



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



We Believe Even When...

This Saturday, I stood in the cold rain to record a group of young people spending their Saturday afternoon singing for us. The song they recorded for our worship is one by United Methodist composer Mark Miller, and it has its roots in a poem found on the wall of a prison camp after the holocaust.

The lyrics they sang as the rain beat down can be read to the right:

It was a moment more powerful than I had anticipated.

There is so much about this year that isn't what we would like it to look like. Plans and traditions are being cancelled and altered. We watch and pray in horror and sorrow as the numbers of deaths, hospitalizations and long term health effects climb to unfathomable numbers. We pray alongside our health care workers and long-term care providers. We also pray for our seniors and vulnerable neighbors.

AND - we remember that we are a long way from the first generation to seek Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in the midst of a broken world. Christians before us have celebrated Christmas amid wars, famine, and disease. Our belief in the Incarnate God- Immanuel, the One who loves us enough to join us in the heartache and sorrow of human existence is not reliant on a picture perfect Christmas. The story marketed to us that we need to plan and create our own joy is a lie.

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are not the things we create in advent. They are gifts we receive. We may have to look a little harder, listen a little more closely, pay a little more attention this year, but when we find them, I know we won't be able to help but share them with the world. This year will not be like other years- and yet..

We believe in the sun - even when... even when it's not shining.

Peace,
Rev. Amanda L. Baker

I Believe IN *Sun*
EVEN WHEN *Shining*
IT IS NOT

I Believe in *Love*
EVEN WHEN *Feel it*
I CANNOT

I Believe in *God*
EVEN WHEN HE IS SILENT



Advent Worship

Coffee Hour/Fellowship

*ZOOM at 10:30AM, Sundays

Christian Education and Discipleship Opportunities
*Pre-K through 5th grade SS 9:30AM ZOOM
*B.L.A.S.T. Crew 9:30AM ZOOM, Sunday mornings

Special Events/Services

- *Gratitude Pause/Thanksgiving Day - FB LIVE 10AM on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26
- *Hanging of the Greens Video/digital Tour of the church will Nov. 29

- *Living Nativity Sunday, Dec. 6, 4:30-5:30 (Christmas Eve Kits will be available for pickup and delivery)

- *Children's Program (retelling Luke 2) Premiere's within worship on Dec. 13th

- **"Fill the Night with Music" a virtual gift of music from BFUMC will premiere 7PM, Thursday, Dec. 17th

- *Longest Night Service will be streamed Monday, 6:30PM Dec. 21st

****re-Premiere Children's Program at noon on Dec. 24th***

****Christmas Eve Premiere 7PM Dec. 24th***

****ZOOM Communion and Candlelight devotion 8PM Dec. 24th***

Zoom ID number for all events is 9644607669.

~An Invitation to Help Out on Christmas Eve With Sharing of the (Candle)Light of Christ With Each Other!~



Who: For You and your family and by extension the rest of the church family
What: On Christmas Eve, the Christ Candle in the center of the Advent wreath is traditionally lit in many church services. In candlelight services, for this project (this year) each person will video one with a candle light and pass along their light, representing the flame of the Christ Candle, to the next person
Where: filming from your location
When: You film the sharing of the candle light with the submission deadline due to Pastor Amanda at 316.207.3740 by December 15
How: Using your cell phone, film a clip of only one person at time in your group who then in-turn passes the lit candle moving from the left side of the screen turning to the center then moving on to the right with the lit candle, no more than 5 seconds of the film please. (see video example: <https://youtu.be/CVRz1YZ0H18>) With the magic of the digital technology, the videos will be connected showing the passing of Christ's light. Candles will be distributed 4:30 to 5:30

at the Live Nativity, Dec. 6 or you can use your own candles.



BELIEVING. LOVING. AND. SERVING. TOGETHER.

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



There was a fun Christmas project to be had by the B.L.A.S.T. crew.. Missions members made Advent wreaths for the Baldwin Care Center, Vintage Park and for seniors who aren't able to get out. We (B.L.A.S.T.) helped by making cards to go with them! Embracing our digital service experience, we took festive photos during

BLAST Crew on a Sunday morning when we made the cards (Photo for illustration purposes only!) Many thanks to Nancy Arnold for helping coordinate this!

Christmas Luminaries

Below is a digital sign up sheet for those who would like to donate so Luminaries (instead of poinsettias) this year. The donation cost is \$10 each. Once you sign up please send checks payable to BFUMC, putting luminaries in the memo line. We will place the orders accordingly. Please indicate for any designation for the luminaries as a memorial or in honor of someone.



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb2H345gOD9GEJwqyybLBt0MNkiabMGL4mrXUKR7Tc3hoHg/viewform?usp=pp_url



Council Minutes

DOUG CHEEKS, CHAIR. CHEEKS4197@MSN.COM

Council minutes are posted a month after the meeting once they have been approved and accepted

Baldwin First United Methodist Church
October 26, 2020
~via Zoom

Attendees: Staff: Reverend Amanda Baker, Council Members: Council Chair Doug Cheek, Linda Ballinger, Donna Curran, Laura Dickinson, Darren Lawrenz, Brad Peterson. Kathleen Thomas, Tara Welch, Advisory Member: Katherine Cook Guest: Cat Henry

Opening

Doug opened the meeting at 7:05 with a prayer.

Minutes

The following correction will be made to the minutes of September, 2020: children are welcome in the building, but there no current plans to begin Sunday School. Linda moved to approve September's minutes with corrections. Tara seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Church Conference Paperwork

Council will meet via Zoom on Sunday, November 1st at 4:00 p.m. to finalize paperwork for Conference.

Ideas for Advent

- A list of ideas to help celebrate Advent include
- Food Pantry Stocking Event
- Baldwin First's Got Talent
- Blue (aka: Longest Night) Christmas Service
- Living Nativity
- Hanging of the Greens (recorded)
- Luminaries
- Illuminating Stained Glass
- Open House to view decorations
- Christmas Eve Service
- Children's Christmas Choir (recorded)
- Virtual "Silent Night"

Reopening

It was determined that we will have an in-person 8:30 service in addition to an in-person service and live stream at 10:45. The sanctuary will be disinfected between services. Meetings will continue to be virtual.

(Newsletter Editor's note: Since this meeting, changes have been made that all services will be streamed from now and at least through Christmas when reopening metrics will then be reviewed.)

Finance and Stewardship

An Edward Jones account is set up for donations. Upcoming expenses include replacing the roof of the parsonage. Monies will be pulled from restricted funds to help meet this financial need. Leslie is asking for discussion prior to spending since finances are low. The general checking account at the end of September was in the red, but giving in October looks promising. The committee has talked about the budget, but feels unable to make a firm commitment at this time. They will have a better idea in November, offering a plan in two halves. It is the intention of the committee to be as transparent as possible with the congregation. The committee is examining continued use of the cleaning service. Building and Maintenance. A 50-year roof will be put on the parsonage at a total cost just over \$10,000.

We are still seeking an electrical group with scaffolding that will allow us to change spotlights.

SPPRC

Tara shared that the committee is in the position of facing some difficult conversations. They are seeking creative solutions, and believe that all decisions will be made in the spirit of love.

UMW

The ladies will hold a drive-thru turkey dinner on November 14, from 5-7. Orders can be made on-line or called in. Volunteers have agreed to make pies and prepare turkeys. A BHS ensemble will perform during pickup.

Closing

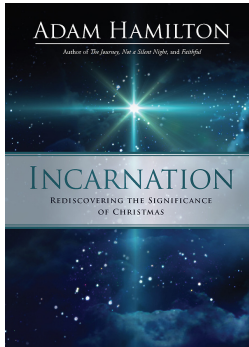
Pastor Amanda offered a prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Cook



Missions

FOOD PANTRY HOURSE EVERY SATURDAY 10-10:30AM
LAURA DICKINSON, MISSIONS CHAIR., LDINBC@GMAIL.COM



Advent Study - Incarnation, Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas by Adam Hamilton will be the course of the study. We will be meeting on Thursday afternoons at 3 p.m. and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm with the sessions beginning on December 3rd. If you are interested in joining the conversation, please send an email to ldinbc@gmail.com for additional information.

Give Love Campaign

Between November 1 and December 31, churches and individuals can be part of the Give Love campaign to help transform the lives of people around the world. This year-end campaign supports the transformational work made possible by financial gifts through The Advance. The Advance is an accountable, designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100% of each gift is used for its intended mission or ministry. This Advent season, please consider giving love, joy, hope and peace to those in need. Following is a letter received with helpful information.

Dear Friends in Mission,

The year 2020 has been one of great challenges and changes. In the midst of this upheaval, one thing has remained constant: Missio Dei, God's mission.

Our work continues as well for abundant health for all, disaster response and recovery, the work of missionaries around the world and evangelism and church revitalization. This is why we ask for your participation in the GIVE LOVE campaign November 1–December 31. We need your help to give love, joy, hope and peace to those who need it the most - in our neighborhood, in our state and across the globe.

There are several ways to participate in the GIVE LOVE campaign: through prayer, social media posts and monetary gifts.

Visit umcmmission.org/givelove to see how your donation impacts lives, and while you are there read stories of the transformational work happening through Global Ministries and UMCOR.



This is a great time for the church to further God's mission and join with others to GIVE LOVE in a season of need. Together we can make a difference.

*In Christ,
The General Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR*

Webinar Series Aims to Help Mental Health

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Because of COVID-19 and the inequalities it has exacerbated, adults are reporting considerably higher mental stress. The Rev. Justin Coleman and panels of therapeutic and pastoral experts will lead four webinars to discuss the practical and spiritual disciplines needed for surviving this season. The webinars are scheduled for 2-3 p.m. U.S. Central time Dec. 1, 3, 8 and 10. To [learn more and register](#) :

A Season of Gratitude

During Advent, practice active gratitude. Each day write something about which you feel gratitude and place the note in a container. On Christmas Day: read each one aloud, savor, and give thanks.



UMW

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
DONNA CURRAN, CHAIR., DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM



A Christmas kit (to include a candle for Christmas Eve service) will be distributed the night of the Live Nativity.

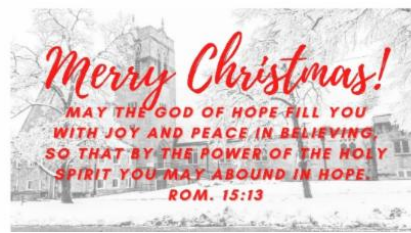


Caregivers

LINDA BALLINGER, CHAIR. LINDABABE43@GMAIL.COM

Care Givers Support Group

Our group will follow the County & State's suggested rules for safety. We will be meeting in our regular meeting timed-- 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM. We will be doing it on ZOOM. We will continue with this plan as long as the virus is among us. Dec 2nd is our next get-together. If you would like to join us, please contact me, Linda, at 913-980-3831 or lindababe43@gmail.com, & I'll give you the info. If you have any questions or problems that you'd like to have answered, please let me know.



**Worship Services
10:45AM Live Steamed
Services**

Nov. 29 1st week of Advent - Hope

Dec. 1 Giving Tuesday

Dec. 6 2nd week of Advent-Peace
Live Nativity 4:30-5:30

Dec. 7 Missions mtg 7:00PM

Dec. 13 3rd week of Advent-Joy

Dec. 14 Trustees mtg 7:00PM

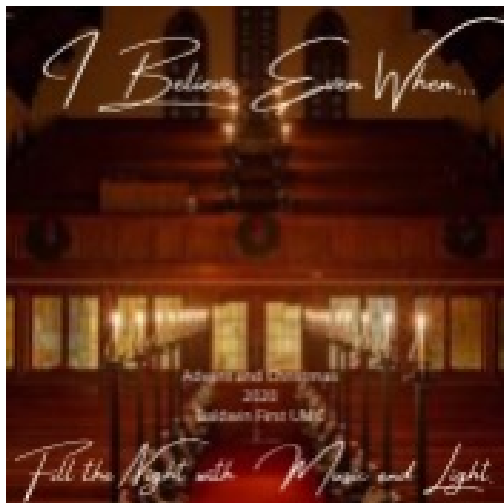
Dec. 20 4th week of Advent-Love

Dec. 21 Finance 7:00PM

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
Advent-the Christ candle

Dec. 25 Christmas

Dec. 28 No Council Mtg



**Church Internet Addresses &
Zoom
Links Directory**

Note: Links are assessable in the email version of this newsletter, the links are not available on the website version of the Vine due to the way it is posted.

Sunday 10:30AM Virtual Coffee time

<https://zoom.us/join>

mtg ID#: 98614212250

Sunday 10:45AM Worship Sign Up if attending in building at

<https://www.reopen.church/r/FINU>
[SZyc](#)

otherwise

*10:45AM Worship Live Stream:

<https://www.Baldwinfirst.org>

or at

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

or at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMwpl81KtGg7h9AhRFW9NWQ>

For ALL CHURCH Zoom Mtgs go to

<https://zoom.us/join>

mtg ID #: 9644607669

Password: 042020

ADMIN NOTES: NEWS ITEMS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST GOING ON IN YOUR AREAS OF MINISTRY (FROM LAST MONTH TO UPCOMING EVENTS) FOR THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE BY THE EVENING OF CHURCH COUNCIL (THE 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH). YOUR CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED! IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS BY MAIL AND HAVE AN EMAIL, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS (594.6612 OR WWW.BALDWINFIRST.ORG) TO SAVE ON MAILING COSTS. CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE 9 TO 2, MONDAY & WEDNESDAY FOR THE NEAR TERM. THANK YOU.

one last word...

Where do turkeys go to dance?



The Butterball.



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