



# The Vine

(Very Important News and Events)

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."  
(Jesus, from John 15:5)*

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**Pastor: Rev. Amanda Baker**

**December 2019  
January 2020**

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*The Mission of Baldwin First United Methodist Church is to love and serve God and our neighbors as disciples of Jesus Christ.*

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Siblings in Christ,

I write to you from my own parents' home as we prepare for a rather unusual Thanksgiving Holiday. One in which some of our usual traditions will be put on hold in favor of a simpler meal and giving genuine thanks for good medical care for my dad. I realize how some years are like this. The familiarity of a holiday or tradition gets pushed into unfamiliar territory by changing circumstances. Children grow up, families grow and change, loved ones move away or die, and we find ourselves in liminal space. The end of one thing, without knowing exactly what is about to begin.

Advent is a time that can be exceptionally meaningful in exactly these kinds of liminal years. As a congregation, we are in an uncomfortably liminal moment. Much of what has been is coming to a close, and while we wait and trust and hope that something new and good is just around the corner, we can't see it. We don't know yet just exactly what that new life will look like.

And so we wait, in hopeful expectation, for what comes next. Our Christian tradition says it will likely look something like Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God through the Incarnation- God with us.

Thanks be to God indeed!  
Rev Amanda Baker

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**Pastor Amanda's (approximate) Office Hours**

The work of a Pastor is often best done in places other than the church office, and still, I value having time when people know where to find me.

I plan to be in the church office on **Tuesdays from 9am- 12pm**, and on **Thursdays from 9am- 10:50am**.  
(Baker Chapel begins at 11 on Thursdays)

These are times when I will be working on things that can easily be set aside if folks decide to stop by to visit.

On **Mon-Thursday from 9am-3pm** I am available by phone if I am not in my office.

I have committed to **check my email at 9am and 2pm on M-Th**, but may check it at other times with less consistency.

## MISSIONS

Laura Dickinson, Chair, [ldinbc@gmail.com](mailto:ldinbc@gmail.com)

**LINK** - (Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen - *A hot, home cooked meal is served by L.I.N.K in the basement of the First Christian Church from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm on every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday & all Federal holidays except Christmas, which is served at Lawrence First United Methodist Church.*) BFUMC will serve at LINK on December 7th. It will be a great dinner of pork loins, mashed potatoes and gravy, and green beans prepared by John Beins. Desserts are provided through donations. If you would like to assist with the dinner in serving or providing a dessert, please contact John Beins or Nancy Arnold at [arnoldn448@gmail.com](mailto:arnoldn448@gmail.com).

**Christmas Caroling** - Donna Reed will be leading the youth in caroling in our community on December 15th. The group will gather at Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. Please come join the youth in bringing music to the community!

**MLK Day** - We will be doing a MLK Day of Service early this year and during evening hours. On January 7th at 6:30 p.m., please come and join in taking down our church Christmas decorations and storing until next year. We will also be writing thank you notes to those who have supported the Food Pantry throughout the year and preparing cards for folks who are in mission here and abroad. This will be a family-friendly event.

*You just need to be a flea against injustice. Enough committed fleas biting strategically can make even the biggest dog uncomfortable and transform even the biggest nation. - Marian Wright Edelman*

*God, may we strive to step out of the confines of our comfort zones to reflect the example of true justice and righteousness you have set before us. Common Prayer*

## SPPR NEWS

- Tara Welch, SPPRC Chair

We at BFUMC are blessed with the guidance and gifts of our wonderful staff. The Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations committee is hosting a card shower for them all to show our appreciation. Please participate! 1) Pick up a blank card in the Narthex, now through Dec 22; 2) Write your thoughts and thanks to a staff member (Pastor Amanda, Gary, Eva, or Dianna) and put the name on the envelope; 3) leave the envelope in the basket in the Narthex on or before Dec 22; and 4) repeat as necessary. We will present the cards to them, plus a little something else to show our thanks.

This year we especially celebrate two staff members who are leaving their roles at the end of December. As announced last month, Eva Durand, Director of Youth Ministries, is stepping down after 15 years of service to the youth not only of this church but of the whole Baldwin community.

Dianna Dillon, our Office Manager, has served this church for thirty-four years. She is the face of the church for those who drop by during the week and the one who keeps track of us all. She has worked with seven pastors. Dianna has decided to move on to the next adventure – mornings free for a variety of projects!

SPPR is working to clarify our church staffing needs and will keep you posted. For now, please help us shower Dianna, Eva, Gary and Amanda this season. Blessings to you, Tara

## **Soup Supper** **Saturday, December 7 - from 4 to 6 p.m.**

On Saturday, December 7 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., we will have a Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall – free will donation. *Whose soup will win?*

## **Living Nativity** **December 15** **4:30 to 6:30**

**Sign up in the Narthex**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

[tricia\\_enright@yahoo.com](mailto:tricia_enright@yahoo.com)  
[cynthiaAperez1975@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiaAperez1975@gmail.com)

**\*KidMinistry Sunday School:** Our KidMinistry Sunday School meets from 9:30-10:30am every week. Kids ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us in our Sunday School classes: PreK-1st grade and 2nd-5th grade. We gather on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the church (one level up from the Sanctuary). We can't wait to see lots of kiddos in Sunday School!

**\*\*KidMinistry Sunday School Offering:** Our KidMinistry Sunday School Offering is used to sponsor a child through World Vision ministries. Our child is a 7 year old girl named Theresa Kafula from Zambia/Africa. Our sponsorship is \$35 per month, which World Vision uses to provide much needed resources for Theresa, her family, and her community...things like clean water, clothing, food, and education. Every penny, dime, nickel, quarter, and dollar we can share is a blessing to Theresa and her family. Please keep Theresa in your prayers and remember to bring a little bit of money to put in the collection plate to help her!

**\*\*Children's Church:** Children's Church takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month after the Children's Sermon. Kids ages 3 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to gather together in Fellowship Hall for a time of worship and fun. (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students "graduate" to "grown-up" worship)

***Upcoming Dates:***

***\*December 15th - Children's Christmas Program*** *\*Our Children's Christmas Program will take place Dec 15th during the 9:30am Sunday School Hour for a special morning of sharing the story of the birth of Jesus! Rehearsals will be held during Sunday School time & Children's Church (10:45am worship service) leading up to December 15th. Kids ages 3 through 5th grade are invited and encouraged to be a part of this wonderful tradition of sharing the Good News of Jesus' Birth!*

**CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRY**

Eva Durand, (594-0345) 785.766.5803 or [evadurand34@gmail.com](mailto:evadurand34@gmail.com)

**Sunday, December 8:**

**6:15 -8:00pm**

**Jr. High Youth Group**

**6:15 -8:00pm**

**Sr. High Youth Group**

**Sunday, December 15:**

**6:15 -8:00pm**

**Youth Christmas Party!**

Youth (Jr. High and Sr. High)

Gather for food, fun, laughs and CHRISTMAS!

*The First United Methodist Church  
 704 Eighth Street, PO Box 25  
 Baldwin City, KS 66006  
 (Phone: 785-594-6612)*

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*If you are receiving this by mail and have an email address – please let us know your email address –  
 (594-6612 or [office@baldwinfirst.org](mailto:office@baldwinfirst.org)). Thank you.*  
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**NEWS ITEMS FOR THE VINE NEED TO BE IN THE OFFICE  
BY THE EVENING OF CHURCH COUNCIL**

**December 2019 – January 2020**

<b>Sunday Services</b>	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship – Sanctuary
<b>Last Sunday of the Month</b>	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Blended Worship - Sanctuary
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Monday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Missions – Fellowship Hall
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Trustees – Library
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday</b>	7:00 p.m.	SPPRC – Library
		Finance – Chapel
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Monday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Church Council – Library
<b>Each Wednesday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday</b>	1:00 p.m.	Caregivers – Library
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Saturday</b>	9:00 a.m.	UMW Executive Meeting - Library
<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays</b>	7:30 a.m.	United Methodist Men – Vintage Park

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<b>Wed., December 4</b>	1:00 p.m.	Caregivers – Library
<b>Sat., December 7</b>	7:30 a.m.	UMM – Vintage Park
	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper – Fellowship Hall
<b>Sun., December 15</b>	9:30 a.m.	Children’s Christmas Program
		<i>During the Sunday School hour</i>
	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Living Nativity
	6:15 – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Group Christmas Party
<b>Sat., December 21</b>	7:30 a.m.	UMM – Vintage Park
<b>Tues., December 24</b>	7 & 11 p.m.	Christmas Eve Services
<b>Sun., December 29</b>	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Combined Worship
<b>Tues., January 7</b>	6:30 p.m.	MLK Day of Service
<b>Mon., January 27</b>	7:00 p.m.	Church Council - Library