

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Yes, you read that graphic headline right.

Our September worship series will explore some of the themes of the AppleTV series "Ted Lasso", and the reasons they resonate so deeply for Christians. We will dig into how those themes echo the words of Scripture- and the way the series highlights how complicated it can be to live this way in the complexities of life.

If you aren't familiar, I offer a few caveats: first, Apple TV is a paid streaming service. Second, the show is rated for mature audiences. But have no fear, you do not need to watch the series to grow with us over the next few weeks. We will give you enough information to stay with the series without spoiling it in case you decide to watch at a later time.

Here's a quick synopsis of the show: a newly divorced British woman gets a struggling soccer franchise in her divorce, and makes the unconventional decision to hire a College (American) Football Coach, Ted Lasso, to lead the team. Ted brings an almost impossibly positive attitude, and a belief in people's capacity for good that stuns the world.

We are also doing something else new with this series: shared preaching! Rev Ross Baker, Pastor of Eudora and Edgerton UMC's, and my absolute favorite colleague of all time, will also be doing this series, and we have decided to share preaching responsibilities. You will get 2 weeks of me preaching/leading worship, and 2 Sundays with Pastor Ross. We are so excited about this opportunity to get to know more of one another's congregations!

come, let us sing for joy to the LORD

Ps. 95:1



It's time to warm up those vocal cords again for Church Choir! Come join us for an initial gathering to meet, greet and explore more about being a part of the BFUMC choir on Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

CHURCH
CHOIR



NANCY ARNOLD, CHAIR., ARNOLDN448@GMAIL.COM

COUNCIL MINUTES AND FINANCIAL UPDATE (BRAD PETERSON, CHAIR., PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM) ARE SUBSEQUENTLY POSTED ONE MONTH LATER UPON APPROVAL.

Baldwin First United Methodist Church Administrative Council Meeting July 25, 2022

Attendees: Staff- Pastor Amanda

Council Members: Council Chair Nancy Arnold, Linda Ballinger, Doug Cheek, Cynthia Perez, Kathleen Thomas Advisory Member: Katherine Cook

Opening: Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Minutes Doug moved and Kathleen seconded the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion carried.

SPPRC: Cynthia reported that the committee continues to work on staff evaluations. Pastor Amanda proposed a conference-approved spiritual renewal leave that is grant-funded for \$3,000. The leave will coincide with the six weeks of Lent (February 14-March 27), not to include Holy Week. There will be a plan in place for each Sunday of her absence. Doug moved to allow Pastor Amanda a six week leave to take advantage of a spiritual renewal leave in February and March. Cynthia seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Caregivers: The next meeting will be August 3rd.

Missions: The food pantry is well-stocked. Volunteers can indicate their interest on Sign-up Genius.

Worship: There is still a need for volunteers for several positions, including leaders for children's time.

VBS: What a wonderful job! Kudos to children, leaders, and workers.

Lay Leader Doug shared "Mission Possible" for a new, possible leadership format, highlighting the structure of the Leadership Board and a potential agenda including a goal for each month. Doug will present the format to the congregation on September 11th; congregants should express interest or concerns to Doug or Nancy; council will make a determination on September 25th.

Pastor's Moment: Cat requests vacation on August 22-25.

Closing: Doug offered a closing prayer at 8:16.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine Cook

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 11th!

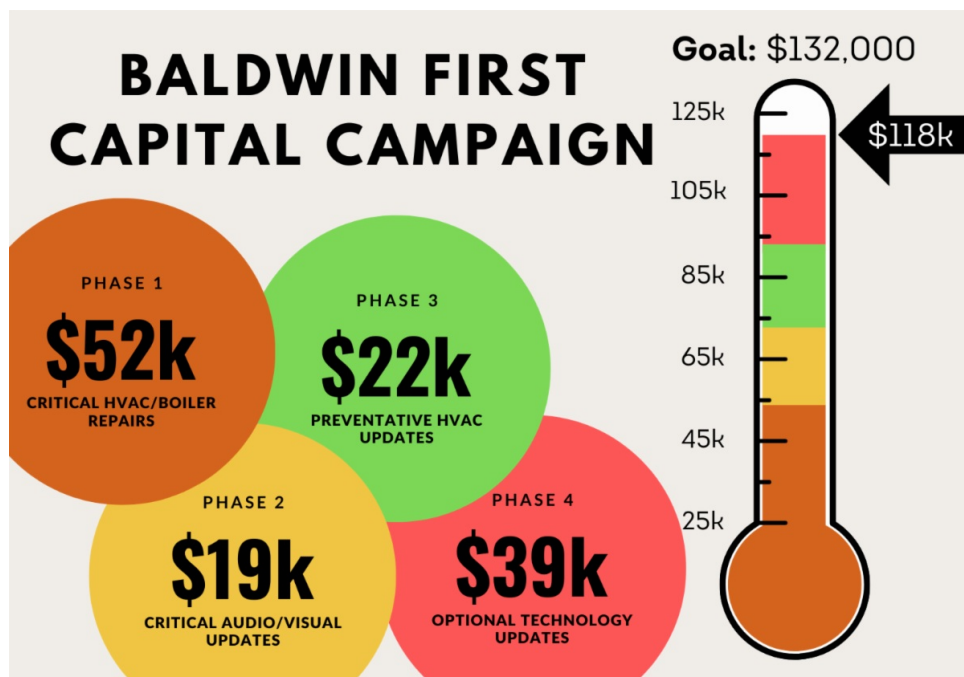
Mark Data^{the}

At 9am in Beeks Chapel, a celebratory Coffee & Conversation will be held to extend our gratitude to the donors of the Baldwin First Capital Campaign. Later, after the worship service, during the Sunday School hour, everyone is invited to a presentation entitled Simplified Leadership Structure (about a focus on church ministry meetings that a fewer in number but larger in meaning). This will be discussed and brought to a vote later in this fall.

The presentation was put together for the Great Plains United Methodist Conference and provides information to help discern the next steps in leadership structure for congregations. The information will be presented by the Lay Leader -Doug Cheek. The presentation will include time for questions.

September 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sunday, Sep 11th 2022



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 July was \$9838.52, 51% of the budget (out of needed 56%) met at this time



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

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

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.

Maple Leaf – We are seeking volunteers who would like to assist with the Missions fundraiser on Saturday, October 15th and is asking for help from the congregation. Profits generated from this fundraiser will go back into the community through the food pantry and other service efforts.

Departing from the chili feed of the past, this year's fundraiser will be an outdoor booth on the west lawn where "Walking Tacos", chili-dogs, hotdogs and drinks will be sold. The booth will only be open from 12:00 pm until approximately 2:00. The later start time is to allow families an opportunity to enjoy the parade together. The missions team is asking for volunteers to work the booth and also for donations in the form of food and drink. See the Sign-up Genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4caea722a6fc1-maple> or the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please sign up as soon as possible. If there are not enough workers, the menu may be trimmed to only walking tacos, deleting the chili dogs and hotdogs.

Donations can be brought to the church before October 2nd. This is to allow an opportunity to inventory the donated items and to purchase what items are still needed. Your donation of time and/or food items are greatly appreciated by the Missions team and many members of our community.

September is Hunger Action Month -Stand Against Hunger – explore ways to volunteer, pledge, fundraise, write to lawmakers, donate to help end the impossible choices of hunger. We do have a choice to end food insecurity. Kansas and Douglas County Statistics, according to data collected by Feeding America, Kansas has a 9.7% overall food insecurity rate and Douglas County has an 11.5% rate of food insecurity.

Hunger in America (source Feeding America) According to the USDA, more than 38 million people, including 12 million children, in the United States are food insecure. The pandemic has increased food insecurity among families with children and communities of color, who already faced hunger at much higher rates before the pandemic. Every community in the country is home to families who face hunger. But rural communities are especially hard hit by hunger. Many households that experience food insecurity do not qualify for federal nutrition programs and visit their local food banks and other food programs for extra support. Hunger in African American, Latino, and Native American communities is higher because of systemic racial injustice. To achieve a hunger-free America, we must address the root causes of hunger and structural and systemic inequities.

Native American Ministries - The Peninsula-Delaware and Baltimore-Washington Conference Committees on Native American Ministries invite United Methodists to observe a special time of prayer and action from Sept. 30 to Oct. 6, as they remember the atrocities associated with tribal children once taken from their families and placed in boarding schools.

"Justice for our Children: Healing for Our Communities" is the theme of this year's observance, which pays particular attention to those children who died at the schools and whose bodies were buried far from their homes. The observance also marks the "spiritual deaths" of hundreds of Native children whose culture and spirituality were taken from them. Information about this dark chapter of history can be found at [The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition/](#).

Ukraine – Great Plains Conference Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. has written a prayer and encourages United Methodists to print it out and to say it daily until armed conflict ceases in Ukraine:

Prayer for Peace

Loving God of all peoples and nations, hear us when we call to you, answer our prayers, and show us your salvation. We unite in prayer with people of faith throughout the world for a swift end to the war in Ukraine. We pray for the men, women, children, and families fleeing their homes in fear because of the terror and destruction that wastes their communities and way of life. Be their shelter, a strong refuge, and fortress. Cover them with your pinions and give them refuge under your wings. Send forth and give your angels charge over the dissenting voices, delegations, leaders, and governments that speak out for peace and seek an end to war, granting them success. With your Spirit, lead your churches to be agents of spiritual and temporal comfort, hope, and strength. Christ of all peoples and nations, Prince of Peace, for the sake of your sorrowful passion, hear our prayer and have mercy on us and on the whole world. Your reign of endless peace, justice, and righteousness come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

— Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.
Great Plains Conference

Many **THANKS** to the **USD 348 staff** who donated \$189 and 655 food items to the food pantry to start their 022-23 school year.



BELIEVING. LOVING. AND. SERVING. TOGETHER.

BRAD PETERSON, PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM
ANGELA MURRAY, MURRAYSLANDING@GMAIL.COM

After taking a summer break from our Sunday morning meetings, B.L.A.S.T. Crew will resume starting Sunday, September 11th (weekend after Labor Day) at 10:30 immediately following worship.

Our name stands for "Believing, Loving, and Serving Together" because we spend time each week in fellowship, Bible study and service to the church and community. We've been busy this past year helping out with this summer's VBS, a special service congratulating our first group of graduating seniors, raising money to support the children of Ukraine, hosting a Mother's Day brunch, helping with May Day Baskets, and showing appreciative thankd the UWF virtually among many other activities.



The group is for geared Junior High and High School youth. We welcome new members throughout the school year and look forward to seeing you and your friends!



Exciting News!!!

We are back in person! Sunday School begins at 10:45 (right after church service).

On Sunday, September 18, the children's one room class will become TWO: Pre school through 1st grade class and 2nd through 5th class. Invite your friends!

We will start with an opening in the big blue room on the second floor, then split for class. The opening will let us start a Children's Choir, work on Acolytes, etc.

We are also excited to announce that there will be a **parent's social hour** during this time! Coffee and goodies will be offered.

Help needed! One of these opportunities might be just right for you: Helpers for Sunday School – Men and Women; **Nursery workers** – we hope on getting enough workers so you will only do one Sunday a month or every two months. There will be a TV placed in the room so you will be able to view the service.

Do you like to sing!! Would you love to lead the **Children's choir**? Please let us talk, we would love to have you help us grow! In the meantime, Kids Ministry Sunday School is still meeting.



There are flowers enough in the summer. More flowers than I can remember - But none with the purple, gold and red that dye the flowers of September! Mary Howitt 1799-1899)

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

Sept 5 Labor Day - Office closed
Missions Mtg 7:00PM

Sept 7 Caregiving group meets at 1:00pm, Choir Meeting 7 pm in Sanctuary

Sept 11 Capital Celebration
9a.m. Beeks Chapel
Church meeting after worship
(during Sunday School hour)

B.L.A.S.T. Crew resumes Sunday School

Sept 12 Trustees Mtg 7:00PM

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:**

Sept 19 Finance Mtg 7:00PM
SPPRC Mtg 7:00PM

Sept 26 Council Mtg 7:00PM



<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) 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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