground Railroad (58 min, Tubitv)

May 22 - Policing the Police (2020)

May 29 - no meeting

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

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

Spanish classes – Mondays (Intermediate 5-6 pm, Beginners 6:15-7:15 pm) (note – no class Memorial Day)

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 810 5166 8898 passcode 292647

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81051668898?pwd=R1liaXBpMXJRMIIFT0liZ2hTZVhXdz09

ESPAÑOL

More of What's Going On



Memoir Writing Group – May 18 (every other Tues.) at 7 pm

All are welcome! Come share your stories, and listen and give feedback to others. Feel free to write about anything you'd like. Here are some new ideas for prompts: Baptism, Brushes with famous people, Library. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Donley at crazyazgal@msn.com. (See some of the members' work on pages 9-12.)

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

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

Virtual Choir Practice - Wednesdays at 6 pm

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 871 8601 2016 passcode: 113703

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87186012016?pwd=SjJ0eGJ2bVN1M1NZK0ljYkkxb1pYZz09





Bells Practice – Wednesdays at 7:15 pm in the church sanctuary.

Guided Meditation – Thursdays at 5:30 pm

Join Kim Donley for 15-20 minutes of guided meditation to help us to stop, breathe, and focus on grounding ourselves.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 856 3650 9180 passcode: 484125

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85636509180?pwd=R3IJdWQzbG5raEQrck5OcWZPWStOUT09



SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, June 6 at 11 am

Celebration of Tai Shigaki's 100th birthday, on the church lawn

Sunday, June 13 at 11:15 am

Annual Meeting via Zoom

No joint services with FCC this year (*)



Everyone in the Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice cohort will be asked to complete an online survey in the fall of 2021. Here is a link to a form for signing up to receive digital communications from the Alliance of Baptists, which is how the survey will be distributed. The more people who complete the form, the more data we will collect, and the data we collect will be more accurate and representative of your congregation — as well as of the Alliance of Baptists! Please complete the form so the survey will land in your inbox.

Thank you!

MAY FORUMS

As we add in-person worship (weather permitting), our last forums of the year in May will continue Sundays online but shift to 11:15–12:15 to allow for transition time. Please join us on Zoom, same link as Joys and Concerns.

May 16 — No Forum

May 23 — Self, Divided, a Memoir by John Medeiros

John will read and answer questions about his new prize-winning memoir about identity and human connection. In lyrical prose, it tells the story of John and his identical twin brother as they took part in a study of a gene therapy for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Published by Howling Bird Press in 2021.

May 30 — Worship Year Debrief

As we come to the end of this very unusual program year, this forum will give us time to reflect together on what in our worship experience has worked for us and what has not, what we want to keep, and what we want to change as we plan for the program year to come. Please join us!

This month concludes our forums until the fall.

If you have ideas for speakers or forum topics, please contact Gayla Marty.

Spring Worship Plans

For the rest of May, we will:

- Continue to create pre-recorded services that will be found at links on our website (<u>www.ubcmn.org</u>)
- Weather permitting, hold services on the church lawn.
 Everyone will be expected to wear masks. We will not livestream the in-person services outdoors.
- Continue to have Zoom Joys and Concerns beginning at 9 am
- Continue to have Zoom Coffee Time after the service and forums beginning at 11 am.
- Not have in-person services if the weather does not permit. Pastor Doug will make the decision by 8 am each Sunday whether to cancel the in-person service and will send an email.

This will give everyone two options for participating in worship-in-person on the lawn or watching the pre-recorded service. The sermons and music will be similar. Since it is not being live-streamed, the in-person service will include a Joys and Concerns time during the service.

Jean Lubke
Worship Team lead

MEALS ON WHEELS

UBC has delivered meals for many years. This schedule will return to weekday deliveries June 1. This is an opportunity for new volunteers.

Our schedule is the first week of each month, Monday-Thursday. Typically a volunteer signs up for one day of the week and picks up and delivers 7-8 meals to homes or apartments over about 2 hours.

Interested? Contact Marie LaFrance at 763-220-8909 or marielafrance46@gmail.com



Becca (above) at her recital.

Photos by Doug Donley

CONGRATULATIONS

On May 1, Becca Donley graduated from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. She received a B.S. in Music and Stage & Screen Arts. She was also recognized for her work on the Dean's Committee for the past two years. On Apr. 24, she performed her senior recital. It was recently made available on YouTube. Here's a link.

She will be moving back home on June 1 and will continue working for Climb Theater, where she has interned for the past semester. Climb does outreach in schools on topics like anti-bullying. Becca is excited to be a part of a theater-for-social-change organization.

Becca would like to thank her UBC friends who helped shape her into this talented and responsible adult. Her parents would like to thank you as well (\mathfrak{C}) .

Love,

Becca's parents (Doug & Kim)



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

UBC total operating income looks strong - but that has some caveats. Pledge income was down significantly last month, which is a concern. Rental income is stronger than expected, which is a good sign. As of April 30, our total income is \$8,200 more than the pro-rata expectations.



Expected annual rental income of \$50,000 is 16% of our budget. As of the end of April, we've received \$48,900 in rents. This is almost the year's total and we still have 2 months to go.

Other gifts and miscellaneous in-

UBC's projected operating income for 2020-21 is almost \$305,000. This includes the \$20,407 carried-forward from 2019-20 and the Foundation distributions of \$48,000.

come provide 3% of our budget. These are mostly gifts from members who choose not to pledge. Based on past years, we expect about

Most of our income (58%) comes from the pledges made by members. Currently, pledge income exceeds the pro-rata expectation by only \$100, a big drop from last month. For pledges to be on target by June 30, we need about \$14,500 in both May & June. Last month's pledge income was \$4,400, which is a concern.

\$10,000 during the year. To date, we've received \$9,200.

The percentage of our budget which comes from the Foundation has increased this year. The regular withdrawal, based on past earnings, is 7% of the budget. The extra withdrawal, to fund the facilities supervisor position, is \$26,000 or 9% of the budget.

The Foundation Funds are transferred to the UBC checking account as needed by the Treasurer.

Operating Income	<u>%</u>	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	58%	\$176,455	\$147,000	\$147,100	\$ 100
Rental Income	16%	50,000	41,700	48,900	7,200
Other income*	<u>3%</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>8,300</u>	9,200	900
Subtotal	78%	\$236,455	\$197,000	\$205,200	\$8,200
Carry-forward	7%	\$20,407			
Foundation	16%	<u>\$48,000</u>			
Total Operating	100%	\$304,862			
Justice & Outreach		<u>\$15,000</u>		\$6,436	
Total Budget		\$319,862			

^{*}individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

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

The Mission Offering for March and April supports local organizations that work in housing: Clare Housing, Families Moving Forward, Simpson Housing Services and Tubman. We have received \$475 for this cause.

Nancy Myers, Financial Secretary

UBCers in the News

Megan Gunnar, Ph.D. received an award for distinguished scientific contributions from the American Psychological Association (APA). This is the highest award given by the APA, the largest organization of psychologists in the U.S. Read more here:

Kristin Johnson Doherty (daughter of UBC members Anne and Roger Johnson) was featured in a May 1, 2021 article in the Star Tribune which highlighted her non-profit organization, *Global Mamas*. Read more <u>here</u>:

Message from the Talent Team

The **Talent Team** has been so pleased with the congregation's responses to the Time and Talent Sheets, and with the generosity of so many people willing to fill positions this year! There are two positions which are especially important which have not yet been filled:

Financial Assistant - This is a non-Council position (meaning no meetings!) and is responsible for reconciling checking account statements, submitting tax reports and making tax payments. This position was held by Ty Wottrich, who is happy to train in the next person.

Church Clerk - The is a Council position. Council generally meets once a month on Sunday afternoons and will include a zoom option for members who cannot attend in person (they have been meeting on zoom during the pandemic and will continue to do so for now). This person is responsible for taking minutes at all council meetings as well as any congregational meetings (generally up to three times a year). The clerk then distributes the minutes to the council via email in time for them to review them prior to the next meeting.

This position is also responsible for maintaining membership records. Jean Lubke has graciously agreed to take on this part of the position (but will not be attending council meetings).

If you are interested in filling either of these positions, feel free to contact Trish Donley or Denise Roy. We'd love to have these positions filled prior to **May 23**, so that they can be included in the Annual Report and voted on at the Annual Meeting on **June 13**.

If you've not completed your Time and Talent Sheet yet, here's a <u>link</u> to complete it online, or you can contact Trish Donley and she'll help you complete it, or you can print it out and either mail it or bring it to church on Sunday.

Contributions from the UBC Memoir Group

Baptism

By Doug Donley

n the summer of 1988, I performed my first baptism. I imagined that the ritual would be one where I had gotten to know the candidate. We would have talked about what it meant. I would wax theological about how this baptism was an outward sign of an inward transformation. We would walk down the steps of the baptistery, warm water sloshing around. I would ask if they repented of their sins, took Christ as savior and committed to walking in the ways of discipleship. I would hold them close and guide them into the water just as I had practiced at Riverside Church in my Baptist polity class.

Since I was a child, I knew that in Baptist belief—faith, not baptism—is what saves you, or at least marks you as a new baby Christian. In seminary, I was one of the few Baptists amongst a sea of Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Congregationalists and the occasional Lutheran and Catholic. I got used to defending believer's baptism to my infant-baptism practicing classmates. I was a very-sure-of-myself 20-something with a chip on his shoulder. I knew the right way to do things.

The summer between my second and third years at seminary, I decided to stay in the City. New York in the summertime is hot and humid. The buildings and concrete radiate heat. Air conditioning is a luxury for the wealthy, not for poor seminarians or most New Yorkers. One rides the subway to cool off.

I took a 12-week immersion course in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). With a cohort of other students I worked at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center on 168th and Broadway in New York City. Whereas other hospitals grow by expanding outward, a New York hospital grows by expanding upwards. The main building had 22 stories. I kept in shape my walking the stairs—which were sometimes faster than the elevators.

My temporary "parish" included a general surgery floor, a cardiac care unit and a general medicine floor. I learned to be a minister amongst people awaiting heart transplants, people with AIDS who looked suspiciously at the student chaplain, and people in the fog of dementia. The cohort took turns staying overnight at the hospital, answering pages for chaplains' services up and down the stairwell. My pager would go off and I'd head to wherever they called me, the ER for a gunshot wound, the surgical wing where people waited to go under and wanted a word with God or God's inferior representative.



The call came to me at 11 pm at night. NICU-neonatal intensive care unit-request for a Baptist chaplain. I arrived and found a baby hooked up to tubes in a tiny isolette, chest moving up and down mechanically. Eyes slightly open. A tiny diaper on a tinier brown body. Her mother was looking down on her, eyes red from crying and lack of sleep. She quickly told me that the doctors had done all they could but it looked like she was not going to live much longer.

She wondered if I could baptize her baby before she died. She told me how she was so glad a Baptist chaplain was available, because she wanted it done right. Right? What is right? All of my training and Continued on page 10

Baptism – continued

belief systems were on turned on their end. We talked about Baptism and what it meant a bit. She wanted her baby to be with her in heaven. I was left with an ethical dilemma. Do I perform an infant baptism on a Baptist? What was the logical thing to do in this theological conundrum? I looked into the mother's longing eyes and I realized there was only one choice.

A kind nurse offered me sterile water from a tiny glass vial. She broke it open and I dabbed a bit on her forehead with my finger and said something like, "I baptize you in the name of God the creator, redeemer, and sustainer. I want you to know that God loves you and your mom does too. She is here for you now and forever. May God hold you close now and forever." A few hours later mom would leave the hospital emptyhanded with a hole in her heart that would never fully heal.

I told my cohort what had happened and processed all of this with them and my supervisor. Some of my fellow CPE colleagues were jealous. They would not be able to perform a baptism prior to ordination. I stumbled upon one of the advantages of the free church tradition. The only permission you needed was from God and your local congregation. I walked the 40 blocks back to the seminary that afternoon, letting the sun drench my skin and the sweat surround me. I imagined myself in a cool pool and the relief that it would bring.

A year later, I was asked at my ordination council what I believed about Baptism. I took a deep breath. I parroted the tried-and-true Baptist doctrine about believer's Baptism being the best form. They pressed and asked if I would ever perform an infant Baptism. Many were looking to expose a heretic. I obliged, giving the firing squad ammunition. To this day, I hold fast to the lesson a grieving Baptist mother taught me. The real sacrament is compassion.

Special Offering for May and June Ministries for Refugees and Sanctuary

The special offerings for May and June will go toward ministries for refugees and sanctuary. We all know that the past 5 years have been a very challenging time for those seeking refuge or asylum in our country. While we hoped that the election would lead to new policies, that has not yet been the case. The number of people fleeing their homes because of war, ethnic cleansing, environmental disaster, and uncontrolled violent crime is at an all-time high. Sometimes our own government policies have led to the conditions that cause people to flee their country. We have used these offerings in the past to support organizations like Refugee Services at the Minnesota Council of Churches and our own sanctuary coalition. Please consider a gift to our May and June special offering to support our work to welcome the stranger

Mindy Lee

Online Giving Available

You can now donate funds electronically via the UBC website. Here's how it works. First, go to ubcmn.org and scroll down to the middle of the page and click on DONATE HERE. This will take you to several options to donate to (pledge, Fellowship Fund, monthly mission offering, etc.)

Click on one of them and indicate how much and often you want to give. Please choose the option to add a small amount to your gift to help reduce processing fees. You may want to set up an account with Vanco, our administrator, to keep track of your giving. If you have any questions, please see Denise Roy or Nancy Myers.

Contributions from the UBC Memoir Group

Library

By Trish Donley

ver since I was a young child, I have enjoyed libraries. We lived on Dellwood Road in Cleveland Heights until I was 12 years old. The library was at the end of our street. Before we were old enough to be in school, I remember mom walking all of us there for story time or other activities. It was a long trek for young children, guaranteed to tire us out! Mom tells me Mike and I would ride in the double stroller, me standing and Mike sitting or lying in the buggy, Doug and Cindy holding onto the sides of the stroller.

I remember there was a glass-doored curio cabinet in the Children's Room with several shelves of doll furniture arranged in rooms. This is where I always went first when I got to the library. I would stare into that cabinet, mesmerized by all the details of each room. Each summer, there were reading incentives for children, and I remember checking out huge piles of books and reading through them and reporting my progress to the librarians on duty when I returned them.

As we got older, the library was where we walked through on our way to or from school, drinking in the cold water from the fountain, always with reminders from the staff to be quiet. In the winter, the street plows would deposit tall piles of snow near the library, and us kids loved to climb those on the way to or from school, or on the weekends.

When I turned 15, I applied for a job at the library. I was a Library Page, and Mr. Carlson was my first boss. He always treated me with respect, giving me more and more responsibilities as my strict attention to detail and strong work ethic became apparent. I worked several afternoons or evenings a week, and also on the weekends, shelving books, locating microfiche rolls or periodicals for patrons, and even updating the card catalog—a task none of my fellow Pages were trained in.

I also learned early on to go to the library to work on homework, write papers, or just to spread out at a big table that was all mine. We had a set of World Book Encyclopedias at home, but the library had so much more!



I remember when I went to college, I learned that many of mγ fellow students knew next to nothing about libraries. I, on the other hand, knew how to do research for a paper and how to find what I was looking for. college, I always did my homework at the library. This practice was my

first glimpse into work-life balance, I suppose. When I was at the library, I was studying. When I wasn't, I was free to do what I wanted. As usual, I preferred the solitude, the relative quiet, and the ability to spread out at a table that the library afforded me. I was always amazed that most of my fellow students did their homework in the dorms—how could they concentrate with all that noise?

Throughout my life, as I've lived in various cities, I have often sought out the libraries to get my bearings and feel a sense of community. I often seek out bulletin boards there to learn about upcoming classes or events. And of course, I borrow books, movies, and audiobooks, always returning them on time. Often there are also free books, or books for purchase for a dime or a quarter, and I always peruse those as well

Continued on page 12

Library – continued

I remember when I lived in Tuba City, AZ, I would make the hour and a half trek to Flagstaff every few weeks, shopping for necessities, sometimes getting a massage, and often stopping in at the library. There was a sitting room there with a chair I dubbed my favorite because of its view of Mount Elden. I would sit there and feel a sense of relaxation, belonging, and peace, as I re-grouped to make the trip back to a place where I felt foreign and isolated and overworked.



When I moved into my own house in Minnesota, I was delighted that there was a library just up the street. Again, I went there often, looking at the bulletin boards, using the computer or the printer when mine weren't working, and even volunteering for a time. To my dismay, that library was often less quiet. I always wrestled with my angst that the

staff weren't enforcing the quiet rule, realizing with disappointment that expecting quiet from people in one big room just wasn't realistic or even part of this library's ethos. Then, when I moved to an apartment in Minnesota, I learned which libraries were accessible by which bus, and was delighted to find three that were easy to access. I applied to volunteer at my favorite one and was surprised when the volunteer coordinator said they didn't need any volunteers!

When I was studying for my Nurse Refresher course, I once again went back to the library to do my reading and studying, relishing the routine that a study

schedule away from home gave me, and choosing an area with a beautiful view and lots of room to spread out. During the pandemic, libraries have been closed or only opened by appointment, and I've really missed the opportunity to be there, exploring and relaxing and learning and feeling a sense of community. Libraries are such community hubs, transforming from places to access books, to places to do homework, attend story time and adult education courses, access computers and printers, and have even become tutoring and youth activity centers and places of respite for homeless people.

The pandemic closures have really affected access to basic needs for a variety of people who really need them, and I suspect many have not been able to find or keep jobs because of the lack of access to computers. And I think of the homeless people who rely on libraries for restrooms or a place to find shelter during the day. And I think of the school children for whom the library serves as a place to be after school until parents are home from work. These closures have been devastating for these people especially.

I am so happy that for me, I can access so many of the library's services online now. I can use the card catalog, request books, check out audiobooks that I listen to on my phone, or extend the checkout period of a book or audiobook with the click of a button.

But the library is about so much more than books! I'm so grateful for the many ways libraries have helped me feel a sense of belonging, respite, muchneeded quiet, order and space to spread out. In libraries I learned to follow rules, and I learned about respect for others and for borrowed property. I'm hoping that in generations to come, libraries will continue to be the community hub they've been for me!

UBC Building Use Until Further Notice

UBC building is open to all renters, staff, and visitors with the following guidelines:

- Groups may be no larger than 10 people in one space (including the sanctuary) without advance permission from UBC.
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet must take place.
- All people must wear masks in the common areas of the building (entryways, halls, bathrooms, kitchen, lounge, sanctuary, etc.) They must wear masks in their own spaces IF there is more than one person in the room.

Congregational worship will continue via Zoom for the foreseeable future. We will also worship together outdoors on the church lawn as weather permits.



UBC Church sign. Photo by Doug Donley

UBC NEWS
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during the pandemic
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Rev. Douglas M. Donley, Pastor
Deadlines: 10th and 25th of the month.
Please send contributions to
Chris Follett, Editor at
chrisf2828@yahoo.com

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Starting July 1, the newsletter will be published once a month, instead of twice, as it has been since April 2020.