



*"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 • May 2025

Pastor's Corner: Put Your House In Order 2025



The phrase "put your house in order" is most famously associated with the Bible story of Hezekiah in 2 Kings 21 and the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 38:12

We don't know what tomorrow will bring, but God is all-knowing. He also created us with the powers of mind such as will, reason, and instinct. Although our inherent capability can never measure up to God's capability, we still have to do our part with our reasoning capacity and God does His part.

Procrastination: It is the act of delaying or postponing something, likely something important. It's easy to procrastinate when it comes to creating a will or trust, naming people to act on our behalf, and making other end-of-life plans. We're busy. Other tasks seem more important in the here and now. We don't want to think about incapacity, death, or dying. It doesn't sound fun.

But what happens when the inevitable occurs to you? And what if the unexpected arises? Tyler Curtis from Kansas Methodist Foundation will preach and on Sunday, May 25. Following the worship service, we will have cookies in the Fellowship Hall so that we get a chance to ask him questions.

Putting Your House in Order is a three-part plan of action that covers:

1. Estate Planning
2. Legacy Giving
3. Memorial Planning

If you wish, Tyler, who is on the staff at KMF, will educate you on options, answer questions, and walk with you side-by-side as you create plans that reflect your wishes. He does it free of charge because he works for the Great Plains UMC Conference. He is not a lawyer, but he can help you find a lawyer should you need one.

This information is not just for our congregation; it is for everyone. Therefore, feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to come and participate.

Shalom!

Pastor Ezekiel

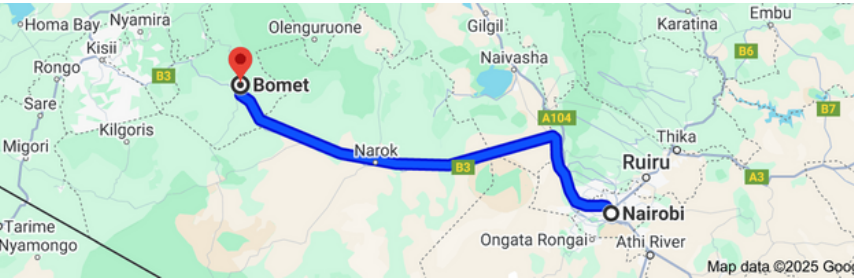
You are invited to go on a mission trip to Kenya

A group of people are headed to Kenya for a Mission Trip. There are three people from other churches going on the trip. If you have someone who might be interested, please contact Pastor Ezekiel.

We will fly out of Kansas City on September 22 and arrived back in Kansas City on October 1.

The following is the cost after we arrive in Kenya:

Mission Trip Itinerary	
Sunday-Tuesday 9/29	Travel to Nairobi
Tuesday, 9/29	Arrive in Nairobi in evening
	Travel to Bomet (northwest of Nairobi)
Wednesday, 9/24	Leave Bomet for the Cheptuech village (outside of Olenguruone)
	Begin water purification and visit mobile health clinic
Thursday-Sunday, 9/25-9/28	Continue water purification
Sunday, 9/28	Attend worship service at Cheptuech Africa Gospel where a mission team member will preach
Monday, 9/29	Travel to Masai Mara for 1/2 day safari
Tuesday, 9/30	Early morning safari
	Travel to Nairobi
	Flight back to US
Wednesday, 10/1	Arrive in KCI



Mission Trip Costs	
*Mission Team may assist with funding	
Airfare	\$900-\$1,400 (if tickets are purchased by the end of May)
Luggage Fee (Each way)	\$75 for first and second checked bag if under or 50 pounds \$100 if bags 51-70 pounds \$125 if bag weights 71-100 pounds
Hotel, Transportation, English Speaking Driver & Guide	*Money may be raised by the mission team Sharing twin room - \$1,043 (transport & breakfast included) Single room - \$1,371 Supper \$11.71 per night (5 nights) —Hotel costs include transportation in 4 x 4 Toyota Land Cruiser, Breakfasts, English speaking driver guide, airport transfers
Safari	\$200 two half-day safaris, \$50 meals

CHILDREN’S
MINISTRY TEAM

Jilly Dodge
Marcia O’Neil
Barbara Pressgrove, Nursery
Angela Murry & Brad Peterson,
BLAST

TECHNOLOGY
TEAM

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

WORSHIP TEAM

Keith Sandrock,
Organ/Piano

Pam Sharp, Piano

Madelynn Knisely
Vocals

Cynthia Pereze, Vocals

Donna Curran

Kathleen Thomas

Holy Week Recap

Holy Week began on Palm Sunday with a parade of palms and special music conducted by Kelley Bethell-Smith. We also welcomed our new members to Baldwin First: Paul & Tricia Batchelder, Zachariah Koech, Taylor Bogart, Lori Goodwin, Jon Blackmark, and Jeannette Blackmar.



Maundy Thursday's event was a play from the UpperRoom and a fish supper. Thank you to Brad Peterson, David Hartel, Bob Ford, Roger Boyd, Tyler Bailey, Matt Keller, Mike Curran, Ryan Berg, Paul Batchelder, Bruce Peterson, Glen Sharp, Scott Erwine, and Auggie Lange for their portrayal of Christ and His Disciples. Thank you also to Cory Venable, Baldwin City Beer Company, for his contribution in providing and preparing the fish.



Ives Chapel joined Baldwin First for Good Friday's service. Activities included a moving duet sung by Kelley Bethell-Smith and Riley Smith, *Were You There?* The service culminated in the shrouding of the cross.

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
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

May 11

Mother's Day

May 24

Food Pantry

May 25

Tyler Curtis, Estate Planing

June 22

UMW Cookout

June 23-28

Institute

June 29

Blessing of Pets

All Church Birthday Party
(after service)

July 6 - 10

Vacation Bible School

August 3

Pool Party & Ice Cream Social

August 10

UMW Picnic

Baldwin First was truly blessed with a beautiful Easter service! We had over 200 people attend in person and via social media. If you were not able to attend service, you may watch it on social Media @baldwinfirstumc via Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.

What a joy it as to have our amazing choir, members from Bones Midwest, and such beautiful music from our phenomenal Keith Sandrock. Pam Sharp, and Kelley Bethell-Smith. Thank you, Dr. Frank Perez, for arranging Bones Midwest to be with us!

Be sure to watch Bones Midwest's YouTube performance which is a wonderful concert with narration; this will be sent out to all of Latin America through Dr. Hofferbert's connections in the Nazarene Church.



Through generous donations made by our congregation, the altar was beautifully adorned with Easter Lilies.

The hospitality/fellowship team would like to offer gratitude to the congregation for its generosity during Holy Week. Candy donations allowed BLAST Crew to prepare the egg hunt that delighted our young ones. Side dishes of pastries and salads were the perfect accompaniment to Easter brunch. Once again, bounty beyond measure was provided in response to our requests.

Why are the crosses still up after Easter?



Donna Curran, Altar Guid, explains that there are a total of seven Sundays of Easter, including Easter Sunday itself. The Easter season, or Eastertide, is celebrated for fifty days, ending on Pentecost Sunday, making seven Sundays a crucial part of the liturgical calendar.

Here at Baldwin First, we traditionally keep the crosses up for the first two Sundays after Easter. The Altar will remain in Easter White until Pentecost on June 8.

Why is one of the cloths black?

The black cloth represents Gestas, the thief who denounced Jesus on the cross. Dismas humbled himself before Christ, and Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Thus, Dismas' cloth is colorful, like that of Jesus.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Doug Cheek, Chair
Nancy Arnold
Ryan Berg
Mike Curran
Christi Darnell
Carolyn Groves
Marcia O'Neil
Martha Harris
Katherine Cook, Secretary
Coleen Burgess, Finances

PROTO CREDITS

Dr. Frank Perez

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, 913-980-3831
Care Giving Team Leader,

Rev. Ezekiel Koech, Pastor
785-324-9174

Let us remember and pray for:

Brad, Carolyn, Jennifer, R. Colin,
Tom, Russ, Otis, Cyrus, Judith,
Louise, Mary, Donna DeGraffenreid
Cumley, Calvin-Anne Batchelder's
father, Lonnie Ralston, Brad,
MariBeth Brennaman,
all who are are ill,
all who are lonely,
all who mourn.

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 bar 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!

The Lamplighters continue on the pilgrimage we have been on for several weeks. Although virtual, the journey is more than 1,500 miles and we are doing it primarily on foot! The author of our study did the actual route on foot, and the insight he provides makes clear that the physical, emotional and intellectual trek seeking a better understanding of faith requires much of each of us. We have just passed Great Saint Bernard and are finally in Italy for the rest of our journey on the Via Francigena. Come join us! We meet in the church library.

The Young Adult Class began April 27. Fayth and Aggie Lange are the group leaders. All are welcome!



Madelynn Knisely, Cynthia Perez
Barbara Pressgrove, Riley Smith
Tessley Smith, Elizabeth St. John

Teeny Tears Cutting & Sewing Day

Teeny Tears is a service organization that provides tiny flannel diapers, mini blankets, and no-sew stockinette hats at no charge to hospitals, funeral homes, and bereavement support organizations for families that have suffered the loss of a preemie or micropreemie child through stillbirth or NICU loss. Serving the bereavement community since November of 2011, they currently provide clothing to more than 2,500 hospitals in the United States. Thank you to those members of Baldwin First who make items for this organization!

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.

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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Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
10 am - 2 pm

Website
baldwinfirst.org

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



Missions Team

The Missions Team provided 118 meals at LINK last month. They were served by Brad Peterson, Kathy Cook, Kelley Bethell-Smith, Susie Grossoehme and her mom Jeri, Taylor Bogart, and Roger and Nancy Arnold. The desserts were made by Jeanne Stanley, Kathy Cook, Martha Harris, Olivia Beins Cartwright, and Nancy Arnold. Many thanks for your support on this missions outreach!

The Baldwin Community Food Pantry was happy to be the recipient of the Boy Scout Food Drive on Saturday, April 5. We had a crew of 12 who spent three hours receiving, checking expiration dates, counting, sorting, and stocking 1,100 items on the pantry shelves. We always look forward to the food drive knowing that the residents of Baldwin respond generously to the drive and that the bounty will fill our pantry shelves to help our neighbors!

B.L.A.S.T Activities

B.L.A.S.T. has been busy helping and planning events:

- In April, B.L.A.S.T. helped with special music for Lenten services and assisted with the Easter egg hunt.
- Hring a Friend event for Children's Sunday School Classes on May 4.
- Hosting a Mother's Day appreciation time at 11 am on May 11 for their moms and other important women in our lives



The last class and party for this school year will be on May 18. The group does not meet during summer, but will resume gathering weekly after Labor Day. Watch for information about assisting with VBS. !

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!

Institute

For over 100 years, young people have come to Baker University and Baldwin First to attend United Methodist Youth Institute. Institute is a week of Christian spiritual growth and faith development for high school students. It is intentional about making disciples for the transformation of the world. The week will be packed with powerful worships, impactful small groups, and meaningful workshops. Instituters will stay in the dorms at Baker. Let's welcome these students June 23-28.

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



Holy Week Photos

Dr. Frank Perez



Community Events

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

