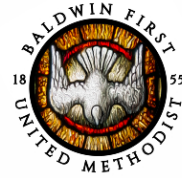


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

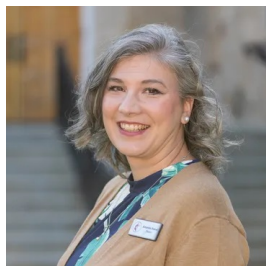


**“Winds in the east, mist comin’ in
Like something is brewin’ and ‘bout to begin...”**

Many of you can hear those words in the iconic voice of Dick Van Dyke from the opening measures of Disney’s *Mary Poppins*, but they’ve been living in my brain for several weeks now. They’re one of the only ways I have to describe what it is like to be serving as your pastor in this moment in history. There is a palpable, tangible energy about the life of our congregation, and it can only be the work of the Holy Spirit!

Our whole worship series for the month of September will be focused on the how and why of leveraging your unique gifts for the ministry of our congregation. We have something really big planned for Sunday, September 10, that will offer new ways to find yourselves in ministry. We are working to find ways for every single person who worships with us to feel that there is a place for them to serve, but that doesn’t mean that we will think of everything. I believe, firmly and wholeheartedly, that there is no gift or talent that God cannot leverage for the sake of the kingdom. I invite you to bring your whole self, even the parts you’ve never seen anybody use in church before. There is joy in watching what God’s Divine Imagination is unfolding in this moment in our community!

Peace and Joy,
Rev Amanda Baker



“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”
(John 3:8 NIV)

Baldwin First United Methodist Church
Leadership Board Meeting
July 17, 2023

The Mission of Baldwin First United Methodist Church is to love and serve God and our neighbors as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Attendees: Nancy Arnold, Ryan Berg, Coleen Burgess, Doug Cheek, Mike Curran, Joanne Kite, Darren Lawrenz, Cynthia Perez, Brad Peterson, Pam Sharp **Staff:** Pastor Amanda Baker, Cat Henry **Guests:** Roger Boyd, Donna Curran, Tara Welch **Recording Secretary:** Katherine Cook

Opening:

Doug opened the meeting at 7:03 and offered a prayer.

Guests:

- Donna shared her resignations from Kid Ministries and Fellowship.
- Tara shared the mission of the hospitality team: “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7
 - o Reinstatement greeter and create greeting station
 - o Creation of signage that maintains the integrity of the church’s spaces
 - o Recruit and host ‘Pastries with Pastor’
 - o Provide visitors with a mug, candy, and information
 - o Write cards to both members and visitors
 - o There is a request for funding for items such as postage
 - o It was suggested that contributions to the general fund may help fortify this team and their actions
 - o Saturday, August 5th (1-3 p.m.) there will be a family swim gathering at the Welch home
- Roger visited to express his interest in getting the church on the Kansas historic register, and has begun developing the PSIQ and necessary attachments. Brad moved and Joanne seconded the motion to move forward with the process by submitting the forms; the motion carried.

Generative and Strategic Work:

- Communication—all members of the board have equal voices, and we will strive to do better at communicating. Joanne encouraged everyone to respond to emails. Minutes will be sent to all board members within one week of the meeting. The agenda and necessary materials will be sent one week prior to the meeting.
- Historic status—The August newsletter will indicate that we are exploring the possibility of registering as a historical site. Amanda will obtain permission from the conference should it prove necessary. The process of grant writing will be visited in October.
- Darren provided information from BCI and Westerhouse for air conditioners in Fellowship Hall. Darren’s suggestion was to put the new units in the existing framework. He will return to both bidders asking for increased clarification and revised bids. An email vote will be made at that time. Since the expenses were part of the capital campaign, it was suggested that we make this investment now. After discussion, the majority voted to use capital campaign funds to replace the air conditioning units now.
- Coleen provided information regarding insurance funds spent and work still pending from boiler damage. Insurance funds received were \$25,012; \$11,515 remains after preliminary repairs. The majority voted to wait to make additional repairs until we have increased funds.
- Parsonage repairs require replacement of three windows and frames.
 - o Darren will contact Anderson windows and will report his findings to the board.
 - o The air conditioning unit needs to be levelled. Darren will contact Westerhouse to see what it will cost to add this to their bid for the church.
- Pastor Amanda’s office is in need of repair due to a steam pipe leak. Mike and Darren will look into necessary changes and corrections and report to the board in August.
- Children’s church with Kelsey—Amanda is working with Kelsey and is seeking affordable, developmentally appropriate materials. The intention is to begin in the Fall. • Mike will ask Donna and Samantha to work with Amanda and Cat to update membership rolls by September.
- Discussion concerned a leader for the music team. Ryan will make an announcement that we are interested in building a music team. Those interested may contact Pam.
 - The board will prayerfully consider names of those who might be interested in taking on the leadership of the Fellowship team. Names will be shared at the August meeting.

- Ryan reported that the new amplifier will be installed under budget.
- Team recruitment fair will be September 10th. Brad, Joanne, and Amanda will meet to create a plan.
- We are currently \$13,000 behind in projected giving for the year. Amanda will pen necessary correspondence regarding a plan for stewardship.
- Name tags and the greeting center are ready to go as soon as there is a final decision. • Samantha and Nancy will attempt to recoup keys to the church that are no longer needed. • A request has been made to install a rail at the bottom of the stairwell. The maintenance team will report what they think will work best.
- Zach Goodwin will be raising funds for travel and is asking to use the parking lot to detail cars on July 29th. The board agreed to his request.
- The next meeting will be August 21st at 7:00 p.m.
 - Joanne made two corrections to the June meeting: 1) one bid for the AC with a second underway, and 2) the financial campaign should begin immediately. Both corrections were made.

Closing:

Doug closed the meeting at 9:12.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine Cook

(Note: Minutes are posted from the most previously month's approval)

Most Current Financial Update

The 2023 budget is \$175,503.49 (with the average monthly contribution amount needed of \$14,625, 8.3%, needed each month to meet the budget). The contributions for June came to \$13126.17 in donations, making the year to date \$87723.02. This amount is 50% of the 58.1% of the budget needed 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.



We celebrate and lift up Samuel (17 y/o) and William Darnell (25 y/o), sons of Hank and Christi Darnell, in their baptism on Aug 6. Best wishes to them both on this next step in their spiritual journey.

The Missions team of Baldwin United Methodist Church is anticipating a busy year. We will be serving link lunches four times during the next year*. Lunches are being served communally again after suspension during Covid. Many congregation members join in this service. The food pantry has expanded services to support the High School and Middle School food pantries!. Both pantries are hands on so they often are able to visit with students while providing food. We, also, have provided snacks for the library for after school students who congregate at the library. We will soon be adding The Indian Methodist Church in Lawrence to the pantries we are supplementing. Thank you to all for supporting the Community Food Pantry and all our future outreach.



A shout out of gratitude to the USD 348 staff and employees for donations collected during their recent food drive during their back to school preparation. Over 797 items were donated to the food pantry plus cash donations. And the same sincere acknowledgement to Baldwin T.O.P.S group (Taking off Pounds Sensibly) as they celebrated their 75th anniversary by donating 75+ items to the Community food pantry!

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



***Save the Dates:** 2024 L.I.N.K. Schedule is January 27, April 27, August 24, and October 26. Contact Nancy Arnold (arnoldn448@gmail.com) for more information to volunteer to serve lunch. The acronym L.I.N.K. acronym is for Lawrence Interdenominational Nutritional Kitchen.



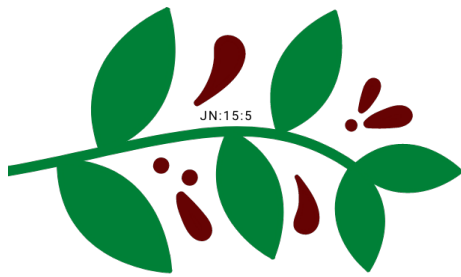
Church Grounds

When you see them please expressed your appreciation to the following who go about keeping the church grounds spruced up!

Those who donated the plants then watered and weeded them this summer were **Barbara Pressgrove, Coleen Burgess, Jill Dodge, Joanne Kite, Nancy Arnold, Peggy McMillon, Stephanie Batchelder, and Susan Butell.**

The volunteers mowing the grass are **Brad Peterson, John Beins, Roger Arnold, Coleen and Short Burgess, Bruce Peterson and Bruce Cromer.**

Keeping up a property's landscape can be year around. The church thanks you immensely for your steadfastness.



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

*Church Streaming & Zoom Meeting
Links Directory*

Sept. 4 Labor Day, office is closed

***9:30AM Sunday Worship
Live Stream on website
<https://www.Baldwinfirst.org>**

Sept 6 Caregiver Group meeting 1PM
in Fellowship Hall

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

Sept 13 Senior Gathering 2-4PM in
Fellowship Hall

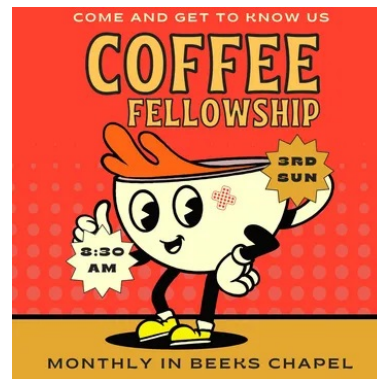
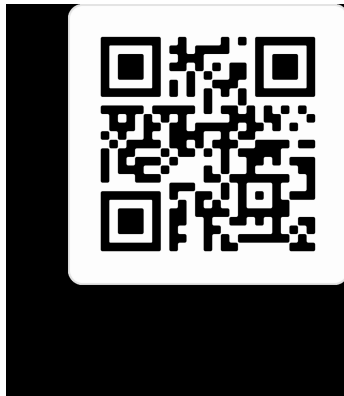
Sept 17 Coffee Fellowship 8:30AM

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).

Sept 18 Leadership Meeting, 7PM

Sept 28 Thankful Thursday Meal,
Ives Chapel, 5:30 - 6:30PM

***For ALL scheduled CHURCH
meetings there is an
optional Zoom Mtgs:
<https://zoom.us/join>
mtg ID #: 9644607669**



News items or pictures for the church newsletter, The Vine, is due by the 4th Monday of every month. If you prefer to get the newsletter electronically, please provide your current email address to the office (785.594.6612 or email baldwinfirstumc@gmail.com) to help save on postage costs.

Please call the church office upon arrival for access to the building.

Church office hours 9am-2pm, Monday-Thursday

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