

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*The Vine*

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



## **Heroes, Saints, and Facing the Future**

It is only in the last few decades that many protestant churches have begun celebrating the Feast of All Saints, though it has been a tradition held by the Roman Catholics for centuries. We have, in the protestant tradition, begun to understand the importance of remembering and honoring the lives of those who have gone before us in faith, in order to better direct our own lives. It can be tempting, sometimes, when we look back at the lives of those who have led the way for us, to transform them into heroes. We might even be tempted to skip over the parts of their stories that remind us they were also humans and sinners. But that is a huge mistake. Part of the beauty of All Saints is not just remembering the incredible faith and deeds of those who came before us, but even more importantly, reflecting on God's pattern of goodness and transformation. When we can see in the lives of those who came before us their full humanity, as they say, "warts and all" we can better see God's goodness at work.

We can be reminded that God does not wait to use us until we have it all together. God does not look for perfect people to be leaders. God does not need us to be infallible. God wants to use us, as we are. Right Now.

When we recognize this good news, I think it makes us braver. Not only does it give us courage to see how God might be calling us to lead in our own circles of influence, but it gives us courage to make changes. When we make those who came before us heroes, we feel as though we must preserve the way they "did" church. When we allow them to be humans who engaged with and served God in the ways that best fit their time, needs and circumstance, we are freed to do the same, even when it means making changes to the way we've always done things.

Let us not be lured into believing we face a binary choice between honoring our history and adapting for the future. Let us instead be awed by the God of Both/And. The one who was with our ancestors, and who is faithful now, and who will be with our children's children. Thanks be to God!!!

In Jesus Name,

Rev. Amanda Baker



# Free Covid Testing

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	TESTS
Mon - Thur	9 am - 2 pm	Church Office	OTC Rapid
Sat	10 - 10:30 am	Food Pantry	Antigen or PCR
Sun	9 - 11 am	Worship	Collection Kit

CONFERENCE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

For questions please contact the Church Office @ 785-594-6612

Baldwin First is offering free Covid Testing here at the church. Those seeking to be tested can come to the church office during regular office hours M-Th 9AM-2PM and receive an OTC rapid antigen test to take at home with results in about 15 minutes, or a collection kit for a PCR test with results in 1-4 days. These same options will be available

on Saturdays during the Food Pantry, and on Sunday mornings from 9-11. This testing is completely free is available through a conference partnership with the KDHE. Please help us spread the word, so that all our neighbors have access to the testing they need.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, within all the safety precautions, in this worthy endeavor for COVID test distributions please contact the church office.



## Baldwin First Capital Campaign Update

Your capital campaign committee, involving Nancy Arnold, Kelsey Nolte (co-chairs), Coleen Burgess, Walt and Barbara Bailey, Ryan and Amy Berg and Doug and Sam Cheek, have been busy finalizing the details launching this five year program.

Our church has impacted the lives of many community members and multi-generational families near and far for over 150 years. From worship, to Sunday School, to choir, Institute, Youth Group, UMW, UMM, to memorable life events such as baptisms, confirmations, marriages and memorial services. Our beautiful historic church is facing needs of new repairs (a boiler replacement) and the need for an upgrade of audio/visual equipment to support virtual streaming services for those who cannot attend worship, meetings, and bible studies as we try to meet the both/and worshipper's needs.

Please prayerfully consider donating to our campaign. A mailing will be sent out the first week of October to include a letter with more information, a self stamped addressed envelope, for your convenience, to mail back the pledge card. The above QRcode can be used to direct your contribution should you wish but still please do let us know by returning the pledge card for financial planning purposes. If giving online be sure to indicate your contribution is for the capital campaign fund.

A specific gmail address ([baldwinfirstcapitalcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:baldwinfirstcapitalcampaign@gmail.com)) has been established should you have any questions. Shortly a website will be launched for the campaign for updates, etc. A copy of a phased approach for the capital campaign financial resources (with the boiler being the most imperative) is available in the church office and at worship on Sunday mornings. A recent loan has approved for the boiler, it has been ordered, hopefully with instillation in late October.



NANCY ARNOLD, CHAIR., [ARNOLDN448@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ARNOLDN448@GMAIL.COM)

COUNCIL MINUTES AND FINANCIAL UPDATE (BRAD PETERSON, CHAIR.,  
PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM) ARE SUBSEQUENTLY POSTED ONE MONTH LATER  
UPON APPROVAL.

**Baldwin First United Methodist Church**  
August 23, 2021

**Attendees**

Staff: Rev. Amanda Baker, Cat Henry  
Council Members: Council Chair Nancy Arnold, Linda Ballinger, Doug Cheek, Darren Lawrenz, Brad Peterson, Kathleen Thomas, Tara Welch  
Participants via Zoom: Donna Curran, Laura Dickinson  
Advisory Member: Katherine Cook, Guest: Marvé Ralston

**Opening**

Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Minutes**

Doug moved and Linda seconded the motion to approve the minutes of July's meeting. The motion carried.

**Finances**

Finances are in a position to be able to move forward with the capital campaign. Colleen will be utilizing on-line banking so that finances can be viewed in 'real time.'

**Caregivers**

Linda's group of caregivers will meet on September 1st if the facility is open. She also shared concerns on behalf of several congregants and friends.

**Missions**

Laura shared that the missions committee helped to welcome Baker students. The food pantry continues to be a drive-thru venue. Laura asked the Council to determine how they would like to proceed with the food pantry and fundraiser during Maple Leaf. Nancy asked for input from the Council. Kathleen reinforced the idea of offering walking tacos. Tara suggested leaving the restrooms open and offered the idea of sharing a gift of hospitality. Pastor Amanda asked that the sanctuary be open. Doug proposed that we lean towards hospitality rather than selling food. It was decided that we might postpone making a decision for a few weeks to see the trend of the virus.

**UMW**

Donna said there will be a meeting in September and thinks there may be an outdoor activity in conjunction with Ives Chapel.

**SPPRC**

Staff appreciation will occur in September, October, and November. The committee will be developing a new job description for the administrative assistant position.

**Worship**

Kathleen addressed the need for volunteers for children's time during service. Brad announced Blast Crew will be reconvening after Labor Day, and offered their services on occasion.

**Trustees**

Darren shared the status of the boiler; it has been ordered, and should be installed in the next several weeks. The congregation approved the application for a loan of \$60,000 for repairs and innovations. There was discussion of locking the kitchen. Laura suggested that when we dedicate the new kitchen, we invite people to make donations of the items we would like to see replaced. A preliminary date is set for November 7 at 8:30 a.m. Darren asked for suggestions regarding winter care of sidewalks.

**Lay Position**

Marvé is in her second year of the certified lay program. She has recently served at nearly 15 churches, covering for pastors who have not been able to take vacation. She asked for permission to continue her studies. Doug moved and Kathleen seconded the motion to support Marvé in continuation of her work. The committee agreed to the proposal.

**Pastor's Moment**

The loan application has been approved and is ready to be mailed. Pastor Amanda is settling into her role in dual churches, and recognizes that Ives would like to confer regarding holidays and sharing of resources. There may also be options to consider for 5th Sundays.

Pastor Amanda offered a closing prayer at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine Cook

**Most Current Financial Update:**

2021 Budget: \$151,740.00 (averaged contribution amount needed each month: \$12,645.00) August contributions were 9696.00, We are 94% meeting the needed funds at this time.

<https://baldwinfirst.org/give-online>



*UMW*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

DONNA CURRAN, CHAIR., [DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM](mailto:DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM)

Save  
THE  
Date

Sunday, November 7

8:30 a.m.

Church Kitchen Dedication  
& a Kitchen Shower



*Missions*

FOOD PANTRY HOURS ARE EVERY SATURDAY 10AM

LAURA DICKINSON, MISSIONS CHAIR., [LDINBC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LDINBC@GMAIL.COM)





# Calendar



## *Worship Services 9:30 AM (In person and Live Online Services)*

Oct 3 World Communion Sunday,  
All Saints Day

Oct 4 Missions 7:00PM

Oct 6 Care Giving meeting 1:30 p.m.  
Cruising Cupboard at Library  
10:30 - 11:30

Oct 10 Clergy Appreciation Sunday

Oct 11 Trustees Mtg 7:00PM

Oct 18 Finance Mtg 7:00PM  
SPPRC Mtg 7:00PM

Oct 24 Council Mtg 7:00PM

Oct 31 All Saint's Sunday

## *Church Streaming & Zoom Meeting Links Directory*

*Note: Links are accessible in the email version of  
this newsletter, the links are not available on  
the website version of the Vine due to PDF.*

*Sunday School and Small Groups are  
meeting at 10:45p.m. on Sundays*

**\*9:30 AM Worship Live Stream:**

**<https://www.Baldwinfirst.org>**

or at

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

or at

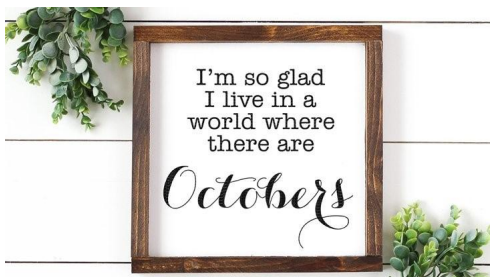
**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMwpl81KtGg7h9AhRFW9NWQ>**

**\*For ALL scheduled CHURCH  
optional Zoom Mtgs go to**

**<https://zoom.us/join>**

**mtg ID #: 9644607669**

**Password: 042020**



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 prefer to get the newsletter electronically, please provide your email address to the office (594.6612 or [office@baldwinfirst.org](mailto:office@baldwinfirst.org)) to help alleviate mailing costs.  
**Church office hours 9-2, Monday-Thursday**

*You can find us on social media @baldwinfirstumc*

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

