



*"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*

**baldwin first**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Newsletter • April 2025

## Pastor's Corner

### Lenten Reflection...



Can you figure out this riddle? "I am often held, but never touched. I am always wet, but never rust. I often bite, but I am seldom bit. To use me well, you must have wit. What am I?" Can you figure it out? Ready for the answer? It is...the tongue! The tongue is an important symbol in the book of James. The book has 108 verses across five chapters, and 46 of those 108 verses in some way deal with the tongue, language, or speech.

"For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body" (James 3:2). James begins to dive in here about the tongue. He admits that we all sin, and uses this stumbling imagery for it. When we stumble, we still stay on the path and move forward, even though we might be spreading our arms out and hitting the pavement hard. It is a good comparison to sin. We may stumble, but that does not mean that we have completely fallen away from the faith.

It can be hard not to stumble in what we say. We can say things carelessly, in anger, frustration, or panic. We speak without thinking. Some of us might be known for this. We can lie, use self-justifying words, or harmful ones. The apostle says that these are not without effect. They can affect our lives and our bodies. He explains that the tongue can control us, and he uses a farming example to illustrate his point. He says, "If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies well (James 3:3). "It is crazy to think that a little one pound bit can control an animal that can weigh up to 2,000 pounds. Move the bit to the left, the horse goes left. Move it to the right, it goes right along. Move it up to make it go faster, and pull it down to make the hulking horse come to a halt.

It is amazing how one little thing controls a huge animal.

What is James' point? What do the tongue and a bit have in common? It is something so small can affect something much larger. Something so small can control such a large thing. Our little, teeny, tiny tongues can control our entire bodies, and direct our lives. Believe it or not, our tongues can control and affect our actions. James then moves on to the damage that the tongue can do: it can destroy. It only takes a spark to get a fire going. One little spark created one of history's most deadly fires. James says that this is just like the tongue! If the tongue is set among our members, it will stain the whole body. James describes the tongues' ability to destroy. He says that our tongues don't just destroy us; they can destroy others as well.

Often, the hurtful words we may hear from others last much longer than the scars or bruises that we may get. Words people normally use like "I hate him, I do not like him/her, and want nothing to do with him/her" can last longer than a bruise if the person we are talking about hears it. The words "I'm leaving; we're through" can hurt more than a blow. The phrase "I don't love you" can hurt more than any scar we can receive. Overhearing, or even hearing, what people really think about us can sting and linger more than any stone hitting us. The words our tongues can say can destroy families, friendships, and church. Words can destroy everything we have and everything we have worked for. They can even destroy us!

They can forever change our lives, and some words can never be fully taken back. The little tongue can be destructive, but it can be redeemed and controlled for good use. I continue to pray that you may experience the closeness of God during this Lenten season.

Shalom!

Pastor Ezekiel



**BALDWIN FIRST**  
704 8th Street, Baldwin City  
baldwinfirst.org

**IvesChapel**  
1018 Miami St, Baldwin City  
iveschapelumc.org

## Women's Salad Supper

A special night is planned by UMW for all women! Dr. Roger Boyd will do a presentation on "Women's Cooperative in Equador." The dinner will be at 6 pm. Please bring a salad to share!

**April 17**  
**FISH DINNER**

All are welcome to Fellowship Hall on Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 6 pm for a special celebration. A fish fry will begin at approximately 6:30 pm. Please bring a bright fruit or veggie dish to share!

## Resurrection Celebration!

What a joyous day Easter Sunday will be!

Please plan to join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior! An Easter egg hunt for the young ones will follow service. Once the eggs are gathered, we will enjoy an Easter brunch in Fellowship Hall.

Your help is appreciated. Donations of candy will be collected in the Narthex for the next few Sundays. You are also welcome to bring a side dish to accompany breakfast casseroles, sausage and beverages for brunch.

No time to bring food items to the brunch? No worries! All are welcome! We want to celebrate with you.



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship	9:30 am
Sunday School	10:30 am
Adult Bible Studies	10:30 am
B.L.A.S.T. Youth Group	10:30 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

**April 5**

Teeny Tears Sewing Day  
1-3 pm

**April 10**

Women's Salad Supper  
6:30 pm

**April 13**

Palm Sunday  
New Member Certificates

**April 17**

Maundy Thursday, BFUMC, 6 pm  
Fish dinner after service

**April 18**

Good Friday, BFUMC, 7 pm

**April 20**

**Easter Sunday Services**

Sunrise Service, 7am, Golf Course  
Baldwin First, 9:30 am  
followed by Easter Egg Hunt  
and Brunch  
Ives Chapel, 11 am

# Take a Journey With Us!

## Adult Bible Study Classes

The Journeys adult Sunday school class meets at 10:30 after church in the Beeks Chapel area, next to the coffee area at the back of the sanctuary. Our study now is "Lord I Want to Know You" written by Kay Arthur. Each week we look at a different name of God from the Bible. It is an excellent study to drop in on when you have an extra hour after church. It is written for all ages and for those with no experience, or a bit more experience studying the Bible. No pressure, no homework, but designed to dig deeper through the week if you desire. Plus we laugh a lot and sometimes have cake to go with our coffee! Please join us!



## Young Adult Class!

The class will be led by Faith and Aggie Lange. Stay tuned! More details to come!

## Vacation Bible School

VBS is set for the week of July 6-10. The theme will be "Road Trip: On the Go with God!" More details coming soon!



## B.L.A.S.T

The junior/senior high youth group is continuing its book drive for the Free Little Library! The books are collected in the Narthex.



## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Doug Cheek, Chair

Nancy Arnold

Ryan Berg

Mike Curran

Christi Darnell

Carolyn Groves

Marcia O'Neil

Brad Peterson

Pam Sharp

Katherine Cook, Secretary

Coleen Burgess, Finances

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact the church office, Rev. Ezekiel Koech, or Linda Ballinger for pastoral care needs and to be added to the prayer list.

Linda Ballinger,  
Care Giving Team Leader,  
913-980-3831

Rev. Ezekiel Koech, Pastor  
785-324-9174

Let us remember and pray for:

Carolyn, Jennifer, Scott, Tom, Russ,  
Otis, Cyrus, Judith, Louise, Mary,  
Donna DeGraffenreid Cumley,  
the Courtney and Bailey families  
all who are ill,  
all who are lonely,  
all who mourn.



# Teeny Tears Cutting & Sewing Day

Teeny Tears is a service organization that provides tiny flannel diapers and blankets to hospitals, funeral homes, and bereavement support organizations for families that have suffered the loss of a preemie. All are welcome to help cut or sew blankets and diapers on Saturday, April 5 from 1-3 pm in Fellowship Hall.

*Happy  
Birthday!*



## Sanctuary Easter Lilies

Donations to sponsor lilies has begun. We are in need of 10 sponsorships at a cost of \$18. You are welcome to honor someone with your sponsorship. You may also donate to the Community Emergency Fund.

Please make checks to BFUMC.



## Giving



We believe that all people are a gift from God, so it is important that you decide how your gifts are used for the Church. There are three ways for you to give financially. Please review the options before submitting your offering. Go to **[baldwinfirst.org/give](https://baldwinfirst.org/give)** for more information or scan the QR code.

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

**Church Office**  
785-594-6612  
[office@baldwinfirst.org](mailto:office@baldwinfirst.org)

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

**Website**  
[baldwinfirst.org](https://baldwinfirst.org)

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



# Missions Team



The missions team from BFUMC serves once a quarter at the Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen (LINK) led by John and Marilee Beins. The first quarter we served 107 meals of chicken, corn, green beans, salad, potato chips, a pasta vegan dish, rolls, desserts and milk. Our neighbors were served by 10 members and John's daughter and grandkids. Desserts were provided by five of our members. Thanks to all for your support for this mission service.

## Great Plains Conference News

### Equipping Disciples

**Deadline to register for June mission trip to OKC is April 18**

Skyline Ministries in Oklahoma City is our summer Family UMVIM Experience.

Join others from around the conference as we are the hands and feet of Jesus during this mission experience June 16-20. Individuals will be responsible for their own hotel stay and meals.

We are working with the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference to secure a discounted rate at a hotel that they use for guests. One evening we will go see an Oklahoma City Spark softball game! It's going to be a great week of being in ministry! Let Rev. Hollie Tapley, Volunteer in Missions coordinator, know if you would like to attend, [htapley@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:htapley@greatplainsumc.org), by April 18.

### **March 31 is deadline for donations to Haskell Indian Nations University**

The Great Plains Conference's Committee on Native American Ministries invites United Methodists to donate to meet an urgent need at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. The Haskell Foundation has launched an emergency fundraising campaign with a goal of \$350,000 to bridge gaps created recently by cuts to personnel. You can help by donating to the Great Plains Disaster Response Fund. When you submit your one-time donation, please type "Haskell" in the notes area so the conference knows your intention for the donation.

The Haskell Foundation has noted that the funds will be used to extend contracts temporarily for part-time coaches, bus drivers, custodial staff, dining services and general staff to maintain essential functions through the end of the academic year. The funds also will be used to:

- Address emergency assistance for students impacted by financial aid delays and unexpected hardships.
- Provide relief for displaced employees facing financial instability.
- Help pay for long-standing cultural events to ensure continuity of community traditions.
- Create a reserve fund to address unexpected university funding cuts.

Haskell Indian Nations University serves Native students from across the nation. Its mission is to build the leadership capacity of students by serving as the leading institution of academic excellence, cultural and intellectual prominence, and holistic education that addresses the needs of Indigenous communities.

## MISSION TEAM MEMBERS

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

## HOSPITALITY TEAM MEMBERS

Linda Ballinger  
Trish Batchelder  
Coleen Burgess  
Samantha Cheek  
Sheryl Cleverley  
Katherine Cook  
Christi Darnell  
Jill Dodge  
Jennifer Fulton  
Lori George  
Carolyn Groves  
Peggy McMillon  
Marcia O'Neal  
Jeanne Stanley  
Kathleen Thomas  
Janet Venable  
Tara Welch  
Letha Williamson



**BALDWIN FIRST**

# Community Events

## BJHS & BHS ART SHOW OPENING RECEPTION

IN CONJUNCTION WITH "THE AVANT" LAUNCH PARTY  
\*An arts and literary magazine.

**TUESDAY  
2ND  
APRIL**  
5 - 7PM

718 HIGH ST. BALDWIN CITY, KS

[www.lumberyardartscenter.org](http://www.lumberyardartscenter.org)

Celebrate the creativity of BHS AP Art and BJHS Art students at the Lumberyard Arts Center! Join us for the opening reception on April 2nd from 5-7 PM to meet the artists and enjoy their work, and celebrate the launch of *The Avant*, BHS's student-led arts and literary magazine.

Join the Baker Serves

## BIG EVENT SIGN UP TO REQUEST VOLUNTEERS

**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 5TH**



**Music and Theatre  
Workshop  
Baker University  
April 25-27  
Rice Auditorium**

Baker University Music and Theatre are collaborating once again! The musical review promises to be an electric night of not only musical theatre songs, but historical history about the genre of musical theatre!



LUMBERYARD  
ARTS CENTER

## Adult CLASSES

April 8, 15, & 22, 2025

### Springtime Painting

Becky Weaver

Unleash your creativity this spring! Students in grades 2nd-6th will practice basic painting techniques and explore simple color theory to create a spring-inspired acrylic painting on canvas. No experience necessary! \*Registration includes all 3 sessions\*

April 13, 2025

### Photo Basics with Cellphone Photography

Frank Perez

Learn to "find the story." Participants will learn the basic principals of framing a photo including perspective, light, aspect ratios and color, with their cell phone. This class will also include a light introduction to basic editing. Ages: 14-17

## Youth CLASSES

### Ukrainian Pysanky Workshop

Learn about Ukrainian pysanky and make your own at this workshop! Join the KU Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the Lumberyard Arts Center in Baldwin City, KS on Saturday April 5th from 10am to 1pm. Space is limited to 20 people so email [crees@ku.edu](mailto:crees@ku.edu) to sign up.

\*Making pysanky requires the use of an open candle flame and is not suited for small children. Learn more about pysanky at [crees.ku.edu/pysanky](http://crees.ku.edu/pysanky)

April 9, 2025

### Happy Hour Platter Glazing

Becky Weaver

Join us for a fun evening of creativity at the Baldwin City Beer Company this April! Participants can glaze a platter of their choice (limited selections, first come, first served) while enjoying happy hour at the brewery.

April 12, 2025

### "More Than Meets The Eye" Photography Class

Frank Perez

Learn to "find the story." Participants will learn the basic principals of framing a photo including perspective, light, aspect ratios and color, with their cell phone. This class will also include a light introduction to basic editing.

THE LUMBERYARD ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

## SPOKEN WORD

*A Literary Performance*

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF POWERFUL POETRY, DRAMATIC SHORT STORIES, AND EXPRESSIVE PERFORMANCES AT OUR SPOKEN WORD EVENT! THIS FREE, DONATION-BASED GATHERING FEATURES LOCAL TALENT SHARING RAW AND MOVING PIECES.

**04.11.25**  
07:00 PM  
718 High St. Baldwin City, KS

*Featured Artists*

Steph Castor	Catherine Gerstner
Jay Murry	Melinda Hipple
Phil Roger	Jennifer Molton
Ashley Clayton Kay	Linda Niehoff
Lynn Meador	Leslie Jessip
Michelle Kirk	Tracy Harrison
Maddy Roger	Vic Peterson
Carlin Charles Thompson	

MAY CONTAIN MATURE CONTENT  
\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION

## Pancake Breakfast

Palmyra Masons Fundraiser  
Help us support local charities and scholarships.

Come out and support our organization with a delicious stack of pancakes, bacon, orange juice and coffee!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12th • 8 AM-12 PM**

\$10.00 For Adults	<b>ALL YOU CAN EAT</b>	Event Location 807 High Baldwin, KS 66006
\$5.00 for Kids	<b>Pancakes!</b>	

BALDWIN CITY  
REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

## EASTER EGG HUNT

PRIZES  
FAMILY FUN ZONE | FOOD TRUCKS

**APRIL 13TH, 2025**  
FUN ZONE - 1PM • EGG HUNT - 2PM  
BALDWIN CITY GOLF COURSE



BALDWIN CITY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Check out all the fun events for adults & youth this month:

<https://baldwin.mykansasl原因.org/events/list/>

Join us for an exciting afternoon filled with:

Easter Egg Hunt – hunt for colorful eggs and win amazing prizes!

Family Fun Zone – games and activities for the whole family!

Food Trucks – grab a bite from our delicious food vendors.





**BALDWIN FIRST**  
P.O. Box 25  
Baldwin City, KS 66006

**SCAN ME**



*The Vine is a monthly newsletter centered around the events, discipleship, and ministries of Baldwin First United Methodist Church. Please use the QR code to choose whether you would like to receive the newsletter via mail, email, or if you want to be removed from the mailing list. You may also contact the church office at [office@baldwinfirst.org](mailto:office@baldwinfirst.org).*