



*"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 • June 2026**



### **As I see it.....it is Pentecost.**

The season of Pentecost started on May 24 and it ends on October 18. Fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit descended upon the believers gathered in Jerusalem.

Pentecost was not only about spiritual experience; it was about spiritual empowerment. Jesus said in Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 reminds us that God empowers ordinary people to do extraordinary things for His kingdom in Jerusalem (where you are), Judea (outside comfort zones), Samaria (loving difficult people), and Ends of the Earth (overseas).

I have seen the truth in Acts 1:8 fulfilled in our church. Thanks for taking care of the needy in our community by contributing to the Baldwin Community Food Pantry. Thank you also for reaching out to our community with Thankful Thursday at Ives Chapel.

We have also started reaching out to the Ends of the Earth (Kenya). Thank you, Ives Chapel, for your financial donations toward the buying of the school uniforms for students in Kenya. They couldn't thank you enough. Twenty- three students got full uniforms and nine children got basic uniforms. The following is the picture of the children:



Colton Thomas and I will go on Kenyan mission trip on August 17. We will visit Umoja Children's Home and minister to the children. We will also provide water purification kits and teach people in the village how to purify water. We appreciate your prayers and your financial support.

## 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. 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. With the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we can be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing water to the thirsty and hope to the orphans.

May the Church once again pray with expectation, "Come, Holy Spirit" and responds to God's call. Amen!

Pastor Ezekiel

## Lawn Mowing Volunteers Needed

In order to keep the church lawn maintained, mowers are needed!

A signup form is also in the narthex or use the online form:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B48ACAA29AA8-55974756-2025>

## Mildred & Richard Allen Scholarship Awarded

Annette Pérez has grown up in our church, attending since the Perez family first arrived in 2014. She participates in the BLAST Crew youth program, volunteered for Vacation Bible School, and has served our church in many ways. Her list of community and school involvement is beyond impressive, all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA!

"I enjoy going to school and learning about different things, and I find ways to implement what I learn in daily life. I also love helping and giving back to my community through school and my church. It is truly a joy to help the community through my church and to make the world a better place."



Annette plans to attend the Conservatory at the University of Kansas City Missouri to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship	9:30 am
Sunday School	10:45 am
BLAST JH/HS Group (BLAST does not meet during the summer months)	
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

### June 14

Blessing of the Animals  
Sullivan Square, 9:30 a.m.

### July 12 - 14

Vacation Bible School  
Sunday: 3:00-5:30 p.m.  
Monday: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

### June 15

Leadership Team Meeting, 7 p.m.

### June 21

Father's Day

### June 22 - 26

Institute

### June 25, July 16, August 20

UWF Summer Book Study  
6:30 p.m.

### August 9

Sundaes on Sunday

# Children's Ministry News

## Vacation Bible School

Hello! Our Summer VBS: Snowball Mountain Challenge is coming soon!

### When:

Sunday, July 12, 3:00-5:30

Monday, July 13 6:00-8:00

Tuesday, July 14, 6:00-8:00



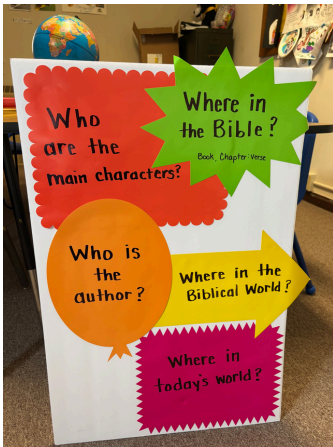
Here is the link to sign your kid(s) up! Kids in Preschool through 5th grade are welcome (entering 5th grade). If you have an older child that would like to sign up to be a "Helper," you can let me know what area they would like to help in. Helper choices for older kids and teens are: Games, Crafts/Science, helping walk a group of students from station to station (with an adult), Music helper.

We also need adult help in the following areas: Outdoor Games, Walkers (walking groups from station to station), and Science. Please see the signup form in the narthex.

Registration Link: <https://shorturl.at/gcd7w>

Even if your child can only make it for 1-2 days, we'd love to have them! Let me know if you have any questions!

-Jill Dodge



## Building Our Faith Brick by Brick

A session during church services will be added for the summer months. After Children's Time, kids (Preschool-5th grade) will be invited to the Sunday School room. We will read a Bible story and discuss it using the questions shown in the photo, along with additional discussion questions. Then, each child will fill a bowl with Legos, grab a base, and begin building something that connects to the story.

We will still have a session during the Sunday School hour from 10:30-11:30. This session will feature a different Bible story than the one shared during church.



## 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

This summer, we will be focusing on the Old Testament. We will also try to take pictures of the kids' creations and share them from time to time.



The end of year Sunday School / BLAST celebration held on May 17 was a hit! Thank you to Angela Murry for allowing us to celebrate at the Baldwin City Creative Arts Center!



## 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

Rev. Ezekiel Koech, Pastor

785-324-9174

[ezekiel.koech@baldwinfirst.org](mailto:ezekiel.koech@baldwinfirst.org)

### Church Office

785-594-6612

[office@baldwinfirst.org](mailto:office@baldwinfirst.org)

### Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### Website

[baldwinfirst.org](http://baldwinfirst.org)

### Social Media

[@baldwinfirstumc](https://www.instagram.com/baldwinfirstumc)



**BALDWIN FIRST**



# Blessing of the Animals

Join us on June 14 for our second blessing of the animals!



**JOIN**  
**Baldwin First UMC for**  
**Blessing of**  
**the Animals**

**The Blessing of the Animals is a tradition inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, known for his deep love of all God's creatures.**  
**All humans, furry friends, and favorite stuffed animals are welcome!**

**If your furry pal isn't into crowds, bring a pic to be blessed!**

- Animal friends should be on a 6' or smaller leash or in a carrier
- Water bowls provided

**In case of inclement weather, join us at:**

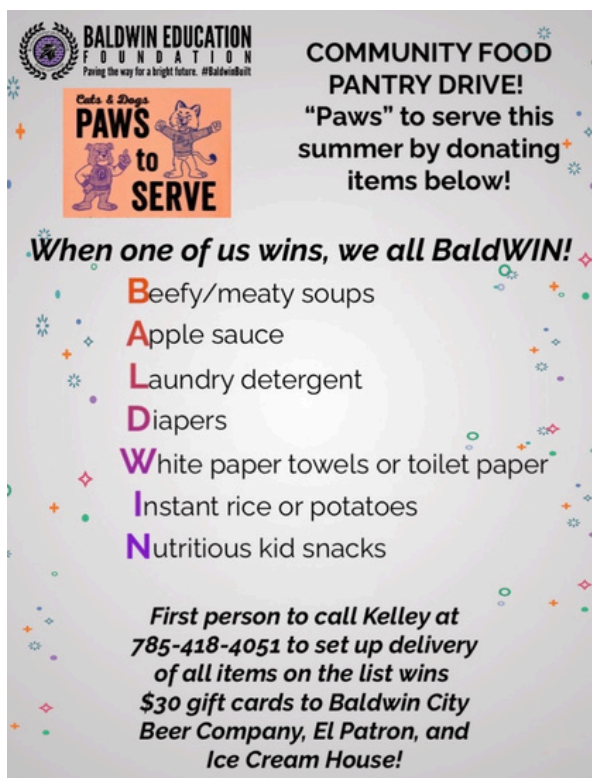
- Baldwin First United Methodist Church, 704 Eighth Street
- No live animals in the church, so bring a picture

**Sunday, June 14, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Sullivan Square · Bring a lawn chair**

**THANKFUL AND BLESSED**

## BEF Food Drive

The Baldwin Education Foundation is conducting a food pantry scavenger hunt as a service opportunity! Be sure to check out the prizes available!



**BALDWIN EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
Paving the way for a bright future. #BaldwinBait

**Cats & Dogs PAWS to SERVE**

**COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY DRIVE!**  
"Paws" to serve this summer by donating items below!

**When one of us wins, we all BaldWIN!**

- B**eefy/meaty soups
- A**pple sauce
- L**aundering detergent
- D**iapers
- W**hite paper towels or toilet paper
- I**ntant rice or potatoes
- N**utritious kid snacks

**First person to call Kelley at 785-418-4051 to set up delivery of all items on the list wins \$30 gift cards to Baldwin City Beer Company, El Patron, and Ice Cream House!**

LOVE.SERVE.DISCIPLE.

Since 1855, the mission of Baldwin First UMC is to love and serve God and our neighbors as disciples of Jesus Christ.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Believing that all persons are created by God and loved through and by Jesus Christ, the people of Baldwin First United Methodist Church understand that our neighbors include persons of all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientation and identity, economic or marital status, and physical and mental condition, and are welcome to participate in the life of our congregation.

CONTACT US

Rev. Ezekiel Koeh, Pastor  
785-324-9174  
ezeziel.koeh@baldwinfirst.org

**Church Office**  
785-594-6612  
office@baldwinfirst.org

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday - Thursday  
10 am - 2 pm

**Website**  
baldwinfirst.org

**Social Media**  
@baldwinfirstumc  
f i X

# Missions Team

The Missions Team recognized graduating seniors Annette Perez, Ali Peterson, Ethan Williams, and Daniel and Selene Welch with the book *God's Promises for the Graduate* on Senior Sunday.

Baldwin High School students collected and delivered over 9,000 food items for the school needs closet and the Baldwin Community Food Pantry. It's great to have the pantry well-stocked for the summer months when there are fewer food drives and donations!



Susan Butell spoke to Baker Profession Erin Lauri's Human Nutrition class about the food pantry and other resources that are available in Baldwin. The following week the class delivered 348 items from their food drive and helped clean the pantry shelves and stock the items they brought.

## 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