



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

AUG 2020 NEWSLETTER



Generally speaking, I'm the type of pastor who grows uneasy when folks begin to talk about world events as "apocalyptic"- because in my experience this often goes hand in hand with a way of interpreting both the world and the bible that I find problematic.

However, I have been thinking lately about the word apocalypse, its origins, and what it may mean for this moment in our lives. Apocalypse is a derivative of the Greek "apoclyptein" a verb meaning "to uncover, to reveal." While some view apocalypse as a singular, end-of-the-world event, others see that throughout time and history there have been many moments where the world has reached a moment of apocalypse- uncovering- in which we see ourselves and our world and our relationship to God with renewed clarity. Perhaps this IS *that* kind of apocalypse.

It begs the question, what is being uncovered?

- In our society, what injustices are being uncovered that God is calling us to set right?
- As an institution, what priorities are being uncovered in the life of the church? Are they in line with God's commandments to love the Lord our God with our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves?
- What are we learning about our individual relationships with God? What spiritual hunger has been uncovered for you?

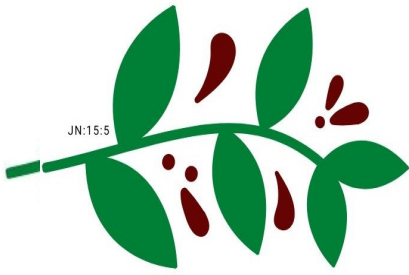
These are not questions with right or wrong answers, but they are questions that I would love to hear you discuss. Please give me a call or send me an email and let me know what's being uncovered for you, and how I can pray for you in this time of uncovering.

With love and blessings,

Rev. Amanda Baker



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



Missions

FOOD PANTRY HOURS ARE EVERY SATURDAY 10AM
LAURA DICKINSON, MISSIONS CHAIR., LDINBC@GMAIL.COM

FOOD PANTRY: The Baldwin Food Pantry continues to provide weekly food vouchers for use at the local grocery store. Our neighbors pick up vouchers in the church parking lot each Saturday between 10-10:30 in a drive-through manner. The pantry will continue to operate in this manner until further notice. THANK YOU to all who support the pantry!

UMC TownHall: The Dismantling Racism initiative is a multi-level effort throughout The United Methodist Church to initiate a sustained and coordinated effort to dismantle racism and promote collective action to work toward racial justice. Two new interactive town hall discussions are planned as part of the “Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom” initiative’s town hall series on anti-racism to explore both old and new approaches to organizing for racial justice in church and community. In the first of the two discussions, participants will hear from a panel of seasoned leaders on August 19 at 12:00 noon CT, followed by a discussion featuring a panel of emerging leaders on August 26 at 12:00 noon CT. The webinar will be available at UMC.org/EndRacismTownHall, as well as a live airing on The United Methodist Church Facebook page.

TOWN HALL DISCUSSION

August 19
12:00PM CT

August 26
12:00PM CT

UMC.org/EndRacism

“Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.” ~John Lewis, 1940-2020

B.L.A.S.T.

BELIEVING. LOVING. AND. SERVING. TOGETHER.

BRAD PETERSON, PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM
ANGELA MURRAY, MURRAYSLANDING@GMAIL.COM

BLAST Crew has been busy throughout the summer even though we can't meet in person! We meet every Sunday morning with an average of about eight Crew members participating. We typically have a lesson, work on a virtual service project, and play a game. We had an update on the generous donations for hygiene items for the Lawrence United Way and on our Pen Pal program (gotta think of a catchy name for that!). In addition, we discussed the chalking project for Outdoor Worship (tentative date 8/15). Our old Zoom link has expired, so be sure to check our private Facebook group (Baldwin First. B.L.A.S.T. Crew) or contact Angela or Brad (at the above emails) for the new login information.



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



CALLING ALL
MEN!



Great God, Great Men

from George Houle, Conference Director of Men's Ministry

Discipleship! Is there really any difference between a follower of Jesus or someone who worships Jesus or someone who is a Disciple of Jesus? Is it possible to be a Christian and not be a Disciple of Jesus? Every church talks about making disciples. How does your church do it? How does your men's ministry help make men into Disciples of Jesus? Dr. Dallas Willard is one of my favorite authors. He was a philosopher known for his writings and teachings on Christian spiritual formation. In his book "The Great Omission", *Reclaiming Jesus' Essential Teachings on Discipleship*", Dr. Willard describes the challenges of churches and the discipleship process. For me, however, he best describes making Disciples in his book "Living in Christ's Presence". In that book Dr. Willard says a good translation of Matthew 28 might be "As you go, make disciples." Making disciples, he says, is a matter of pulling people, of drawing them with you with what you say and do. For me, that means I must first be a Disciple of Jesus to help another person become a Disciple of Jesus. It is a reproductive process.

Your leadership team is focusing on three words to guide us :LISTEN to you and to God so that we may learn how we may better serve in love. As a part of that, we will host periodic **"Roundtables" on ZOOM.**

The first will be August 8 from 8 :15 – 9:30 AM

Stilwell UMM BYOB (Bring Your Own Breakfast) Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/93495911876?](https://zoom.us/j/93495911876?pwd=Y0d5VGtaK2I4ZEU5dDFna096d0JIUT09) pwd=Y0d5VGtaK2I4ZEU5dDFna096d0JIUT09

Password: 317263

Or, if you do not have a mic and/or camera on your computer, you can call into the meeting and enter the ID password when prompted.. Call-in Number: (312) 626 6799

You'll find updated information about this Saturday's Breakfast meeting, below. Our discussion will focus on three important topics:

1. **Why men are important to the life and growth of the church,**
2. **How men can help improve the life and growth of the church, and**
3. **What men can do as individuals or as a group to strengthen their connection and deepen their relationship with Christ.**

Join us and hear how YOU can be the DIFFERENCE! I hope to "see" you then!



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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

DONNA CURRAN, CHAIR., DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM

United Methodist Women Acts Swiftly, Effectively to Save Lives

This is an excerpt from an article by Mary Beth Coudal, a consultant, journalist and teacher. The entire article, with more details, can be found on the UMW website: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/international-covid-19-grants-united-methodist-women>

While Covid-19 has upended daily life worldwide, UMW's national office, local in-country UMW and grassroots organizations have responded swiftly to mitigate the suffering of the most marginalized people in communities: the women, children and youth. Once again, during this pandemic, UMW and their partners are meeting the challenge and are quick, agile and creative in responding to crises.

By the grace and giving of members of UMW, immediate grants for food, hygiene, education, income projects and caregiving have supported faith, advocacy and children's groups who have been directly impacted by COVID-19. Through UMW national office staff team, consisting of Regional Missionaries and in collaboration with in-country working teams, grants were made based on assessed community needs.

In years past, Regional Missionaries have highlighted issues around health, gender equality, elimination of violence among women and support for people who have been uprooted and marginalized. This year is no different.

What follows are several summaries of the more than one dozen emergency grants made by UMW International Ministries in the last three months. The amounts of the grants vary from \$4,000 to \$9,000.

Significant service has been done in Ecuador, Sierra Leone, and Cameroon in rural impoverish neighborhood communities with the necessary provisions, food distribution, spiritual and psycho emotional support, health care guidance, hand washing supplies, legal advice and counseling to strengthen family life.

Taking Swift Action

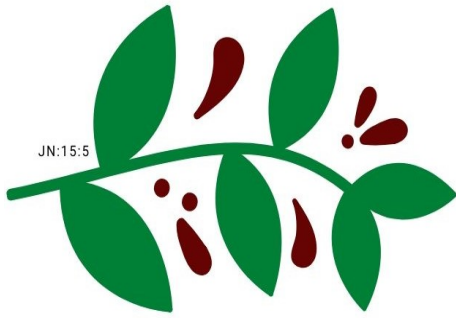
Around the world, UMW is taking swift action to assist and ensure protection of the underserved elderly or disabled people and the women and children who are directly or indirectly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through financial gifts to UMW, international groups are supported as they take unprecedented steps to prevent, care for and heal the people most at risk of suffering from the virus's most devastating consequences. While recognizing that isolation is required to combat the disease, UMW's partners are creating online support opportunities and spatially-distanced communities to share information with neighbors in need.

The initial results of the grants indicate a steady decline in overall exposure when community members work together, educate one another and look out for each other. The power and positivity of international partnership and community-based health advocacy is a foundation upon which the Regional Missionaries program of UMW is built for such a time as this.



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A familiar quote reminds us, “Teachers encourage minds to think, hands to create and hearts to love.” #IGiveUMC wants to inspire you to support local United Methodist churches by donating in honor of influential teachers *to continue the act of kindness.*

Starting **August 1 until August 15**, United Methodists are being asked to honor teachers who have made an impact in their life. They are invited to give to a local United Methodist church and share a special message about how a teacher has shaped their life. Please encourage your church families to pay tribute to these amazing role models and mentors, along with posting about their gift on social media and challenging others to do the same!

Proverbs 22:6, CEB, tells us: “Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won’t depart from it.” Indeed, it takes a village to raise a child. Teachers can be defined in a multitude of ways, whether they are school-teachers, Sunday school teachers, clergy or parents stepping into the roles of professional teachers..

Do you have a teacher in mind as you read this? Sow a seed in a local church, just as your teachers have sown in you. Together, we can

continue to support our church’s mission and celebrate our teachers by giving to local churches. Will you join us?

The #IGiveUMC campaign invites people to support local United Methodist churches in honor or memory of a loved one and their legacy of faith. Donors can choose to support their local church or the church:

- of their honoree
- their family helped found
- of their childhood

Participants are then encouraged to post a photo or video on social media about the gift, celebrating their honoree using #IGiveUMC and inviting others to donate in honor or memory of someone.

From now until **August 15**, we ask United Methodists everywhere to sow a seed on behalf of a teacher in your life and share how others can join you in this celebration by contributing. Be sure to remind people to include #IGiveUMC in their post, as well as details about how to give to your church.





BFUMC “Healthy Congregations” Survey Results

JN:15:5

(NOTE: this is an edited version of a mailing (email and regular mail) of a letter on the same topic written by Donna Reed that was sent earlier.

The Great Plains United Methodist Churches who are part of offer opportunities to secure grant from "Healthy Congregations". In February, Pastor Amanda Baker,

Linda Ballinger, Marilee Beins, Kelley Bethell-Smith, Susan Butell and Donna Reed attended a grant writing training session and they, along with Nancy Arnold, form this committee.

Our committee’s first goal for the congregation and community members was church building safety. In June, we asked the congregation to fill out a survey. Thank you to all for your patience (despite some online glitches) and for those who were able to contribute. The initial part of the grant has been filled out, is completed and we are on our way to securing a \$1,000 grant.

Responses included:

- 1.) Would you be able to help someone who was choking?
Y-26 No-2
- 2.) Would you be able to help someone who needed CPR?
Y-16 N-12
- 3.) Would you know how to use an AED machine?
Y-9 N-19
- 4.) If the training was free and held in our church, would you like to be trained in these areas?
Y-26 N-2
- 5.) Do you know where a first aid kit is located in our church?
Y-6 N-22
- 6.) Do you know where a fire extinguisher is located in our church? Y-9 N-19

Survey recommendations to improve church building safety included:

- improve ramp for wheelchair access;
- more fire extinguishers;
- signage including directions to specific rooms in the church , location of emergency supplies (first aid kits, wheelchairs and fire extinguishers), and who to contact in the event of a building emergency;
- better lighting in the parking lot and stairways;
- handrails on the bottom 2 steps to the basement from the inside main stairway, another by the west door to the choir room and downstairs, and by the women’s downstairs restroom to fellowship hall;
- an AED machine;
- a phone installed downstairs;
- and provide ice melt.

While we can’t tackle all of these this year, we plan to start and hopefully finish the following:

- replace 5 smoke detectors, and possibly carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers;
- signage in the church to let people know where first aid Kits, fire extinguishers, etc., are located;
- provide well stocked first aid kits, including a thermometer and other necessities as a result of Covid-19;
- purchase an AED machine;
- and opportunities for our congregation and the community to receive CPR, first aid, and AED training, free of charge.

We will keep you informed throughout the year on our progress. If all goes well this year, we can apply for another \$1,000 grant each year. If you have any questions, please contact one of the ladies on the committee. Thank you so much!



United Methodist
HealthMinistryFund



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Calendar

AUG 2020



Sundays Worship

8:30AM Outdoor Worship! Please RSVP first by signing in at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4EABAE2AAAF94-outdoor> or you can scan the QR code on the right to retrieve sign in form



10:45AM via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/baldwinfirstumc>) or YouTube ([youtube.com/baldwinfirstumc](https://www.youtube.com/baldwinfirstumc))

No KIDMinistry in the month of August for preparation of school

B.L.A.S.T 9:30AM each Sundays:

old Zoom link expired check private Facebook group (Baldwin First B.L.A.S.T. Crew) for new login info

For all church meetings : <https://kansas.zoom.us/j/9644607669>, password 042020 **unless indicated otherwise**

Typical Monthly Calendar:

Aug. 3 Missions 7:00PM

Aug 17 Finance 7:00PM

Aug. 10 Trustees 7:00PM

Aug 2 LINK*

Aug 17 SPPRC 7:00PM

Aug 24 Council 7:00PM

<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/99933704758>
password: 671682)

(<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/92295961164> password:
889023)

* BFUMC will be serving at LINK on August 22. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Nancy Arnold, arnoldn448@gmail.com or John Beins, jbeins52@gmail.com.

