

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 • September 2025



I am writing to express my most sincere gratitude for your generous financial support toward the mission work in Kenya. Your contributions made a significant difference in providing drinkable water to twenty-three families in Kenya. Through the VBS financial contribution at Baldwin First, I was able to buy a piano, battery, and amplifier for the children's church at Kuresoi Village, Kenya. Pencils and under garments for the children were also purchased. I could see in their eyes their excitement, and appreciation for what they received.

Again, thank you for your prayers, kindness and generosity. You are a true blessing to the unfortunate children in Kenya.



Confirmation Meeting

A meeting for parents and students who wish to be confirmed will be Sunday, September 7 at 4 p.m.

Ministry Sunday

Everyone is welcome to join us for service on September 14th, Ministry Sunday, followed by fellowship and food. There will be an opportunity for everyone to choose their areas of participation and service. The teams within our church are worship, missions, hospitality/fellowship, UWF, nursery, tech, children's ministry, caregivers, and our three adult Sunday school classes. The teams will each give a brief presentation during church on September 7 and September 14 about what their team does in the life of our church. Please join us for a pot luck dinner following service. All culinary contributions are welcome.

Sunday School Information

Preschool-5th grade will start a new year of Sunday School starting on Sunday, September 21. We look forward to another great year of growing in our faith together! If anyone would like to volunteer to be a Sunday School teacher and teach on average once a month, please reach out to Jill Dodge, Cynthia Perez, or Amy Berg. You may reach out to Jill at jillmdodge@gmail.com.



BLAST will resume on Sunday, September 14 for all junior high and high school students after service in the Youth Room! If you have questions, contact the group leader, Angela Murray.



One of our adult classes, Journeys, is studying from the book "Liturgy of the Ordinary" by Tish Harrison Warren.

Another Sunday School class is led by Walt Bailey, Lamplighters. The young adult class is led by Auggie Lange.

Linda Ballinger, care team leader, will host a gathering for widows on Wednesday, September 18 at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

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

September 7

Parent & Student Confirmation Meeting, 4 pm,

September 14

Ministry Sunday
Pot Luck After Service
BLAST JH/HS Resumes
Directory Pictures Begin, Before and After Church

September 18

Gathering for widows
1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

September 20

Santa Fe Trail Historical Society
Pot Luck & Speaker
5:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

October 18-19

Maple Leaf Weekend
No service October 19

Pool Party

Although it was a bit chilly, there were around 35 participants who swam or came for fellowship on August 3. It was a great time for all!



Missions Team

The Community Food Pantry was the recipient of the USD #348 food drive prior to convocation on August 7. For every item donated and given, staff members received a raffle ticket giving them a chance to win gift cards to local businesses. Those helping to receive and stock the pantry were John and Marilee Beins, Katherine Cook, Kelley Bethell-Smith, Mark Reynolds, Martha Harris, Nancy Arnold, Susan Butell, and Taylor Bogart. Over 1,000 items and monetary donations were given!

On August 23, 131 meals were served to our neighbors at LINK. Guests enjoyed chicken, baked beans, green and fruit salads, chips, a variety of desserts, and milk. Desserts were provided by Peggy McMillon, Kathy Cook, Martha Harris, Jeanne Stanley, Jill Dodge, Nancy Arnold, and Kelley Bethell-Smith. Servers and kitchen help included John Beins, Brad Peterson, Kathy Cook, Tara Welch, and Jill and Cara Dodge. Our next date to serve is Saturday, October 25. Please contact Nancy Arnold if you're interested in providing a dessert.

Lawn Team Appreciation



We are so grateful to our amazing lawn team for all of their work keeping the church lawn maintained!

- Scott Erwine--prepped and seeded
- Bruce Peterson and Kevin Crouch--kept the lawn watered
- John Beins, Roger Arnold, Kevin Crouch, and Bruce Peterson--completed the mowing tasks
- Nancy Arnold and Peggy McMillon--cleaned, maintained, and watered the flower beds



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jilly Dodge, Marcia O'Neil,
Amy Berg
Barbara Pressgrove, Nursery
Angela Murry & Brad Peterson,
BLAST Leaders (JH/HS)

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

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

WORSHIP TEAM

Keith Sandrock,. Organ/Piano
Pam Sharp, Piano
Madelynn Knisely, Vocals
Cynthia Pereze, Vocals
Donna Curran
Kathleen Thomas

MISSIONS TEAM MEMBERS

Nancy Arnold
Susan Butell
John & Marilee Beins
Coleen Burgess
Kelley Bethell-Smith
Martha Harris



Santa Fe Trail Historical Society

The Santa Fe Trail Historical Society will be hosting a potluck dinner, meeting, and program at Baldwin First on Saturday, September 20. Guests and visitors are welcome!

5:00 p.m.: Social Time

5:30 p.m.: Potluck Dinner - meat provided. Bring salad, side, or dessert.

6:15 p.m.: Speaker - John Nichols presenting "Early Territorial Kansas."

Church Members in Theatre Production

Two of our church members, Cynthia Perez and Katherine Cook, are cast members in "The Diary of Anne Frank" to be held on September 3, 4, and 5 at 7:30 pm and on September 7 at 2:00 pm.

The show will be at Darby Hope Theatre on the Baker University campus. Seats are limited! Tickets may be purchased in advance at theatre@bakeru.edu.



Baker University Involvement Night

Baldwin First was represented at Baker University's Involvement and Job Fair on August 17. Katherine Cook, Tara Welch, Auggie Lange, and Kay Kuhlmann handed out information about our church and students were given snack bags. Below is a thank you note we received:

Dear Baldwin First United Methodist Church:

Thank you for joining us in welcoming our new and returning students at the Baker University Involvement and Job Fair.

We wished to share that from our student feedback, your table was reported as one of the most visited and one of the Top 5 Fair Tables!

Ashley Kretschmer (Snedeger)

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

Church Office
Patricia Lenning
785-594-6612
office@baldwinfirst.org

Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
10 am - 2 pm

Website
baldwinfirst.org

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





New Member's Spotlight: Taylor Bogart

Taylor began coming to Baldwin First in February, 2025. Taylor chose to attend Baldwin First because of their tendency to give to those in need. She hopes to gain a community family and volunteer opportunities. This summer she prepared games and activities for Vacation Bible School, helped at the food pantry, served at LINK, and is assisting with worship technology.

Taylor has lived in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and DeSoto, Kansas. She is currently a student at Baker University this fall while working full-time for a dog training company, KC Elite.

When Taylor isn't attending class or working, she enjoys sewing quilts, animals of all kinds, and plants.

Taylor would like to share her talents as a nursery volunteer, liturgist, children's service, and be a part of United Women in Faith (formerly UMW).

We are thrilled you are a part of our church!



Sharilyn Cromer
Shannon Roberts
Will Simmons

If we inadvertently miss your birthday, please call the church office at 785-594-6612 to update your membership information. You may also email the church office at office@baldwinfirst.org.

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