# the Vine baldwin first

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"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 • November 2026**



## As I see it.....

It is that time of year again where we prepare for the annual church conference that will take place at Pittsburg First UMC on Sunday, November 8 at 2:30 p.m. The nomination committee has met to audit the leadership list. We only have three people rolling off after serving for three years. They have been praying for discernment as to who will replace the outgoing committee members. God has enabled us to fill all three positions.

I remind all of you that serving God is not limited to preaching from the pulpit, leading worship, or participating in visible church activities. One important way we can serve the Lord is by faithfully serving on a church committee.

A church committee provides an opportunity for members to work together, share ideas, make wise decisions, and support the mission of the church. Whether we serve on the finance, worship, hospitality, trustee committees or leadership team board, our contribution can help strengthen the church and advance God's work.

The Bible reminds us in Colossians 3:23, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." This teaches us that committee service should not be viewed merely as a responsibility or position, but as an opportunity to honor God.

Effective committee service requires prayer, humility, cooperation, commitment, patience, and a willingness to listen to others. We may not always agree, but we can work together in love, remembering that we share a common purpose: to serve Christ and His people.

Let us approach every meeting with a servant's heart, seeking God's wisdom and prioritizing the needs of the church above personal interests. Even the quiet work of planning, organizing, and making decisions can have a lasting spiritual impact.

Shalom! Shalom!

Pastor Ezekiel

# Church Survey

To help our church leaders better understand the needs, interests, and gifts of our congregation so that they can make informed decisions about ministry, programs, and outreach, a church survey for adults and one for children will be conducted.

You may complete the survey online or by using a hard copy that can be found in the narthex. Below are QR codes or links to each of the surveys. The survey results are confidential - no emails or names will be collected.

***The closing date for the survey will be November 9, 2026 at midnight. We value your input!***

**Adult Survey 2026**

SCAN ME

**Children's Survey**

**Adult Survey Link** CLICK HERE

**Children's Survey Link** Click Here

# Charge Conference

The 2026 Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, November 8 at Pittsburg First UMC at 2:30 p.m. The address is 415 N. Pine Street, Pittsburg, Kansas.

# Office Email

It was brought to our attention that several emails had not been received by the office staff. Ryan Berg found several old office emails. All old email addresses should now be directed to the correct office email: office@baldwinfirst.org.

If you ever sent an email and do not receive a response, please call the church office.

## 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.

## LOVE·SERVE·DISCIPLE

Since 1855, the mission of Baldwin First UMC is to love, 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.

*Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart*

# Children's Ministry

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR AND EVENTS

| Date | During Church | During Sunday School |
|---|---|---|
| Nov. 1 | Practice Children's Christmas Program | Sunday School Class Meets |
| Nov. 8 | Practice Children's Christmas Program | Sunday School Class Meets |
| Nov. 15 | Practice Children's Christmas Program & Children's Sunday: 3rd Grade Bible Ceremony | Sunday School Class Meets |
| Nov. 22 | Practice Children's Christmas Program | Hanging of the Greens Children's Activities in Fellowship Hall |
| Nov. 29 | Practice Children's Christmas Program | Sunday School Class Meets |
| Dec. 6 | Practice Children's Christmas Program | Sunday School Class Meets |
| Dec. 13 | Perform Children's Christmas Program | Cookies and Juice after church to Celebrate our Program: Families Invited |
| Dec. 20 | | Sunday School Class Meets |
| Dec. 27 | | Sunday School Class Meets |

**Children's Sunday – Sunday, November 15, during church**

This is a special Sunday as we celebrate the children of our church and our 3rd graders receive their Bibles!

**Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, November 22, immediately following church**

We have another fun year of crafts and activities planned for the kids while the adults decorate the church. Children's activities will take place in Fellowship Hall. Once the crafts are finished and the church is decorated, everyone is invited to stay for a church chili lunch!

**Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 13**

Please let Amy Berg, Cynthia Perez, or me know if you have any questions about the Children's Christmas Program. Cynthia has created a sweet show, and the kids can participate at whatever comfort level works for them. We'd love to have as many kids participate as possible! It's always a special service at BFUMC.
Immediately following church, there will be cookies and juice for the kids and their families to enjoy.

It's a busy and very special time at Baldwin First UMC! Please let us know if you have any questions!

Jill Dodge

## CONTACT US

Rev. Ezekiel Koech, Pastor
785-324-9174
ezekiel.koech@baldwinfirst.org

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

**Office Hours**
Tuesday - Thursday
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Website**
baldwinfirst.org

**Social Media**
@baldwinfirstumc

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Ezekiel Koech, Pastor
Jeanne Stanley, Leader
Ryan Berg
Susan Butell
Mike Curran
Christi Darnell
Martha Harris
Marcia O'Neil
Frank Perez
Glen Sharp
Coleen Burgess, Treasurer
Katherine Cook, Secretary

# Turkey Dinner

The annual UMW Turkey Dinner will be November 8 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Be sure to invite friends and family for this delicious meal!



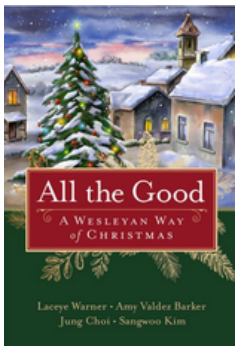

# Advent Study

The season of Advent offers time and space for Christians to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas through reflecting on the story of salvation.

In All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas, a group of diverse Wesleyan scholars will take you on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace.

Each chapter guides participants through one of the four weeks of Advent by reflecting on biblical passages in light of an aspect of Wesleyan means of grace highlighted by illustrations and stories. Readers will look at preparing the way for God, the impact and significance of prayer, the substance of good works and caring for others, and sharing God's mission to the world.

A signup sheet can be found in the narthex.




**Wednesday's, December 2 - 23**
**6 p.m., Library - BFUMC**
**2 p.m. - Ives Chapel**

***Theme: Do All the Good***

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

**November 1**
All Saints Day. Holy Communion

**November 5**
Just Food Teen Cooking Class
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**November 8**
Baker Student Sunday
Charge, Pittsburg, 2:30 p.m.

**November 14**
Men's Group, 8:30 a.m., Ives
Food Pantry, 9 - 10:30 a.m.
UWF Turkey Dinner, 5 - 7 p.m.

**November 16**
Leadership Meeting, 7 p.m.

**November 18**
UWF Book Study, 6:30 p.m., Library

**November 19**
Baker Chapel @ BFUMC, 11 a.m.
Widow/Widower Group, 2 p.m.

**November 21**
Food Pantry, 9 - 10:30 a.m.

**November 22**
Hanging of the Greens
Chili Feed Following

**November 26**
Thanksgiving

**November 29**
First Sunday of Advent

# Missions Team

The Missions Team and other church members served at LINK on October 24. There were 130 meals served consisting of chili with cheese and Fritos, green salads, fruit salad, a vegan dish, desserts. Homemade cakes and cookies were provided by:

Tricia Batchelder, Katherine Cook, Jill Dodge,
Leslie Erwine, Peggy McMillon, Janet Venable,
Letha Williamson, and Nancy Arnold

Serving our neighbors in the kitchen were:

John & Marilee Beins, Scott & Leslie Erwine,
Pete & Janie Held, Roger & Nancy Arnold,
Tricia Batchelder, Katherine Cook, Janet Venable,
and Jill, Dylan, & Ryan Dodge

Throughout 2026, the Missions Team served 520 meals at LINK and they were served by 22 members multiple times. Thanks to all who participated with time and food donations.

Our dates to serve at LINK in 2027 are:

January 23
April 24
August 28
November 6

**Community Service**

Baldwin High School juniors and seniors participated in a community service day. Several students came to the Community Food Pantry to help clean the shelves, check expiration dates, and restock. Many thanks to them for helping at the pantry!

# November Special Services

The worship team is excited to have three special services in November.

Baker University Student Sunday is November 8. Rev. Stanwood and students from BU will assist with service and deliver the message.

November 15 is the Children's Service and Bible presentation.

A guest musician will perform at the November 22 service.

## DECEMBER EVENTS

**December 2, 9, 16, 23**
Advent Study
Ives Chapel, 2 p.m.
Baldwin First, 5 p.m.

**December 5**
UWF Soup Supper, 4:30-6 p.m.
Living Nativity
Christmas Parade, 6 p.m.

**December 6**
Holy Communion
Midwest Trombones

**December 12**
Men's Group, 8:30, Ives
Food Pantry, 9-10:30 a.m.

**December 13**
Children's Christmas Program

**December 17**
Widow/Widower Group, 2 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

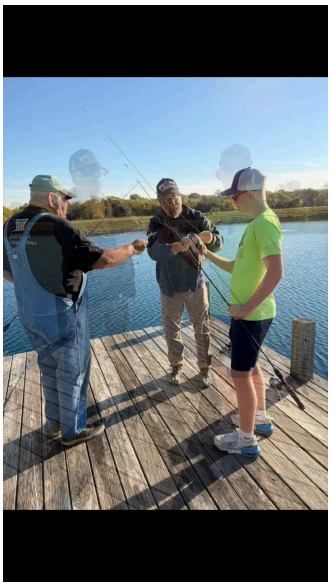
**Christmas Eve Services**
Baldwin First, 5 & 11 p.m.
Ives, 7 p.m.



# Just Cook Class For Teens

Baldwin First's Mission Team will be hosting its second teen cooking class on November 5. Participants will learn to cook a meal and will be given ingredients to cook a delicious meal at home. The next class will be on November 5. Use the QR code to sign up!

# Sunday School Fishing Day



A great time was had by all who attended the Sunday School Fishing Day! We appreciate Scott Erwine and his neighbor for allowing us to use the pond.

Be sure to watch the video created by Kelsey Nolte on the Baldwin First UMC Facebook page. It will warm your heart!

# Hanging of the Greens

On November 22, Hanging of the Greens will nourish your soul, so plan to help decorate after service. When the sanctuary is in its glory, join us in Fellowship Hall for a chili feed. All are invited!




## TEAM LEADERS

***It's never too late to join a team!***

**Adult Sunday School**

Journeys Pam Sharp

Lamplighters Dennis Domer, Bob Ford

Young Adults Auggie Lange

**Altar, Funerals, Weddings**
Donna Curran

**B.L.A.S.T (JH/HS)**
Angela Murray, Doug Cheek

**Caregivers** Linda Ballinger

**Children's Sunday School**
Amy Berg, Jill Dodge

**Congregational Care Team**
Rev. Ezekiel Koech, Linda Ballinger
Bob Ford, Marcia O'Neil
Jeanne Stanley, Cindy White

**Fellowship / Hospitality**
Tricia Batchelder, Katherine Cook, Tara Wlech

**Finance** Glen Sharp

**Maintenance** Mike Curran

**Men's Group** Scott Erwine

**Missions** Nancy Arnold, Susan Butell

**Nursery** Barbara Pressgrove

**UWF** Donna Curran

**Worship**
Pam Sharp, Kathleen Thomas

**Technology**
Ryan Berg, Frank Perez

**Trustees** Mike Curran