

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER



Letting God do a new thing through us.

By now many, if not all of you, have heard that, beginning July 1, I have been appointed by the Bishop of the Great Plains Annual Conference to serve as pastor for both BaldwinFirst and Ives Chapel UMC's in Baldwin City.

You might be wondering how we got here. I am reminded of Jesus words to Nicodemus, the Spirit blows where it will, and we know neither where it comes from or where it goes. In December, as we budgeted for 2021, we made the difficult decision as a congregation to reduce my time and salary to ¾ time as well as for the other staff members. In the last 6 months, we've done some creative work to become more lay led in our ministries, and made a leap of faith in changing our Sunday morning schedule.

I could not see yet as this unfolded, how it would prepare us for God's next big invite.

This year, Linda Hopwood, pastor of Ives Chapel UMC since 2019, is retiring. Through prayer and consultation, Rev. Dr. Tom Brady, the District Superintendent who oversees our churches in the Five Rivers district, and I came to believe that these two churches were being called into a new relationship that was more than functional and fiscal. We believe that God is inviting the people called Methodists in Baldwin City to become even more intentional in our collaboration and partnership for the mission of God in the world.

We wondered though, whether the lay leadership of the two congregations would hear that call too? It has filled my heart immensely to watch as faithful people in both congregations weighed the logistical complications against the mission along possibilities and opted to respond with hope.

With such discernment from all levels, and so many things pointing to God's hand at work, it is with joy that I too respond, "Hennen!" (Here I Am.) I give thanks to God for all that has led us here, and for the promise that God will be with us in all that is to come. Thanks be to God!

Rev. Amanda Baker



Summer 2021 Updates for BFUMC

Hello, singing and in-person worship time. Welcome back! It has been missed. Meet your new friends: masks and social distancing!

As of Sunday, June 6, 2021, in-person worship household groups are asked to continue to mask and maintain social distancing of 6+ feet from other households sitting in the pews. Please remember not to encroach on the space around another household, so that all may feel comfortable and welcome in the sanctuary.

A consideration on the continuation for the need for masks are the children that are rejoining in worship services After they have had access to vaccines for at least 2 months, after our county has achieved a vaccine rate of 70% of eligible residents, or until the infection rate in our county warrants a change in this policy.

Masks will be available in the church for those who forget them.

We will return to singing while wearing masks. Bibles, hymnals, and songbooks will be back in pews along with a new friend: a bottle of "hand sanitizer". Please do not share books or the pew sanitizer you're using between multiple households.

Wearing masks at committee meetings & adult small groups is encouraged, and all groups should choose a space that allows for adequate distancing. A group may decide that they are comfortable removing masks while gathered. More details about gatherings for Sunday school and confirmation can be found below.

Stay tuned for info on future fellowship information that will resume after worship. Meanwhile, we remember with Wesley's three simple rules: do no harm, do good and stay in love with God.



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

April 26, 2021

~via Zoom

Attendees

Staff: Reverend Amanda Baker; Council Members: Council Chair Nancy Arnold, Linda Ballinger, Doug Cheek, Donna Curran, Brad Peterson, Kathleen Thomas, Tara Welch; Participants via Zoom: Laura Dickinson, Cat Henry, Darren Lawrenz, Advisory Member: Katherine Cook

Opening

Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes

Linda moved and Doug seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion carried.

Finances

The past month showed positive trends. \$66,703 in donations through March represents 42% of the year-to-date budget. Additionally, the PPE loan came through. Upcoming expenses include the boiler and technology for worship in addition to ongoing concerns. We will be holding a capital campaign for these large ticket items. Trustees and the finance committee will meet to determine how to proceed.

SPPRC

Tara shared recent activities. The committee finished the pastoral and church vitality report. There is a plan for staff appreciation that will be made available on-line as well as during service. There is also a plan in place to proceed with the Mildred Allen Scholarship.

Caregivers

Linda asked permission to use the building for a meeting on May 5th. The group is anxious to meet face to face again. May 30th is Don Nutt's birthday. Donna will be arranging a basket and cards. Linda will contribute to "The Vine" that she has set a goal of recognizing veterans in our faith circle by Memorial Day.

Healthy Congregations

May 4th at 1:30 p.m. is scheduled for the Bike Launch. A bike rack will be available on the west side of the church for bike check-out.

Missions

Laura offered the list of endeavors of the team. A Lenten mailing was sent to the church membership. Additionally, the team provided Lenten kits for Vintage Park, the nursing home, and several members who have restricted mobility. Upcoming activities include: a service day for grounds-cleaning, May Day baskets created by Blast Crew and Missions, honoring of all things educational on May 8 (poster board and stakes to be provided), and Peace with Justice Sunday at the end of the month.

UMW

Donna indicated that the picnic will be rescheduled for some time in May. Mothers' Day bags will be assembled for the food pantry.

VBS Kickoff

A pool party has been scheduled for the first Wednesday in July. The theme will be Hero Central. This year the event will be held on Wednesday nights throughout July.

Sunday School

Donna reported that even with the difficulties of isolation and the world of Zoom, she has had 7-8 young people consistently. Fellowship Hall will be used for the children to assemble when school ends.

Trustees

Darren has been seeking options and estimates for the boiler. The church also needs the LED spots for the chancel area converted, and an updated video system. There will be a change in janitorial services the first of May.

BLAST Crew

A 5-K run/walk will be held on May 23rd to benefit the district.

Pastor's Moment

Pastor Amanda invited Cat to share a function of Breeze that offers a digital bulletin to accompany the service. Confirmation classes begin the 2nd week of June on Sunday evenings. There will be one class for 9th graders and above and another for 7th and 8th graders. Confirmation is scheduled for August 15th. Pastor Amanda asked the council for recommendations for concerns for repairs in the church as well as ideas to bring the church into the next phase of worship and ministry. Discussion centered on critical and vital concerns (those things that will add vitality to the ministry of the church). The most pressing concern at the moment is the boiler. Suggestions for vital concerns include lighting, video screens, a ramp, bathroom improvements, air conditioning units, web conferencing capabilities, electronic marquee, landscaping, and improvements to the playground and the 12-step room.

Closing

Pastor Amanda offered a closing prayer at 8:20 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Katherine Cook



Recent photo of the launch of the Community Bike Share program initiated by the Healthy Congregations Pictured (LtoR) Cody Anno (of State Farm Insurance), Niki Manbeck (of The Nook), Marliee Beins, Lori Trojan (of Chamber of Commerce Director), Nancy Arnold, George McCrary (of Kansas State Bank), Pastor Amanda Baker, and Susan Butell

Most Current Financial Update:

The Finance Committee is continuing to work with the Trustees to prepare for repairs/replacement (Boiler) to the Church Building and we will have more of an update in our next newsletter. We are still meeting monthly and being financially responsible in every decision we make. If you have any specific questions, you are more than welcome to reach out to Brad Peterson at 816-392-1225.

Contribution plates are available in the Narthex on tables (in lieu of passing the plate during services) for those who wish to tithe that are attending in-person worship. Also, feel free to mail your offering to the church if that is convenient with Online giving Sign up available as well through the church management software Breeze. Sign up for online giving by visiting the "Give" tab on the church's website (Baldwinfirst.org) as well as designating where to direct funds (to the general fund or food pantry). Thank you for your generosity.



VOLUNTEER
all that's missing is U!

Sign up here for upcoming volunteer opportunities at <https://bit.ly/3e8AA0u>
Thank You!



photo courtesy of
Baldwin City Community News

Happy 100th Birthday Don Nutt!

Don Nutt celebrated his 100th birthday May 30th. A life long resident of Baldwin City, he is a member of BFUMC and has served as in their Admin Council. He retired after a 40-year career as president of the Baldwin State Bank in 1990 and then continued as working owner of Nutt Real Estate. He served the community as a school board member and on the Baker University Board of Directors. He and his wife, Ruth Ann will celebrate their 79th wedding anniversary on September 20th followed by another celebration of her 100th birthday on November 14th. They now live at Brandon Woods Retirement Community in Lawrence

From the office:

In the works is a digital bulletin (much like the pre-pandemic paper worship bulletins used) for consideration by Council for Sunday morning worshippers (both for in-person worship and for those live streaming) for preview in the month of June.

Beginning June 6, an initial sample from the previous Memorial day weekend worship service will be made available so you can become familiar with how to navigate the app (accessible through a QRcode and URL provided that Sunday). Then each of following Sundays of this month, a digital bulletin for that Sunday worship will be accessible.



"Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people..." (1Cor 9:19 MSG)

As we approach post-pandemic worship, communication methods will not be so much "either/or" but more like "both/and." For over a year now, BFUMC's live stream guest presence has increased with the numbers beginning to level out post pandemic. It appears in the future this may be a new way people visit churches initially. Recently, four different guests/visitors said they first watched a service before they came to our in-person worship.

Production and reproduction of printed or pdf bulletins will eventually resume, although combined with a digital bulletin and the worship slides, bulletins will not be produced in the same quantities as before helping eliminate paper waste and costs. In the spirit of what the Apostle Paul said of "...being all things to all people that we might win some for Christ.." without compromising our faith or Christ's message (1Cor. 9:19), is the idea behind providing different opportunities and styles for people to engage with our church for worship and information. The use of digital technology along with traditional print medians will be made available. Hopefully, you will find or discover what works best for you.



BELIEVING. LOVING. AND. SERVING. TOGETHER.

BRAD PETERSON, PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM

ANGELA MURRAY, MURRAYSLANDING@GMAIL.COM

BLAST crew will take a break for the summer. Their year-end celebration, May 23rd, concluded with the 5k to support Mental Health Training in our conference with 14 people participating.

A reminder that confirmation classes begin Sunday, June 12, 2 to 4 p.m. The basic procedures (masks, distancing, snacks outside) will be in place but with some adjustments as we learn the vaccination rate of this group which is a static population.

We will not meet on June 20 (Father's Day) or July 4th, as we believe family time to be essential in faith formation. On Sunday, July 18, a "mini-retreat" that begins with worship on Sunday and ends with dinner with parents and mentors at 6pm is scheduled. Summer often includes sports camps, family vacations and other things, so we will offer ways to engage virtually when you need to be gone. Please let us know of your interest to attend at:

<https://bit.ly/2Svkvta>



CYNTHIA PEREZ, CYNTHIAAPEREZ1975@GMAIL.COM

Children's Sunday School is Returning the Building!

The first Sunday in June, Kids Ministry will be meeting in the fellowship hall for Sunday School from 10:45-11:45 (zoom option will still be available). Students will be masked. Snack time will be outdoors when possible which also offers mask breaks. Social distancing will be encouraged. Children should not attend if they are exhibiting signs of illness, or have experienced a potential exposure to Covid 19 or other contagious illness. Students will be asked to continue to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer on arrival, before snack, and at dismissal. Individual supply boxes/baggies will be provided rather than shared supplies.

Start VBS off this year with a splash at a pool party planned for Tuesday, June 6 at 7 p.m. at the community pool (317 Fremont St) the night before the weekly classes begin.

The theme, appropriately enough for the kids after the past year, is "Hero Central". VBS classes will be scheduled for each Wednesday evening in July, commencing the 7th. Watch for more information about registration. If you can help please volunteer at the link provided above.





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

Peace With Justice (PWJ) in the United Methodist Church

“Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.” Psalm 106:3 (NRSV)

- “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” Mother Theresa
- “Justice denied anywhere diminishes justice everywhere.” Martin Luther King Jr.
- “On Peace with Justice Sunday, the spirit of truth moves through our congregation, pouring out love as we support ministries that build up peace and justice in our conference and around the world.” How will you share your congregation’s message of peace with justice?

Peace with Justice is a faithful expression of shalom in the Bible. It calls the church to strengthen its capacity to advocate publicly in communities and nations throughout the world. It aims to make shalom visible and active in people’s lives and communities by setting people free from bondage. We will celebrate Peace with Justice as witnesses to God’s demand for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world.

In Arizona border towns, communities facing social challenges are dramatically divided. In Liberian villages, citizens’ human rights are being violated. In local U.S. communities, women and girls are being bought and sold against their will.

Moved by Christ’s love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God’s image, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice.



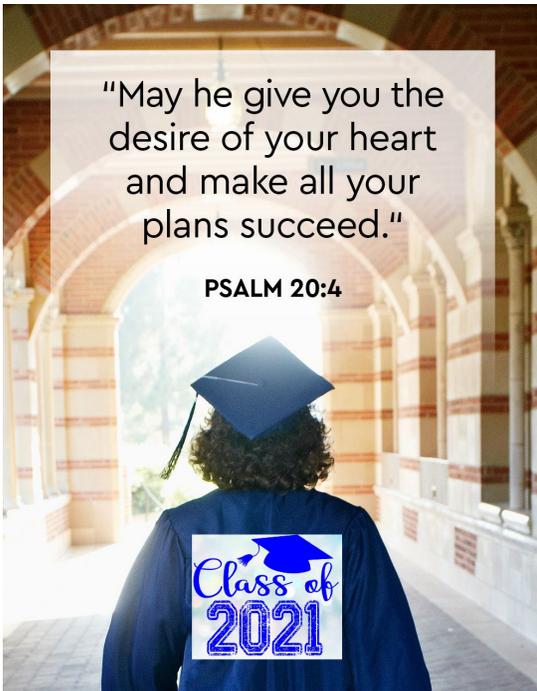
When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination’s Social Principles to address social-justice issues
- Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex trafficking at home and abroad
-

These initiatives, and hundreds of other ones, are possible because you give. Make checks payable to your local church or donate online on our website under giving or at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive

A PWJ initiative at Baldwin First UMC

Because food insecurity is a peace and justice issue, during the month of June, you can contribute to local efforts to address food poverty in the community. A **PWJ** (**P**eanutbutter **W**ith **J**elly) initiative will support the local food pantry. Donations of peanutbutter and jelly will provide a great protein source that can be added to the weekly vouchers provided through the Baldwin Community Food Pantry.



Congratulations Class of 2021!

The Mildred Allen scholarship for 2021 is awarded to Jewel Marsh, daughter of Jeff and Debra Marsh. Jewel plans on attending Coffeyville Community College (she will be part of their dance team). She plans to study Art Education with the goal to become an art teacher in high school or at the collegiate level.



Other BFUMC graduates to be congratulated for achieving this milestone during such an atypical school year due to the pandemic include: Drew Schoendler, Emma Grossehmer, Cody Newell and college graduate Megann Lawrenz.

New Five Rivers and Parsons district Superintendent.



The Rev. Micki McCorkle's heart for small churches makes her an ideal choice to be the new Five Rivers and Parsons districts superintendent, Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. said.

"She has experience with small-church ministry and development," the bishop said. "She has a lot of knowledge about rural and county-seat life, and she has a passion for working with laity and developing their leadership."

McCorkle, currently pastor of El Dorado Trinity UMC, will succeed the Rev. Dr. Tom Brady, who will shift to become Kansas City District superintendent. Both changes will take effect July 1. Combined, the two districts McCorkle will lead cover most of southeast Kansas.

Prior to her El Dorado appointment, McCorkle spent four years as small-membership church coordinator with the congregational excellence team based in the former Great Plains Conference office in Wichita.

McCorkle began in ordained ministry at the two-point charge of Claflin and Hoisington in central Kansas, before becoming an associate at both Wichita First and Independence First UMCs, later serving as pastor at Protection UMC in southwest Kansas. The Winfield native graduated from Southwestern College and earned master's degrees from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in ministry and Antioch University in leadership.

It was at seminary, she said, that she wanted to learn more about small churches.

"I wanted to make sure I was ready for that kind of setting," she said of her first appointments. "I loved it. I loved the people and learning about farming and ranching and all that kind of stuff." McCorkle said she is a believer in small churches. They can be just as vital and vibrant as big churches," she said, "it just looks a little differently. I've often said that inner-city churches and rural churches, although they may look different, have a lot in common," she added.

She said she's looking forward to getting to know the churches and pastors in her two districts, " (to) listen to them and hear what their dreams are for the future."

Her husband, the Rev. Ed Friesen, is assigned as pastor at Wichita St. Paul's UMC for the current appointive year. They have two adult children.

(excerpted from the announcement written by David Burke, content specialist for the Great Plains Conference, April 19, 2021. The full article can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3oY1oV6>)



Calendar

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

June 7 Missions 7:00PM
NOTE: no caregiving meeting scheduled
June 12 Confirmation Classes begin
June 14 Trustees 7:00PM
 Flag Day
June 19 Juneteenth
June 20 Father's Day
June 21 Finance 7:00PM
 SPPRC 7:00PM
June 28 Council 7:00PM
 Blood Drive noon to 6p.m.
 John Wesley's Birthday!

Church Streaming & Zoom Meeting 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 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/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, M,Tu & Th

You can find us on social media @baldwinfirstumc



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

Baldwin First United Methodist Church | 704 8th St, Box 25, Baldwin City, KS 66006 785.594.6612

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