

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER



Bishop Wilson adjourns his first Great Plains Annual Conference

The recent Great Plains Annual Conference adjourned on June 10th. It began online on May 31, with a special session that include approving the disaffiliation of 157 churches out of the 960 congregations affiliated with this district. The in-person session, held in La Vista, NE., began Wednesday night. .

The 2024 conference of \$15,124,101, a decrease of about \$672,000 or 4% from the 2023 budget, was approved Saturday morning. Rev. Amy Leypoldt, present of the conference council on Finance and Administration (CF&A), said half of the mission shares from disaffiliated churches, about \$552,000 would be included in the '24 budget.

Earlier, Lippoldt said CF&A had approved \$500,000 for the conference congregational excellence department to provide support for churches and individuals whose congregations had been split by disaffiliation votes.

After a successful amendment, the conference approved a plan to increase racial-ethnic diversity in conference leadership on committees, teams, and boards. The original resolution asked for 24% of each group to be persons of color by 2028, then amended to being equal to or greater than the percentage of color in Kansas and Nebraska. According to the 2020 census, Kansas's percentage of white population is 75.6%. In Douglas County, it is 76%, with 24% of the county's population in the diversity index.

Also approved was a resolution titled "Building Bridges, Not Walls," that pledged continued support and guidance for refugees entering the country.

Mark your calendar for the 2024 Great Plains annual conference will be June 6-9 (Thursday through Saturday) at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney, NE. The Commission on the General Conference announced today that the 2024 United Methodist General Conference will be held April 23 – May 3, 2024, at Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC.

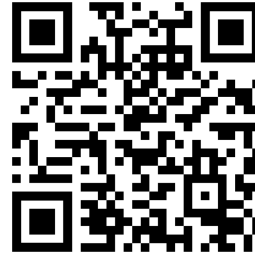


Bishop David Wilson with visuals from the Great Plains Conference theme "Clay in the Hands of our Creator"~ from GPconnect, AC daily report dated June 10, 2023, with information hyperlinked.

Most Current Financial Update (Note: this is posted after the Minutes of the previous month have been approved)

The 2023 budget is \$175,503.00 (with the average monthly contribution amount needed of \$14,625, 8.3%, needed each month to meet the budget). The contributions for May came to \$19,575 in donations, making the year to date giving \$65,063. That is 37% of the needed 41.5% at this time.

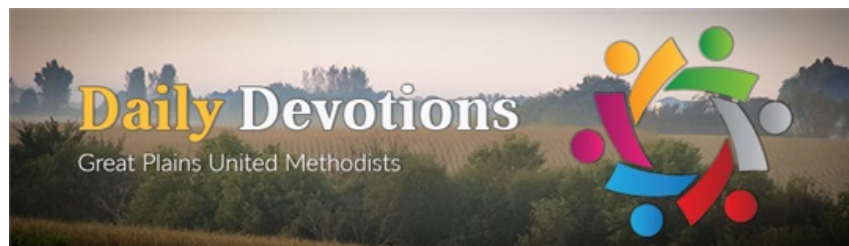
Online donations can be done at <https://baldwinfirst.org/> or scan the QR code below please indicate your designated area of for donation.



Last week's scenes from UMY Institute, 2023: FruitFULL Faith



PLEASE NOTE: Food Pantry Hours are on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month 9-10:30AM.

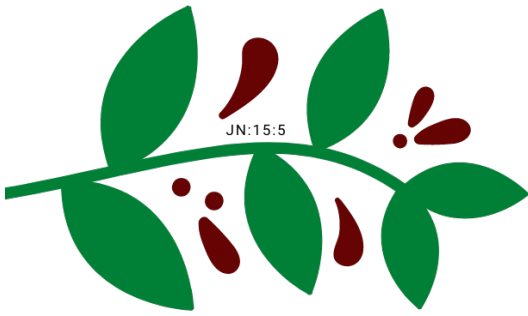


Sign Up to Write Daily Devotions; Openings Through September

Daily Devotions are written by clergy, retirees, laity and staff of the Great Plains Conference and delivered to the emails of more than 3,000 people every morning. All are encouraged to write a devotion, approximately 300 words, with a related scripture and prayer. Signups are now available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ea9ae2ba7fec16-decemberfebruary#/>

5Rivers District Office Has Moved

If you didn't know by now, the District office is now located in Marvè Ralston home office. If anything needs to be delivered, call 785.841.4805, and she will meet you at Baldwin First or at "The Nook" coffee shop across the street from the church. The district office phone number (785.760.3254) and PO box (#556) are the same.



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

July 4 Independence Day

July 5 Caregiver Group meeting 1PM
in Fellowship Hall

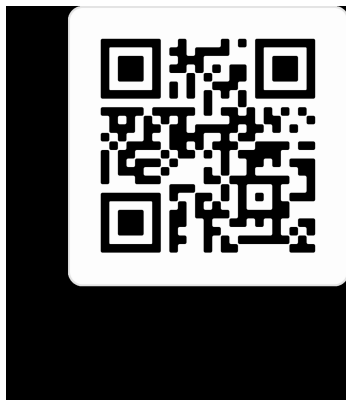
July 9-13 VBS 6-8pm.BFUMC

July 12 Senior Gathering 2to4PM

July 16 Coffee Fellowship 8:30am

July 17 Leadership Meeting, 7PM

July 27 Thankful Thursday Meal, Ives
Chapel, 5:30 - 6:30PM



On the 3rd Sunday of each month, there will be a coffee hour at 8:30am in Beeks Chapel before the worship service. Pastor Amanda would love to have coffee and get to know you better. If that time doesn't work for you, please don't hesitate to use the QR code to to book an appointment with Pastor!

***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 format.

***9:30AM Sunday Worship
Live Stream:**

<https://www.Baldwinfirst.org>

or at

<https://www.facebook.com/baldwinfirstumc>

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

Adult Classes: Journey's (Beek's Memorial Chapel), Lamplighters (Library), Children's Sunday school, PK-5th grade (upstairs), B.L.A.S.T. crew, for middle and high schoolers (Youth Room downstairs)

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

<https://zoom.us/join>

mtg ID #: 9644607669



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