



*"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 • May



As I see it.....it is summertime!

Summer is a season filled with warmth, renewal, and opportunities to grow—both personally and spiritually. As our church community enters this vibrant time of year, we are excited to extend a heartfelt invitation to everyone to take part in our upcoming summer activities.

Throughout the summer months, we will be hosting a variety of events designed to bring people together in fellowship, faith, and fun. I am thinking of a monthly men's Bible Study or social gathering. All men are invited to meet at Baldwin First Library on Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. This is just a consultation and exploration meeting to find out how often we should meet as men and what we should do when we meet.

We will also have VBS at Baldwin First on the following days:

- Sunday, July 12, 3:00-5:30 (The time has been lengthened so that there can both a craft and science station. Dinner will be served for volunteers, campers, and their families after VBS)
- Monday, July 13, 6:00-8:00
- Tuesday, July 14, 6:00-8:00

Send your children to join us! We will also appreciate any volunteers.

We also hope to have weekly youth programs, a family picnic, and special worship services such as blessing of the animals on Sunday, June 14, at Baldwin First at Sullivan Square, and Sunday, June 28, at Ives Chapel. Laity Sunday will be on August 30th in both churches. All I can say is, there is something for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. These activities are not only opportunities to deepen your relationship with God, but also to build meaningful connections within our church family.

We especially encourage families, children, and young adults to get involved. Our children and youth-focused events aim to create a safe and uplifting environment where young people can learn, grow, and form lasting friendships grounded in faith.

Participation in these summer activities is open to all, whether you are a long-time member or someone looking for a place to belong. We believe that each person brings unique gifts and perspectives that enrich our shared experience as a community.

We invite you to join us this summer as we celebrate faith, strengthen relationships, and serve others together. For more information about specific events and schedules, please contact the church office or read announcements on Sunday church bulletin.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful season with you.

Shalom,

Pastor Ezekiel

Holy Week Recap

Holy Week was both a busy and spiritually fulfilling time for congregants of Baldwin First. Palm Sunday began with the traditional procession of palms. Service was followed by an Easter Egg Hunt, where several hundred eggs found their way into the hands of our young ones and a brunch of casseroles and side dishes.

Maundy Thursday was acknowledged by a reenactment of the Last Supper. Members who participated in the Last Supper were:

Auggie Lange
Scott Erwine
Coltin Thomas
Glen Sharp
Bruce Peterson
Paul Batchelder
Ryan Berg
Mike Curran
Matt Keller
Tyler Bailey
Roger Boyd
Bob Ford

A dinner of fish and colorful side dishes followed the performance. Thank you to Tric and Paul Batchelder for providing the fish and to Baldwin Beer Company for frying the fish for this event.

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

May 3

Graduation Sunday, Communion

May 10

Mother's Day
No Sunday School

May 17

End of Year Sunday School
Celebration with BLAST Crew
10:30-11:30 a.m.
Baldwin City Creative Arts

May 21

Widow / Widower 2 p.m.

May 24

Building our Faith Brick by
Brick Begins (Sunday School)

May 31

Hymn Sing Service

June 14

Blessing of the Animals
Sullivan Square, 9:30 a.m.

July 12 - 14

Vacation Bible School
Sunday: 3:00-5:30 p.m.
Monday: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Good Friday service was held at Ives Chapel.

On Easter morning, the cross, which had mysteriously made its way to the front of the sanctuary was covered with flowers and served as a fitting background to the heavenly voices of the choir.

Photo Credits: Dr. Frank Perez



Finances

The leadership team would like to report the church financial status on a quarterly basis.

Below are the income and expenses for the first quarter of 2026:

Income: \$61,789

Expenses: \$59,118

Leadership Team

Jeanne Stanley, Chair
Ryan Berg
Susan Butell
Mike Curran
Christi Darnell
Martha Harris
Marcial O'Neil
Frank Perez
Glen Sharp
Katherine Cook, Secretary
Coleen Burgess, Finances

CONTACT US

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Tuesday - Thursday
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Website
baldwinfirst.org

Social Media
@baldwinfirstumc



Children's Ministry News

Hello! It's such a busy time at school, with sports, and at church so I wanted to send out an email keeping you up to date on what Sunday School will look like as we wind down the school year and then gear up for Summer Sunday School and VBS.

May 3: Normal Sunday School

May 10: No Sunday School so that families can celebrate Mother's Day

May 17: End of the Year Sunday School Celebration with BLAST Crew. This will be from 10:30-11:30. We will plan to walk over the Baldwin City Creative Arts (on High Street). The BLAST Crew kids will help us through some fun activities and obstacle courses. Anglea will have a brief waiver that will need to be filled out.

May 24: Building our Faith Brick by Brick begins today and will last through the summer. See below to learn more about this fun and engaging program!

Building our Faith Brick by Brick will have one session during church. We will take the kids to the Sunday School room right after Children's time and will bring them downstairs at the end of church, or for Communion, depending on the Sunday. During that time we will read and discuss a bible story and then build Lego creations inspired by that Bible Story.

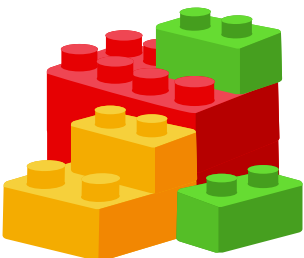
Following church, any kids that can stay, are invited to another session of Building our Faith Brick by Brick. We will read a different Bible story, share a snack, and build new Lego creations during that time. This program has wonderful discussion questions that we will talk about before and after our building time and bible time.

Please let me or Amy Berg know if you have any questions!

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School! VBS will be Sunday, July 12-Tuesday, July 14. More information will be coming about that!

-Jill Dodge

Donations Needed!



This summer our Elementary Sunday School will be participating in "Building Faith Brick by Brick!" We are looking forward to exploring the Bible together and creating with Legos as we read and learn. If you have old Legos needing a new home, our Sunday School class would love to have them!

Please reach out to Jill Dodge or Amy Berg. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jill Dodge, Marcia O'Neil,
Amy Berg, Cynthia Perez
Barbara Pressgrove, Nursery
Angela Murry, BLAST Leader

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

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

WORSHIP TEAM

Pam Sharp
Cynthia Perez
Donna Curran
Kathleen Thomas

Missions Team

160 meals were served to our neighbors at LINK on Saturday, April 25th. The meal was chicken, baked beans, green salads, fruit salad, chips, a vegan dish, desserts, and milk. Those providing cakes and cookies were: Letha Williamson, Janet Venable, Jeanne Stanley, Peggy McMillon, Jill Dodge, Katherine Cook, and Nancy Arnold.

Working in the kitchen and serving were: John Beins, Roger and Nancy Arnold, Katherine Cook, Jill, Cara, and Ryan Dodge, Susie Grosseohme, Janet Venable, and Mary Tye.

Our next date to serve at LINK is Saturday, August 29th.

All-Church Birthday Celebration!

The All-church birthday party was celebrated on April 26 with cake for all! A decorated table and cake were offered for each month.

Those who provided cakes were:

January - Randi Canterbury
February - Cynthia Perez
March - Jill Dodge
April - Sheryl Cleverley
May - Marcia O'Neil
June - Janet Venable
July - Peggy McMillon
August - Letha Williamson
September - Coleen Burgess
October - Tara Welch
November - Jan Boyd
December - Tric Batchelder



MISSIONS TEAM

Susan Butell
Nancy Arnold
Marilee Beins
John Beins
Coleen Burgess
Kelley Bethell-Smith
Martha Harris
Robin Schrack
Corey Schrack

FELLOWSHIP / HOSPITALITY

Linda Ballinger
Tricia Batchelder, Co-Chair
Coleen Burgess
Randi Canterbury
Samantha Cheek
Sheryl Cleverley
Katherine Cook, Co-Chair
Christi Darnell
Jill Dodge
Jennifer Fulton
Lori George
Carolyn Groves
Kay Kuhlmann
Peggy McMillon
Marcia O'Neil
Jeanne Stanley
Kathleen Thomas
Janet Venable
Tara Welch, Co-Chair
Letha Williamson



Graduation Sunday



**Join us in celebrating our graduating students on Sunday, May 3,
as we recognize their accomplishments and future endeavors!**

Annette Esperanza Pérez

Annette has grown up in our church, attending since the Perez family first arrived in 2014. She participates in the BLAST Crew youth program, volunteered for Vacation Bible School, and served our church in many ways.

She has also grown up as a dance student and teacher in our local Baldwin City Creative Arts Studio. She is especially proud of being the co-captain of the Baldwin High School Dance Team and also serving as the section leader for the A Capella Choir.

Annette plans to attend the Conservatory at the University of Kansas City Missouri to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance.



Ali Peterson

Ali has been a very involved student at Baldwin High School while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Ali was selected to be in the National Honor Society due to her academic rigor and leadership skills. She was the musical stage manager, a member of the cross country and tennis teams, and a member of the ecology club.

Ali was a four year member of the dance team and served as co-captain.

Ali plans to attend Kansas State University and pursue a Master's Degree in Athletic Training / Sports Medicine.



Daniel Welch

At BHS he has loved playing trumpet for the high school bands, including jazz band, and for numerous regional and state competitions and festivals. He's been first chair trumpet in the all-state honor band for two years now. He also likes to play for the community, such as for the Christmas Parade of Lights, at Vintage Park, and here at church for the holidays. At BHS he plays varsity tennis and is in the National Honor Society and environmental club, all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Dan was baptized at Baldwin First when he was only one week old. He was confirmed here, participated in Christmas programs, participated in BLAST Crew, and has volunteered for VBS.

Dan plans to attend the University of Kansas and major in engineering and Music Performance (trumpet) and be a part of the Kansas University Marching Band.



Selene Welch

Selene Welch has spent the final two years of high school at the Kansas Academy of Math and Science at Fort Hays State University, an early college program with a curriculum rich in STEM. While there, she has been active in the First Robotics team, becoming captain this year and competing all over the region. She plays the cello, sings in the Fort Hays Women's Choir, and participates in many math-related activities and competitions. While at Baldwin High, she also played tennis, sang in choir, and participated in the musical as stage manager. Through all this she maintained a spot on the Dean's List with an overall GPA of 3.98.

After high school, Selene will attend KU, majoring in applied computing and chemistry. She will be a Self Fellow. She was baptized at Baldwin First, attended Sunday School, played Mary in one year's Christmas program, and enjoyed Vacation Bible School as an attendee and later as a volunteer.

Selene plans to attend the University of Kansas and major in Applied Computing and Chemistry.



Ethan Williams

Baldwin High School will miss Ethan's athletic prowess. Ethan was a member of the football, wrestling, and baseball teams. He was a 4-time state wrestling qualifier and placed at state one year. He was also a member of choir.

Ethan plans to attend Baker University and will be a member of the men's wrestling teams.



Dylan Dodge

Dylan will be promoted from Baldwin Junior High School.

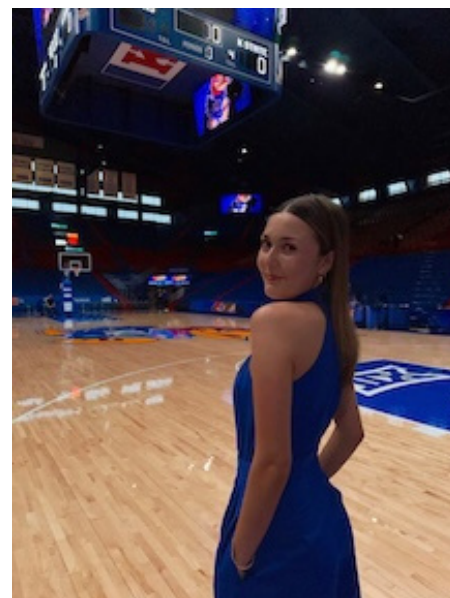
You probably have seen Dylan assisting with many events at Baldwin First. He has helped with LINK, assisted with VBS in the game station, and has helped with with technology. Dylan is a member BLAST Crew. He also volunteers in the nursery with me a few times a year.



Abby Patterson

Abby is graduating from the University of Kansas with a BA in Sports Management and a minor in journalism.

Abby had the privilege of being a part of the KU Men's Basketball program as equipment manager. She is currently finishing an internship with the KU Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) office. After graduation, Abby plans to pursue a career in the NIL industry.



Sam Slife

Sam is graduating from Baker University with a degree in Exercise Science. She plans to obtain her doctorate degree in Physical Therapy from Kansas University.

Sam began attending Baldwin First as a freshman at BU. She jumped right in to the life of our church, helping with children's Sunday School and tech; she shares her voice through choir, song leading, and solos. Thank you, Sam, for all the ways you have served!



Riley Smith

Riley will graduate from Ottawa University, as summa cum laude and as a presidential scholar communications major. She finishes her undergraduate career as the Student Body President and as an all-conference player and team captain for the OU women's soccer team. In addition, she has been a member of the university's choir program and is also the president of both the Sigma Alpha Aho Academic Honor Society as well as her sorority.

Riley began full-time employment in March as an admissions recruiter and will start her graduate degree in business in the fall.

In the meantime, she will travel to Ireland this summer for an internship with Beyond Sports and Peace Players to support their annual Interface Games summer camp. Riley will be helping out with the day-to-day operations of PeacePlayers by connecting with local youth through leading sports programming and helping to moderate transformative group discussions and activities.





Methodist History: The Founding Mothers of Mother's Day

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/methodist-history-the-founding-mothers-of-mothers-day>

Statistics say that \$20.7 billion will be spent on moms in honor of the U.S. holiday that falls on the second Sunday in May: Mother's Day.

The Methodist women who invented the Mother's Day idea in America wanted to honor mothers in a deeper way.

All that cash and commercialism goes against everything the women who originated the idea wanted. [In this video](#), meet the Methodist mother and daughter team who worked to create a day to honor a mother's love and to emphasize how important a mother's role is in building a peaceful world.

Creator God,
We thank you for your love which shapes us and helps us to grow.
On this Mothering Sunday
we give thanks for women who have been examples of self-giving
love,
who have given time, wisdom and care to the nurture of children,
their own or others.
We pray for those who find this a difficult day,
who do not have happy memories of their own mothers,
those who grieve for their mothers or for their children,
and those who long to be mothers but cannot be.
We remember mothers in the Bible, giving thanks for the tenacity
of Sarah
the generosity of Hannah and the courage of Mary.
May your Spirit continue to shape us, heal us and guide us today.
Amen

