



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Independence Day, the Sin of Racism, and the God of Redemption

I love the Fourth of July. I love barbecues with friends and family, Fireworks and John Phillip Sousa. I love the illusion of unity that comes with a color scheme. Everything Red White and Blue? Yes please.

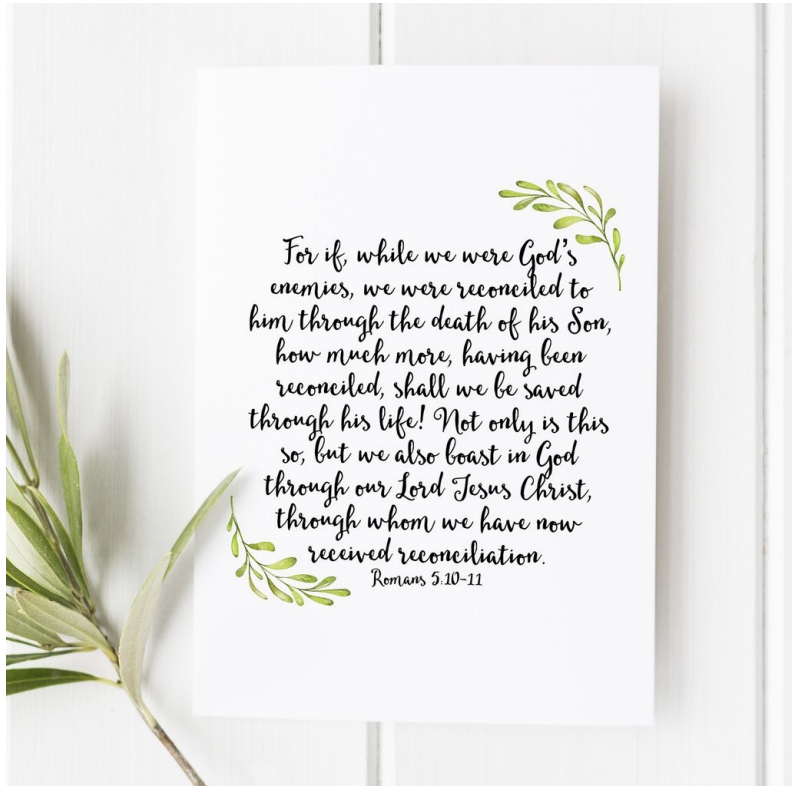
One struggle I always have on this holiday, though, is the way it often comes with a sanitization of our history. I feel, deep in my soul, the polarizing tugs of blind patriotism at war with disillusionment. This year, in the midst of what some are calling a racial awakening, the temptation exists to feel as though the only options are to proclaim an undying allegiance to the United States of America or to disavow it entirely. Of course, neither of these reflects the heart of the Gospel.

The heart of the gospel is to know that we do not have to place our hope and faith in any human institution, including the Government of our nation, because our hope and faith are in our pioneer and the perfecter of our faith, Jesus Christ.

The heart of the Gospel says that we do not need to pretend we cannot see the sins of racism in our past and present as a nation, because while we were yet sinners, Christ died and rose again, that we would die to sin and be brought into eternal joy with God.

The heart of the Gospel also says that we do not have to give up on this nation because of our sins, because we believe in redemption. We can call for repentance and transformation, because we serve a God who is always calling us, individually and collectively, to return to the image of God, and whose prevenient, justifying and sanctifying grace makes transformation possible.

So we live as children of the "kin-dom." Aware that we, as humans, as followers of Christ, and as Americans, are already redeemed and not yet fully transformed. We pray that Christ will dwell in us and that we will see the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us, our church, and our nation, until we reflect God's love for all, and the beauty of God's image in all.



Thanks be to God,

Rev. Amanda Baker



FOOD PANTRY HOURS ARE EVERY SATURDAY 10AM
LAURA DICKINSON, MISSIONS CHAIR., LDINBC@GMAIL.COM

FOOD PANTRY - The pantry continues to provide food support in our community through the weekly distribution of food vouchers for use at the local BC Market. Items remaining in the food pantry at the beginning of COVID have been given out in addition to the vouchers. Ives Chapel provides milk vouchers for families each week. Face masks made by many local folks have been offered to all. In an effort to support the Baldwin City restaurants and give folks a different food option, gift certificates have been provided for local restaurant purchases. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN SO GENEROUS IN SUPPORTING THE FOOD PANTRY WITH MONETARY DONATIONS!**



TOWN HALL - Join with United Methodists from across the connection at **noon CDT July 1** for a Town Hall event to explore the history of the United States and The United Methodist Church, racial (in)justice and where God is calling us to go next. The Town Hall is the next step in a denomination-wide initiative announced June 19 titled "Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom."

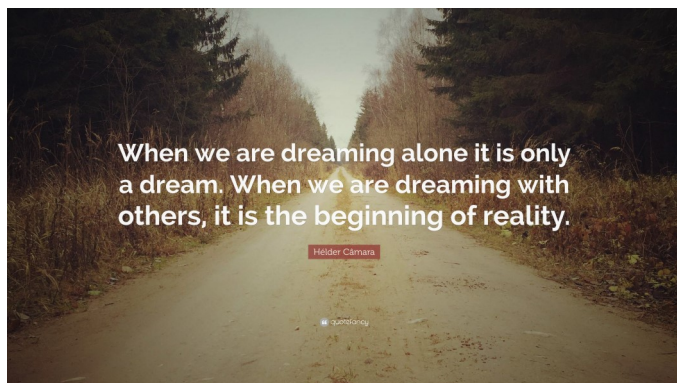
The Council of Bishops, the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Women invite you to join a Town Hall conversation at UMC.org/EndRacismTownHall.

Baldwin City LIBRARY

BFUMC Missions is coordinating with the BC Library to purchase additional books to afford opportunities to learn and think about different cultures, ethnicity, race and specifically, racism in the United States. If you would like to support this with a financial donation, you may do so with a check to BFUMC and a designation in the MEMO line.



O God, give us a collective imagination to dream of a new reality where all your children can thrive and live into their fullness as your creations. - Verse and Voice Prayer



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



BALDIWN FUMC INVITES
YOU TO:



Christmas In July

A Drive-in Movie Night for
Kids,
July 18, 2020



7:30 Gifts on the lawn (masked and
distanced)

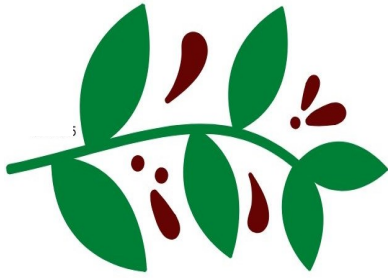
8:00 Christmas Feature #1 with our
friends Bob and Larry (48 min)

9:00 Christmas Feature #2 with our
favorite vegetables. (30 min)

9:30 Home and in bed, visions of sugar
plums dance in your head



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UMY Institute

save the date!

July 19-24, 2021

**RE-GATHERING IN STAGES:
OUTDOOR WORSHIP
8:30 AM
704 8TH STREET**

**BRING A CHAIR**

Bring a chair or blanket for your household to be comfortable for worship. If you need a chair set up for you, please call the church office to make arrangements.

WEAR A MASK

Emergent Data says wearing a face covering in public is highly effective in stemming the spread of Covid-19. Everyone over 2 is required wear a mask to worship in person. Don't worry, if wearing a mask is a barrier, we will still have high quality streaming worship at 10:45.



**MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Use non-contact greetings and keep 6-ft of distance between households. This protects our families, neighbors and community, and it sets a good example.

OUR BUILDING WILL STAY CLOSED DURING WORSHIP.

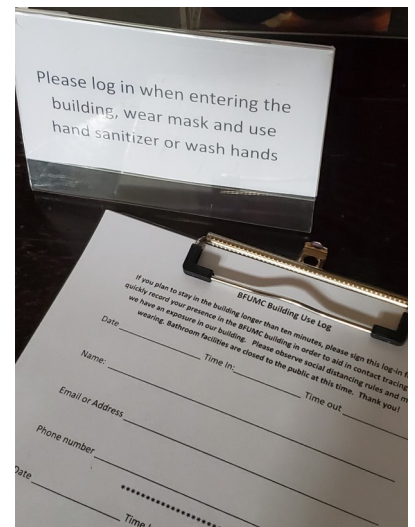
The Church is not a building, and our building will stay closed even while we gather to worship as the church outside. Please plan not to have access to the facilities. There will be no indoor rain plan. In case of rain, we will determine whether we can safely continue outside.



Sign In please! Be prepared to log in when entering the church. The office will be open 9-2, M & W. Maintaining physical distance, masking is required, and appointments are encouraged. Visitors spending more than 10 minutes in the building will be asked to register. **Keyholders** coming into the building for essential business of the church are asked to log their presence. They can do so at the following google form,

<https://forms.gle/dPhru9rKLem9raNE7>

or by manually logging your presence on a clipboard near each main entrance.



ADMIN NOTES: NEWS ITEMS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST GOING ON IN YOUR AREAS OF MINISTRY FOR THE VINE ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE BY THE EVENING OF CHURCH COUNCIL (THE 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH). IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS BY MAIL AND HAVE AN EMAIL, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS (594.6612 OR WWW.BALDWINFIRST.ORG) TO HELP ALLEVIATE MAILING COSTS. CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE 9 TO 2, MONDAY & WEDNESDAY FOR THE NEAR TERM. THANK YOU.

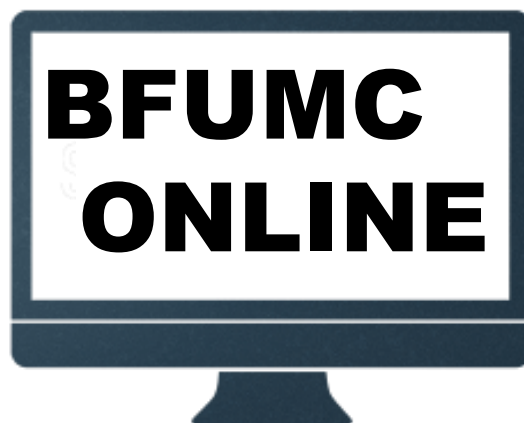
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Calendar

JULY 2020



MONTHLY SCHEDULE*

Sundays Worship

8:30AM Outdoor Worship! Please RSVP first by signing in at
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4EABAE2AAAF94-outdoor>
or you can scan the QR code on the right to retrieve sign in form



10:45AM via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/baldwinfirstumc>) or
YouTube ([youtube.com/baldwinfirstumc](https://www.youtube.com/baldwinfirstumc))

KIDMinistry 9:30AM

B.L.A.S.T 9:30AM each Sundays:

<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/453003359> By phone: 312 626 6799 US (CT) Meeting ID: 453 003 359

For all church meetings : <https://kansas.zoom.us/j/9644607669>, password 042020 unless

indicated otherwise

Typical Monthly Calendar:

July 4	Happy Independence Day!	July 20	Finance 7:00PM
July 6	Missions 7:00PM	June 21	Father's Day
July 13	Trustees 7:00PM	June 27	Council 7:00PM (https://kansas.zoom.us/j/92295961164 password: 889023)
July 20	SPPRC 7:00PM		

<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/99933704758>
password: 671682)



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