



*"I am the vine, you are the branches.
He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;
for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5*



Newsletter • April 2026



A Call to Compassion: Bringing Water and Hope to Those in Need in Olengurone village In Kenya

Every day, millions of people in Kenya wake up without access to one of life's most basic necessities—clean water. For many families, especially children, this means walking miles just to collect unsafe water that can bring disease instead of life. At the same time, countless orphaned children face each day without the care, stability, and love that every child deserves.

As a congregation rooted in faith, compassion, and service, we are called to respond beyond our borders.

Scripture reminds us in Matthew 25:40: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." This is more than a verse—it is a mission. Today, we have a tangible opportunity to live out that calling by supporting a water mission project and an orphanage that are transforming lives in powerful ways.

Access to clean water changes everything. It improves health, allows children to attend school instead of spending hours fetching water, and restores dignity to entire communities. A single purification kit can impact hundreds of lives for years to come. It's not just water; it's life, hope, and opportunity.

CARING FOR ORPHANS:

Pure and undefiled religion, as James 1:27 tells us, is to care for orphans and widows in their distress. Supporting Umoja Orphanage Kenya means providing more than food and shelter. It means offering love, education, safety, and a future. It means giving children the chance to grow, dream, and thrive.

We may not all be able to travel to Kenya in August this year, but we can all play a part. Through financial support, we can help provide water purification kits and provide ongoing care for children in need. Every gift—large or small makes a real and lasting impact.

Imagine being part of the reason a Kenyan village drinks clean water for the first time. Imagine helping a child feel safe, cared for, and valued. That is the difference we can make together.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We invite you to prayerfully consider giving toward this mission. Whether it's a one-time donation or ongoing support, your generosity will help bring physical and spiritual hope to those who need it most. Ives Chapel leadership board voted Good Friday offerings to go to this mission. Each water purification kit plus bucket is \$44.50. The cost of the uniforms plus socks and shoes is \$67.

Let us be a church that doesn't just hear the call, but answers it.

Together, we can be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing water to the thirsty and hope to the orphans.

Have a happy Easter!

Pastor Ezekiel

Holy Week Choir

There are just a few rehearsals left before Easter:

- Wednesday, April 1 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 3 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 5 @ 8:30 a.m.

Celebrate Easter with First & Ives

CELEBRATE
Easter
with First & Ives

Egg Hunt
and brunch
March 29th at
Baldwin First

MAUNDY THURSDAY
BALDWIN FIRST UMC @ 6PM

GOOD FRIDAY
IVES CHAPEL @ 7PM

EASTER SUNRISE
BALDWIN GOLF COURSE @ 7AM

EASTER WORSHIP
BALDWIN FIRST UMC @ 9:30AM
IVES CHAPEL UMC @ 11AM

Music
Easter choir and
organ at the
9:30 Baldwin
First worship

BALDWIN FIRST

704 8th Street, Baldwin City
baldwinfirst.org

IvesChapel

1018 Miami St, Baldwin City
iveschapelumc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship	9:30 am
Sunday School	10:45 am
BLAST JH/HS Group	
Adult Bible Studies	10:45 am
Young Adult Bible Study	10:45 am

Childcare service for Pre-K and under is available in the lower level across from Fellowship Hall.

Children's bags can be borrowed during service. They may be found in the narthex.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1

Choir Rehearsal
6 p.m.

April 2

Maundy Thursday
6 p.m.

April 3

Good Friday, Ives Chapel
7 p.m.

April 5 - Easter Services

Sunrise Service, Golf Course
7 a.m.

Baldwin First, 9:30 a.m.

Ives Chapel, 11:00 a.m.

April 11 & 25

Food Pantry, 9-10:30 a.m.

April 16

Widow/Widower's Group
2 p.m.

April 26

All-Church Birthday Celebration
Following Service

Maundy Thursday

April 2
FISH DINNER

All are welcome to Fellowship Hall on Maundy Thursday, April 2, for a special celebration and fish fry beginning at approximately 6:00 p.m. Please bring a bright fruit or veggie dish to share!



All-Church Birthday Celebration!

12 months. 12 cakes. Celebrate your birthday at the all-church birthday party following service on April 26. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex for those who would like to bring a cake and decorations. If you would like to bring a gift, consider donating to the coffee bar, cards or stamps for the Hospitality Team, treats for BLAST crew, or any number of ongoing groups or projects. No gifts required to enjoy the festivities!



Leadership Team

Jeanne Stanley, Chair
Ryan Berg
Susan Butell
Mike Curran
Christi Darnell
Martha Harris
Marcial O'Neil
Frank Perez
Glen Sharp
Katherine Cook, Secretary
Coleen Burgess, Finances

CONTACT US

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Church Office
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office@baldwinfirst.org

Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
10 am - 2 p.m.

Website
baldwinfirst.org

Social Media
@baldwinfirstumc



Children's Ministry News

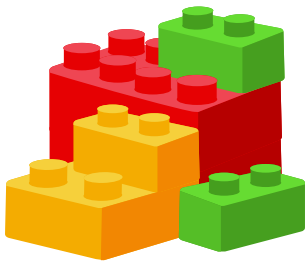
Vacation Bible School Dates Set!

- Sunday, July 12, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. with dinner to follow (dinner will be for volunteers, campers, and their families)
- Monday, July 13, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 14, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATES!



Donations Needed!



This summer our Elementary Sunday School will be participating in "Building Faith Brick by Brick!" We are looking forward to exploring the Bible together and creating with Legos as we read and learn. If you have old Legos needing a new home, our Sunday School class would love to have them!

Please reach out to Jill Dodge or Amy Berg. Thank you!

Tenebrae Choral Thanks!

THANK YOU again for everything you did to make Tenebrae a success! The students and I were blown away by your incredible hospitality and joyful collaborative spirit. I have also received so many positive comments about the evening, and you deserve all the praise for all of your behind-the-scenes work!

I will most definitely reach out again about a future collaboration. Again, I appreciate all of you so much!

Mackenzie Wright, Baker University Choir

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

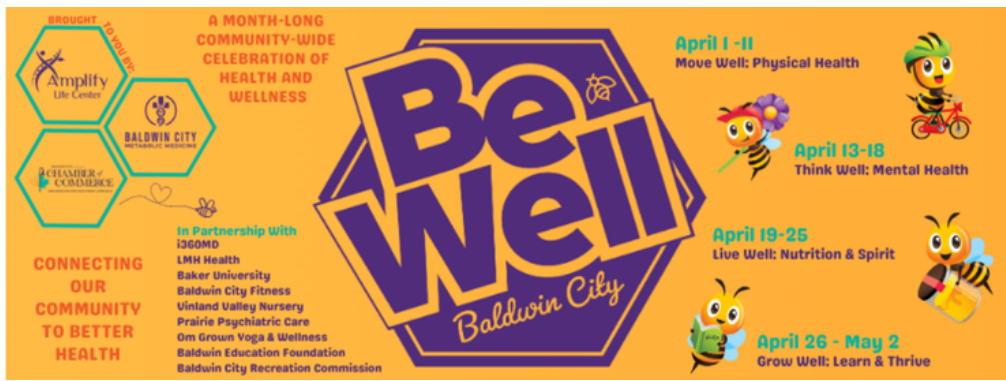
Jill Dodge, Marcia O'Neil,
Amy Berg, Cynthia Perez
Barbara Pressgrove, Nursery
Angela Murry, BLAST Leader

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

Dr. Frank Perez, Mixer/Editor
Ryan Berg, Worship Technology

WORSHIP TEAM

Pam Sharp
Cynthia Perez
Donna Curran
Kathleen Thomas



Ask Our Health and Wellness Experts - Be Well Kick Off

5:00 - 6:30 PM

Baldwin City Community Center

Save the date for the Be Well Kick Off event! Start April off the best way with a holistic focus on Being Well! Learn from local health and wellness experts in a Q & A. Bring your questions for the health and wellness panel. This Q & A session will be recorded.

Missions Team

The Boy Scout food drive brought in over 1,400 items for the Baldwin Community food pantry. Those who helped check expiration dates and stock the shelves were:

John & Marilee Beins
 Corey & Robin Schrack
 Cassy Bailey
 Jeff Canterbury
 Roger Boyd
 Susan Butell
 Kelley Bethell-Smith
 Martha Harris
 Joan Toot
 Mark Reynolds
 Nancy Arnold
 Kellen Most

Many thanks to the Boy Scouts and the community in supporting the food pantry!

MISSIONS TEAM

Susan Butell
 Nancy Arnold
 Marilee Beins
 John Beins
 Coleen Burgess
 Kelley Bethell-Smith
 Martha Harris
 Robin Schrack
 Corey Schrack

FELLOWSHIP / HOSPITALITY

Linda Ballinger
 Tricia Batchelder, Co-Chair
 Coleen Burgess
 Randi Canterbury
 Samantha Cheek
 Sheryl Cleverley
 Katherine Cook, Co-Chair
 Christi Darnell
 Jill Dodge
 Jennifer Fulton
 Lori George
 Carolyn Groves
 Kay Kuhlmann
 Peggy McMillon
 Marcia O'Neil
 Jeanne Stanley
 Kathleen Thomas
 Janet Venable
 Tara Welch, Co-Chair
 Letha Williamson

April 1, 2026

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)”.

At Easter, we return again and again to the biblical witness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each time, we rediscover a truth that does not change and a promise that never fades—a truth that holds steady yesterday, today, and for all our tomorrows.

The tomb is empty.
Jesus has conquered the grave.
Christ is risen.

And this good news meets us right where we are.
It meets us in a world scarred by violence and war...
in communities longing for justice and equity...
in families carrying both visible struggles and quiet, unspoken burdens...
and in churches seeking God’s direction amid a rapidly changing landscape.

The resurrection is not distant from these realities—it speaks directly into them. In the majesty of God’s power, the cross—once a symbol of death, suffering, and shame—has been transformed into an eternal sign of life. It reveals the depth of God’s redemptive love, the radical gift of salvation, and God’s ultimate victory over pain, evil, and death.

The Easter story reminds us that no matter what we face—amid life’s adversities, uncertainties, and trials—God’s Spirit is at work, bringing light into dark places, hope into weary hearts, and possibility where things feel stuck or broken. What feels final is not final with God. What looks like defeat is not the end of the story. Nothing is too hard for God.

As Easter people, we are not called to ignore the realities around us—but to face them with resurrection faith. Each day, we choose not to be paralyzed by fear or consumed by despair. We choose not to surrender to injustice, division, or hopelessness. Instead, we rise—with Christ.

We rise to love more boldly.
We rise to lead with courage.
We rise to stand for justice and extend compassion.
We rise to be the Church—not only in word, but in our witness.

For the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us.

And so, even now, we depend on God’s endless grace and mercy and declare with confidence that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We boldly proclaim that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ—our hope and our salvation—through whom all things are possible.

And so we sing with joy and conviction:

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.
(My Hope Is Built - Edward Mote, 1834)

