

UBC NEWS



University Baptist Church

1219 University Ave SE

Minneapolis MN 55414

Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN

FEBRUARY 2025

From the Pastor

Let There Be Light



Chaos.

That's the best word to describe the first weeks of the new administration in Washington. A slew of executive orders and pardons has upended the Constitution, the rule of law, and trust in elected officials. The Minnesota House of Representatives is mired in a legal battle about quorum and how to conduct its business.

Legal avenues for new immigrants are now deemed illegal, giving a new label to those in this country who had legal status until it was revoked during the new administration's first week in office. Our transgender siblings are fighting for dignity amidst attempts at erasure. And we, the church, are looking to use our voice in the best way while not further putting those we love at risk.

The first chapter of Genesis says that before God created order in the world, there was chaos. God

spoke into the abyss and said, "Let there be light," setting in motion a new narrative, a new path, a new creation.

Many scholars believe that this story originated during the Babylonian exile—a time when the Hebrew people were in turmoil and deep despair. Everything that they knew and trusted had been thrown down. The temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed and they were in a strange land. Despair and confusion were constant, unwelcome companions. Scholars posit that the exiled writers reworked some Babylonian creation stories, and put a Hebrew spin on it. And with each day of creation, it was called good. Order won out over chaos.

I don't know if order will come out of this chaos that we are experiencing. But I do believe that creativity is a by-product of chaos. I look forward to seeing people think outside the box. I look forward for people to find their voices. I look forward for people to resist having chaos be our only narrative. A half dozen UBCers have been in an antiracism training program called *Continued on page 2*

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Theme: Reframe and Reclaim

February 2

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Sermon on the Plain I: Blessings and Woes”

Scripture: Luke 6:17-26

Worship Leader: Gayla Marty

February 9

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Sermon on the Plain II: A Revolutionary Posture”

Scripture: Luke 6:27-38

Worship Leader: Paula Moyer

February 16

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Sermon on the Plain III: Logs, Fruit and Foundations”

Scripture: Luke 6:39-49

Worship Leader: Megan Dahlberg

February 23

Preaching: Doug Donley

Sermon: “Holy Anger”

Scripture: John 2:13-25

Worship Leader: Deidre Druk

FEBRUARY FORUMS

Forums are held 11:30-12:30, after coffee time. We do our best to provide a Zoom option for remote participants. Send your ideas and suggestions for future forums to coordinator Gayla Marty at gaylamarty@gmail.com.

February 2—Immigration-related executive orders

On the first day of his second presidential term, Donald Trump signed more than 45 executive orders, many of which will result in swift and drastic changes in U.S. immigration law and policy. John Medeiros will provide a summary of the immigration-related executive orders signed by Trump his first week in office, and how those executive orders could impact the work we do at University Baptist Church.

February 9—UBC discernment process: report from Philadelphia

Pastor Doug Donley, Claire Mavity, and Matty Strickler will represent UBC in Philadelphia February 5–8 at a meeting of grant recipients, ours to support our discernment process that began last year. They will report on their experience and what they learned.

February 16—Random Acts of Kindness Day

Extended coffee hour, with our children and families hosting! We are working on some optional activities to do together, too.

February 23—Opportunities for involvement and volunteering

Leaders and participants in UBC’s many small groups and volunteer activities will describe their programs and organizations—from book groups and crafts to Meals on Wheels, to name just a few—and ways you can take part or volunteer. Come learn more and meet UBC friends who would love to welcome you to activities in our beloved community!

Pastor – continued

Sacred reckonings since late November. One of our trainers asked us, “What makes your heart break enough to take action?” It’s another way of saying, “What is the church’s role in bringing order out of chaos?”

The purveyors of chaos are counting on our despair, our inaction, our acquiescence. But we follow one who always resisted attempts to make him side with those who would oppress and harm people. Maybe this is our finest hour, when we are not defined by the


chaos, but we are defined by our creative and hopeful posture. If the Biblical record is true, God is on the side of those who make just order out of chaos.

I look forward to taking these next important steps alongside the good, kind, wise and merciful people of UBC.

Blessings and Peace,

Doug Donley

Calendar for February

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
						9 a.m. Bible Study
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10 a.m. Worship Communion Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee Time 11:30 a.m. Forum/Journeys		11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels 5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group	10 a.m. Handcraft Group 11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels 6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels 6:30 p.m. Caregiver Support Group	11:15 a.m. Meals on Wheels	1 p.m. Book Group 2 p.m. Wild Church
9	10	11	12	13	14 	15
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee Time 11:30 a.m. Forum/Journeys 4 p.m. Sacred Harp		5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Anti-Racism Work	1:30 p.m. 175 th Anniversary Committee 6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells	11 a.m. Every Meal		9 a.m. Bible Study 3 p.m. Love & Light Concert
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10 a.m. Worship Bells Play Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee Time 11:30 a.m. Journeys 4 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Love & Light Concert	7 p.m. Knitting Group	5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp 7 p.m. Memoir Group	6 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bells			1 p.m. Card Club
23	24	25	26	27	28	
10 a.m. Worship Joys & Concerns 11 a.m. Coffee Time 11:30 a.m. Forum/Journeys 4 p.m. Sacred Harp		5:30 p.m. Sacred Harp <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>				

*Trista's in-office hours are Tuesday 12-3 p.m., Wednesday 12-4 p.m., Friday 12-5 p.m.
For time-sensitive needs, please text or call 608-343-0831.*

More of What's Going On



UBC-FCC Daytime Handcraft Group – February 5 (1st Wednesday), 10 a.m. at First Congregational Church (500 8th Ave. SE) in the Parlor (or, if very cold, at Jean Lubke's). If you are interested and want to be on a distribution list, please let Marilyn Burns (from FCC) know at mbsnoobear@mac.com.

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



Caregiver Support Group – February 6 (1st Thursday), 6:30 p.m. UBCers who have an elderly parent meet for support. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lubke at jeanlubke01@gmail.com.

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 829 0006 6861 Passcode 942930

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82900066861?pwd=RUQ1eGhYN1RzWTJCR0VTNG1JNFVvUT09>

Grace in Contemporary Literature by Women Book Group – February 8 (2nd Saturday), 1 p.m. The book this month is *Perestroika in Paris* by Jane Smiley. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chrisf2828@yahoo.com.



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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlbnRzTWZmLzRyZm50QQT09>

One tap mobile

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[+13092053325](tel:+13092053325),,5176976753#,,,,*602794# US



Wild Church Gathering – February 8 (2nd Saturday), 2 p.m. at the Peace statue by Nicollet Island Pavillion. We will join together with friends from ULCH and FCC. During our time together, we will ground ourselves in scripture, poetry and song before embarking on a time of wandering. We will close with a time of reflection and sharing. The Wild Church movement invites us to reshape our relationship with creation through outdoor worship. See more info here: <https://www.wildchurchnetwork.com/>

UBC Anti-Racism Work – Tuesday, February 11, 7 p.m. We will discuss the "antidotes" to the first five characteristics (perfectionism, sense of urgency, defensiveness, quantity over quality, and worship of the written word) of White Supremacy Culture identified by author Tema Okun in her essay, which we discussed in the forum on January 19. How can the antidotes Okun described help us in our congregational life at UBC? Everyone is welcome to join this monthly gathering.



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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlbnRzTWZmLzRyZm50QQT09>

More of What's Going On



175th Anniversary Committee Organizational Meeting – Wednesday, February 12, 1:30 p.m. See more info on page 9.

Every Meal – Thursday, February 13 (usually 2nd Friday), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

at Marcy Open School in SE Minneapolis. 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.



MUSIC BY ELWYN A. FRASER JR. IMMERIVE CONCERT
STARRY WALL PROJECTIONS
FAMILY FRIENDLY
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ST. PAUL
SAT FEB 15 @ 3PM
SUN FEB 16 @ 7PM
10TH WAVE
UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHOIR
CARILLON HANDBELL CHOIR
CONCERT FEATURES
• FOUR ORIGINAL WORKS COMPOSED BY ELWYN A. FRASER JR.
• LOCAL NON-PROFIT POP-UP DISPLAY IN THE LOBBY
• INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO!
TICKETS ON EVENTBRITE

Love & Light Concert- Saturday, February 15, 3 p.m. & Sunday, February 16, 7 p.m.

at First Baptist Church, 499 Wacouta Street, Saint Paul. This concert will feature the music of Elwyn A. Fraser Jr. in a collaboration between 10th Wave, the UBC Choir, and the UBC Carillon Handbell Choir. Reserve your tickets on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). Family-friendly, immersive, and interactive concert for all ages! Be sure to stick around for the musical instrument petting zoo to get an up-close look at some of the instruments you'll see on stage as well as the non-profit pop-up in the lobby to further support our community and those in need ❤️



UBC-FCC Knitting Group – February 17 (3rd Monday), 7 p.m. at Cynthia Hobbie's home. The group is made up of stitchers from UBC and First Congregational Church. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Follett at chris2828@yahoo.com.

Card Club – Saturday, February 22, 1 p.m. at Jean Lubke's home. This group meets monthly to learn card-making techniques, share ideas, and make beautiful greeting cards. Due to the limited space and the need to prepare materials, registration is needed for each month's session. If you are interested, please contact Jean at jeanlubke01@gmail.com or 651-295-7525.



Mark Your Calendar

- March 22** – Roots Cellar - Curtis & Loretta
- April 13** – Palm Sunday Brunch
- April 20** – Easter
- May 30** – Loaves & Fishes
- June 8** – Annual Meeting

February is Black History Month

Find interesting facts and resources here:
<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

Musical Happenings at UBC



Spencer LaJoye (left) and Tim Cheesebrow (right) performed at the Roots Cellar January 11 and 25, respectively. **Photos by Doug Donley**

The UBC Choir (below), led by David Lesniaski, made an impressive showing at the service January 26. **Photo by Chris Follett**



Palestine: What can we do next?

By Gayla Marty

Thanks to everyone who attended the forums on December 15 and January 12 to see photos and talk about my travel to Palestine in November with the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America friendship tour. I am very grateful for the opportunity to share what I'm learning and think about your questions and responses.

Here is information about some opportunities for action. Almost all of these organizations welcome volunteers if you feel called to the work. And there are more. Talk to you me if you remember something not included below.

Hope Flowers School in Bethlehem (photo below)

<https://hopeflowers.org/wp/>

This independent, integrated K–6 school provides education for peace and democracy for Palestinian children of any religion. It provides research-based support for children who have experienced trauma.



Anar for Empowerment and Psychosocial Support

<https://anar.ps>

Anar's sister organization, Healing to Hope, is based in the Twin Cities and recently raised funds for a mobile clinic to expand Anar's capabilities and reach.

<https://www.healingtohope.org>

Tent of Nations

<https://tentofnations.com>

The Nasser family farm near Bethlehem has farmed olives, almonds, grapes, wheat, and other crops since at least the Ottoman period. Today it is surrounded by five Jewish settlements (deemed illegal under international law) and is constantly in court to stay on the land. Volunteers from around the world work beside the family.

"Go and see"

Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain (Boston area) leads tours to Palestine at least once and often twice a year. I cannot recommend her leadership highly enough, with her 30 years of experience in Bethlehem and Palestine. Her next group will travel February 28–March 15!

<https://www.firstbaptistjp.org/page/ashlee>

You don't have to go to Palestine to help! There are many things you can do without leaving your house.

American Baptist Churches USA Palestine Justice Network

ABCUSA PJN is a gathering place for American Baptists who seek justice and peace for Palestinians, Israelis, and the land where they live. The group aims to educate, advocate, and encourage our denomination in the work of prophetic peacemaking. It meets on the Third Tuesdays of the month, 2pm CT, on Zoom and is planning activities at the ABCUSA biennial conference in Omaha July 3–6. Contact Rev. Allison Tanner, pastor of public witness at Lakeland Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland, California, at allison@labcoakland.org

Alliance of Baptists Community for Justice in Palestine and Israel (JPI)

<https://allianceofbaptists.org/justice-for-palestine-and-israel/>

JPI formed as a community of the Alliance in 2001. You can join an email list and attend its monthly Third
Continued on page 9

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Most of our income (58%) comes from pledges made by members. Pledges usually run ahead of expectations this time of year.

Other gifts and miscellaneous income provide 4% of our budget and the UBC Foundation distribution is 18%, which includes (\$34,401) for the property manager position.

Rentals are running slightly ahead thanks to sporadic rentals of the gym and assembly hall. Rental income of \$72,004 covers approximately 20% of our budget.

Operating Income 2024-25	%	Budget	Expected	Received	Over (short)
Pledge Income	58	\$203,834	\$118,903	\$127,513	\$8,610
Rental Income	20	\$72,004	\$42,002	\$42,175	\$173
Misc income*	4	\$15,000	\$8,750	\$9,729	\$979
Subtotal		\$290,838	\$169,656	\$179,417	\$9,762
Foundation Contribution	18	\$61,732		-	
Total Operating Income	100	\$352,570			
Justice & Outreach		\$15,000		\$8,490	

*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

The dedicated offering for January and February is for American Baptist Churches ministries. We have received \$2,770 to date. We received \$940 for Justice Issues for our November and December dedicated offering.

- Chris Follett, Financial Secretary

Special Offering for January and February

ABC Ministries

Our outreach mission focus for January and February is for ministries within the American Baptist Churches USA that are not already receiving funds through the UBC budget. This includes Retired Ministers and Missionaries Fund and One Great Hour of Sharing as well as others. Thank you for your help to support these important national ministries.

You can drop your offering in the donation box, send a check to the church, designate a gift directly from your bank, or use our online portal for giving on the UBC website, www.UBCmn.org.

Thank you for your ongoing Outreach support!!

Kim Donley and Karole Graham
Outreach Co-Chairs



You can scan this QR code on your phone to be directed to our web page where there are a variety of causes to donate to.

Volunteer Opportunities

Every Meal

UBC participates in *Every Meal*, a program that distributes bagged food 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 second Friday of each month, 11 a.m. to about 1 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Denise Roy at denise.roy@mitchellhamline.edu.

Grant Writing

We have a couple of grants to write this winter, one for rewriting our blue hymnal and one related to safety. If you have any interest in helping the grant-writing team, please contact Jean Lubke at jeanlubke01@gmail.com.

UBC History Research

At the Minnesota History Center, UBC has 19 boxes of files and other materials. If you would like to join a team going over to the History Center sometime Wed-Sat, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1-4 p.m., please contact Gayla Marty at gaylamarty@gmail.com

Meals on Wheels

UBC has an opportunity to participate in Meals on Wheels on Tues-Fri of the first full week of the month. Meals are picked up around 11:15 a.m. and the route in SE Minneapolis usually takes 1-2 hours. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a ride-along, please contact Marie LaFrance at marielafrence46@gmail.com

Little Free Pantry

Our pantry has again been stolen and is in the process of being replaced. When it returns, we are looking for individuals to stock the pantry, as well as your donations of money and/or items such as:

- Toiletries (toothbrushes, deodorant, sample sized shampoo/body wash/hand sanitizer, razors, feminine hygiene products)
- Boxed mixes that only require water to prepare
- Bars/cracker packs
- Ramen/instant soup in a cup, mac & cheese
- Rice/pasta/quinoa/
- Tuna packets

If you would like to help stock or want to donate, please contact Kim Donley or Karole Graham, Outreach Coordinators.

UBC / FCC Collaboration Task Force

UBC and First Congregational Church are exploring ways to collaborate in ministry. Pastor Donley and Jean Lubke are looking for 2-3 additional open-minded individuals willing to explore possibilities to join the task force. We have been meeting once a month. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Doug or Jean Lubke.

175th Anniversary Committee

If you are interested in helping plan our celebration, please contact Gayla Marty at gaylamarty@gmail.com (See also page 9.)





February Birthdays

- 1 Ben Justin
- 2 Anielka Picado Montiel
- 4 Belén Diaz
- 5 Gayla Marty
- 8 Chris Follett, Harriet Johnson
- 11 Mel Roy
- 12 Jonathan Lubke, Susie Sanchez
- 18 Trish Donley
- 19 Drew Cramer
- 20 Michael Lubke
- 24 Anne Johnson
- 25 Kathleen Tice
- 26 Karole Graham

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Published monthly
University Baptist Church
1219 University Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-331-1768, info@ubcmn.org
www.ubcmn.org
Rev. Douglas M. Donley, Pastor
Please send contributions by
the 25th of the month to
Chris Follett, Editor at
chrisf2828@yahoo.com

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.



Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7