



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



As we approach Pentecost - a remembrance of the earliest disciples receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit and launching the early church, I want to take a moment to remember and look ahead. We remember that Pentecost comes after.

Pentecost comes after the passion and death of Christ that dashed all the plans and dreams the disciples had held about what the Jesus movement would be like.

Pentecost comes after the surprise, delight, and struggle to believe the unbelievable good news of the Resurrection.

Pentecost comes after the anxiety and discernment of time spent together in prayer.

Pentecost is a celebration of God doing yet another new thing, and another, and another and another.

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved. - Acts 2: 42-47 CEB

The narratives of Pentecost are of the followers of Christ learning to be flexible, adaptable, and creative. They are stories, not of carefully laid strategic plans, but of those whose very hearts burned for God learning how to follow the Spirit's lead. They are stories of gathering in simplicity and rejoicing in what God can and will do in the world.

Like the earliest disciples, we are in a moment where we are poised to enter a Pentecost time. We too have experienced heartbreak, disappointment, and uncertainty as the pandemic has interrupted our routines, our expectations, and our plans for how to be the Church. We are experiencing the delight, disbelief, and overwhelming joy of resurrection as we resume gatherings as Easter People. And, we are bracing ourselves to follow the Spirit's leading as God does a new thing in and among us.

We have some serious facility needs that leadership is seeking to address, and you will be hearing more about it as we go forward.

In all that we are discerning, we seek to be flexible, creative, and hope-filled people, following the Spirit's leading, and ready to be filled with awe and wonder at what God can do!

May it be a blessing,
Rev. Amanda Baker





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

March 22 Council Minutes

~via Zoom

Attendees

Staff: Reverend Amanda Baker, Cat Henry
Council Members: Council Chair Nancy Arnold, Linda Ballinger, Doug Cheek, Laura Dickinson, Brad Peterson, Kathleen Thomas, Tara Welch Advisory Member: Katherine Cook
Opening Nancy opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes Doug moved and Kathleen seconded the motion to approve the minutes from February 22nd. The motion passed.

Finances

Brad shared that the committee met and faced good news. The PPE loan was obtained. The working checking account is near \$23,000 with major bills having been paid. The switch has been made from Vanco to Breeze. Colleen has taken the position of treasurer and is completing her training with Leslie.

SPPRC

The pastoral assessment addressing the vitality of the church is underway. The beginning stage of the process started smoothly. Two considerations are the use of Amanda's time as a $\frac{3}{4}$ position and the on-going need for volunteers. The Mildred Allen Scholarship will be coming due soon. Tara will continue to spearhead the candidate selection. Amanda suggested an ad hoc committee of 4-6 members who are familiar with the memorial.

UMW

Donna reported that there will be an outdoor picnic on April 17th on the front lawn at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will provide their own meals. Drinks will be furnished.

Caregivers and Healthy Congregations

Caregivers will have their first face-to-face meeting in over a year at the Nook on April 7th. Five bicycles have been ordered through Healthy Congregations. The bikes have locks and keys and will also have a bike rack. The Nook and/or library will be used to organize routes. Advertising will be through the Chamber of Commerce and the library. The BLAST Crew has been tasked with making a video to promote usage.

Missions

BLAST Crew and members of the Missions team assembled Lenten kits to be delivered later this week to the nursing home, Vintage Park, and those who are not able to be 'out' in the community.. The kits contain materials for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. The food pantry will provide additional items including hams. Easter bags will replace baskets. May baskets will be provided to shut-ins on May Day. For the 2nd week of May, folks will be encouraged to make signage for all things education. Linda shared that Don Nutt turns 100 in May. The hope is that he will be blessed with cards.

Chamber of Commerce

Nancy asked whether there was a consensus to continue financial support of the Chamber of Commerce. Laura moved that we pay \$100 to the Chamber in their support of the church, and Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pastor's Moment

Children's Sunday School has been invited to participate in a palm parade for Palm Sunday. All are welcome to watch. There will also be a baptism at service on Sunday. Maundy Thursday activities will be by Zoom. Good Friday will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. with the Passion narrative and live singing by Kelly Bethell-Smith. It will also be live-streamed. Easter will be welcomed in on April 4th with an outdoor sunrise service and a traditional service. later. Filled eggs will be on the lawn from 9-12. Flowers will be placed on the outside cross. Beginning April 11th, worship service will be at 9:30 a.m.

Closing The meeting adjourned at 7:58 with Pastor Amanda offering a closing prayer of thanks.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Cook

Most Current Financial Update:

2021 Budget: \$159,300.00

March contributions: \$20,777.22 (brings YTD contributions to 42% of the 25% needed for year to date contributions)

Online giving Sign up is available through the church management software Breeze. Sign up 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.



Baldwin First is now signed up and available at the AmazonSmile foundation. This foundation will donate 0.5% of your Amazon purchase to our church. There is no fees or extra charges for this. Be sure to sign up here:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-0576045>



STAFF PARISH PASTOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

SPPRC

TARA WELCH, CHAIR., TSWELCH@KU.EDU

God's life to the community.

SPPRC thanks you all for being flexible and patient in responding to the changes caused by the pandemic and our reduced budget. We continue to seek volunteers for some aspects of our church life. Please see the sign-up link below for a few particular needs over the next few months. As always, we want to be sure we know and respond to *your* needs. Please reach out to any member of SPPRC with feedback or requests.

As a reminder, the current committee members are Kathy Cook, Mike Curran, Cynthia Perez, Doug Cheek (*ex officio* as Lay Leader), and Tara Welch (committee chair). If you need pastoral care, please let Pastor Amanda know directly at Pastorabaker@gmail.com. For more urgent requests, you can text her or call her at 316-207-3740 (and she has voicemail). Pastor Amanda is fully vaccinated (halleluiaah!) and can make pastoral visits.

With faith and love,
SPPRC

**Sign up here for upcoming
volunteer opportunities at**

<https://bit.ly/3e8AA0u>



Are in need of volunteers to mow the grounds around the church. Volunteers are asked to bring their own lawn mower and to mow by Thursday of the week selected.



Scan the QRcode or go to
<https://bit.ly/3dvF1Sy>



BELIEVING. LOVING. AND. SERVING. TOGETHER.

BRAD PETERSON, PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM

ANGELA MURRAY, MURRAYSLANDING@GMAIL.COM



The BLAST crew is participating in the General Conference virtual 5k and invites anyone from the congregation to join in the fun. It is scheduled for 5 p.m. May 23. They plan to meet at the church and map out our "route" for everyone to walk as a big group.

The BLAST crew has gotten us started on our appreciation signs to be placed on the church grounds in honor of Education Appreciation week first week of May.
Add your appreciation!



CYNTHIA PEREZ, CYNTHIAAPEREZ1975@GMAIL.COM

Mark your calendars for VBS this summer. The theme, appropriately enough for the kids after the past year, is Heroe Central. VBS will be scheduled for each Wednesday evening in July, beginning on the 7th. Lots of fun and surprises are in store. Stay tuned!



Confirmation Class Starting Soon...

CONFIRMATION CLASSES WILL BEGIN THE SECOND WEEK OF JUNE ON SUNDAYS. ON THOSE AFTERNOONS THERE WILL BE TWO CLASSES HELD FOR 6TH & 7TH GRADERS AND ANOTHER FOR 9TH - 12TH GRADE. CLASSES WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT SUMMER WITH THE CONFIRMATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD AUG. 15. CONTACT PASTOR OR THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS ARE EVERY SATURDAY 10AM

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

MAY DAY – The Missions Team will continue its annual tradition of delivering flower bouquets to Baldwin Care Center, Vintage Park and several others in our church family. Happy May Day to all! A special thanks to Coleen Burgess and the BLAST crew for their outstanding work in the basket assembly!



THANKS TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN EDUCATION DURING A YEAR OF COVID We invite you to participate in Education Appreciation Week, May 2- May 9, in letting all those who have inspired us in the education process this last year, know they are appreciated. This coincides with the National Teacher Appreciation Week. Recognizing the combined efforts of all involved in education including teachers, para-professionals, food service, clerical, custodial, van and bus drivers, parents, students and anyone who had a part is the focus of a BFUMC yard sign endeavor. Making placards for the front lawn to say thank you is a visible way to show our gratitude. Let your creative spirit go to work and make a sign to add to the yard at any point during the week. We hope to see a lawn FULL of signs. We will also have ribbons for you to write your own message and tie on the rail at the BFUMC front entrance as a part of the county-wide ribbon campaign: Supporting Schools and Staff of Douglas County.

FOOD PANTRY – The Food Pantry continues with the voucher system, sometimes adding an extra bag of items to be provided with the vouchers. Those items have been the residual stock from when the pantry was open to the public and some specific donations. During the month of June, we invite you to bring in Peanut Butter and/or Jelly to be given as an extra item. Donations can be left in the cart in the narthex.



UMW

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

DONNA CURRAN, CHAIR., DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM



May 15, 6:30 p.m.
UMW Spring Picnic
Baldwin First UMC,
front lawn
Bring your own food.



Caregivers

LINDA BALLINGER, CHAIR. LINDABABE43@GMAIL.COM



In honor of all veterans in our faith circle at BFUMC, Linda Ballinger would like to make a face mask (for free) as a thank you for your service to our country. The masks will be made with fabric for either Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy, and Coast Guard. If you want an additional mask as a gift for someone, it is \$2.00. Please contact her at 913.980.3831 **by May 15th** for delivery by Memorial Day on May 31st.

The 100th birthday is coming up for a member, please stop by the church office or on Sunday worship to sign the card!

BFUMC's Healthy Congregation Group Introduces a Bike-Share Program to the Community

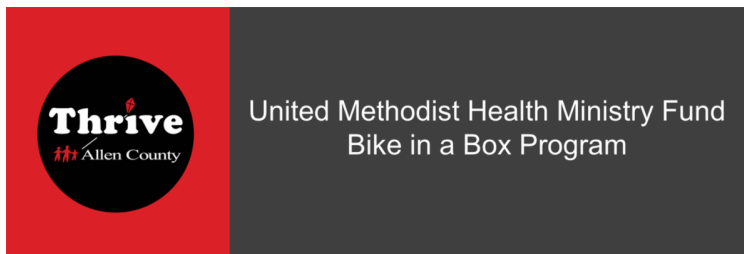


Tuesday, May 4th will bring the vision of a free bike-share program to Baldwin City one step closer after many months of behind the scene work by Baldwin First United Methodist Church's Healthy Congregations group. On that day, five bikes will be delivered along with a bike rack to be installed on the church grounds.

In a partnership between United Methodist Health Ministry Fund Bike in a Box Program and Thrive Allen County, a grant opportunity is available for those churches who are part of Healthy Congregations to underwrite the bike share program. Thrive Allen County specifically works with rural communities in support and promotion of active living and transportation.

provided. The program works like a library book loan but in this case, the bicycles are due back to the bike station rack on the church grounds within 24 hours.

Healthy Congregation member Marilee Beins, along with Nancy Arnold, spearheaded the research into this program. Marilee said that finding a location with accessible hours was a challenge. The Nook is closed Sundays so some coordination will have to be made to check the bikes out (in person) on Saturday and return on Monday. Another member of the group, Linda Ballinger (a local history buff) is going to provide information along an approximate two-mile radius of noted historical and architectural sites of Baldwin City.



The bikes will be available for public use later in May and will be located on the west side of the church property within eyesight of The Nook, located on the corner of 8th and Gove across the street from the church. They will handle the administration of checking the bikes out. Niki Manbeck, owner of The Nook, is excited to participate in this venture to enable the community as well as tourists to utilize the bike trails and to explore Baldwin City plus, she said, it brings more people to the downtown area.

Unlike commercial bike-share systems in large cities, which require a large up-front investment in GPS-enabled bikes, docking stations, and payment systems, this bike share uses a simpler model that features

The grant award, around \$3500, went to the purchase of five blue bikes with baskets from Ottawa Bike and Trail Shop. Jeff Carroll, the owner of the bike shop, has also provided bikes for a similar bike-share program for Ottawa Library, and for other Kansas community groups in Pamona and Iola. Members of the Healthy Congregation who also have contributed to this effort include Donna Reed, Susan Butell, and Amanda Baker. Healthy Congregations engages Great Plains United Methodist churches in projects to improve spiritual, physical, social, and emotional health in their congregations and communities. BFUMC group have in the meanwhile been busy with

sturdy single-speed cruiser bicycles a user-friendly way to check out bikes. To take a bike out for a spin, a picture ID, and a Waiver Form is required at checkout through The Nook. Riders must be 12 years of age or older. No helmets will be

updating smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, more first aid kits throughout the building, as well as supplying sanitizer and gloves throughout the church from another grant they were awarded.



Calendar



For those church leaders who need access to a zoom account, one is available (other than what is listed below*) for your use, contact the church office for the member ID number to schedule your church meeting or small group study.

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

May 3 Missions 7:00PM
May 5 Food Truck at the Library
10:30 -11:30
May 6 National Day of Prayer
May 9 Mother's Day
May 10 Trustees 7:00PM
May 17 Finance 7:00PM
SPPRC 7:00PM
May 23 Pentecost
May 24 Council 7:00PM
May 30 Peace and Justice Sunday
May 31 Memorial Day



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 10:45 .m. on Sundays (check with your leader about location venue)

***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
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

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

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@baldwinfirst.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!