



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER



Sifting for Treasure

I visibly cringed at paying \$4 for a bag of souvenir dirt that we would then have to stand in the hot sun while our kids washed and sifted it looking for jewels. I also knew it was one of their favorite activities, and that they would truly “treasure” those gemstones for many years to come as a memory of our time in South Dakota. The water turned on and they shrieked with delight as the gravel, dirt and clay fell through the sifting pans and left behind the glittering chunks of colored gemstones. We spent that evening at our cabin pouring over the little cardboard guide learning the names of their treasures.

Since March of 2020, I have found myself continually coming back to this quote.

“You have been offered “the gift of crisis”. As Kathleen Norris reminds us, the Greek root of the word crisis is “to sift”, as in, to shake out the excesses and leave only what’s important. That’s what crises do. They shake things up until we are forced to hold on to only what matters most. The rest falls away.”

~ Glennon Melton, *Carry On, Warrior: Thoughts on Life Unarmed*

We are in the midst of a re-emergence from the most acute part of this crisis. We are worshipping in the sanctuary. Some of our Sunday Schools and committees have resumed. The start of school will bring much-missed traditions of welcoming college students to our town and filling the air with the sounds of sports and joy and plans are already in place for a return of the Maple Leaf Festival.

I have to stop and wonder though if we have taken a moment to reflect on what treasures we find in our pans. What has come from the sifting? Have we found ways to speak more clearly with others about our boundaries? Have we become more aware of and compassionate towards the most vulnerable among us, not only physically, but mentally, emotionally and economically? Have we found patterns of being together as families that we would miss if we went back to the way things were before?

As churches, both First and Ives have discovered new potentials for reaching beyond our walls. Perhaps we have also rediscovered the importance of fellowship, of life shared in pre-meeting chatter and parking lot laughter. I pray that our return to “somewhat normal” will also involve time to take stock of what we value, and what we do not want to go back to.

Jesus wasn’t just talking about money when he said “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

May we treasure and prioritize those things that help us to love God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In Jesus name,

Rev Amanda Baker



Photo by [De'Andre Bush on Unsplash](#)



NANCY ARNOLD, CHAIR., ARNOLDN448@GMAIL.COM

COUNCIL MINUTES AND FINANCIAL UPDATE (BRAD PETERSON, CHAIR.,
PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM) ARE SUBSEQUENTLY POSTED ONE MONTH LATER
UPON APPROVAL.

Baldwin First United Methodist Church

June 28, 2021

Attendees

Staff: Rev. Amanda Baker, Cat Henry

Council Members: Council Chair Nancy Arnold, Linda Ballinger, Doug Cheek, Donna Curran, Brad Peterson, Kathleen Thomas,

Participant via Zoom: Tara Welch

Advisory Member: Katherine Cook Guest: Frank Perez

Opening

Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

Minutes

Doug moved to approve and Donna moved to accept the minutes from May 24. The motion carried.

Finances

Brad reported that general checking shows a positive trend at this time.

Trustees met with Dustin Petz, the Great Plains Council President, whose goal is to guide the committee to financial success. The capital campaign is being approached on a dual path to weigh necessities and 'wishes.' The boiler issue will be resolved immediately at a cost of \$39,000. Additional heating/cooling expenses are added to the council's 'wish' list at a total of \$140,000. Doug asked the council to consider employing a campaign consultant at 10% of the total to be borrowed. As the budget will be reconfigured next month, the finance team will need to include a line item to demonstrate ability to pay a loan; there must also be a church conference prior to requesting a loan.

SPPRC

Tara reported that the committee did not meet this month. She suggested that a member of her committee join the finance committee.

Caregivers

Linda reported that the group will meet the first Wednesday in July to address care and support of caregivers. She would like to get word out that they are meeting again and are ready to get more people involved. She shared that a memorial service will be held for Roger White on August 14th. UMW will provide a meal.

UMW

There is an upcoming memorial for Victor Nelson. Details are pending.

Fellowship

Donna asked for help gathering ideas for fellowship opportunities for July. The ice cream social will be held in August. Communion will be postponed until July 11.

Digital Bulletin

Linda moved that we adopt the digital bulletin with the fee added to the budget; Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vacation Bible School

The pool party is set for July 6th at 7:00 p.m. Plans are underway for VBS to be held from 6:30-8:00 p.m. each Wednesday in July.

Trustees

Pastor Amanda represented the trustees. The expense of the boiler with supplements to the heating/cooling system comes to \$75,000. A bid for technical updates will allow BFUMC to meet in-person and remote congregants; the bid including two 85" monitors and two cameras comes in at \$60,000. The trustees would like to proceed with an investment in the growth and vitality of the church.

Nancy reported water damage on the lower level.

Pastor's Moment

The new district superintendent is Micki McCorkle. The church conference for loan approval is tentatively planned August 29. There will be signage made available addressing the mask policy.

Closing

Pastor Amanda offered a closing prayer at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine Cook

Most Current Financial Update:

2021 Budget: \$159,300.00 (averaged contribution amount needed each month: \$13,275.00)

May contributions: \$11,353 (YTD contribution percentage needed by this time to stay on course is 49.8%, records indicate we are at 51.6%)



<https://baldwinfirst.org/give-online>



LINDA BALLINGER, CHAIR. LINDABABE43@GMAIL.COM

Time to update our prayer list! Please let Pastor, Linda or the church office know of any prayer requests.

Our church's Care Giving Team also offers visiting, listening and praying with persons experiencing need or challenge.

A prayer group page has been set up on Facebook (<https://rb.gy/98q1nq>) for a few months now that is by request only and is monitored. If so inclined you can request to be part of that group as well.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS ARE EVERY SATURDAY 10AM

LAURA DICKINSON, MISSIONS CHAIR., LDINBC@GMAIL.COM

LINK – BFUMC will serve at LINK on August 28th. If you are interested in serving or providing a dessert for the meal, please contact John Beins at jbeins52@gmail.com or Nancy Arnold at arnoldn448@gmail.com.

Baker University Students return to our community in August. The students are our neighbors and members of our community. Be a welcoming force in the spirit of Christ and fellowship. Invite a student to visit BFUMC and participate.

People of God campaign - We are living through trying times. The coronavirus global pandemic has affected every one of us. At times, we tend to focus on that which separates. But today, we need to remember that we are connected no matter our culture, language, or where we live.

The people of The United Methodist Church have persevered through challenges while remaining deeply-rooted in our Wesleyan heritage. We forge into places of hurt and need, faithfully following Jesus' directive to help our neighbors. As United Methodists, we have and continue to have a footprint of love on this world.

The "[People of God](#)" campaign is meant to serve as a reminder of who we know we have been at our best—the spirit-filled, resilient, missional, connected, faithful, diverse, and deeply-rooted people of God called The United Methodist Church.

Spirit-filled: Even in this time of uncertainty, anxiety, and loneliness, we take comfort in the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in us, we embody love of God and our neighbor in our daily lives. We express that love through acts of piety that bring us closer to God and acts of mercy in service to our neighbor.

Resilient: In times of trial and uncertainty, we persevere with the strength we draw from God and the support of our fellow disciples. In times of unprecedented challenge, we continue to preach good news to the poor (both in-person and online), comfort the grieving, stand with the persecuted, and live according to Christ's teachings.

Missional: We are called by Christ to serve in mission to make new disciples, offer Christ-like love and healing to the world and seek justice for all God's children. Even as our structures, strategies and mission fields change, our mission to share the love of God with all our neighbors continues.

Deeply-rooted: We are deeply-rooted in Christ's teachings, our Wesleyan heritage and our global connection. We follow Christ's mission to make disciples all over the world, informed by the examples of Wesley and Methodists who came before us and connected in the shared experiences of United Methodists everywhere. We learn from both the successes and the mistakes of previous generations, striving always to a more faithful, loving and inclusive church as Christ calls us.

Justice-seeking: We advocate for justice and equality for all God's children and seek to be a church that stands for and with those who are persecuted, mistreated or neglected in today's society. We seek to [dismantle racism](#) and all forms of bigotry both inside and outside of our churches. We strive to be a more inclusive and loving church by speaking on behalf of the oppressed.

Diverse: We celebrate the diversity of our denomination and the many expressions of Methodism conveyed from the different races, languages, nationalities, sexual orientations, and gender identities of our membership. We seek to be a church where everyone feels loved, respected, and empowered to take part in our global mission to make disciples. Let us be reminded to celebrate the many faces of The United Methodist Church across the world.

Connected: Even in the midst of social distancing, isolation, and loneliness, we remain connected to one another as we reach across doorways, border walls and cyberspace to offer love and comfort to one another. Even as we struggle to meet together in person, we have remained in ministry together, sharing resources and lifting one another up in prayer. We've proven that connections remain strong in the face of extraordinary challenges

Faithful: We are a people of faith in all things. We place our trust in God's love as we continue to navigate the mission field in these difficult times and grow in our faith through spiritual practices of worship, prayer, and sacrament. We remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We faithfully give of our time, money, prayer and resources in service to the mission.

#BeUMC



*you're
invited*

*You are cordially invited by Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr to attend the District
Superintendent Installation Service
Of the Reverend Micki McCorkle
To the Five Rivers District of the
Great Plains United Methodist Church Conference
On Saturday afternoon August Seventh at Three-thirty
At the Garnett United Methodist Church
205 South Oak Street, Garnett Kansas*

*A Reception hosted by the Garnett United Methodist Women will follow in
honor of Reverend McCorkle
Special thanks to Pastor David Shrum and the Congregation of the Garnett
United Methodist Church for hosting this event.
Face Masks and Social Distancing are Encouraged.*



Calendar

Worship Services 9:30 AM (In person and Live Online Services)

August 1 Confirmation Class 2pm

August 2 Missions 7:00PM

August 4 Cruising Cupboard 10:30-11:30
am at Baldwin City Library, 800 7th
Ave.

August 8 Confirmation Classes 2PM

August 9 Trustees 7:00PM
August 15 Confirmation Sunday

August 16 Finance 7:00PM
SPPRC 7:00PM
August 23 Council 7:00PM

August 28 LINK

August 30 BFUMC church service for
residence at Vintage Home at 2pm

Church Streaming & Zoom Meeting Links Directory

*Note: Links are accessible in the email version of
this newsletter, the links are not available on
the website version of the Vine due to PDF.*

*Sunday School and Small Groups are
meeting at 10:45p.m. on Sundays*

***9:30 AM Worship Live Stream:
<https://www.Baldwinfirst.org>**

or at

<https://www.facebook.com/baldwinfirstumc>

or at

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC
Mwpl81KtGg7h9AhRfW9NWQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMwpl81KtGg7h9AhRfW9NWQ)**

***For ALL scheduled CHURCH
optional Zoom Mtgs go to**

**<https://zoom.us/join>
mtg ID #: 9644607669
Password: 042020**

News items for the Vine need to be in the office by the evening of Church Council (the 4th Monday of every month). If you prefer to get the newsletter electronically, please provide your email address to the office (594.6612 or office@baldwinfirst.org) to help alleviate mailing costs.
Church office hours 9-2, Monday-Thursday

You can find us on social media @baldwinfirstumc

OUR MISSION IS TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBORS AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

