



"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 • March 2025

Pastor's Corner

As I see it...



Good intentions are the starting point of every journey, but the destination depends on the choices we make along the way. The weather has not been favorable for us and so we have kept postponing the start of Men's Bible Study group and now it is the Lenten season. For now, let us focus on Lent and then later, we will revisit the Men's Bible study group.

Karen Krueger and I did this Lenten book study project. You do not have to do this project. It will be a fun project.

A joint traditional Ash Wednesday service will be held at Baldwin First UMC on March 5th at 7 pm. Ashes will be distributed from 6:30-9:00 am in front of the church. Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar of the UMC. It is a special day that opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

The season of Lent takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday. For us at Baldwin First, and Ives Chapel, we are going to observe the season and have a Lenten Study by Adam Hamilton's book, "Final Words From The Cross." This will also be the theme for the Lenten season. We will study the book for six weeks as a group or 46 days as an individual. The Bible Study at Baldwin First will start on Sunday March 9 at 6:30 pm and finish on April 13. For Ives Chapel, the Bible Study will be at 1:30 pm on Wednesdays beginning March 12.

The following is the synopsis of the book study:

"In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven 'final words': "Father Forgive Them", "Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise", "Behold Your Son. Behold Your Mother", "My God My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?", "I Thirst", "It Is Finished ... Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit."

On Maundy Thursday, we will witness an Upper Room play at 6 pm at Baldwin First Fellowship Hall. Maundy Thursday holds great significance for Christians. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, marking the foundational event of Jesus sharing his final meal with his disciples before his crucifixion. Because of this understanding, following the play in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a fish fry for supper. Donna Curran will give us more details on the meal.

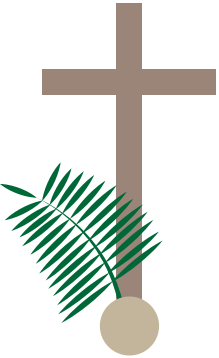
On Good Friday, April 18, we will have a joint evening service at Ives Chapel at 7 pm. Good Friday is a day in which we can reflect upon the goodness of God. We invite you to take part in our Good Friday service as we remember God's love for us, and also invite you take part in all that He has to offer us through His sacrifice and invitation to the communion table.

To close the Lenten season, we will have a joint Resurrection Sunday morning service at Baldwin City Golf Course on April 20th at 7 am. Baldwin First will have service at 9:30 am.

Have a happy Lent!
Pastor Ezekiel

LENT

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter. The English word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lenten*, which means "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of "Spring."



During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection, and repentance when we seek to literally "turn around" and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection we, and all creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.

"Fat Tuesday" in the context of the United Methodist Church refers to the day before Ash Wednesday where Christians traditionally celebrate with a large meal before the Lenten season of fasting begins, hence the term "fat" signifying a day of indulgence before a period of abstinence; it is essentially a celebration of rich food and festivities before the penitential season of Lent. This event is sponsored by UMW.



Ash wednesday

There will be two service options for Ash Wednesday on March 5: (1) Meet us on the front lawn of the church from 6:30-9:00 am for imposition of ashes, or (2) a traditional Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7 pm.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. It helps us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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

March 2 - Holy Communion

Membership Class, 10:30 am
March 2, 9, and 16

March 4

Pancake Supper, 5-6:30 pm
Freewill donations

March 8 and 22 - Food Pantry

9:00-10:30 am

March 5. - Ash Wednesday

Imposition of ashes, 6:30-9:00 am
Traditional service, 7 pm
Lenten Seasonal Choir, 8-8:30 pm

March 26, April 2, 9, 16

Lenten Seasonal Choir, 7 pm

April 13, Palm Sunday

April 17

Maundy Thursday, 6 pm

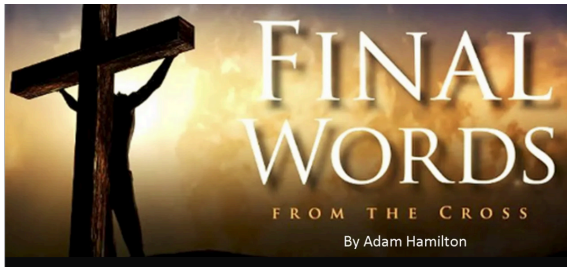
April 18

Good Friday Service
Ives Chapel, 7 pm

April 20

Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service, Baldwin Golf
Course, 7 am
Worship 9:30, BFUMC
Easter Egg Hunt & Brunch

Lenten Study



Join Pastor Ezekiel for a Lenten Bible Study on Sunday's from March 9 - April 13. The study will be held at 6:30 pm in the church library. All are welcome!

Membership Classes

All who wish to learn about becoming a member of the church may attend classes on March 2, 9, and 16 at 10:30 am

Holy Week Information

Baldwin First has announced its Holy Week celebration!

As you can see, there are many events planned for all ages on Easter Sunday.

- Easter egg hunt and brunch following the 9:30 am service.
- The seasonal choir and a brass ensemble will perform.

This week is a great time to invite friends, neighbors, or relatives to our services!



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Doug Cheek, Chair
Nancy Arnold, Lay Member
Ryan Berg, Technology
Frank Perez, Technology
Mike Curran
Christi Darnell
Martha Harris
Marcia O'Neil
Carolyn Groves, Financial Secretary
Glen Sharp, Finance Chairperson
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:
the Courtney family,
all who are ill,
all who are lonely,
all who mourn.



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 for more information or scan the QR code.

Livestream Service Information

Current and previous service livestreams can be seen via our **Livestream Collection**. These are published on a regular basis and can be viewed on our YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BaldwinFirstUMC>

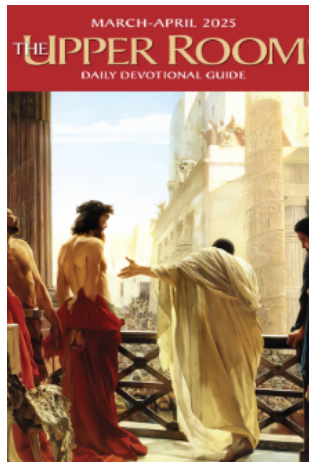
Mission Team Info

Food pantry is experiencing increased attendance in the last three months. We are lucky to continue to be fully supported by all our donors. I am often asked by church members what items we need. We have many people sponsoring items: toilet paper, hygiene items, pop tarts, canned chicken, cereal and peanut butter and jelly. If you and your family would like to do that mission also the following items are available: chunky soups, cake mixes and frosting, pasta sauce, canned pastas, coffee and many others. Just let a Missions member know. You can deliver when you come to church on Sunday or Friday mornings at 10:00. Thanks to you all.

"The Upper Room"

"The Upper Room UMC" refers to a daily devotional guide published by the United Methodist Church, named after the "upper room" in the Bible where Jesus held the Last Supper, and is essentially a publication designed to help people deepen their faith through personal stories, scripture readings, and prayer each day.

The March-April daily devotional guide is available in the entryway of the church for \$1.



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
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)



Community Events



Night of 1,000 Stars
at the Baldwin City Public Library

Tuesday, March 4th from 7-8 pm

Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal. We will enjoy stories told by our local storytellers Mr. Butch and Becky Millen, Chief Mike Patrick, and eat Homestead Bakery's cookies. Your favorite stuffed animal will spend the night. Come back the next day to pick them up and we will have pictures of your stuffed animal's slumber party in the Library. We can't wait to see what mischief they get into overnight. Thanks Friends of the Library for Sponsoring this Event!

Free movie & popcorn!
Baldwin City Library
March 3, 6 pm



Come watch *Prefontaine* with us!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



PRESENTS:



LENTEN FISH FRY



MARCH 7TH, 28TH 2025

PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

5-7 PM

SUGGESTED DONATION TO BE DETERMINED

ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH
740 N 6TH STREET, BALDWIN CITY, KANSAS



LUMBERYARD ART CENTER AND USD 348 PRESENT:

ART SHOW

FROM BALDWIN ELEMENTARY

FEBRUARY 21ST - MARCH 13TH, 2025

JOIN US ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21ST FROM 4-5 PM FOR AN OPEN HOUSE

COOKIES AND DRINKS TO BE SERVED. COME BY AND SEE MRS. HARRIS AND MRS. HOSTETLER

LUMBERYARD HOURS
WED - FRI: 1-5 PM
SAT: 10 AM-12 PM



FREE! LUMBERYARD ARTS CENTER PRESENTS:

TWAIN FOR TWAINIACS

KEN CHURCH

March 27 at 7 PM
718 High St. Baldwin City, KS

Join us for an intimate experience of Mark Twain's timeless wit and humor with Ken Church! This free-will, donation-based performance celebrates Twain's legacy. Seating is limited. Pie will be provided

Baldwin High School
Wednesday, March 26
2:00 - 6:00 pm

Blood drive



Sign up for an appointment time!

https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/84239



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.