



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



The debates around Covid-19 and the mitigation efforts of public health officials are at a fever pitch around us. Anger, frustration, and distrust leach into public debates and private conversations. The temptation is ever-present to devolve into a mockery of others, into assuming the worst of those who think differently. It is tempting- but it is not the life into which we have been called. We have been called into unity in our shared belonging to Christ, in our shared value of life as a gift from God to be treasured and cared for. Below is a poem from Bishop Julius C. Trimble, Resident Bishop of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. It is an encouragement to lift our hearts and minds to God in prayer. And to let our words to others be marked with encouragement.



Grace and Peace be with you, Rev. Amanda baker

What if I wrote a poem about COVID-19?

by Bishop Julius C. Trimble, Resident Bishop, Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church

Just for the sake of saving lives or maybe I need to share just to share or maybe I am living in my own world or maybe this is not really a poem.

I think I understand some things like freedom of speech and choice and Children Matter Most.

I don't understand misinformation or misery loves company or elephants in a room or why we can't all work together saving lives instead of fighting lies.

What if I wrote a poem and nobody read it, or millions did? I would share from my heart and share from my head, the truth I believe that lives can be saved today and tonight across the globe.

And in my neck of the woods, variants versus vaccines, life over death weeping or rejoicing but my prayers will continue.

Lord, Have Mercy.

Debate is not helping as the hospitals fill again.

Some can't and some will not while millions are waiting to get vaccinated.

What if I wrote a poem, and the poem became a prayer and the prayer became a song and we exhaled with excitement as the dark night turned to dawn and the pandemic was defeated and we breathed a sigh of relief?

Vaccinations save lives!

Be encouraged.



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 Council Minutes
July 26, 2021**

Attendees

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

Opening

Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes

Tara asked to remove a sentence related to SPPRC. Brad moved to approve and Doug seconded the motion to accept the minutes from May 24 with the correction. The motion carried.

Finances

There was an adjustment to the budget for the second half of 2021 in light of Pastor Amanda's change in employment status. Brad moved to approve the new budget for the remainder of 2021 with two new line items at a total of \$35,823.53. Doug seconded the motion. The motion carried. A hard copy of the new budget will be made available. Doug added that we are currently meeting and exceeding our budget. Pastor Amanda will continue to gather resources to assure that we can repay the loan necessary for the boiler. Nancy asked that we contact the District Superintendent to confirm a meeting for the church conference on August 22nd.

SPPRC

Tara addressed discussions regarding how to support Pastor Amanda as she embraces her new responsibilities. The committee voted to reinstate Cat's hours and salary. Tara asked about the possibility of coordinating prayer and care teams. There is a request to have a list of weekly activities.

Missions

LINK will be served on August 28th. This will be the last of the sack lunches before returning to more traditional meal service. The Food Pantry and Maple Leaf will be discussed at the next meeting. Laura asked the council to weigh in on how they would like to proceed.

Caregivers

Linda shared that the group will meet August 4th. Eighteen sets of 'teeny tears' were delivered to LMH.

UMW

Roger White's memorial dinner is August 14th.

Worship

Kathleen is contacting liturgists for upcoming services.

Trustees

Pastor Amanda shared that the trustees have been looking into concerns. A dishwasher has been delivered to the parsonage. The gas in the kitchen has been temporarily shut off due to a leak. The door to the kitchen will remain closed until there is less humidity. Doug asked that the boiler be ordered now, and that someone check the status of the elevator.

Pastor's Moment

There have been three weeks of VBS with as many volunteers as young people. Although small, this has been an opportunity to interact on a one-to-one basis. Nine students are participating regularly in confirmation. A couple of others have joined on an occasional basis. There will be a celebration on August 15th. August offers an opportunity to join with Ives Chapel to greet Baker students.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine Cook

Most Current Financial Update:

2021 Budget (adjusted*): \$151,740.00 (averaged contribution amount needed each month: \$12,645.00) July contributions: \$9065.00 (YTD percentage needed by this time to stay on course is 49.8%, records indicate we are at 61.7%)



<https://baldwinfirst.org/give-online>

*after adjustment to two charge pastor assignment in July

Capital Campaign Update

On Sunday, August 22, a Church Conference was held approving the application for a line of credit in the amount of \$60,000 through Wesleyan Investive. When the loan is approved, this line of credit will help us move forward with our most critical building improvements (replacing the boiler) as we prepare to launch a capital campaign. Look for more information soon on these projects and how you can support our efforts to equip and sustain our building for ministry now and into the future. You are also always welcome to come get more information from the church office, or from Pastor Amanda during her open office hours (listed below).



STAFF PARISH PASTOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

SPPRC

TARA WELCH, CHAIR., TSWELCH@KU.EDU

New office hours for Fall: Cat Henry, office manager, will be in the church office Monday to Thursday, 9AM-2PM. Please be mindful that her position is half-time, and SPRC is encouraging her not to work during her off-hours. Pastor Amanda will hold walk-in office hours Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-11AM (and at other times by appointment). For regular/non-urgent needs, please drop in or contact her via email (pastorabaker@gmail.com). For more pressing concerns, you can text or call her (316-207-3740).

Since Pastor receives a lot of emails, calls, and texts, it's helpful to add a good subject line! Thanks.

We will kick off staff appreciation on Sunday, September 12, when we honor Gary Keller, Worship Arts Director. On Sunday, October 10 (National Clergy Appreciation Day) we'll celebrate Pastor Amanda. Then on Sunday, November 7, we will give thanks for Cat. Please join us for worship especially on those Sundays!

[Caption]



Volunteer opportunities for mowing the church grounds are open through October 14th. Volunteers are to bring their own lawn mowers (note to mow grass to a height of no less than 4" and are asked to mow on Thursday. Thanks for helping out with this!

Scan code or go to [linkhttps://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4caaa928abfd0-2021](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4caaa928abfd0-2021)



[Caption]

In Remembrance of Roger White

Roger P. White was born on 27 July 1940 on a farm in Buchanan Co. Missouri to Raymond K. and Hannah (Riepe) White. He spent most of his school years on a farm outside Whitesville, MO, graduating from King City High School in 1958. After a semester at Park College in Parkville, MO, Roger joined the Navy. He served for 6 years (4 active duty and 2 reserves). After active duty, Roger moved to Baldwin to attend Baker University. He was a member of the ZX fraternity and graduated in 1965 with a BS in Physics. He met his wife, Anita, while at Baker and they shared almost 57 years of marriage. He worked for Whitaker Cable Co. (St. Joe, MO), the Naval Research Lab in MD, and then for over 28 years at the Central Intelligence Agency, retiring as a Senior Intelligence Service officer in 1989. After retiring, Roger worked for a time for Ron Haskey as a commercial building inspector for insurance companies, spent a couple of years declassifying documents for the government, and then spent over 12 years as a member of the self-professed “Old Geezer’s Patrol”, maintaining a US presence on nights and weekends in various Consulates and Embassies in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, and the Middle East. Through the years, Roger volunteered in various capacities with the Boy Scouts, local churches (including 6 years as a youth counselor), Rotary, Senior Wheels, and the board for the Orchard Lane Apartments. He was an avid reader and often helped with the annual mum sale at the Baldwin City Library.



He was preceded in death (May 29, 2021) by his parents, brother Dr. Raymond Milford White, sister Carol Akins and a niece. He is survived by: his wife Anita; son Patrick (wife Cindy) White, Baldwin City KS; daughter Kimberly (husband Paul) Kiechlin, Fairfax VA; grandchildren Andrew (Jillian), Taylor, Eric, Jordan, and John Kiechlin and two great-grandsons Theo and Taliesin all of Virginia; two step-granddaughters Alisha (VA) and Karia (KS) McCoy and two-step great-grandsons Ricky and Brayden; a sister, Alice Lancey (KC, MO) and numerous nieces, nephews, plus friends around the country.

Services were held at Baldwin First United Methodist Church on August 14th. Memorial contributions can be made to the Milford and Roger White Lectorship series at Baker University, Baldwin First United Methodist Church, or Senior Wheels of Baldwin City.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS ARE EVERY SATURDAY 10AM

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

FOOD PANTRY During the past 18 months, the Baldwin Community Food Pantry has continued to serve our neighbors through the generosity of BFUMC and the community. Each week the pantry provides vouchers for the purchase of groceries at the local grocery store and Ives Chapel provides milk vouchers to families with children. This has been via a drive-through each Saturday morning to reduce transmission of COVID. **THE PANTRY IS IN NEED OF FUNDS** to continue this very important outreach.

September is the month of Hunger Awareness Month/ Hunger Action Month

A 2021 Calendar for Prayer and Action EndHunger.org/ham - Download the SOSA Calendar of Devotion and Activities for personal use! A copy is on the bulletin board at church with more copies available at the church office as well.

SO MANY PLACES WHERE OUR NEIGHBORS ARE IN NEED – CHOOSE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The earthquakes, the flooding, the hurricanes, COVID, can leave us feeling defeated and depleted, but listening to and following the HOLY SPIRIT to love and support our neighbors next door and across the globe reminds us of our humanity and our call to serve. Become a force for positive change.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. Our efforts are targeted in places where natural disasters, war, or conflict have done so much damage that communities are unable to recover on their own. In addition, UMCOR helps communities in the United States and abroad prepare for emergencies and to reduce the risk of disasters through a roster of training programs. We also are involved in global development work. Specific programs address issues of health, sanitation, poverty, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security. Many development problems are interrelated, so UMCOR uses integrated solutions to address their root causes. UMCOR seeks to empower local hospitals, schools, churches, and other stakeholders by enhancing their capacity to address these issues. Throughout the hurricanes, floods, drought, wildfires, pandemics, and civil conflict of 2020 and 2021, you have been there to help survivors both in your neighborhood and around the world.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES | UMCOR

458 Ponce De Leon Ave, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Have questions? 800.862.4246

To give by check, please send checks payable to Advance GCFA to:

Global Ministries | UMCOR

GPO

P.O. BOX 9068

NEW YORK, NY 10087-9068



KIDS IN



At this year's Vacation Bible School "Hero Central," children in our community learned about some of God's heroes and about how to become heroes for God. Each week at the Missions HQ, children worked to put these qualities into action. In week 1, the 4th-5th graders showed that like the teenager David as he was anointed by Samuel, God's heroes have heart. They made heart-health posters to hang around the church in conjunction with our new defibrillator. In the second week, kids learned about courage, such as that shown by Abigail who risked her safety to do the right thing. The 2nd-3rd graders made thank-you cards for Baldwin City's courageous first responders and added a little encouraging gift. Week 3 was about hope. In conjunction with the Beatitudes' message of God's blessing to those in need, the K-1st graders made Bee-attitude bookmarks to comfort those who mourn. And in the final week, the children made protein bags for hungry school children because, like believers on Pentecost who first felt the Holy Spirit, God's heroes have the power to sustain them in doing God's work. Check out the pictures (zoom in if you can) surrounding this article. They speak on behalf of the words here of the Kid's efforts.



M I S S I O N



BFUMC Welcomes 2021 Confirmands!

- † Dan and Selene Welch (son and daughter of Kelly and Tara Welch)
- † Bailey Smith (daughter of Tessley and Kelley Bethel-Smith)
- † Lexi, Allie and Haley George (children of Russ and Lori George)
- † Annette Perez (daughter of Frank and Cynthia Perez)
- † Baptism: Annette and Dan



The United Methodist Church and BFUMC also welcome Russ and Lori George on August 15 into membership, in addition to the recent reception of Glen and Pam Sharp and Tony and Kelsey Nolte received earlier this year into membership.



Calendar

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

Sept 1 Care Giving meeting 1:30 p.m.

Sept 6 Labor Day
Missions 7:00PM

Sept 12 Staff Appreciation Day - Gary
Keller

Sept 13 Trustees 7:00PM

Sept 17 **Hunger Action Day**

Sept 20 Finance 7:00PM
SPPRC 7:00PM

Sept 27 Council 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 10:45p.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 are available
go to**

<https://zoom.us/join>

mtg ID #: 9644607669

Password: 042020

*Save
THE
Date*

Sunday, November 7

**BFUMC Kitchen Dedication & Kitchen Shower
8:30 a.m.**



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, Monday-Thursday

You can find us on social media @baldwinfirstumc

