

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



A Word of Encouragement from the Pastor

The other night, as Ross and I walked our dog Rylie, we noticed how dark the streets were becoming as folks took down their Christmas lights. We noted how every year, the end of Christmas Tide comes with a bit of winter blues as the festive decorations and bright lights come down, the holiday events we look forward to have ended, and the long, cold nights remain.

I've noticed that I and many others in my life are feeling this more acutely than ever this year. We celebrated the start of a new year, bidding good riddance to 2020- a year that held much difficulty

and heartache. But now, the reality has set in that despite the change in the calendar year, many of our struggles remain. It is easy, and even natural, to feel exhausted by it all.

And, I offer you a word of encouragement from the letter to the Galatians 6:9 (NIV):

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up...

Of course, we know that the people of Galatia were facing an entirely different set of struggles, but I still find this verse helpful when I need to refocus my heart and mind.

I resolve not to give up on continually tracking infection rates, reading research about best practices for mitigation when we gather, continue brainstorming ways to share old rituals in new ways that do not endanger our community, and I will remember that sometimes doing good doesn't look like rushing into a burning building or stopping a runaway train. Sometimes doing good means strapping on our masks, watching another week of YouTube church, signing on to zoom... again... or picking up the phone to call one of the saints of the church we would have said hello to on Sundays. Our church council will continue assessing infection statistics to determine the best time to allow those who are ready to gather in the sanctuary again while continuing to make worship available to those who choose to stay home.

I pray that in these long dark winter weeks, that you will join me in praying for God to grant us the courage and stamina to continue to Do No Harm, Do Good and Stay in Love with God.

May God's peace abide with you,

Rev. [Amanda Baker](#)



NANCY ARNOLD, CHAIR., ARNOLDN448@GMAIL.COM
COUNCIL MINUTES ARE SUBSEQUENTLY POSTED ONE MONTH UPON APPROVAL.

YOUR 2021 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The Church Council is the central leadership body of the local Methodist church. It consists of elected officer representatives of the church's administrative committees, ministries and staff. Council meets the 4th Monday of each month at 7p.m. All are welcome to attend! What a blessing to for all who have served, are serving and will be serving in the ministry of the BFUMC!

Chair: Nancy Arnold	<u>Admin (GBOD) Committees</u>
*Lay Leader: Doug Cheeks	*Finance: Brad Peterson
Recording Secretary: Kathy Cook	*Trustees: Darren Lawrence
*Young Adult representative: TBA	*Pastor-Parish: Tara Welch
Lay Conference delegate: Kathleen Thomas	*Nominating: Pastor Amanda
*Youth representative: Cynthia Perez	
CHURCH COUNCIL	
<u>Ministries</u>	<u>Staff</u>
*UMM: TBA	Pastor: Amanda Bennett Baker
*UMW: Donna Curran	Youth: TBA
*Missions: Laura Dickinson	Music: Gary Keller
Caregivers: Linda Ballinger	Treasurer: Leslie Erwine
Fellowship: Donna Curran	Financial Secretary: Carolyn Groves
Technology: Ryan Berg and Frank Perez	Office Mgr: Cat Henry

*From the General Book of Discipline ¶ 252.1: Purpose-The church council shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. The church council shall be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference.



STAFF PARISH PASTOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

SPRC

TARA WELCH, CHAIR., TSWELCH@KU.EDU

Responding to financial constraints, SPRC has proposed, and Council has approved, a reduction in our pastoral appointment from a 100% position to a 75% position, effective January 1; we have also reduced the positions of office administrator and choir director/organist. In the coming days, SPRC will send out a letter outlining how these changes will affect our church. (submitted by Tara Welch)



Missions

FOOD PANTRY HOURS FOR VOUCHERS ARE EVERY SATURDAY 10-10:30AM
LAURA DICKINSON, MISSIONS CHAIR., LDINBC@GMAIL.COM

MLK Day: Dismantling Racism – A Service of Lament

On MLK Day (Jan. 18), we invite you to share in a worship service of Lament that was aired earlier in 2020. The video can be found at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y0SDae5_z4)



[v=8y0SDae5_z4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y0SDae5_z4)

As part of The United Methodist Church's Dismantling Racism: Pressing On To Freedom initiative, church leaders conducted a service of lament, inviting United Methodists across the connection to join in a time of repentance, communion, and commitment as the church examines racial injustice.

Martyrs to racism

During the past 100 years, too many people have been Martyrs to Racism. We pay respects to this Cloud of Witnesses as United Methodists across the globe work to dismantle racism.

In a multi-language and multi-cultural time of worship, a representation of our global church, United Methodists pray, sing and share communion with one another.

The service concludes with church leaders challenging every member of The United Methodist Church to a four-part call: pray, connect, show up, act.

What does the United Methodist Church say about racism?

The [United Methodist Social Principles](#) state: "Racism, manifested as sin, plagues and hinders our relationship with Christ, inasmuch as it is antithetical to the gospel itself. ... We commit as the Church to move beyond symbolic expressions and representative models that do not challenge unjust systems of power and access."

The church recognizes the existence of white privilege as an underlying cause of inequality. It supports the concept of affirmative action to guarantee more opportunities for all to compete for jobs. It opposes racial profiling, mass incarceration, targeting of migrants, and sentencing that disproportionately penalizes people of color.

We recognize racism as a sin. We commit to challenging unjust systems of power and access.

We will work for equal and equitable opportunities in employment and promotion, education and training; in voting, access to public accommodations, and housing; to credit, loans, venture capital, and insurance; to positions of leadership and power in all elements of our life together; and to full participation in the Church and society.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Pray. Ask God to show us the truth of our sin and how we might become agents of God's justice, mercy, love, and re-creation. Cry out to God for guidance. Listen for the voice of Jesus in meditation, Bible study, worship, and conversation to guide our ways. Proclaim release, recovery, and liberation for the oppressed.

Connect Talk to people within and beyond the church who are doing anti-racism well. Ask questions. Listen to and respect diverse voices. Learn how and where racism shows in your community and how others are harmed by its effects. Harness United Methodist and other resources that address institutional racism.

Show up Be present to the pain of another. Attend a prayer vigil. Join a demonstration. Organize a church school class to read, discuss, and respond to institutional racism. Tell church leaders, community leaders, and elected officials that you want to learn and help with dismantling racism in your community.

Act Support cross-racial/cross-cultural ministries in your area. Preach and teach about the harm racism does and how it offends our God. Harness the Holy Spirit anointing to rid all vestiges of institutional racial bias. Challenge your bishop, mayor, governor, police chief, or other elected officials to encode anti-racism policies and practices. Join the ongoing work for racial justice in the church and world.

LENTEN STUDY – Lent begins on February 17th and Missions will be offering a Lenten Study. The curriculum has not yet been selected, nor the dates/times. The February VINE will reflect the curriculum and times. Missions will purchase the study books and lead the study groups. If you are interested in joining a study, please contact Laura at ldinbc@gmail.com

FOOD PANTRY – THANK YOU to all who provide financial support to the food pantry. The funds allow

the pantry to remain active during COVID and supportive of those experiencing food poverty through the distribution of grocery vouchers for purchases at the local market.

For those interested, along with other BFUMC volunteers, in serving at **LINK** (Lawrence Interdenominational Nutritional Kitchen) once a quarter (or more!) on a Saturday, please contact [Nancy Arnold](#) or [John Beins](#). 2021 dates to serve are: January 30, April 24, August 28, and Nov 6.

Special Giving Sunday: Human Relations Day

Human Relations Day (Sunday, Jan 17, before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday) strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.

to donate: go to our website <https://bit.ly/3s36O23>
or to the UMC page: <https://bit.ly/3pRUTIM>

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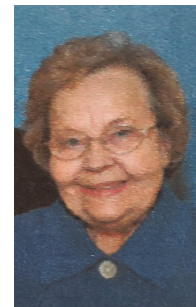


Remembering our Blessings

The Blessing of Life: Eva Kay (Norton) Parkin

September 12, 1933 - November 10, 2020

It is with deep sorrow to announce the death of Eva Kay (Norton) Parkin formerly of Baldwin City, Kansas, who passed away on November 10, 2020, at the age of 87, leaving to mourn family and friends. Family and friends can light a candle as a loving gesture for their loved one. Leave a sympathy message to the family in the guestbook on this memorial page of Eva Kay (Norton) Parkin to show support. (<https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/ks/baldwin-city/eva-kay-parkin-11728105>)



She was predeceased by: her parents, Howard Norton and Margaret Norton (Harken); her husband Larry Parkin; and her siblings, Howard and Elaine.

She is survived by: her daughters, Karin Bettis (Mike) and Peggy Keller (Matt); her grandchildren, Christopher Bettis (Olive), Caroline Bettis Valentine (Nick) and Radie Keller (Micah); and her sister Maurine Crisp (Jay). She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

The family suggests donations be made to the Baldwin Community Food Pantry in memory of Kay. Donations can be mailed to Baldwin First UMC, P. O. Box 25, Baldwin City, KS 66006.

Luminary Blessed

BFUMC would like to thank the following for donating luminaries to shine Christ's light in our community:

Nancy Arnold
Kathleen Thomas
Sheryl Cleverley
Carolyn Groves
Kelly Bethell-Smith
Scott and Michelle Rogers
Laura Dickinson
Bob & Claudia Hey
Jennifer Fulton
Matt & Peggy Keller



As a musician, perhaps no one would be surprised that most feelings and events in my life can be directly correlated to the wise lyrics of songs. Let me explain, this holiday season I did something new for me. I joined the throng of avid viewers of the Christmas movies and I viewed plenty...in particular "White Christmas" with Bing Cosby, Danny Kaye, and Rosemary Clooney. I was really impressed with the song *Count Your Blessings* (written by Irving Berlin).

This year of disruptions, sacrifice, hurt, and isolation are some things that we have all had more than our fill. It dawned on me to actually count my blessings. Without the generous giving of time, talent, dedication, technical skills, and family support our delivery system of recording and streaming our worship services would not have been possible, and yet it happened. This I celebrate and remain encouraged moving forward.

I wish to extend our collective gratitude to Ryan Berg, D. Frank Perez, and our vocalist Cynthia Perez, and their families who continued to support and share them with us during this massive, artistic production endeavor.

The countless hours of sacrifice and dedication to set up, record, sound mix, edit, create graphics, and to work seamlessly together and coordinate efforts are beyond exemplary for anyone and I am blessed. Indeed, I count these as our blessings!

I pray that we may continue to move in new and different ways and maintain our sense of hope and faith. Many are answering the call of this pandemic event...so many finding new ways to serve as disciples and be in mission in our community. We are all blessed with your actions, time, talent, and gifts.

Yes, the pandemic continues but we now have the advent of vaccines and together we will prevail and our faith will endure. It is indeed a short road from the cradle to the cross...and we are on this journey together. And so, from lyrics of Joyce Eilers choral anthem *Go Ye Now in Peace*: "Know that the God who sent his Son to die that we might live...will never leave us lost and alone in his beloved world."

Happy New Year and let's continue to count our blessings!

Gary Keller
Worship Arts Director of BFUMC



Worship Services
10:45AM Live Online Services

- Jan. 1 Happy New Year!
- Jan. 4 Missions 7:00PM
- Jan. 6 Epiphany
- Jan. 11 Trustees 7:00PM
- Jan. 17 Human Relations Day
- Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day

Church Streaming
Addresses & Zoom Meetings
Links Directory

Note: Links are assessable in the email version of this newsletter, the links are not available on the website version of the Vine due to the way it is posted.

Sunday 10:30AM Virtual Coffee time
<https://zoom.us/join>
mtg ID#: 98614212250

Finance 7:00PM
SPRC 7:00PM

**Jan. 20 Baldwin City Community
Blood Drive
noon - 6PM
BFUMC fellowship hall**

Jan. 25 Council 7:00PM

Jan. 30 LINK

**Sunday 10:45AM Worship Sign Up
if attending in building at**
<https://www.reopen.church/r/FINUSZyc>

otherwise

***10:45AM Worship Live Stream:**
<https://www.Baldwinfirst.org>

or at

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

or at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMwpl81KtGg7h9AhRFW9NWQ>

**For ALL CHURCH Zoom Mtgs
go to**

<https://zoom.us/join>

mtg ID #: 9644607669

Password: 042020



ADMIN NOTES: 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 ARE RECEIVING THIS BY MAIL AND HAVE EMAIL PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS (594.6612 OR OFFICE@BALDWINFIRST.ORG) TO HELP ALLEVIATE MAILING COSTS. **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9-2, M,TU & THUR.**

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

