

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*The Vine*

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER



## Tending the Civic Soil

Our sermon and worship series in August this year will focus on an act of faith that has the power to improve the health of our whole community: *voting*.

Here is what the folks at United Methodist Health Fund had to say about the importance of getting congregations engaged in their local elections.

“We’re increasingly learning that the more civically engaged a community is, the healthier the community. Unfortunately, Kansans are not voting in local elections at healthy levels.

According to the Civic Health Index of 2016, authored by the Kansas Health Foundation and the National Conference on Citizenship, Kansas ranks just 41st in the country in adults who report they vote in local elections. The report highlights: “Even more concerning is that certain population groups in Kansas exhibit even lower levels of political involvement, including Kansans with lower levels of income, education, and those from racial/ethnic minority backgrounds.” With the understanding that civic participation is tied to community health and that Kansans are not politically active – especially at the local level – we see an opportunity to improve community health by improving civic engagement.

That’s why we are excited to share this Sermon Guide and Toolkit to help support civic engagement and support Faith in Democracy, an initiative dedicated to ensuring that every Kansan is able to be an informed, enthusiastic, engaged voter.”

So they partnered with the Neighboring Movement to create a worship series that would encourage us all to think of our civil engagements as acts of faith, and lead us as congregations into thinking about more than just who wins and loses elections.

The three main themes of the series are:

1. It is healthy and important for churches to talk about voting. This is done best when voting is put into context as one part of community health.
2. Healthy civic soil is a community of people who believe that together they can produce their desired future.
3. Healthy civic soil is created by valuing our relationship with others, using your voice to prioritize justice, and seeking reconciliation over electoral victories.

Our themes for each week of the series will be:

- Week 1: Focus on the Soil - Parable of the Sower
- Week 2: Plant for Interdependence- 1 Corinthians 3
- Week 3: Eat What is in Season - Esther
- Week 4: After the Harvest- Creation, and Reconciliation

This series will launch just days before an important **primary election in Kansas (Aug. 2 )**, but will carry us into a season when we can be building healthier civic soil into and beyond the general election on November 8th.

Peace in Christ,  
Rev Amanda Baker



## Baldwin First United Methodist Church Administrative Council Meeting June 27, 2022

**Attendees:** Staff: Reverend Amanda Baker, Cat Henry

Council Members: Council Chair Nancy Arnold, Linda Ballinger, Doug Cheek, Darren Lawrenz, Samantha Cheek, Donna Curran, Kathleen Thomas, Brad Peterson, Laura Dickinson (by Zoom)

**Opening:** Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Minutes** Correction to May minutes. Cat and Gary are in the evaluation process.

Approval of minutes was moved by Linda and seconded by Doug. Minutes were approved.

**Finances** Brad shared that May giving was a little under \$11,000. Not included in this was Baker University's annual gift of \$5,000 for any use during the year of the building.

On July 13 at 1 pm Edward Jones will be conducting an informational talk on giving to the church with tax incentives. Jen Fulton and Joanne Kite will be working with Coleen and Brad on the yearly audit.

**SPPRC:** Doug shared that they are working on the evaluation of Cat and Gary.

**Caregivers:** Linda was pleased to announce that they will have the same advisor back to work with the group. They currently have up to 6 individuals coming to meetings.

**Missions:** (The Missions committee) will be collecting hygiene boxes for the United Way.

As of July 9th the food pantry will be serving visitors inside again. This is on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Volunteers are needed. In looking at Maple Leaf, Laura stated the plan is to be outside in front of the church. Walking tacos will be served and John Beins will be doing the cooking. Doug suggested a call be put out for donations of items needed for Maple Leaf since so many members are already involved in other parts of the festival. Laura asked if UWF will still be doing treats. Donna will check at their next meeting.

**Worship:** Kathleen shared that she has a new volunteer for liturgist named Jeanne Stanley. Doug mentioned that Dennis Domer had also told him he might be interested. Kathleen is looking for more people to help with Children's Time.

**UWF (formerly UMW):** Donna shared that they had made it through all four memorials. A special thank you to Darren, Bruce, and Bruce for getting the sanitizer working in the kitchen. They are now looking towards fall.

**VBS:** Sign-up for children and volunteers can be completed on the website. Donna would like to have a meeting on the evening of July 6th. Still looking for additional walking leaders. We have been offered VBS decor from two different churches. Amanda has been gracious enough to say she will pick the items up. Doug asked if we had a place that ours could go to after.

**Sunday School:** Donna will be taking over children's for the rest of the summer as Cynthia is going to be teaching Jr. High.

**Trustees:** A check for \$25,012 was received from insurance this week and was deposited as a Trustee line item. This included the \$5,000 insurance deductible being taken out.

Sanitizer is up and running. They think the problem was air in the line. Doug asked that the outdated chemicals be removed from the closet and just a few bottles of new chemicals be purchased. Darren spoke to the electrician concerning the hot water heater. They are going to run a new circuit and will be putting in an 18 - 20 gallon tank.

**Lay Leader:** Doug shared that the Capital Campaign\* has now completed parts 1, 2 and 4 and at this time phase 3 is not needed. The campaign will be shy around \$10,000- \$12,000 which will include additional lighting in the Sanctuary. The line of credit will be used to cover this. Doug would like to have a meeting to show the congregation in September.

**Pastor's Moment:** Amanda shared that the sermon will have to also be muted as well as blacked out due to copyrights. She is working on what her August through the fall sermon topic will be. Institute will be here starting July 24th. She and Ross will be heading that up. She is not sure at this time if the building will be needed.

**Other Business:** Amanda shared some notes on Conference. As of May 5th, there will now be separation within the church with the new section being called the Global Methodist Church. Twenty-four congregations chose to disaffiliate. This is about a 6% loss, but only a 10% loss in income. There will not be changes to the Discipline at this time. One item of note is that the church can now choose its own insurance. Our current one is not the best. We will look into other options.

**Closing:** Pastor Amanda offered a closing prayer at 7:57 pm. **Submitted** by Samantha Cheek

## Most Current Financial Update:

The 2022 Budget is \$159,300 (with an average contribution amount needed each month to meet the annual budget: \$13,275.00) total contributions received for the month of June was 23745.24, 47.83% of the budget (out of needed 48%) has been met at this time



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

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

*Missions*

LAURA DICKINSON, MISSIONS CHAIR., [LDINBC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LDINBC@GMAIL.COM)  
FOOD PANTRY HOURS ON THE 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 9:00 TO 10:30AM



## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR Activities

**August** – Welcome back BU students – we will be collecting snack items – fruit rollups, popcorn packs, granola bars, gum, candy, etc. for welcome kits on the table in the narthex.

**September** – Hunger Action Month -Stand Against Hunger – explore ways to volunteer, pledge, fundraise, donate to help end the impossible choices of hunger

**VOLUNTEERS Needed:** The food pantry is needing additional volunteers to work in a variety of roles to support the food pantry. If you are interested, please contact Laura at [ldinbc@gmail.com](mailto:ldinbc@gmail.com)

**FOOD PANTRY** – For 2 years, we have been providing grocery vouchers for our Baldwin neighbors as a means of sustaining the pantry outreach and maintaining health throughout the COVID pandemic. Beginning in July, we will move back inside for grocery shopping on the stage in Fellowship Hall. The pantry is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays and the hours will shift to 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **A HUGE thanks to everyone in the community who supports the pantry with financial donations, volunteer efforts, food, and prayers!**

*Voting in today's world is a faithful civic engagement*

**Voting: A Prayerful Act**

By Susan Henry-Crowe

Our belief as Christians and United Methodists in restorative justice calls us (as) citizens to have a right to be seen, heard, and to take part in the political process.

Christians and United Methodists believe in racial justice and non-discrimination, we are committed to ensuring African-Americans, immigrants, and other minority communities have equal access to voting. The targeting of minority communities with voter ID laws, intimidation, purging voter rolls and other tactics must be stopped. "All people are created equal" – and this extends to voting rights.

We believe in economic justice, we must work to ensure everyone, especially the working-class and those in rural and inner-city communities, have the opportunity to vote regardless of access to paid time off and accessibility of polling locations.

On Election Day and in the spirit of suffrage ...(the word suffrage usually is associated with the right to vote, but the second definition is worth noting: suffrage is also a series of intercessory prayers and petitions), voting offers a way to create change. But it can also be an act of prayer and faith.

To read the full article of this excerpt go to

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/voting-a-prayerful-act>



BELIEVING. LOVING. AND. SERVING. TOGETHER.  
BRAD PETERSON, [PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM)  
ANGELA MURRAY, [MURRAYSLANDING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MURRAYSLANDING@GMAIL.COM)



Our fundraising effort has raised almost \$900 for the children of Ukraine! We want to thank members of the Baldwin First congregation who most recently contributed a total of \$190 toward our fundraiser. If you wish to contribute, you still can at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/BaldwinBlast4Ukraine>.

### Memories of 2022 Vacation Bible School

Thank you to all those who helped make it a special week!



Last month's VBS "Food Truck Party " at BFUMC spiritual focused was on the Lord's Prayer.



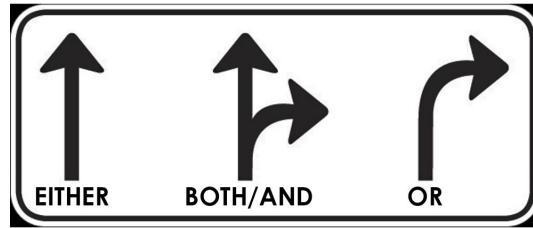
Riley served at the music station for VBS.



BLAST Crew kids are amazing helpers and great role models for the younger kids. Brad did a super job coming up with games and leading the fun. Getting wet is always part of the games.



Local Food Pop Up truck came to help us celebrate at VBS.



<https://intheoopwithbfumc.updates.church>

Both/And communication methods are now more prevalent than the previous "either/or" approach to accessing worship services. In addition to helping cut down paper costs and the amount of printing of bulletins; the recently added LED screens in the sanctuary, the church's website, and a digital bulletin phone app are accessible. The latter can be used during church (guest password for the church's internet is BFUMC@guest). For your reference, the announcements and song lyrics are also available in these two venues throughout the following week until the next Sunday's worship bulletin is posted. URL links for the digital access (or scan the QR codes above) are:

<https://baldwinfirst.org/baldwin-first> (under the worship tab)  
<https://intheoopwithbfumc.updates.church>.

Does that sound like a lot of duplicated work by church staff and volunteers? It's done in the spirit of what the Apostle Paul said of "...being all things to all people that we might win some for Christ..." without compromising our faith or Christ's message (1Cor. 9:19). It's part of that concept to provide different opportunities for people to engage with our church in worship and information.



### **Photos from UMYF\* Institute Summer 2022**

\*United Methodist Youth Fellowship,, a Camp Chippewa Retreat, Baker University annual event





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

Aug 1 Missions Mtg 7:00PM

Aug 2 Primary Election Day

Aug 8 Trustees Mtg 7:00PM

Aug 15 Finance Mtg 7:00PM  
SPPRC Mtg 7:00PM

Aug 22 Council Mtg 7:00PM

Aug 27 LINK



***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**



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](mailto:office@baldwinfirst.org)) to help alleviate mailing costs.

**Church office hours 9-2, Monday-Thursday**

*OUR MISSION IS TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBORS AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST*



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