



# UBC NEWS

*Celebrating our 175th Year*

**University Baptist Church  
1219 University Ave SE  
Minneapolis MN 55414**

*Established 1850 at St. Anthony Falls, MN*

**APRIL 2025**

## From the Pastor

### Resilience and Hope

**A**s the days get longer, I look forward to the buds coming up in our church gardens. I look forward to the crab apple trees bursting forth with their pink and purple flowers. I look forward to spending more time on the church lawn, on the swing in shorts and a T-shirt. Ah, Spring!



It's no accident that Easter is in the spring time. All of that excitement and new possibility is tangible and refreshing.

And yes, before we get there, we endure the Lenten season. Each subsequent week seems to bring us closer to an ultimate showdown between good and evil, fear and hope, death and life. We seem to be experiencing this on a national stage as well. The current administration continues to demonize the vulnerable and anyone with whom it disagrees. The Congress and Senate seem to cower against this

power. Even universities and judiciaries seem to have lost their backbones as the administration erodes basic parts of the US constitution.

This could very well be the church's finest hour. We underestimate our abilities and our influence. We who follow the story of the one who overcame the worst that evil could

throw at him. We are a part of a narrative of hope and resistance and resilience. How about we focus our energies not on the evil policies of an individual or party, but on the stories of resilience, hope and resistance? Imagine finding one story a day, one piece of evidence of a different, better narrative, and then sharing that with a wider audience. Why not call that evangelism? We need it, don't we?

Blessings and Peace,

*Doug Donley*

## April Worship Schedule

Worship Theme: Reframe and Reclaim

### April 6

**Preaching:** Doug Donley

**Sermon:** Sermon on the Mount V: "Treasures"

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:19-24

**Worship Leader:** Betty Shaw

### April 13 – Palm Sunday

**Preaching:** Doug Donley

**Sermon:** Sermon on the Mount VI: "Anxiety"

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:25-34

**Worship Leader:** Megan Dahlberg

### April 17, 6 p.m. – Maundy Thursday

### April 18, 7 p.m. – Good Friday (at FCC)

### April 20 - Easter

**Preaching:** Doug Donley

**Sermon:** "Show and Tell"

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:1-10

**Worship Leader:** Betty Shaw

### April 27

**Preaching:** Doug Donley

**Sermon:** "Finding our Voice"

**Scripture:** Acts 5:27-32

**Worship Leader:** Gayla Marty



### Easter Flowers

Help us decorate the sanctuary with spring flowers. Plants are \$15 each and the order deadline is Palm Sunday, April 13.

Please fill out an envelope in the pew racks and put in the offering plate or order through the UBC website, [www.ubcmn.org](http://www.ubcmn.org)

## April 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](mailto:gaylamarty@gmail.com).

### **April 6—All About You: Maura Dunst**

Maura Dunst joined the UBC staff March 17 as our new marketing and communications manager. Come get to know more about Maura, who is also a singer-songwriter, plays violin and fiddle, is the mom of Leo, and studied literature in England and Wales. She'll talk about what she's learned in her first weeks at UBC and some ideas for getting our message out, followed by a Q&A.

### **April 13—Palm Sunday—no forum**

Brunch at 10 a.m. in the Adele Fadden Assembly Hall.

### **April 20—Easter—no forum**

### **April 27—Report from Washington, D.C. Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering**

Pastor Doug Donley and Gayla Marty represented UBC at the spring gathering of the Alliance of Baptists March 27–30 in Washington, D.C. The theme this year was "I Met God and She Was a Black Woman: Womanism and Traditions of Resistance." The THRIVE cohort, of which UBC is a part, met during the gathering. Doug and Gayla will report on their experience and what they learned.

Our Holy Week schedule is also posted on the AWAB Directory of Holy Week activities: <https://awab.org/holyweek/>

# Calendar for April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		<b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp	<b>11 a.m.</b> Handcraft Group	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> Caregiver Support Group		<b>9 a.m.</b> Bible Study
		<b>7 p.m.</b> Memoir Group	<b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells			
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship Communion Joys & Concerns <b>11 a.m.</b> Coffee Time <b>11:30 a.m.</b> Forum/Journeys		<b>11:15 a.m.</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>11:15 a.m.</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>11:15 a.m.</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>11 a.m.</b> Every Meal <b>11:15 a.m.</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>10 a.m.</b> Card Club <b>10 a.m.</b> Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast <b>1 p.m.</b> Book Group <b>2 p.m.</b> Wild Church
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>10 a.m.</b> Brunch Joys & Concerns <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship <b>4 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp		<b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp	<b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells	<b>6 p.m.</b> Maundy Thursday Service	<b>7 p.m.</b> Good Friday Service @ FCC	<b>9 a.m.</b> Bible Study
<b>20 Easter</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship Bells Play Joys & Concerns <b>11 a.m.</b> Coffee Time <b>11:30 a.m.</b> Journeys	<b>7 p.m.</b> Knitting Group	<b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp	<b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells		<i>Newsletter deadline</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b> Spanish Conversation
		<b>7 p.m.</b> Anti-Racism Work				
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			
<b>10 a.m.</b> Worship Joys & Concerns <b>11 a.m.</b> Coffee Time <b>11:30 a.m.</b> Forum/Journeys <b>1 p.m.</b> Stories @FCC <b>4 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp		<b>5:30 p.m.</b> Sacred Harp	<b>6 p.m.</b> Choir <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Bells			
		<b>7 p.m.</b> Memoir Group				



## 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](#) page** (search University Baptist Church Minneapolis MN).

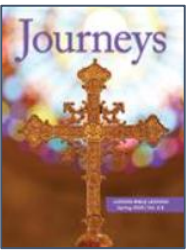
**When the livestream has ended – Joys & Concerns (also on Zoom)**

**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID 839 4725 7444 passcode 257750

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

**Following Joys & Concerns – Coffee time in the lounge**

**11:30 a.m. Forum in the lounge (also on Zoom, use link above)**



**11:30 a.m. Journeys, a Bible Study for adults, in the Char Follett library.** Beginning the first Sunday in March, Journeys begins a new quarter that will take us through Lent to Easter and toward Pentecost. It's an opportunity to read Scripture together, to learn something new, to ask questions, and to talk about your faith. The lessons themselves are written by clergy and members of American Baptist Churches across the country providing a wide range of expertise and perspectives about Scripture and its meaning for contemporary Christians. They bring new voices to the faith conversation. Journeys is an informal group. No preparation is required.

Please feel free to come once or regularly. See Nancy Myers or Diane Ehr for more information.

April 6 – HOLY TRAILBLAZER - Isaiah 43:16-21

April 27 – EMPOWERED - John 20:19-31



**Memoir Writing Group – April 1, 15, 30 (every other Tuesday), 7 p.m.**

Prompts include *Worry, Soup, Eggs, and Where was I when \_\_\_\_\_ happened?* Or anything else you feel called to write about. If you have any 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=NG15ZINlbnBdcwUeIzTWFMlZmZm5OQT09>

**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!



fa sol



**UBC-FCC Daytime Handcraft Group – April 2 (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday), 11 a.m.** at First Congregational Church (500 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE) in the Parlor. 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. Please see the calendar for specific times.





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## More of What's Going On



**Wild Church Gathering – April 12 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>

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**Palm Sunday Brunch – April 13, 10 a.m.** Bring your family and your appetite as we gather for our traditional Palm Sunday brunch. We will meet downstairs in the Adele Fadden Assembly Hall for a potluck of egg dishes, fruit, pastries and other sundry food items. The service will start there and then we will process with palms and flowers in hand singing as we go outside and then into the sanctuary for the remainder of the service.



Sign up sheets are in the lounge for food contribution and set-up and clean-up help. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Shaw at [bettyshawmn@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyshawmn@yahoo.com).



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**Maundy Thursday Service – April 17, 6 p.m.** at UBC with our friends from First Congregational Church. The service will include foot washing, a simple potluck meal of soup and bread and a remembrance of the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples.

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**Good Friday Service – April 18, 7 p.m.** at First Congregational Church, 500 8th Ave SE. We will reflect on the story of Jesus' crucifixion through scripture from the Gospel of Luke, poetry, art and special music.



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**UBC-FCC Knitting Group – April 21 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday), 7 p.m.** at Mercedes Tuma-Hansen'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](mailto:chris2828@yahoo.com).



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**UBC Anti-Racism Work – Tuesday, April 22, 7 p.m.** We will continue discussing antidotes to White supremacy culture, focusing on #6-8 (antidotes to only one right way, paternalism, and either/or thinking). Everyone is welcome to join this monthly gathering.



**ZOOM INFO:** Meeting ID: 517 697 6753 Passcode: 602794  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5176976753?pwd=NG15ZlNlbnRlcwUeIzTWFMlzM5OQT09>

## More of What's Going On



**Spanish Conversation Group – April 26 (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday), 10 a.m.-12 p.m.** at Curioso Coffee Shop, 1712 Marshall St NE, Minneapolis. Join folks from UBC and First Congregational Church to practice your Spanish. If you have any questions, please contact Deidre Druk at [deidredruk@aol.com](mailto:deidredruk@aol.com).

**Stories @First, Volume 3 – Sunday, April 27, 1 p.m.** Our friends at First Congregational Church (500 8th Ave SE) invite us to join in an experience of creating community through storytelling. The theme for our Spring story slam is “Second Chances.” If you would like to tell a story, please take a look at the [guidelines](#).



### Some Roads Closed in Dinkytown

**Sunday, April 6**

Goldy's Run on the U of M campus will be held Sunday morning, April 6. During the race, Fourth Street SE between Oak Street and 15th Avenue will be closed. Portions of University Avenue and East River Parkway will have lane restrictions. Please be prepared for delays. Consider carpooling. Click [here](#) for more information.



### Mark Your Calendar

**May 30 – Loaves & Fishes**

**June 8 – Annual Meeting**

### Sacred Sites Tour

Join members of the Antiracism Group for a tour of local Native American Sacred Sites, led by Jim Bear Jacobs, on **Sunday June 1, 1-5 pm**. To register, follow this link and scroll to the form at the bottom of the page:

<https://www.mnchurches.org/what-we-do/healing-minnesota-stories>.

If you are able to register, please let Doug or Denise Roy know so we can maintain a list for carpooling purposes. If you are not available on June 1, or if you are unable to register because the tour is full, consider alternative tours on Saturdays May 3 and October 18, both 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tours fill fast, so register soon!

### University Avenue Down to One Lane through May

The long-awaited improvements to University Avenue have begun. University Avenue will be repaved and bike lanes will be added between 35W and Oak Street. There will also be sewer, tree and curb work on the whole stretch. Expect lane closures between 13th Avenue and Oak Street through mid-August, including traffic down to one lane through May for University Avenue between 10th Avenue SE and 14th Avenue SE. It looks like Sunday parking on University Avenue near the church will remain available in the coming months. Remember, we can always use the LDS lot next door on Sundays. See this web site for updates:

<https://www.hennepin.us/en/residents/transportation/university-and-4th>

## Welcome Maura!

As part of last year's discernment process, we decided that we needed more expertise to spread the Good News that is happening at UBC. So, we held a search and found Maura Dunst who is serving as our new Marketing and Communications Manager. She has already hit the ground running—building on our rich tradition and finding new ways to engage the community in the work we do.

Look for some enhanced banners, a more concise web site and a new logo. All of this will help us celebrate this our 175<sup>th</sup> year of ministry. Maura has already met with several individuals and groups. She's eager to help us get our name and mission out to a wider audience. Look for opportunities to support and maybe underwrite some of the new banners.



## UBC 175!

The 175th Anniversary Committee has been at work taking the mountain of great ideas and input from everyone and beginning to create a lineup of events, activities, and projects we can reasonably complete in the coming year on a modest budget. No small task!

**SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 13**, is the anniversary of our congregation's formation in 1850. We are working on an appropriate way to mark it - an ice cream social is an appealing idea!

Other ideas taking shape include research and completion of a publication on the past 50 years to pick up where previous anniversary publications left off, a block party for the Dinkytown neighborhood and U community sometime this fall, then-and-now skits and newsletter features throughout the year, a service or event of some sort that meaningfully addresses our role in dispossession of the Indigenous peoples of this place on the Mississippi River, and more. We are very glad to welcome Maura Dunst's expertise and energy to help.

If any of these activities inspires you, please talk to one of us! We will also welcome wish-list financial gifts.

Thank you for your support! We look forward to a year of learning and connecting as a community!

Gayla Marty, chair

Members Chris Follett, Don Follett, Elwyn Fraser, Harriet Johnson, Howard Johnson, Betty Shaw, Sue Wester (adjunct), and Terri Wottrich

Photos from Washington, D.C. Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering. Top left: Stone from First Baptist Church in America. Bottom left: Former member Lynn Welton, her partner Anne and son Logan met up with Doug and Nancy Osborne to see the sights in D.C.



## Bell Fest



Members of UBC's bell choir joined seven other handbell ensembles on March 8 to participate in Bell Fest, an all-day learning event/rehearsal followed by a concert at North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills.



UBC bell choir members, above from left: director Jean Lubke, Janella Wendorf, Dawn Walker, Lauren Thrift, Betsy Kerr, Deidre Druk, and Karole Graham.

Photo above by unknown.  
Photo on the right by Jean Lubke.

## Mardi Gras at First Church



Several UBCers made it over to First Congregational Church on March 14 to participate in their Mardi Gras/taco bar/mini-golf event, including Andrew, Kevin and Peter (left) and Doug (right), making googly eyes.

Photos by Laura Justin





## Forums

### March 2- UBC's 175th anniversary planning update

The UBC 175th Anniversary Committee (members shown from left: Gayla Marty, Chris Follett, Betty Shaw) reported on early planning for activities to mark the founding of our congregation in July 1850, then called the First Baptist Church of St. Anthony. The attendees brainstormed some options for activities.

(See page 8 for more info on activities.)

Photo by Trish Donley

### March 16 - Impact of federal funding cuts to foreign aid

Katie MacAulay, who recently completed work on a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contract, talked about her experience and observations. Jacob Beier who spent eight years at the Government Accountability Office shared his thoughts on the broad impact of the administration's actions.

Photo by Chris Follett (sorry Katie for catching you with your mouth wide open!)





## Roots Cellar

Curtis & Loretta performed at the last Roots Cellar concert of the season on March 22. Thank you to Doug for booking the acts.

**Photo by Chris Follett**

## Greetings from Chang-ku and Insook Lee

During my recent visit to South Korea, I had the pleasure of spending a day with Chang-ku and Insook Lee. Chang-ku came to the University of Minnesota in 1972 to get his PhD in chemistry. He became part of the UBC family then. His wife Insook came to Minnesota in 1974 to pursue her PhD in chemistry. She was pregnant at that time and her son John was born in Minneapolis. The Lees returned to Korea and were university professors there until their retirement.

Chang-ku has set up a lab and volunteers teaching elementary and middle school students in small groups Monday through Friday. He says that his village is slowly declining in population and that the average age in his community is approaching 50.

Their younger son lives in Incheon and once a month they host his two children for the weekend. Their grandson is four and their granddaughter eight. Chang-ku is writing some children's stories which he hopes to publish. His granddaughter who is a good artist will illustrate it. Older son John and his family live in Indiana. They have a middle school age son who loves sports.

- Betty Shaw



Insook and Chang-ku Lee. **Photo by Betty Shaw**

## Commitment Season



This is the season that we consider our commitments to living out the Gospel in this congregation, how we will support the work and ministry

of UBC – with our time, our talents, and our financial resources in our next program year (from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026). An email with the commitment packet - including a proposed budget for 2025-2026, a Time and Talent sheet, a Leadership sheet, a pledge card, and a Wish List – has been sent electronically to you. Hard copies are also available.

**Our Commitment Sunday will be April 13.** Please read over the information provided in the packet and discern where your energy, gifts, interests and talents can best be used to serve the ministries of UBC. What do you enjoy doing? What are your special skills? Find areas to participate and mark your willingness on the Time and Talent sheet. Are you called to coordinate or lead one of our core ministries or to serve on the church Council?

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

pledge card or contact Chris Follett ([chrisf2828@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisf2828@yahoo.com)) with your decision.

Either bring your completed forms to church on Sunday, April 13, when we will ceremoniously deliver our commitments during the worship service, or send them to church or Chris prior to April 13. (If you send them via mail, please email Chris to let her know.)

On approximately May 18, you will receive UBC’s Annual Report for 2025-2026 including the proposed slate of leadership nominees and the proposed budget, based on your input. On Sunday, June 8, after the worship service, we will have our Annual Meeting celebrating our past year, voting on the new leadership candidates, and approving a budget for 2025-2026. The meeting will also be available for online participation via Zoom.



Andrew and Peter lit the candles at the service on March 30 while ushers Terri and Trish looked on. **Photo by Laura Justin**

## Financial Secretary's Report

Most of our income (58%) comes from pledges made by members. Pledges are running behind where we might expect them going into the fourth quarter.

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	\$152,876	\$145,248	(\$7,627)
Rental Income	20	\$72,004	\$54,003	\$54,649	\$646
Misc income*	4	\$15,000	\$11,250	\$12,558	\$1,308
Subtotal		\$290,838	\$218,129	\$212,455	(\$5,673)
Foundation Contribution	18	\$61,732		-	
Total Operating Income	100	\$352,570			

\*individual gifts, loose offering & miscellaneous income

We have received \$1,085 to date for childhood health/hunger organizations, the dedicated offering for March and April.

- Chris Follett, Financial Secretary

### Special Offering for March and April Childhood Health/Hunger

The Outreach mission focus for March and April is organizations supporting childhood health and hunger. Groups that have received funding in the past include: Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Avenues for Youth, Every Meal, and the Northside Achievement Zone. Thank you for your donations to support programs which help our children and youth.

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](http://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.

## Every Meal Packing Event – March 27



Kim Donley, Trish Donley and Chris Follett (left) represented UBC in a large packing event for Every Meal at their warehouse in Roseville. The graphic below shows how much food the entire group packed in two hours. We worked in groups of eight to fill bags with canned and other food and pack into boxes. These bags, in turn, are what we deliver to kids' backpacks at Marcy School on the second Friday of each month during the school year.



### Have you heard of Ridwell?

([www.ridwell.com](http://www.ridwell.com))



Ridwell is a paid subscription service that picks up items that are not able to be recycled in our usual recycling system and finds organizations that can either extract usable goods from them or reuse them to create other items instead of sending them to the landfill.

For instance, they will divert plastic film (including toilet paper and paper towel packaging, plastic grocery bags, bubble wrap, shipping envelopes and bread bags) to a company called Trex, who converts the film into decking materials. They also divert multi-layer plastic (like reusable food bags, frozen food bags, dry pet food bags, chip bags, candy and granola bar wrappers) and to a company called Hydroblox that makes drainage materials. They take other items like threads (linens and clothing), batteries, lightbulbs as well as other rotating items. Pick up is from a metal bin on your front porch or stoop/vestibule every other week.

Both Denise Roy and Trish Donley subscribe (maybe others too?) Trish says she's happy to collect any items you might want to add to her bin every other week.



## MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

### Important Letter from the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services' Outreach Team

In early March, we received notice from Episcopal Migration Ministries, our national partner through

which our programs are funded, that they will likely be unable to reimburse MCC for any costs past January. While MCC has been somewhat able to assume financial risk since January, without the assurance of federal funding, **the Minnesota Council of Churches has made the choice to end all federally funded refugee programs and maintain only positions and services that are funded by the State of Minnesota through 2026.**

The programs coming to a close include our Reception & Placement program, which stopped receiving new clients in late January, as well as one of our employment programs, a large portion of our Intensive Case Management team and our Housing and Outreach teams. This is devastating news for our program and the people we serve. At the moment, we are working out the next steps - transitioning our clients to other programs and figuring out ways to maintain what support we can for the families we are still serving. Our state-funded programs, such as our immigration team and some of our employment programs, will remain as long as funding from the state continues. However, this will undoubtedly have a dramatic impact on the future of our Refugee Services program.

**Due to staffing limitations, we will not be able to receive in-kind donations in the near future.** Donations will continue to be distributed to clients in our remaining programs, although with the program closures and laying-off of staff, it'll likely slow down. We will reach out with more information as soon as we have it. If you have donations you would like to pass along to those in need, we are happy to suggest partner organizations that are still doing great work to help those in need. Bridging, which provides clients with furniture and household goods, and Vine & Branches, which provides clients with clothes, are two great organizations that could use the in-kind support.

**We will similarly be pausing the intake of new volunteers as we assess future opportunities.** The need for volunteer support will clearly continue, but with the changes to our programming, we will need to figure out how to make sure that that work is meaningful to all parties.

I want to thank you for all the support for new Americans you and yours have shown over the years. The amount of time, material support, and enthusiasm that this community has shown time and time again is staggering and has changed the lives of the thousands of people that MCC has worked with. I have hope that we will all be able to support each other through whatever comes next.

Noah Wilkerson (*he/him*)  
In-Kind Donations Specialist  
MCC Refugee Service

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Contribution from the UBC Memoir Group

**Palm Sunday Brunch**

By Kim Donley

**A** year or two after we moved to Minnesota, I arrived early on Palm Sunday morning to deliver a dish to be served at the annual UBC brunch. I had Amanda and Becca in tow and needed to be there for the choir rehearsal before the meal.



As we came down the stairs from the Portico -the Sanctuary side - we were heading to the kitchen when one of the children stopped by the chained-off steps leading to the boiler room and asked what was on the landing. I looked down and, to my horror, saw a coiled-up snake.

Let me interject at this point to let my reader know that I, unfortunately, have a phobia regarding snakes. It does not matter their size, whether they are live, in pictures, or on screens; I feel an irrational and persistent fear of them.

Not knowing if this one was asleep, dead, or deadly, I quickly ushered the children to the kitchen and, in a high-pitched voice rising by the second, announced that there was a snake in the stairwell. Doug and Diane Ehr were present, and both went to assess the situation while I got the girls and myself safely to the third-floor nursery.

Diane had worked with snakes and was not at all afraid of them. She quickly ascertained that it was a

corn snake, which is apparently harmless, and deposited it into a pillowcase that someone had grabbed from the “Families Moving Forward” closet. Just before that moment, I had come partway down the stairs and saw Diane holding the now-awake snake as she prepared to bag it. I felt like I might faint, scream, or throw up, but did none of those things as I very quickly retreated upstairs.

Doug contacted a teacher from the school, which rented space on the basement level, to ask if they knew about the snake. The teacher said, “Oh, that’s Mr. Bones. He’s been missing for six months!” She drove to the church to retrieve the pillowcase and take care of the snake.

Six months!! Just knowing that the snake was slithering around all of that time can still make me shiver. If there is a silver lining, it’s that Doug is sure that the creature’s presence helped curtail the church’s mouse population over those many months.

Every time I walk by that stairway, I imagine seeing that coiled-up snake and feel my blood run cold. Luckily, it only lasts a few seconds, and I am thankful that the landing has remained snake-free since that Palm Sunday many years ago!



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [marielafrance46@gmail.com](mailto:marielafrance46@gmail.com)

### 175th Anniversary Committee

If you are interested in helping plan our celebration, please contact Gayla Marty at [gaylamarty@gmail.com](mailto:gaylamarty@gmail.com)



### April Birthdays

- 3 Kamiyah Walton
- 9 Betty Roy (#90!)
- 10 David Martyn
- 12 Erica Garmers Perreault
- 19 Elwyn Fraser, Jr.
- 26 Denise Roy

### April Anniversaries

- 27 Rachael Acevedo & Zach Hoffman

Check out this website "Preserve Historic Dinkytown"  
<https://www.preservehistoricdinkytown.org/>

### UBC NEWS

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Rev. Douglas M. Donley, Pastor

*Please send contributions by*

***the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month*** to

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