



The United Methodist Church is still here. We are still making disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. There is also a schism underway. In our Great Plains Annual Conference a relatively small percentage of our churches, clergy and members have disaffiliated, and a few more will likely follow in the coming year. That can be incredibly painful, particularly for folks who have been raised and nurtured in the United Methodist Connection. More painful, though, are the lies that are sometimes being told in order to convince some long-standing United Methodists to leave the connection for the newly formed Global Methodist Church. I worry about the concern this misinformation may cause to many of you. Thankfully, one of the gifts of the Connection is access to conference staff. Our Great Plains Communications team took time to put together a clean, clear, easily understandable guide to the core beliefs we hold as United Methodists that aren't going anywhere- as well as clear facts about the disaffiliation process for those who choose to leave, and what it means for those of us who stay. I hope that you will find this resource helpful as you make sense of what you or your friends and neighbors might be hearing about the UMC.

Meanwhile, here at Baldwin First UMC, we've got great plans for worship coming up in November-:celebrating Saints, Gratitude, and Generosity, and then it'll be Advent! We hope you'll join us in person or online.

~Pastor Amanda Baker



The United Methodist Church

Our Beliefs

The United Methodist Church finds itself in a season of splintering. The following document is prepared by the cabinet and conference staff following district gatherings to clarify the denomination's core doctrines and to answer key questions arising around church disaffiliations.

God

We believe there is one living and true God who is eternal, holy, all powerful, all knowing, and ever present. God is the maker and preserver of all things — both what is seen and what is not seen. In the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons in one — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity. The Spirit is at work in the world and the lives of individuals. It transforms, empowers, and guides believers. Through the Holy Spirit, we experience the fruit of the spirit and spiritual gifts.

Mission

We believe the mission of the Christian life is summed up in the two great commandments of loving God and loving our neighbors. Scripture informs us that this is lived out as we love mercy, seek justice, walk humbly with God and "Go and make disciples of all nations."

The Bible

The Bible is the inspired word of God and is the primary source for Christian doctrine. It contains all things needed for salvation and living a life unto God.



Jesus

We believe Jesus was born of a virgin. Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully human. Jesus is the very Word of God and the savior of all humankind who came to earth to live, to teach us how to love, and to restore us to God. Jesus willingly endured the suffering, shame, and death on the cross in order to pay the debt for humanity's sin. He then rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus is acknowledged as the way to salvation.

The Creeds

Core UM beliefs are summed up in various creeds. One is the Apostle's Creed (UM Hymnal #881). Another is the Nicene Creed (UM Hymnal #880), which is printed below:

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father: through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one, holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Resurrection

We believe that Jesus physically rose from the dead, walked the earth, ascended to heaven, and will come again to judge all humanity and establish his reign over the earth.



Doctrine of Grace

We believe grace is the unearned and undeserved favor of God extended toward all humanity. United Methodists believe in three forms of grace:

- Prevenient grace that is at work in our lives drawing us to God prior to salvation.
- Justifying grace that brings us into right relationship with God through faith in Christ.
- Sanctifying grace that continues to work in us to transform us into the image of Christ.

The Bible is foundational for our beliefs, but United Methodists also look to the traditions of the Church, reason, and experience to help inform our faith and help interpret scripture.





Much information is being shared regarding disaffiliation and the disaffiliation process. Below are some of the most common questions.

Will We Change Our Articles of Religion?

While it's true that there are some United Methodists who don't share all of the beliefs in our Articles of Religion (Book of Discipline ¶1104, Section 3), the vast majority of United Methodists hold dear to the teachings about the Trinity, the divinity of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, scripture and many other aspects that are central to our faith. It is nearly impossible to change our Articles of Religion under church law, so no, these important doctrines will not change.



Where Should Our Attention Be Focused?

Jesus gave us an important directive in Matthew 28:18-20. We are to make disciples of all people. That is the mission. That is what The United Methodist Church stands for in the 21st century. And that is where all local churches are asked to place their focus.

Will Every Church Need to Vote?



No vote is necessary. The only churches that need to vote are those with a large part of the congregation desiring to leave. In these cases, it may be wise to conduct a straw poll of the membership before a Charge Conference for an official vote is requested from the District Superintendent.

Why Should We Stay UMC?

Start by asking what you love about your church now.

And then here are some strengths of The United Methodist Church:

- **Your church is already part of your community** — For decades, in fact more than 100 years in many cases, your church has been part of the community. It's helped in times of need. It has welcomed people who are hurting. It has been part of weddings and funerals. And it is known by people who have not even set foot inside your doors.
- **Together, we make a huge impact on the world** — The UMC has more than 350 missionaries around the world and mission partnerships on most continents around the world. And when disaster strikes, the United Methodist Committee on Relief is there to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.
- **Our appointive system ensures a pastor for each congregation** — Our system works to ensure a pastor for each congregation. Those outside the connection may have to recruit their own pastors and then focus efforts on retention.
- **The annual conference provides expertise and resources** — Some examples include training, consultations, grants, and Zoom licenses.

Why are traditionalists being forced to leave?

No one is being forced to leave the UMC. ¶ 2553 was added during the 2019 General Conference as part of the Traditional Plan as a means for progressive congregations, who so desired, to leave the denomination. When General Conference continued to be postponed some traditionalist leaders decided they could no longer remain in the UMC. This has resulted in some traditional-leaning congregations using ¶ 2553 to disaffiliate from the UMC.

What If ...

The margin isn't enough to leave?

If a Church Conference vote does not reach 67% then a congregation will remain in the UMC. Congregations are encouraged to conduct a straw poll to see if there is adequate support of disaffiliation from the church membership prior to voting to limit further fracturing of a congregation.

We don't have the money?

The required payments were passed as part of the Traditional Plan. Churches that desire to leave must meet those requirements to disaffiliate.

A congregation disaffiliates but some members want to remain UMC?

Congregations that vote to disaffiliate should notify all members of the decision and provide options for those who want to remain UMC members. This would include assisting them to connect with another UMC either in person or online. Their membership can be transferred to any UMC where they desire to be active.



Nancy Arnold, Council Chair., arnoldn446@gmail.com
Council Minutes and Finance Update (Brad Peterson., Chair PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM) are subsequently posted one month later after committee approval.

Baldwin First United Methodist Church Administrative Council September 26, 2022

Attendees: Staff: Reverend Amanda Baker, Cat Henry, **Council Members:** Doug Cheek, Darren Lawrenz, Laura Dickinson, Kathleen Thomas

Minutes: Kathleen moved that the minutes be accepted, Darren seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Finance: Finances for August were down, and we are about 7% below what is needed monthly. We will monitor fall finances to see where we are against budget. The 2023 budget will be discussed at next meeting.

SPPRC: The staff budget needs will be looked into next meeting and trying to get through Staff evaluations.

Trustees: Tree removal is scheduled and waiting on exact date but will be done before Maple Leaf. Float on the Boiler feed tank over filled but water flow has been fixed. Pump on zone tank is not working, VIC coming to evaluate. Water heater in the kitchen has been swapped out. The ceiling fan in the kitchen is causing the pilot light to go out on the stove. The urinal in the Men's bathroom has been repaired. The AV upgrade project is almost complete, the electrician is still to come. The Deck on the parsonage is in process of repair and work is pending.

Missions: The focus has been on Maple Leaf. There will be walking tacos on Saturday out in front of the church. Many volunteer slots available for serving and materials purchase.

Worship: We have had success getting additional voices for liturgist and childrens time. The choir was well received.

UFW: UFW held a picnic in October. Twelve persons participated in a nice fellowship. There will be no bake sale for Maple Leaf. The Turkey Dinner will be November 12 th from 5-7, dine in and carry out.

Children's Ministry: Children's Sunday School has begun opening with music time directed by Madilyn. The Children will sing the last Sunday in October. We currently have two classes going and could use an additional leader to assist. Some Baker students have been helping with Sunday School and the Blast Crew. There will be a children's program in December.

Youth Ministry: The Youth of the church have begun meeting monthly with youth from Ives, Edgerton and Eudora. A calendar of events was developed for the year.

Adult Ministry: A social area has been set up for parents of children who do not necessarily want to participate in Adult Sunday School. The new coffee bar is located in Beek's Chapel. In addition a TV has been placed in the nursery and fellowship hall. These can broadcast the service for nursery volunteers.

Pastor Report: Pastor Amanda will be out of town for training on the 3rd -5th of October. We have received the grant for spiritual renewal leave. Teresa Stewart will be scheduling some time to help the congregation plan Lenten Services while Pastor Amanda is on her spiritual leave. The Advent series will focus on mental health. Current plan is to have Christmas Eve services 5:00 at Ives, 11:00 at Baldwin. Joint Services for Baldwin and Ives on Christmas Day (Baldwin) and New Years (Ives).

Submitted by Doug Cheek

Most Current Financial Update:

The 2022 Budget is \$159,300 (with the average contribution amount needed each month to meet the annual budget: \$13,275.00). Total contributions received for the month of September was \$9196.25, putting the budget at 62% of the needed 72% at this time.

<https://baldwinfirst.org/give-online>

indicate your designated fund: general funds, food pantry, or Capital Campaign

Text amount to 855.905.1967
Or Scan our QR code



A Reminder: Our regular office hours are Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm. Doors may be locked for security, but we would still like to assist you. Please call 785.594.6612. For those of you with church access keys, let the office staff know you are in the church building. Thanks.



Laura Dickinson, Mission Chair., ldminbc@gmail.com

Food Pantry Hrs: 2nd & 4th Saturdays monthly, 9:00am-10:30am

"Neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept."

— Rabbi Joachim Prinz

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR activities:

Hurricane Ian and Disaster Relief— The devastation and impact of Hurricane Ian is immeasurable. Please join in prayer for all whose lives have been impacted. With this year's storms, UMCOR's legacy of being "early in, last out" means that United Methodists will be there to accompany recovering communities for years to come. If you would like to financially support the U.S. disaster relief fund with UMCOR, go to <https://advance.umcor.org> and give to ADVANCE# 901670.

September through December— The USD social workers have established mini-pantries of non-perishable items for immediate needs with students at each of the schools. We will be collecting items in the narthex to distribute to the different schools as needed and suggested items include, fruit roll-ups, dried fruit, nuts, pudding packs, granola bars, nut-free foods, soup cups, ramen noodle packages, applesauce cups, etc.

Alternative Halloween -UNICEF NEW YORK (September 27, 2022) – UNICEF USA announces the launch of the new, digital Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF experience, bringing the tradition firmly into the 21st century. A [QR code](#) has

launched across the United States and is available for download and use throughout the month of October.

Over nearly eight decades, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has built an unprecedented global support system for the world's children. In 1950, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF was inceptioned to help children affected by World War II. From collecting loose change in hand-painted orange milk cartons to distribute powdered milk to hungry children in post-World War II Europe, to the iconic little orange boxes, to a brand-new, modern and simple to use QR code, the Trick-or-Treat campaign has evolved to a rapidly

changing world. The move from the iconic little orange boxes to a QR code is a way to reimagine the campaign for an increasingly digital world.

As the longest-running youth engagement campaign in the United States, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has raised more than \$195 million to date: funding UNICEF and its work to prevent childhood diseases, building schools and wells, delivering humanitarian aid to children and adolescents affected by war, natural disasters and other emergencies. Donations to the Trick or-Treat campaign will aid UNICEF in assisting families where they need it most; from in and around Ukraine, to providing therapeutic food and water in drought-stricken Eastern Africa, to helping families survive harsh winters and to delivering emergency relief to children globally.

About UNICEF: The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to pursue a more equitable world for every child. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization, by providing health care and immunizations, safe water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more.

How is UNICEF helping children and families in Ukraine? Since February 2022:

- Around 4.5 million children and women in Ukraine have been able to access primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities and through mobile teams.
- More than 3.5 million people have been provided with access to safe drinking water.
- Almost 1 million people have received critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies.
- UNICEF-supported mental health and psychosocial support interventions have reached 2.2 million children and caregivers.
- More than 190,000 women and children have been reached by UNICEF-supported gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response services.
- Around 850,000 children have been engaged in formal or non-formal education.

LINK – BFUMC will serve lunch at **LINK (Lawrence Interdenominational Kitchen)** November 5th. If you are interested in assisting, please contact John Beins at jbeins52@gmail.com or Nancy Arnold at arnoldn448@gmail.com.

Homelessness Assistance in Douglas County - Donations for cold-weather items are currently being collected at the Lawrence Police Department, 5100 Overland Drive, Lawrence.

DARE – Drop in and Rest Center at 944 Kentucky operates as a volunteer program of the Coalition for Homeless Concerns, Inc. in offering daily refuge with basic services to provide emotional and physical comfort to persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The DARE Center is currently asking for winter camping items, including sleeping bags, tents, tarps, backpacks, gloves and blankets. It is also asking for items such as deodorant, underwear, socks, razors, wipes, coffee, nutritional snacks, antibiotic ointments and bandages.

PLEASE NOTE: For the last two months of 2022, Open food Pantry dates are November (12th and 19th) and December (10th and 17th), the *2nd and 3rd Saturdays*, so neighbors get their holiday food prior to the holiday. The pantry will resume to regular schedule in January 2023 (2nd and 4th Saturdays 9 to 10 a.m.) Special thanks to Donna and Mike Curran for the donation of a freezer for use at Baldwin Community Food Pantry.

Thanks to many generous donation of food, drink and time contributed to Missions Maple Leaf undraiser. The "Walking Tacos" was a huge success adding \$1500 worth of funds to Missions Committee. We once again had rave reviews about the chili!

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| Food and Drinks were donated by: Sheryl Cleverley, Pam Sharp, Kelley Bethell-Smith, Katherine Cook, Brad Peterson, Bruce Peterson, Barbara Pressgrove, Kathleen Thomas, Effie Rinke, Doug Cheek and John Bieins. | Prep/Signage/dishwashers include Marilee Beins, Kelley Bethell-Smith, Jeff Canterbury and Nancy Arnold. |
| Chili Makers were J. Beins, Brad P and Roger Arnold. | The cashiers/servers/runners include Bruce P., Coleen Burgess, Jeff C., Brad P., Pastor Amanda Baker, James Baker, Jill Dodge, Kelsey Nolte and Nancy A. |

thank you

Additional thanks to Pastor Amanda for the use of their canopy tent and to Brad for being our anchor this year! We are truly blessed with a very giving group of people.



Intl Survivors of Suicide Loss Day 2022 to be held at BFUMC

The annual International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day (ISOSLD) community gathering, based out of Douglas

County, will have a meeting open to the public Nov 19, 2022. Saturday 11/19/2022 from 10:30am – 1:00pm at Baldwin first United Methodist Church. Lawrence's Healing After Suicide support group led by

Marcia Epstein (M.Epstein.LMSW@gmail.com). This is for teens and adults with suicide losses, and/or those who want to learn about how to support.

ISOSLD is an annual tradition for people across the globe to gather in-person and more recently also with videocall options, to honor and remember people who have died by suicide, to support those who are grieving those people, and to help interested people learn more about supporting people bereaved by suicide. The date of ISOSLD is the date of the Saturday before American Thanksgiving.

Others Free, with donations accepted Most of the time is spent with discussion and more:

- sharing stories of “our people”
- healthy grief
- suggestions for holidays and other special dates after suicide grief
- opportunities to color, write, bring one’s needlework, whatever is helpful
- information on support resources
- some years have included short musical performances and/or readings of original poetry or stories
- light snacks (not a meal) will be provided

Information is on the ABOUT and DISCUSSION tabs on their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1504201533384820>) The registration link is: <https://tinyurl.com/bdeybuyk>

Community Youth Groups (Baldwin , Eudora, Edgerton and Ives Chapel UMC's) We’ve had 2 great gatherings for youth in September and October, but you won’t want to miss what’s coming next we will meet on Sunday Nov 20th, 2022 for a “Friendsgiving” meal. We will meet at Edgerton UMC at 5:30, and plan to be done by 7:30. This youth group is open for folks in 6-12th grade.

UWU (UMW) UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
DONNA CURRAN, CHAIR., DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM



UMW ANNUAL
TURKEY DINNER

**BALDWIN
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**
8th and Grove
Baldwin City

November 12, 2022
5-7 pm

**In Person in Fellowship Hall
& Pick Up Available**

Pre-order for Pick Up:
baldwinfirst.org or
785-248-9250

Last day to order is
November 9th

\$15 for Adults
\$12 for Kids
(8 & Under)
3 & Under Free

Cash & Check
Only.



Veterans of military service in local congregations are invited to participate in Lawrence Veterans Day Parade, Sat. Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. Those interested in taking part should call or text 785.576.3765 to RSVP or if they have special needs. Participants should assemble near 623 Massachusetts no later than 10:30 a.m. on the 12th to walk or ride in the parade.



Worship Services 9:30 AM
(in person and live stream)

- Nov 5 LINK
- Nov 6 All Saints Day
Day Light Savings time ends
- Nov 7 Missions Committee 7:00PM
- Nov 8 Election Day
Ives Chapel: Chicken Election Day
Chicken Noodle Dinner 5-7:30pm
- Nov 9 Cruising Cupboard 10:30 to
11:30 am at Library (800 7th St)
Caregiving group meets at 1:00pm,
- Nov 11 Veterans Day
- Nov 12 Turkey Dinner Dine In and
Drive Thru
- Nov 19 Survivor of Suicide Loss Day
- Nov 14 Trustees Mtg 7:00PM
Special Ad. Council Mtg 7pm.
- Nov 20 Community Youth
Group "Friendsgiving" at Edgerton
UMC, 5:30-7:30
- Nov 21 Finance Mtg 7:00PM
SPPRC Mtg 7:00PM
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving
- Nov 27 1st Day of Advent



Church Streaming & Zoom Meeting
Links Directory

Note: Links are accessible in the email version of this newsletter, the links are not available on the website version of the Vine due to PDF.

Sunday School and Small Groups are meeting at 10:45a.m. on Sundays unless otherwise announced

***9:30AM Sunday Worship**
Live Stream:
<https://www.Baldwinfirst.org>
or at
<https://www.facebook.com/baldwinfirstumc>

***For ALL scheduled CHURCH meetings there is an optional Zoom Mtgs:**

<https://zoom.us/join>
mtg ID #: 9644607669

Election day
Chicken Noodle Dinner
Tuesday, Nov. 8



Serving from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Dine in or Carry Out

*Meal Donations: Ages 11-Adult \$8.00
Ages under 11 – \$5.00*

Ives Chapel
United Methodist Church

1018 Miami Street

Baldwin City, KS

News items for the Vine need to be in the office by the evening of Church Council (the 4th Monday of every month). If you prefer to get the newsletter electronically, please provide your email address to the office (594.6612 or office@baldwinfirst.org) to help alleviate mailing costs.
Church office hours 9-2, Monday-Thursday

smile.amazon.com

#BeUMC

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785.594.6612

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