



*"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 • January 2025

Pastor's Corner

As I see it...



Happy new year! The old is gone, the new has come. What is your New Year resolution? It's a great time to think about the New Year's resolutions as we begin the year 2025. It can be nerve-racking when you are uncertain of what lies ahead.

There is a story about a happy little boy who went out into the field wearing a baseball cap. In one hand he carried a baseball, and in the other hand, his trusty bat. His face bore a look of tremendous confidence. Cocking his bat, he tossed the ball into the air, saying, "I'm the greatest batter in the world!" Then he swung and missed. "Strike one," he said. He picked up the ball, examined it, and then threw it into the air again. As he swung, he repeated, "I'm the greatest batter in the world." Once again he missed. "Strike two," he said. This time, he stopped to examine his bat to make sure there wasn't a hole in it. Then he picked up the ball, adjusted his cap, and tossed the ball into the air for the third time. He repeated again, "I'm the greatest batter in the world," and swung with all his might -- and missed for the third straight time. Now most boys might be discouraged by that, but this boy said, "Wow! I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!"



As we anticipate the next 12 months, some people might eagerly look forward to what each day will bring.

Others might be filled with dread, worried that this year will be worse than the last. Like the little boy with his baseball bat, I would suggest that our attitude will make all the difference in the coming year. How we react to its event will largely determine whether it is a year of victory or a year of defeat.

The Apostle Paul was never one to let circumstances conquer him. Rather, with the help of God, he was determined to win the victor's crown. I would encourage you to read Philippians 3:12-13 (ESV), "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. [13] Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead".

Paul's personality and attitude, I believe, really comes through in these verses. As we embark on the journeys of this New Year, let us determine ahead of time that it will be a year of victory! Let us choose our own attitudes and follow the advice of the Apostle Paul.

Sharom!

Pastor Ezekiel

O Little Town of Baldwin Living Nativity

The Living Nativity is always special to our church and community.

The event would not be successful without all of the amazing volunteers! Samantha Cheek and Katherine Cook organized the event. The beautiful nativity and was put together by Doug and Samantha Cheek. Katherine Cook provided refreshments.

Dr. Amelia and Dr. Jeremy Rodrick generously brought the animals for the event. The goats were a huge hit for not only the younger kids, but also college students! Some students had never seen a live goat!



Holy Family:
Faythe, Auggie and Pearl Lange



Three Kings:
William Darnell
Mark Dodge
Tess Smith



Come experience an evening of Kenyan culture, music, costumes, and authentic Kenyan cuisine! The event will be held on Saturday, February 1 from 5-7 pm. Donations will be accepted to help cover the costs of this event!

All are welcome!

Ushindi UM Fellowship Choir
Kansas City



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

January 25

Food Pantry, 9-10:30 am

February 1

Black History Month Kickoff
Kenya Night!, 5-7 pm

February 8

Holy Communion

February 8

Food Pantry, 9-10:30 am

February 22

Food Pantry, 9-10:30 am

May 25

Share Your History Night

Missions Team

December was a very busy food pantry month. We received so many generous donations. Over 20 new dog and cat beds were donated and the picture is worth a thousand words! Patrons received a cash present, Christmas hams, festive gift bags for the ladies, and many other surprises. Special thanks to all our volunteers for their cheerful extra work so that all might have a Merry Christmas! In the words of Tiny Tim "God bless us, everyone."



Mission Opportunity



Join our United Methodist Volunteers in Mission for a Family Mission Experience at Skyline Urban Ministries, Oklahoma City, from Monday-Friday, June 16-20.

Skyline Urban Ministries is a mission to serve those living in the shadows of their community by bridging the gaps in their resources with kindness and respect. The majority of our time will be spent working with Travis Andrews with the gardening ministry.

Our days will be filled with harvesting foods, mowing, weeding, and planting seedlings. On Wednesday they receive truckloads of food that we will offload and place on the shelves in the pantry. Other areas that we may be engaged in include the clothing department, bagging groceries or in the eyeglass center.

Cost will be left up to each individual/family. We are working with the Oklahoma Annual Conference to arrange for a special rate at a nearby hotel. Meals will be at your own cost.

Watch for more details as plans are being made and finalized. To sign up, contact Rev. Hollie Tapley at htapley@greatplainsumc.org.

MISSION TEAM MEMBERS

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

HOSPITALITY TEAM MEMBERS

Linda Ballinger
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



WEATHER ALERTS

It's wintertime in Baldwin! Should there be inclement weather, announcements will be posted on Facebook and the Baldwin First United Methodist Church website.



UMCOR

UMCOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

In times of natural disasters or war, it is often difficult to determine the best organizations for donations. UMCOR responds quickly to meet emergency needs around the world.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responds to dozens of disasters each year. Whether it is in response to the fires in Los Angeles, to war, or a tsunami in South Asia, UMCOR is there: sowing seeds of hope and empowering communities to step forward to a new and better future. When a natural or human-caused disaster strikes outside of the United States, UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. This includes support for displaced persons as well as refugees fleeing disasters with food, water, hygiene and other essential nonfood supplies and temporary shelter. UMCOR cooperates with church leaders, local agencies and not-for-profit organizations to develop response mechanisms and to support local relief and recovery efforts.

Donations may be submitted through our church. Please write UMCOR in the memo portion of your check or giving choice. You may also contact Katherine Hills @ khillsuzoka@umcor.org. For more information, visit the website: <http://www.umcor.org>.

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.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Doug Cheek, Chair

Nancy Arnold, Lay Member

Ryan Berg, Technology

Frank Perez, Technology

Mike Curran

Christi Darnell

Carolyn Groves, Financial Secretary

Marcia O'Neil

Pam Sharp

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:

Carolyn, Jennifer, Scott, Tom, Russ,
Otis, Cyrus, Judith, Louise, Mary,
Donna DeGraffenreid Cumley,
the Ballinger family,
all who are ill,
all who are lonely,
all who mourn.

Youth Opportunities!

2025 Institute

For over 100 years, young people have come to Baker University in Baldwin City to attend United Methodist Youth Institute. Institute is a week of Christian spiritual growth and faith development for high school students (incoming freshman-graduating seniors). At Institute, youth experience a Christian community and learn to receive and give care and support as modeled by Christ. Institute is intentional about making disciples for the transformation of the world. Teens can challenge themselves in new ways this summer! Participants will stay in the Baker University dorms.

Institute is a program of Camp Chippewa and Great Plains Camps.

Camp Chippewa Spring Break and Summer Camps

Camp Chippewa in Ottawa is a United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center whose mission is to provide an atmosphere in a simple outdoor setting where individuals can: experience the presence of God in nature; form a relationship with Jesus Christ and others; nurture one's journey as a disciple of our Lord and Savior; experience spiritual and personal growth and renewal; and to serve non-profit groups for the betterment of God's world.

Types of Summer Camps

- Family Camp-Bring a parent, guardian or other adult for a fun-filled camping experience. Activities include: swimming, wagon rides, lead riding, and much more!
- High School Camp-Experience a little of everything while developing friendships and diving deeper in your faith! Activities: horseback riding, archery, swimming, low ropes, canoes/paddle boats, worship, spiritual formation, crafts, and much more!
- Out on the Range-Saddle up and hit more places than just Camp Chippewa. Spend two nights camping out offsite and riding different trails. Activities: cookouts, worship, spiritual formation, games, and much more!

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

Church Office

785-594-6612

office@baldwinfirst.org

Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday
10 am - 2 pm

Website

baldwinfirst.org

Social Media

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



Camp Chippewa
Spring Break
Day Camp

Are you looking for something fun for your child to do over spring break? Come to Camp Chippewa Day Camp! Experience a variety of activities like archery, pedal carts, low ropes, train rides, crafts, and more!

Lunch and snacks are provided!

Time
7:30am-6:00pm

March 17-21

Camp Chippewa
2577 Idaho Rd
Ottawa, KS, 66067

• Kindergarten-5th • Campers-\$20/Day • Volunteers-\$5/Day for Meals

Activities

- Archery
- Low Ropes
- Crafts
- Field Games
- Animal Experience
- and More!

Daily Themes

- Monday- Sports
- Tuesday-STEAM
- Wednesday-Nature
- Thursday-Wild West
- Friday-Mystery

www.campchippewa.org **SIGN UP TODAY!** 785-242-6797



Budget January - December 2025

	<u>Budget</u>
5000 · CONFERENCE OBLIGATIONS	
510 · Conference Apportionments	18,000.00
Total 5000 · CONFERENCE OBLIGATIONS	<u>18,000.00</u>
5010 · WORSHIP	
52111 · Worship Misc.	200.00
550 · Hospitality Team	1,000.00
600 · Technology Team	500.00
650 · LINK	750.00
700 · Fellowship Activities Team	500.00
Total 5010 · WORSHIP	<u>2,950.00</u>
5100 · MUSIC	
52132 · Copyright Licensing	300.00
52134 · Organ & Piano Tuning	500.00
Total 5100 · MUSIC	<u>800.00</u>
5200 · ADULT	
522 · Upper Room	200.00
5225 · Adult Misc.(college students)	250.00
Total 5200 · ADULT	<u>450.00</u>
5300 · CHILDREN	
52310 · Childrens Sunday School	200.00
52330 · Vacation Bible School	500.00
52370 · Bibles	100.00
54010 · Children Church	400.00
Total 5300 · CHILDREN	<u>1,200.00</u>
5400 · YOUTH	
524 · Youth Misc.	500.00
Total 5400 · YOUTH	<u>500.00</u>
5600 · PERSONAL	
5601 · SENIOR PASTOR	
581 · Pastor Salary	30,023.00
582 · Housing & Utility Allowance	6,000.00
583 · Health Ins Allowance	9,510.00
585 · Employer Pension	4,000.00
587 · Professional Expenses	500.00
588 · Mileage & Reimbursed Expenses	1,000.00

Total 5601 · SENIOR PASTOR	<u>51,033.00</u>
5640 · SUPPORT STAFF	
5641 · SALARIES	17,850.00
	<u>11,025.00</u>
Total 5641 · SALARIES	<u>28,875.00</u>
5700 · TAXES & OTHER STAFF	
	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total 5700 · TAXES & OTHER STAFF	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total 5640 · SUPPORT STAFF	<u>31,875.00</u>
Total 5600 · PERSONAL	<u>82,908.00</u>
5800 · CHURCH ADMINISTRATION	
5510 · Electricity and Water	14,000.00
5520 · Natural Gas	18,000.00
5530 · Telephone/Internet	2,500.00
5540 · Trash Collection	600.00
5560 · Liability/Property Insurance	32,000.00
5570 · Office Supplies	300.00
5580 · Postage	500.00
5590 · Copier Fund	2,400.00
5592 · eCommunication	500.00
5595 · Office Misc.	200.00
58210 · Computer Software/Hardware	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total 5800 · CHURCH ADMINISTRATION	<u>76,000.00</u>
5900 · TRUSTEE	
531 · Church Maintenance/Repair	15,000.00
536 · Janitorial Services	9,000.00
544 · Pest Control	<u>420.00</u>
Total 5900 · TRUSTEE	<u>24,420.00</u>
5970 · PARSONAGE PROPERTY	
533 · Parsonage Expenses/Repair	2,500.00
542 · Mortgage Payment	5,500.00
590 · Mortgage Interest Expense	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total 5970 · PARSONAGE PROPERTY	<u>10,000.00</u>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	
65130 · Interest Expense - General	<u>60.00</u>
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	<u>60.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>217,288.00</u>

Community Events



Monday, January 20th

9AM-NOON!

Meet at Baldwin First UMC parking lot for service opportunity assignment!

T-shirt Giveaway courtesy of BEF & Baldwin City Made!

Food Pantry Donation Drive! Items requested:

Meaty soups

Laundry detergent

Kid friendly snacks

Made with PosterMyWall.com



On this National Day of Service, join Baker University and USD 348 as CATS and DOGS of all ages are invited to PAWS TO SERVE!

For more info about our service projects together on 1/20/25, contact BEF at bef@usd348.com or 785-418-4051!

LUMBERYARD ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

CRAFTED BY HAND: ART EXHIBITION & TEXTILE SHOW



Companions
An Art Show by Theresa Shetler



Quilt Capital of Kansas
Textile Show

Join us for an unforgettable evening of creativity and connection at the opening reception! Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of art and textiles, where stunning paintings meet intricate quilts. Meet the talented artists behind the works and explore their unique inspirations. Enjoy refreshments as you soak in this celebration of artistic expression.

OPENING RECEPTION

5:00 PM -
7:30 PM

FRIDAY
17 JANUARY
2025

718 HIGH ST
BALDWIN CITY, KS

FEATURED ARTISTS:
→ Theresa Shetler
Cheryl Travis
Ruthie Rodden
Sue Conningham
Sharon Vesecky
Carolyn Stansberry

Becky Fender
Angie Spielman
Liz Granberg-Jerome
Janet Anderson-Story
Jessica Drugg
Laura Davids

FREE ENTRY

Find More Information: www.lumberyardartscenter.org

Baldwin Education Foundation

Saturday, January 18 • 5:00- 8:00 pm

Baldwin City Community Center

Tickets \$40

Tacos, drinks, live music!

Support teachers enriching their classrooms!



Community Impact Giving

Thursday, February 6, 2025

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Lumberyard Arts Center

Join the Douglas County Community Foundation and the Lumberyard Arts Center for an evening of inspiration and community.

6:00: Welcome and refreshments

6:15: Presentation followed by mingling

Learn about Estate Planning, Legacy Giving, and Growing Baldwin City Arts.



Be a BU Student for the Day!

College of Arts & Sciences - Baldwin City Campus

For all high school juniors & seniors! Experience a day-in-the-life of a Baker student by attending a Baker Core class, exploring student life, visiting academic programs, discovering campus, and enjoying lunch in the Cafeteria with current students.

Register by
February 27!

BU Theatre presents: The Vampire Cowboy Trilogy

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 12:00 AM –
Sunday, March 9, 2025, 12:00 AM

Rice Auditorium
404 Eighth Street, Baldwin City, KS, 66006, United States
(map)

Do you like Comic Books? Cowboys? Cheerleaders? Superheroes? Samurai fights? Zombies? How about Vampires? If any of that sounds like your thing, then our March show is right up your alley. From the same playwright that brought you *She Kills Monsters*, Baker Theatre is thrilled to present *The Vampire Cowboy Trilogy* by Qui Nguyen and Robert Ross Parker. (March 6-9, 2025- Rice Auditorium). This live comic book anthology contains three irreverent comedies that hilariously skewer well-beloved genres. Hard-boiled paranormal detective Jake Misco takes on the case of a mysterious stranger who is haunted by her dead husband; a Cold War-era crime-fighting duo struggles to save America from the throes of Communism while questioning their own principles; and a teenage warrior princess named Tina must fight evil Zombie cheerleaders and the tedium of French class. It promises to be a hilarious night of entertainment!



Join Us for a Night of Culture, Food, and Music

Music Performances

Ushindi UMC Choir &
Galen Schmidtberger

Food by

Authentic African Cuisine,
Overland Park

Where

Baldwin First UMC,
704 8th St., Baldwin City

**Free Will
Donations
Accepted**



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.