



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Growing up in a large (loud) family, I was a college student the first time I ever lived alone.

Learning to live with the quiet of evenings and weekends was a struggle. Sometimes, I would overfill my schedule so that I didn't have time to be alone until I was so tired I could quickly fall asleep. Eventually, though, this plan fell apart, and I found another way to cope. I discovered food network. Rachel Rae, Emeril Lagasse and Alton Brown became the standard background noise that got me through the long hours of doing homework or cleaning my dorm room by myself. I struggled with the silence again in seminary, when a spiritual disciplines professor challenged us to begin each of 10 days of intensive course work with a time of contemplative prayer in silence. I didn't find the silence centering. I suddenly became fixated on the sound of the ticking clock, how loudly my stomach just rumbled.

Then, when James was born, I discovered the sacredness of silence. He was only a few days old when I received word that a friend's father was dying. The late night feedings, sitting in the dark and quiet hours, holding the warm tiny bundle of my new baby, became a holy vigil. I thought of my friend at her father's bedside, caring for him tenderly in his final days, and I felt connected to her and to God in the depth of this quiet.

Silence is still not my first impulse to connect with God. This is probably good since silence is rare in a home with three elementary age boys, but when I find those moments of quiet, I have stopped trying to find a way to fill them. Instead, I have come to remember Elijah in 1 Kings (19:11-13), who, in the midst of his most troubling time of feeling spiritually distant from God, found God not in the awe and wonder of the earthquake or the fire or the lightning, but in a still small voice in the silence of a cave.

In this time of isolation, you may find you have an over-abundance of silence. Or, like me, you may be starved for a little peace in quiet in the bedlam of having everyone home. Either way, I encourage you to lean in and listen for God's still small voice. The one that says "Fear not, for I am with you." The one that reminds you that "You are beloved." The one that fills you with eternal hope.

And may it strengthen you to be agents of God's love and mercy, as it did for Elijah.

Grace and Peace be with you,

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

How can we be light to those who feel surrounded by darkness? Let us be love and light.

Food Pantry - The Food Pantry is currently closed for shopping in keeping with social distancing and safety protocols. Instead, shopping vouchers for use at Baldwin City Market are provided each Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the church parking lot. Additionally, gift certificates have been provided for local restaurant purchases. Eating out is always special and restaurants receiving local support to remain open through COVID-19 are a bonus. Many face masks made with loving hands have also been provided. A huge thanks for the gifts of monetary donations, volunteer time and prayers on behalf of the food pantry.

LINK - BFUMC has served meals twice in 2020 with additional meals slated later in the year.



UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund

Advance # 3022612 Country: Global

The Advance, 458 Ponce De Leon Ave, NE Atlanta, GA 30308

Phone: 800-862-4246 Fax: 404-942-4241

How will this Advance project help to address the need?

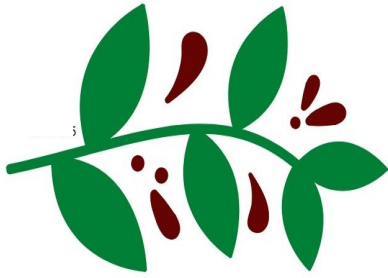
Since the start of the novel coronavirus outbreak, UMCOR has been working with health boards, medical professionals, disaster management coordinators and faith leaders to prevent the further spread of this disease. Now it is clear that the impact of COVID-19 will be far-reaching and demands an even greater response. Through the UMCOR COVID-19 Response fund, grants will be rapidly released to equip partners to assist vulnerable populations around the world impacted by COVID-19, including racial/ethnic and indigenous communities in the United States. Grants from this fund will be disbursed quickly and efficiently to address health concerns, food insecurity, water and hygiene limitations and other pressing needs. Even as you shelter in place, you can be there for others. When you say "yes" to supporting the UMCOR COVID-19 Response, you will help bring God's love to life for those who need it most.

By giving through The Advance, (click the link or go to <https://www.umcmmission.org/give-to-mission/about-the-advance>) 100% of your donation reaches your chosen mission project or ministry.

Gracious God, help us to see evidence of your spirit moving in and around us. May we follow in the footsteps of your love and hold the lessons from this time near to our hearts. Common prayer



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B.L.A.S.T. Zoom Crew

BELIEVING. LOVING. AND. SERVING. TOGETHER.

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

The virtual Blast Crew has been busy since the lockdown started! We meet via password protected Zoom every Sunday at 9:30 with junior high and high school youth and have added fifth graders this spring. Our average attendance is 8-10 participants. In addition to the Bible lesson and some fun and games, we also work on service projects. You may have seen our puppet show of the Easter story during the Easter worship service? Some of the other things we have done included: a video for residents of Baldwin Healthcare (where the kids introduce their pets), a Coronavirus Kindness Time Capsule (where we gathered digital reminders of all the nice things people are doing to revisit a year from now) and a digital thank you card for all the essential workers who are keeping things going. Our current project is creating a Mother's Day video for Baldwin Healthcare where Crew members and their moms will share their favorite activities to do together. For more information, contact either Angela or Brad at the above listed emails.



Reflecting back three months ago, the style of church worship is very different. Staff and volunteers rose to the occasion and made sure that worship (meetings and Sunday school) continue on. Three churches are virtually joining together in this effort (BFUMC, Eudora United Methodist Church and Centenary United Methodist Church. Many thanks to those, behind the scenes, who put this all together include:

Music and Vocals: Gary Keller, Russ Durand and BFUMC praise band, Eudora praise band, Elizabeth Berghout and Frank and Cynthia Perez;

Technology and Sound recordings: Ryan Berg and Frank Perez; and

(last but not least) Pastors Amanda Baker and Ross Baker.

ADMIN NOTES: NEWS ITEMS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST GOING ON IN YOUR AREAS OF MINISTRY FOR THE VINE ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE BY THE EVENING OF CHURCH COUNCIL (THE 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH). 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 HELP ALLEVIATE MAILING COSTS. CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE 9 TO 2, MONDAY & WEDNESDAY FOR THE NEAR TERM. THANK YOU.

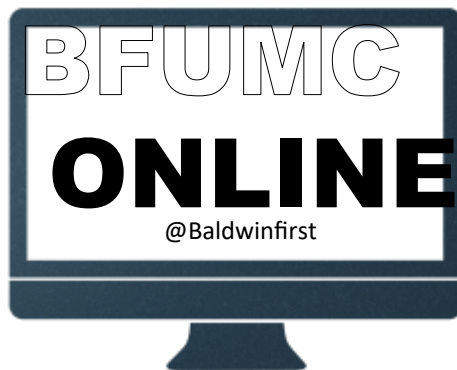


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Calendar

MAY 2020



MONTHLY SCHEDULE

Please contact your leaders of regularly scheduled meetings for information on times and password for zoom meetings.

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

KIDMinistry 9:30AM

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

<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/453003359> By phone: 312 626 6799 US (CT) Meeting ID: 453 003 359

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

May 4 Missions 7:00PM

May 18 Finance at 7:00PM

May 7 National Day of Prayer

May 25 Council 7:00PM (<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/92295961164> password: 889023)

May 10 Mother's Day

May 25 Memorial Day

May 11 Trustees 7:00PM

May 31 Day of Pentecost

May 18 SPPRC 7:00PM (<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/99933704758> password: 671682)



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