



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# The Vine

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



Beloveds in Christ,

The Beatles famously sang:

“All you need is love,  
All you need is love,  
All you need is love, love,  
Love is all you need.”

And maybe that feels or sounds overly simplistic and naive amidst the things that divide us right now. But then again...

Once upon a time, there was a teacher of the law who came to Jesus and asked,

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” ~Matthew 22: 36-40 (NIV)

So maybe the Beatles were onto something after all?

What would it look like if this became our highest goal for 2022? What if we let LOVE be the driving force behind everything we do (and what we decide not to do?)

How can we best love the children of our community?

How can we love the senior saints among us?

How can we love adolescents in our community finding their way in the midst of a pandemic?

How can we love folks whose chests tighten at the thought of stepping into a stone and stained glass sanctuary?

How can we love folks fighting every single day to hang onto sobriety?

How can we love the parents of young children?

How do we love folks facing food insecurity?

Not just while the stores are bedecked in pink and red hearts for Valentine’s Day- but all year long, as a spiritual practice, and each time we reach out to another in love, perhaps we will better realize how much we are loved by God.

Be Loved. Be Love.

-Rev Amanda Baker



The weekly worship Bulletin can also be downloaded from website (at the above link or https://baldwinfirst.org/worship-bulletin ) and printed at home for your convenience when worshipping online.

NANCY ARNOLD, CHAIR., [ARNOLDN448@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ARNOLDN448@GMAIL.COM)  
COUNCIL MINUTES AND FINANCIAL UPDATE (BRAD PETERSON, CHAIR.,  
PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM) ARE SUBSEQUENTLY POSTED ONE MONTH LATER  
UPON APPROVAL.



There was no Council meeting in December.

**Most Current Financial Update:**

2021 Budget \$151,740.00 (averaged contribution amount needed each month: \$12,645.00) total contributions for the month of December was \$15,977.47 with records indicating general budget is at 100% needed contributions by the end of of the year.



Thank you!  
<https://baldwinfirst.org/give-online>  
to a designated fund: general funds, food pantry, or Capital Campaign

***When do we get to come back inside?***

This is a burning question for all of us. I know that you miss being together, coming to the sanctuary- sharing prayer requests and laughs with your church family. I miss it too. Preaching to a nearly empty sanctuary is still weird. Even after all this time.

So I want to let you know what our decision process looks like at this time. I will send an email to members of the Church Council on the evening of Feb 2. That email will include a chart of recommendations from the conference: <https://www.greatplainsumc.org/coronavirus> and a snapshot of our current situation using numbers from [www.covidactnow.org](http://www.covidactnow.org). We will take into account overall case numbers, the trends in new cases, and the percent of local ICU beds utilized.

We will decide by Thursday, Feb. 3rd whether we are ready to resume in-person worship, and will send out a mass email/text, and share the news via social media.

*In the meantime - please join me in praying for our church leadership, our local first responders, and the school leadership in our community.*



FOOD PANTRY HOURS ARE EVERY SATURDAY 10AM  
LAURA DICKINSON, MISSIONS CHAIR., [LDINBC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LDINBC@GMAIL.COM)



**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR** – To start off 2022, here are some examples of ways we are and can live by to love our neighbors. You are welcome to join in!

Here is a calendar of the first six months of 2022 of tangible ways to show love to our neighbors:

**January – BC Public Library.** We are coordinating with the BC Public Library for the purchase of books celebrating cultural diversity. If you would like to support this with a monetary donation, identify the donation as earmarked for Missions: Library.

**January 29 –LINK (Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen)** serving lunches

**February – Lawrence Community Shelter** – support can be provided by going directly to the website, [lawrenceshelter.org](http://lawrenceshelter.org), under the header DONATE there is an Amazon Wish List with a variety of items that support the shelter and those served. Items can be purchased and sent directly to the shelter, or a donation can be made directly to Lawrence Community Shelter, 3655 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawrence, Ks 66046

**March – Baldwin Community Food Pantry** - We are in hopes we will be back in the building in March and donations of laundry detergent can be placed in the grocery cart in the Narthex during the month of March.

**March is also UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday, the 27th** - we recognize and celebrate the work done in response to U.S. and international disasters, disease, poverty, refugee and immigrant assistance, clean water, and hunger.

**April – Celebration of God’s Creation/Earth Day** – the weather will dictate a group activity

**April 7<sup>th</sup> – BU Chapel** – will serve BU students lunch after chapel

**April 23 – LINK** serving meal

**April 25<sup>th</sup> - World Malaria Day** – a donation can be made to the United Methodist Church initiative to end malaria, Imagine No Malaria at <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-418-imagine-no-malaria.aspx>

**May 01 – May Day baskets** to the nursing homes and assisted living facilities

**May 06 – Appreciation of all USD 348 personnel**

**June – Baldwin Community Food Pantry - June 05 is Pentecost, the birthday of the church** – gather birthday cake kit items for the Baldwin Community Food Pantry

**July - Baldwin Community Food Pantry** – donations of peanut butter and jelly as students are out of school and at home during summer months

*"Compassion becomes real when we recognize our shared humanity" ~Pema Chödrön*



## Kids Ministry

During Sunday School this past month, our children learned about Joshua. The first three weeks of February theme will be on "Beloved Community " On **February 27th**, a Lenten workshop starting on "The Way: Walking in the footsteps of Jesus" for the Lenten season.

You can interact with us

on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KidMinistryAtBaldwinFirstUnitedMethodistChurch>

Sunday School teachers are Donna Curran, Marcia O'Neill, and Cynthia Perez.

## The Ministry of Presence:

*Cultivating Relationships  
in an Ever-Changing World*



Join internationally-known professional coach and trainer **George Howard** as he guides members of small membership churches to explore the gifts, challenges, and opportunities in their congregations and communities.

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**Online  
Workshop**  
with  
**George  
Howard**



**Saturday, February 26, 2022**

**9:00-11:30am CST**

Participants will:

- Encounter the power of presence
- Gain skills in building relationships
- Learn how to have hard conversations with people holding different perspectives
- Discover ways to be present with people through difficult and changing times

Small membership churches are an essential part of the community and this workshop will help strengthen their ability to respond to God's call.

Held via Zoom, the workshop will include presentations, interviews, stories, examples, and small group discussions.



**Register** at [www.tasmcm.org](http://www.tasmcm.org)

**Deadline:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022

**Cost:** \$10.00/person

For group info contact Carl Ellis  
at (785) 445-2595 or [cellis@tasmcm.org](mailto:cellis@tasmcm.org)

## Go Ahead: Make My Day!

I think we can all agree on one thing: it's been a difficult couple of years for most people. Covid-19 has been at the forefront of everyone's mind, whether it's been an illness or death among family and friends, an uncertain work situation or the general sense of unrest.

In challenging times, we also know that kindness makes a difference, and the act of giving usually makes us feel better, too. Here are 5 ways you can make someone else's day—and receive that joy back tenfold.



**1) Buy someone a cup of coffee.** Sometimes a cup of coffee or tea is not just a liquid refreshment—it's a gesture that can make someone's day! It means they didn't have to prepare it themselves, or maybe they choose a specialty beverage that they would never make on their own. Give them the gift of a few minutes of relaxation as they enjoy that beverage. Cold or hot, a handmade beverage can make someone's day! (Added suggestion: pay a cup of coffee forward anonymously for the next person and see how long continues with the next person doing the same)

**2) Offer to do some yard work.** There are some people who look forward to the change of seasons: the falling leaves or a beautiful snowfall. There are others who see these natural events as a nuisance: it means they have to rake leaves, shovel snow, etc. If you are physically able to lend a hand, make someone's day by helping. If you are already shoveling your own driveway, help a neighbor by taking care of their sidewalks.

**3) Volunteer more.** For some people, volunteering is a regular activity built into their schedules. For others, they can't seem to find the time. Make someone's day by committing to a volunteer assignment. Look toward your church or organization to help you find something that works with your schedule. Make it something you will enjoy or that is of personal interest so you'll want to volunteer more regularly.

**4) Write someone a personal note.** For the cost of a stamp, you can make someone's day! Send someone a card or a letter. There doesn't need to be a specific purpose, but imagine the joy you might bring when that person finds it in their mailbox. Keep it short by saying "hello" or "thinking of you." Who knows, they may return the favor and you may find one in your own mailbox shortly after.

**5) Ask someone what they need.** For people who are struggling, it is always good to know that someone cares enough to ask. Ask someone what may help a situation they are in, and then see if you can meet the need. It may be monetary, but there also may be a different solution. Even if you can't help with that particular need, you may know someone who can. At the very least, the person knows that you cared enough to ask.

Let's all commit to making someone's day soon!

this article recently was published in the Safe Gatherings' (a group affiliated and used by UMC to protect our most vulnerable populations) newsletter

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*Virtual Worship Services  
10:45 AM (Watch for when we  
return to In person Services)*

Feb 7 Missions Mtg 7:00PM

Feb 8 Care Giving Mtg 1:00PM

Feb 14 Trustees Mtg 7:00PM  
Valentine's Day

Feb 21 Finance Mtg 7:00PM  
SPPRC Mtg 7:00PM  
President's Day

Feb 28 Council Meeting 7:00PM

*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 10:45a.m. on Sundays*

**\*9:30 AM Worship Live Stream:**

**<https://www.Baldwinfirst.org>**

or at

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

**\*For ALL scheduled CHURCH  
meetings there is an  
optional Zoom Mtgs:**

**<https://zoom.us/join>**

**mtg ID #: 9644607669**

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](mailto:office@baldwinfirst.org)) to help alleviate mailing costs.

**Church office hours 9-2, Monday-Thursday**

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

