



*"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 • July 2025



Growing up in Kenya, I experienced firsthand the challenges of drinkable water scarcity. From the age of seven through eighth grade, I woke up at 4 a.m. to walk six miles with a donkey carrying two empty 20-liter barrels to collect water from a nearby stream. I would return by 6 a.m. to prepare for school—another ten-mile journey on foot.

Thank you to everyone who has been moved to pray for and financially support the water purification initiative. A purification kit for a 20-liter container costs \$65 and can last up to 50 years with proper maintenance. This is a meaningful and challenging ministry opportunity that God has placed before us. As Matthew 25:36 says, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink..." In some village in Kenya right now, someone is facing the urgent question, "Where will I find a drink of water?"

Please keep the upcoming mission trip to Kenya, scheduled for July 28 to August 10, in your prayers. While airfare costs are high due to peak summer travel, we still welcome anyone who feels called to join the mission team. Following the mission work, Pastor Ezekiel will remain in Kenya for an additional week to visit his family.

While Pastor Ezekiel is away from July 28 through August 21, Rev. Bob Ford will be on call and there will be other inspired preachers to fill the pulpit. Laity Sunday will be observed on August 17.

What does that mean? It's an opportunity for anyone in the congregation who feels led by the Holy Spirit to participate in worship—by preaching, promoting Fall programs, singing, praying for others, blessing the offering, or giving the benediction. Begin praying now and ask God if you are being called to share a message on Laity Sunday!

We invite you to be part of this meaningful mission opportunity, confident that you too will be blessed. If you are interested in joining the mission trip or have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

In Christ,

Pastor Ezekiel

2025 Annual Conference Report Bishop Palmer kicks off 2025 annual with a powerful sermon

Bishop Gregory Palmer kicked off the 2025 Great Plains Annual Conference Thursday afternoon with a highly charged and powerful sermon challenging both clergy and laity to take action and not accept the status quo.



"We've got this notion that we want to go to church and we don't want to be disturbed," said Bishop Palmer, who retired in 2024 after serving the Iowa, Illinois Great Rivers and West Ohio conferences.

Bishop Palmer challenged those at the conference to love their neighbor, their neighborhood and their entire community.

What if the United Methodist Church said, 'We're gonna love the zip code and we're going to know everybody by name?'" he asked.

Palmer, who in retirement serves as the executive of the Council of Bishops, received a gift from Bishop David Wilson: A custom-made pair of Converse sneakers with the United Methodist cross-and-flame on one side and the episcopal logo on the other, identical to the pair Bishop Wilson had made for himself last year.

It was fun to see both of them wearing the shoes. I didn't know that you can order a pair of shoes with whatever inscriptions you want.

Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) introduces 2026 budget, with zero increase from current year

The conference Council on Finance & Administration laid the groundwork for the 2026 budget during its presentation Thursday afternoon.

Because of decreased mission shares, said Rev. Amy Lippoldt, CF&A president, churches contributed about \$10.4 million of the nearly \$12.28 million anticipated 2024 spending plan. The eventual deficit of \$775,000 — the first in the history of the Great Plains Conference — was covered with reserves. Lippoldt said while the conference should be thankful for the resources to cover the deficit, the budget should not be supplemented in such a way regularly.

Early in the 2025 budget year, conference staff members were asked to reduce their budgets to meet a spending plan that would assume an adjusted mission shares payout rate of 85%.

(Story continued on page 3)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship	9:30 am
Sunday School	10:30 am
Adult Bible Studies	10:30 am
Young Adult Bible Study	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

July 6 - 10

Vacation Bible School, 6-8 pm

July 12

Food Pantry, 9-10:30 am

July 15

Special Service Celebrating
Vacation Bible School

July 18

Ives Chapel Ice Cream Social
6:30 pm

July 22

Leadership Team Meeting

July 26

Food Pantry, 9-10:30 am

August 3

Pool Party @ BC Pool

August 10

UMW Picnic

August 17

Special Service Blessing
for school students and staff
gearing up for a new school year!

The Laity Report: Laity tells how the vision statement is already at work in their churches.

Laity talked about how they're already living out the new United Methodist vision of living boldly, serving joyfully and leading courageously during the laity session Thursday afternoon, in a session led by Lisa Maupin, conference lay leader. Examples included social justice groups, digging wells for water in Africa and local food pantries.

Thank you for praying for all who attended the Annual Conference!

Road Trip VBS On the Go with God!




SIGN UP
NOW

Hey kids — from Preschool through 5th Grade — you're invited to an unforgettable week of Vacation Bible School, happening July 6–10 from 6:00–8:00 pm!

Join us for epic Bible stories, awesome music, cool crafts, delicious snacks, fun games, mind-blowing science experiments, and so much more!

Scan the QR code to Register!



Bring your friends, your neighbors — everyone is welcome to come along for the fun!  We still need helping hands! If you'd like to volunteer and be part of the excitement, please reach out to Jill Dodge at jillmdodge@gmail.com.

Pool Party!



Dive in for fellowship and fun at a pool party on Sunday, August 3 from 7-9 pm at the Baldwin City Pool!

Special Services

On July 13th we will be celebrating VBS and on August 17th we will have a blessing of school students and staff, and all who are gearing up for a new school year!

Journeys Adult Bible Study

The Journeys class will finish up their book "Lord I Want to Know You" at the end of July. Is there a topic you have always wanted to dig deeper into? We are open for ideas and suggestions. Contact Pam Sharp with your ideas!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jilly Dodge

Marcia O'Neil

Barbara Pressgrove, Nursery

Angela Murry & Brad Peterson,
BLAST

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

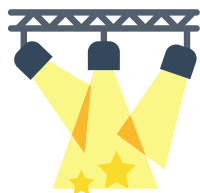
June Financial Report & Giving

The June income was \$17,857. Expenses were \$13,251. Thank you for your giving and support!

Glen Sharp, Financial Chairperson



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.



New Member's Spotlight: Welcome Tricia and Paul Batchelder

The Batchelders moved to Baldwin from Louisburg, Kansas. They were active members of the Louisburg UMC for 40 years.

The Batchelders are proud K-State alums. Tricia obtained a degree in animal science and Paul a doctorate in veterinary science. Paul was a veterinarian and Tricia retired from a career in commercial banking. Both of their boys, Brian and Jon, are fourth generation KSU alums.

They moved to Baldwin to be closer to their sons and their families...especially Ben, their seven month old grandson. Ben will be baptized at Baldwin First on July 13.

The Batchelders love being in Baldwin! They have felt very welcomed at Baldwin First and enjoy small-town life...it feels like home! They enjoy all of the church and community activities. Tricia is a member of the Hospitality Committee and is one of Baldwin First's representatives for the Community Emergency Fund.

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

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Church Office
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office@baldwinfirst.org

Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
10 am - 2 pm

Website
baldwinfirst.org

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



Missions Team

Summer brings a different focus for Missions and the food pantry-kids are home and hungry. Baldwin Rec ran a food drive asking for lunch items; pasta cups, fruit cups, granola bars etc. We have made large lunch bags using these items. All donations are welcome. We have been gifted with beautiful farm eggs all month. Also, Warden has provided stand fans for our patrons. Big thank you to Baldwin City Market who provides free bread every month. When Susan Butell stopped by this week, the tortilla vendor gave us tortillas.

We will serve a meal for the Vacation Bible school workers. Missions team gives thanks for the inspiration of the selfless life of Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Independence Day

By: Andy Langford, UMC Discipleship Resources

The Fourth of July remains a special time to applaud the birth of our nation while keeping the peace, justice, and freedom found in Christ at the center of the celebration. "For freedom, Christ has set all free." (Galatians 5:1)

*Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth.
Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed
the responsibility of government and leadership
in the nations of the world.
Give to them the vision of truth and justice,
that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together.
Give to the people of our country
zeal for justice and strength of forbearance,
that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will.
Forgive our shortcomings as a nation;
purify our hearts to see and love the truth.
We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

July Birthday's

Michelle Presgrove Rogers
Emma Grossoehme

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.

MISSIONS 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'Neil
Jeanne Stanley
Kathleen Thomas
Janet Venable
Tara Welch
Letha Williamson



BALDWIN FIRST



BALDWIN CITY INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

JULY 5, 2025
BALDWIN CITY GOLF COURSE (1102 MAIN STREET)



BIG TIME GRAIN CO.
4:30PM



KASSI ASHTON
6:30PM



SAWYER BROWN
8:30PM



FIREWORKS
10:00PM

**KID'S ZONE, BEER GARDEN, FOOD TRUCKS
OPEN AT 4:00PM**

**4th
of July**



STARS & SPLASHES

FRIDAY, JULY 4
12:30PM-4:30PM

**FREE
POOL
ADMISSION!**



**EUDORA
UMC**

KENYA NIGHT

July 12 5:00-7:00pm

Join us for a night of
Culture, Food, and Music



Free Will Donations Accepted

Eudora United Methodist Church
1310 W. 20th St., Eudora, KS

Community Events

There are many community events for adults and youth throughout May!
Click on the graphic to see your opportunities!



JULY 18
AUGUST 15
SEPTEMBER 19
6-9 P.M.