

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



Last Thursday the patch of weeds I call my front lawn was just a dead-looking brown mass of last year's tufts of plant life with the occasional bright yellow dandelion popping up. On Friday night we had rain – real, measurable moisture falling from the sky for long enough to amount to a little over an inch falling in my neighborhood. Monday morning, that patch of weeds had turned into green patches of



chickweed with its bright purple flowers along with the ever-cheerful dandelions. On Tuesday morning I hauled out the mower and ran it over the front weed patch. There are still blooming weeds for the bees to feed on but the tall stems with fuzzy heads are gone for a day or two.

Lawn mowing season has arrived. And, just as the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, there is a season for everything under heaven. I never cease to be amazed by how quickly green leaves and grass blades appear in the spring after the first rain. It is a phenomenon I came to appreciate a great deal while living in the Flint Hills of eastern Kansas as pasture land was burned each spring and in a matter of days shoots of green grass began to appear.

The writer reminds us that God has given us many kinds of seasons in life, and some are not so joyful. Some of those seasons come right alongside the seasons of joy. In the midst of the greening of the world in spring, there are people experiencing grief, loss, and despair, who cannot see hope anywhere in the season they are experiencing. We all face moments when we cannot see hope through the darkness of the moment.

Yet the greening of the world, as spring unfolds, speaks to me of hope. This IS the season when hope abounds – the season in which we celebrate the hope of Easter. For those in the northern hemisphere, spring is the season of an open and empty tomb, of promises fulfilled, and of a sense of joy unfolding within us as we embrace the promise of life lived in resurrection faith. The dark seasons of life will come to us all, but the hope of that empty tomb is always waiting for us to rediscover it.

Mowing season will go on for months – and I will lose my enthusiasm for it long before it ends. But there is always another season awaiting me and I know that whatever that season might bring, God has provided an alternative season.

~ Robbie Fall, retired elder from Hutchinson, KS., Great Plains Conference



Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NRSV)

There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what was planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to throw stones and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; a time to tear and a time to repair; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate, (and) a time for war and a time for peace.

Baldwin First United Methodist Church

Leadership Board Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2023

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

Attendees: Doug Cheek, Ryan Berg, Colleen Burgess, Mike Curran, Joanne Kite, Darren Lawrenz, Brad Peterson, Pam Sharp Via Zoom and Audio: Nancy Arnold, Cynthia Perez. Staff: Cat Henry, Board Secretary: Katherine Cook

Opening Prayer

Doug opened with a reminder of our mission and shared an opening prayer at 7:10 p.m.

Review of New People

The attendance books are now back in the pews. Cat will receive the sheets each week and will make necessary additions to the books.

Packet and Consent Calendar Items

Brad moved and Joanne seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion carried.

Doug stated that we are still working on how to get items for the agenda.

Lenten Activities and Easter:

- Ash Wednesday will be observed at Ives Chapel
- There will be an online video to commemorate Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday will be observed at 7:00 p.m. at Baldwin First
- Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Sullivan Square followed by a breakfast at Baldwin First
- Easter Service at BFUMC will be followed by an Easter egg hunt and brunch

Kelley Bethell-Smith has proved willing to take on the task of directing the choir as soon as other responsibilities are met. Tara agreed to chair the hospitality team. Sheryl Cleverley will assume leadership of adult ministries. Kelsey Nolte has expressed interest in leading a children's church. Donna will be informed of the request and will contact Kelsey.

Tech – Frank Perez asked for approval for the replacement of the amplifier for approximately \$900. Additionally, he submitted a request for semi-annual piano tuning. Doug suggested that the money associated with the Polson account be used for this year's piano expense and we place the tuning in the budget for coming years.

Capital Campaign – Nancy shared that at the end of February, the account has \$132,279.85. Doug suggested that we need to compare original budget requests to actual expenses so that we can make additional requests for the funds. Ryan will create a visual element to explain current finances, expenses, and needs.

Darren suggested that the air conditioning units for Fellowship Hall be replaced; these are included in phase 3 of the plan.

We have continued to experience sump pump failure and boiler-related products that are not acceptable. The products are under warranty and will be replaced.

Generative and Strategic Work

Organist—a job description has been created and will be modified as per suggestions. Frank Perez will seek qualified applicants for the pipe organist position.

2022 Budget and Numbers—Figures affirm that we received exactly the funds we needed for 2022. It appears that we could benefit from revisiting revenue-generating opportunities.

Apportionments will be suspended for the time being.

Communication—minutes, financial concerns will be shared via the bulletin, Brad will share with the congregation on April 16th.

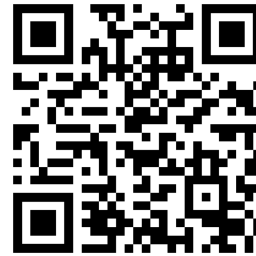
Closing

Doug concluded the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Katherine Cook

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

The 2023 budget is \$167,943.49 (with the average contribution amount needed of \$13,995.25 , about 8.3%, needed each month to meet the budget). Contributions for March were \$15,855, year to date \$34,157, 19% if the budget out of the 24.9% 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.



B.L.A.S.T. Crew

is wrapping up the school year with our last gathering before summer break on **May 14th**. We hope that BLAST Crew members finishing 6th grade and up can join us to help with VBS July 9th-13th. Those finishing 5th grade should plan to



participate in VBS! Stay tuned for a Saturday work day over the summer to clean out, paint, and rearrange our classroom. This is something the kids have wanted to do for quite a while, so they are looking forward to making the space their own. Finally, we still have some money in our savings account thanks to generous gifts from the United Methodist Women that we plan to use to purchase new classroom Bibles. We hope to have lots of fresh new things to look forward to when we start meeting again in the fall!



Susan Butell has recently be appointed the position of Mission leader for Baldwin First. A lifelong member of the church, she has been involved in this particular ministry for a number of years bringing much experience and her servant's heart.

Contact Susan(sbutell@mchsi.com) or Nancy Arnold (arnoldn448@gmail.com) for further info to include the food panty or if interested in serving quarterly at LINK (Lawrence Interdenominational Kitchen).

Baldwin City Community
Emergency Fund, Inc.

JOINING HANDS

to support all members
of our community.



The Baldwin Community Emergency Fund (BCEF), established about 35 years ago, purpose is to respond to the needs of Baldwin area, serving those within the USD348 school district.



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

It's mission is to help those with short-term aid in times of crisis. That can include assistance with utility bills, rent, gasoline, food, and medical expenses or aid after catastrophic events.

They are totally funded by public donations. "Thanks to the community's generous giving, we were able to meet most of the appropriate requests..." said board member Donna Reed. Nonetheless, the fund sometimes gets dangerously low.

The group is made up of volunteers from area churches: Baldwin First, Annunciation Catholic, Ives Chapel, New Life Assembly of God and Worden Cornerstone.

All money raised or donated is used for assistance, and there are limits and safeguards in place to assure the cash is spent effectively, Reed said. Individuals or families can receive utility assistance only three times a year and rental assistance is available once annually. Utility assistance is paid directly to the billing service providers, and vouchers are provided for rent, food, and gasoline, she said. Tax-deductible donations can be made at local churches or mailed to Baldwin State Bank, P.O. Box 46, Baldwin City, KS.

. You also email the group at baldwincommunityemergencyfund@gmail.com .

LATEST UPDATES

Seeking Church Organist

The formal search is currently underway for a Church organist. A position description is available by contacting Cynthia Perez (cynthiaAperez1975@gmail.com) or Pam Sharp (sharp_pam@hotmail.com).

Scholarship Application

The Richard and Mildred Allen Memorial Scholarship is made possible through the family of the late Richard and Mildred Allen. The \$600 scholarship application is open to Baldwin High School, with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0, and must have been active in the Baldwin First United Methodist Church. Deadline is May 8th.



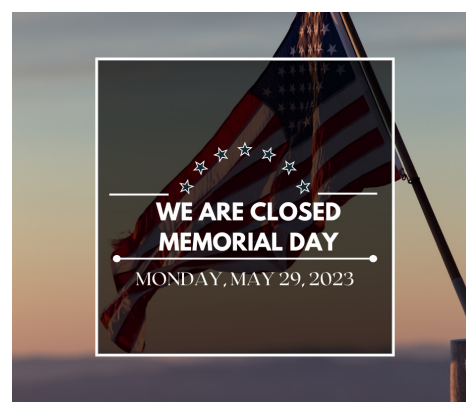
BFUMC is looking for volunteers to cut the grass on the church property. Please go to the signup genius bit.ly/3TtEROZ to sign up to mow. You choose the time (it's asked to have done by Thursday of a chosen week and provide your own equipment) Thank you for your services.



The sonnet is entitled "Mothering Sunday", a poem written by British poet and priest, Malcom Guite written for all those who hold the mother images in our life..

A Mother's Day Sonnet

At last, in spite of all, a recognition,
For those who loved and laboured for so long,
Who brought us, through that labour, to fruition
To flourish in the place where we belong.
A thanks to those who stayed and did the raising,
Who buckled down and did the work of two,
Whom governments have mocked instead of praising,
Who hid their heart-break and still struggled through,
The single mothers forced onto the edge
Whose work the world has overlooked, neglected,
Invisible to wealth and privilege,
But in whose lives the kingdom is reflected.
Now into Christ our mother church we bring them,
Who shares with them the birth-pangs of His Kingdom.



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

May 3 Caregiver Group meeting 1PM
in Fellowship Hall

May 4 National Day of Prayer

May 7 Confirmation Class 2PM at
BFUMC
Youth Fellowship Cinco de Mayo
Fundraiser lunch at Edgerton UMC
noon to 1:30pm

May 10 Senior Gathering 2-4pm
Fellowship Hall

May 14 Mother's Day
(last B.L.A.S.T crew meeting before
summer break)

May 15 Leadership Board Meeting
7PM

May 16 Election Day (School Bond)

May 25 Ives Chapel (1018 Miami)
monthly "Thankful Thursday" free
community meal 5:30-6:30.

May 28 Pentecost
Confirmation Sunday

***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

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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