



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*The Vine*

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER



It's past time for a bit of an update on "happenings" in our denomination.. Following the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis, there was to have been a regularly scheduled session in 2020. That session has been postponed multiple times due to the Global Covid Pandemic and its effects on world travel, visa processes, etc... When the most recent announcement was made that the session would not happen until 2024, a group of traditionalists organized under the name Wesleyan Covenant Association within United Methodism announced that they would not wait for 2024, but would launch a traditionalist denomination called the Global Methodist Church. That denomination officially launched on May 1, 2022, and a number of notable clergy and even a Bishop from our denomination left to join that new expression of the Methodist tradition.

The 2019 General Conference had already established a process for leaving the UMC, something we call "disaffiliation." Some congregations have utilized that process in the time since 2019. It is yet to be seen how many of those congregations may join the Global Methodist Church and how many will opt to be independent or join some other denomination. We have estimates, but not exact numbers on how many more congregations are still planning to complete the disaffiliation process. Much of this will likely be completed by the September called session of the Annual Conference. The Great Plains Annual Conference Trustees have worked with leaders and members of the Wesleyan Covenant Association to negotiate what we hope will be a fair and graceful plan for those congregations who wish to leave.

Likewise, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration has been hard at work estimating what our new conference budget may look like, and continues to plan for faithful stewardship that will be a witness to God's Love in Jesus Christ throughout Kansas and Nebraska.

At present, those of us who remain continue to live under the language regarding human sexuality in the Book of Discipline. One difference is that we are also operating under an "abeyance" or a kind of agreed upon "truce" where many Bishops, including ours, have agreed not to pursue trials for clergy who may be in violation of our current Discipline in regards to human sexuality. This is not a lasting answer or permanent solution, but many hope it can serve as a sort of "field dressing" to slow the harm and buy our denomination time to attempt a healthier process.

In the meantime, United Methodists across the Great Plains continue to:

- Preach the Gospel
- Baptize new people into the Christian Faith
- Feed the hungry
- Be the hands and feet of compassion to those experiencing natural disaster, war, and famine.
- Speak out against oppression and injustice.
- Care for creation
- Visit the sick and elderly in our communities
- Show up for our schools and our children
- Advocate for immigrants and refugees
- Seek Peace with Justice



In Christ,  
Rev Amanda Baker



## Baldwin First United Methodist Church, May 23, 2022

**Attendees Staff:** Reverend Amanda Baker, Cat Henry

**Council Members:** Council Chair Nancy Arnold, Cynthia Perez, Samantha Cheek, Donna Curran, Kathleen Thomas, Brad Peterson and (substituting for advisory member Kathy Cook) Samantha Cheek

**Opening:** Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Minutes:** Brad moved and Donna seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. The motion carried.

**Finances:** Brad shared that the checking account currently shows \$66,000 in funds, but this is incorrect due to carry over from 2021. Actual account total would be closer to \$17,000. Coleen is working with Frontier to straighten out discrepancies. Monthly giving is down by almost \$4000. Line items are coming in higher so they will take a look at budget as well. Brad asked if we should move forward with the line of credit. He stated that there will be \$11,000 left after current items are paid. Nancy stated that we have brought in around \$103,000 from the Capital Campaign at this time. It was suggested that several members of the Capital Campaign committee attend the June 13th Trustees meeting to get an exact statement on what has been purchased, what is pending and what should be purchased in the future. The goal would be to then send a letter the following day with the amount needed from the line of credit. Nancy also talked about going ahead and communicating to the individuals who have already given to the Capital Campaign with a thank you. The hope is to also have a celebration on September 11, 2022 for all that has been completed. Brad is meeting with Edward Jones to discuss having a representative come to the church to speak to making retirement gifts towards the church.

**SPPRC:** Cynthia stated they are currently working on the annual evaluation for Amanda and Cat.

**Caregivers:** Nancy shared that Caregivers is having a tough time keeping the same representative from the agency. Sue Ann Kleist is currently on palliative care, but welcomes visitors.

**Missions:** Nancy shared that they would like to reopen the Food Pantry in July. They would allow one individual in at a time and others would take a number and wait in their cars. Food Pantry would be available on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9 am - 10:30 am.

**Worship:** Nothing at this time.

**UWF (formerly UMW):** Donna shared that they had a very busy first of the month with two family dinners and the Zeta Chi lunch. The water heater in the kitchen is not equipped to run the dishwasher or wash a dinner's worth of dishes. It has not worked correctly since install. Donna has gone to the UMM and asked if they would be willing to go in with UWF to purchase a new water heater. The sanitizer on the dishwasher has also never been hooked up and that needs to be completed as well. We are having more events in the church so these need to be a priority.

**VBS:** Riley Smith will be the music leader for VBS this year. Brad shared that there is still \$1325 in the account to purchase supplies for VBS. Flatlanders will be making pizzas with the kids on the Thursday of VBS.

**Lay Leader:** Doug not in attendance.

**Trustees:** Darren not in attendance.

**Pastor's Moment:** Andrea Byer will be filling in this Sunday while Amanda and her family are on vacation. Butch Ritter will be on call for pastoral care. Please submit any announcements to Cat by Thursday so that she can give them to Doug and print in bulletin. When Pastor Amanda returns it will be Pentecost. She will be doing a sermon series called Faith in Film using Disney and Pixar movies. Kathleen asked that we have red streamers for

Pentecost for the children. Other Business Donna will be stepping away from SS for the summer. Cynthia and Marcia will be covering. Mike Curran will be making the deposits in Carolyn's absence. Cynthia would like to start a "coffee time" for parents dropping off their children for SS.

**Closing:** Pastor Amanda offered a closing prayer at 7:58.

Respectfully submitted, Samantha Cheek

### Most Current Financial Update:

The 2022 Budget \$159,300 (with average contribution amount needed each month to meet the annual budget: \$13,275.00) total contributions received for the month of May is 10,9124.80, **32%** of the budget (6% behind needed by this time to meet the budget period).



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



**Jennifer Hantsbarger**

**Edward Jones**  
"A Meet & Greet"

A Meet and Greet is scheduled with financial advisor Jennifer Hantsbarger, (AAMS™, CRPC®) from Edward Jones Financial Services on Wednesday, July 13 at 1:00 pm at the church so our congregation can learn more about using them for financial giving at the church.

### Ives Chapel Women in Faith Invites...

...the Baldwin City Community to  
a Senior Mix Reunion  
July 13, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Ives Chapel  
(1018 Miami Street).  
All Senior Citizens Welcome!  
Mayor Casey Simoneau, will speaker  
"What's Up for Seniors In Our Community?"  
Social time follows with visiting and  
refreshments.





### LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR activities for the coming months:

**July** – Baldwin Community Food Pantry – we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly with emphasis on different flavors of jelly besides grape, a staple of summer sandwiches when children are out of school for the summer.

Also in **July** – We will be collaborating with other Baldwin churches in a Douglas County United Way initiative to gather back to school supplies. The drive is being spearheaded locally by the Baldwin City Library. BFUMC will be collecting school lunch boxes and we will include personal hygiene items as well. If you would like to donate a lunchbox or hygiene items, they can be dropped off at the table in the Narthex.

**August** – Welcome back BU students – we will be collecting snack items – fruit rollups, popcorn packs, granola bars, gum, candy, etc. for welcome kits

**September** – Hunger Action Month -Stand Against Hunger – explore ways to volunteer, pledge, fundraise, donate to help end the impossible choices of hunger

**VOLUNTEERS Needed:** The food pantry is needing additional volunteers to work in a variety of roles to support the food pantry. If you are interested, please contact Laura at [ldinbc@gmail.com](mailto:ldinbc@gmail.com)

**FOOD PANTRY** – For 2 years, we have been providing grocery vouchers for our Baldwin neighbors as a means of sustaining the pantry outreach and maintaining health throughout the COVID pandemic. Beginning in July, we will move back inside for grocery shopping on the stage in Fellowship Hall. The pantry is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays and the hours will shift to 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **A HUGE thanks to everyone in the community who supports the pantry with financial donations, volunteer efforts, food, and prayers!**

### What does the United Methodist Church say about gun violence?

The prophet Micah casts a hopeful vision of the future where nations will “beat their swords into iron plows, and their spears into pruning hooks.” (Micah 4:3) Jesus says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

Gun violence greatly affects individuals, families and communities. We believe "As followers of Jesus, called to live into the reality of God’s dream of shalom as described by Micah, we must address the epidemic of gun violence so 'that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in God’s paths.'"

The United Methodist Church calls congregations to address gun violence locally through prayer, conversation, support for those affected by gun violence, practicing and teaching gun safety and partnering with law enforcement to help prevent gun violence.

The church also urges congregations to advocate for laws that prevent or reduce gun violence.





## How can I support those still in Ukraine and those fleeing the violence?

At this time, all gifts to UMCOR's International Disaster Response and Recovery Advance will be used to assist those who remain in Ukraine and those who have fled the violence to neighboring nations. Gifts can be made in the following ways: Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450> By toll-free telephone call: 888-252-6174 By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068 By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church

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*Kid Ministry*

DONNA CURRAN, CHAIR. [DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM](mailto:DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM)

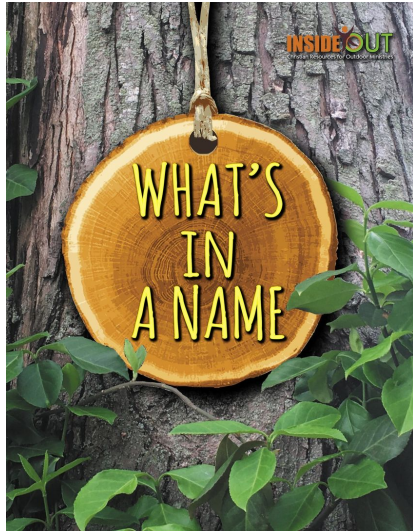


VBS invites children to pray as Jesus teaches in Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God — and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all of our daily needs are met.

At the center of the Food Truck Party is a special food truck called "On a Roll." Here, Kids (or "Chefs") will learn from the food truck's Top Chef, about the Daily Specials (Daily Learnings), which are lines from the well-loved prayer that teaches us to turn to God to meet our needs.

Register for VBS (ages 3 to 5th grade) here: [Baldwin First United Methodist Church · My Cokesbury VBS](#). This is a combined event with Ives Chapel and will be held on BFUMC grounds. While you are at it join in the fun, volunteers are always needed. Contact Donna Curran ([donnagcurran@yahoo.com](mailto:donnagcurran@yahoo.com)) if interested.

Children registration sign up forms will be available on Sunday mornings at church service Sunday mornings at church service and the first night of VBS. There is a staff planning meeting, Wednesday, July 6 at 7PM.



## **UMY Institute 2022! July 24-July 30 at BFUMC**

For over 100 years, young people have come to Baker University to attend United Methodist Youth (UMY) Institute. Institute is a week of Christian spiritual growth and faith development for high school students (incoming freshman-graduating seniors). At Institute, youth experience a Christian community and learn to receive and give care and support as modeled by Christ. Institute is intentional about making

disciples for the transformation of the world.

Experience Institute in a new way this summer! The event will be held at Baldwin First this year as well as at the Osborn Chapel (Baker University's Chapel). Whether a first time attendee at the Institute or fourth, it provides a challenge for yourself in new ways this summer!

Registration materials can be found on the [Camp Chippewa website](#). Pastors Baker (Amanda and Ross) will be spiritual directors at the event.



When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you throw it away? Or do you change the batteries?

When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast him aside? Or do you help them change their batteries?

Some need the batterie size AA... for attention and affection; some need AAA...attention, affection and acceptance; others need ...compassion; and there are those who need D...for direction.

And if they still don't seem to shine...simply sit with them with and share Christ's light.

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***Worship Services 9:30 AM  
(in person and live stream)***

July 5 Missions Mtg 7:00PM

July 11 Trustees Mtg 7:00PM

July 13 "Meet & Greet" Edward Jones  
Financial services 1PM at church

July 18 Finance Mtg 7:00PM  
SPPRC Mtg 7:00PM

July 17 - 21 **Vacation Bible School**  
6 to 8PM

July 24-30 Youth Institute

July 25 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***

**\*9:30AM Sunday 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*



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