



*"I am the vine, you are the branches.
He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;
for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5*

baldwin first

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter • November, 2024

Pastor's Corner

As I see it...



It is Thanksgiving month! God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good!

While a statement like that may sound a bit "cliche," we must realize it's true! Most people consider Thanksgiving as just another excuse to throw a party and watch football or basketball all day. But we, as Christians, know that it is deeper than that.

The power of thankfulness and gratefulness can get us through the snares of success, prosperity, and ease, as well as the pitfalls of life, disappointment, pain and suffering.

I recently heard about a person who started making a "Gratitude List." Each day, he wrote some bad things on his list because those bad things led to personal growth that helped him progress in life.

A saying goes, "He who has not tasted the bitter cannot appreciate the sweet." There's some truth in that. Difficult times can sometimes be seen as a blessing when we see it through the lens of hindsight.

If we make a "Gratitude List" like the person I just mentioned, we might be surprised by the length of our lists. Everything God has done by adding us to his family, by sending Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God to

us, was for our benefit. Since Jesus Christ purchased eternal life for us with his blood, our determination is to share his truth because we have the same kind of faith Apostle Paul had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." (2 Corinthians 4:13).

As Christians, we ought to speak every day, about the hope we share. We've been chosen to function with fellow Christians, so as God's grace reaches more and more people through us, there will be greater thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

Real Christians should not give up even when we are tempted to do so. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long, yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs any troubles we will ever face on this earth, and his glory in us will last forever!

So, we don't focus on the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the troubles we are experiencing now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

On Thursday November 28th, our nation will pause for Thanksgiving because we are blessed in so many ways, and so let's join the rest of the country with the spirit of gratitude.

Shalom,
Pastor Ezekiel

Maple Leaf Chili Feed

Many thanks to all of those who donated food, drinks, their time, talents and service for the church to be able to provide the chili feed on Maple Leaf Saturday! Extra thanks to Brad Peterson for chairing the committee and spending most of Saturday at the church and to John Beins and the chili making crew. Our apologies if your name was inadvertently left off of this list.

We're grateful for:

Mark, Jill, & Dylan Dodge
Brad, Ali & Blake Peterson
John & Marilee Beins
Roger & Nancy Arnold
Doug & Samantha Cheek
Mike & Donna Curran
Kevin & Monica Crouch
Brian & Anne Batchelder
Scott & Leslie Erwine
Cynthia & Gabby Perez
Glen & Pam Sharp
Riley & Sarah Winkler
Susan Butell
Jan Boyd
Coleen Burgess
Sheryl Cleverley
Kathy Cook
Ron Chinn
Brad Peterson

Christi Darnell
Dennis Domer
Cheryl Figgs
Catherine Gerstner
Carolyn Groves
Susie Grossoehme
Susan Enns
Jen Fulton
Martha Harris
Cora Martin
Patty Lenning
Barbara Pressgrove
Kelley Bethell-Smith
Jeanne Stanley
Marcia O'Neil
Bruce Peterson
Kathleen Thomas
Tara Welch
Anne Westgate

Turkey Dinner

Come enjoy great food, great fellowship, and support the UMF's traditional turkey dinner on Saturday, November 9 from 5-7 pm.

Pies, prep workers, and individuals are needed to serve at this event.

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex or you may contact Donna Curran.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

TURKEY DINNER



BALDWIN FIRST UMC

9
NOV

704 EIGHTH ST.,
BALDWIN CITY
ADULTS: \$15
10 & UNDER: \$12
UNDER 5: FREE

5-7
PM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship	9:30 am
Sunday School	10:30 am
Adult Bible Studies	10:30 am
B.L.A.S.T. Youth Group	10:30 am

Childcare service for Pre-K and under is available in the lower level across from Fellowship Hall.

Children's bags can be borrowed during service. They may be found in the narthex.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 3
All Saints Sunday/Communion

November 9
Food Pantry @ 9-10:30
Turkey Dinner @ 5-7 pm

November 13
Handbell Clinic, Ives Chapel
@ 6:30-7:30 pm

November 17
Baker Student Sunday
District Charge Conference
Leawood @ 1:15-3:15 pm

November 18
Advent Choir Rehearsal
@ 6:30 pm, Sanctuary

November 23
Food Pantry @ 9-10:30

November 24
Hanging of the Greens
After Sunday Service

Handbell Clinic

Ives Chapel and Baldwin First would like to bring back the handbell tradition! All ages are welcome! It will be a self-taught study. The ability to read music is necessary. We'd love to see you on Wednesday, November 13 from 6:30-7:30 pm at Ives Chapel. Please contact Jan Boyd at 785-840-6719 if you have questions!

Advent Choir Rehearsal

All ages, no experience necessary! Mega Rehearsal Monday, 11/18, 6:30pm in the sanctuary. We will prepare everything for Advent choral singing in this one streamlined rehearsal session, with practice recordings for singers to keep music accessible and fresh in mind along with busy schedules!

FYI...our own Kelley Bethell-Smith will be directing!

Hanging of the Greens

Please plan to attend the annual Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 24 following service. There are opportunities for adults and children of all ages to help.

This is a great way for your hearts to prepare for the Advent season and celebrate the beauty of our church.



JOBS

-
- Carry of items up stairs
-
- Putting the trees together
-
- Candles and greenery in the windows
-
- Hanging of the garlands above the Altar
-
- Hanging of the garlands on the Stair rails
-
- Fluffing of the bower
-
- Hanging of the wreaths inside
-
- Hanging of the wreaths outside
-
- Placing of the candlesticks on the Jaws
-
- Decorating of the candlesticks
-
- Decorating of the Trees
-

Hanging of the Greens

November 24, 2024

Right after Church service

Something for all ages to help with!

Children's activities and decorating of their tree.

Soup Dinner / Living Nativity

Baldwin First has two events on Saturday, December 7 during the Festival of Lights.

Come enjoy delicious, warm soups at UMF's annual soup dinner from 5-7 pm! Fifteen to twenty crockpots of soups are needed.



Desserts are provided! Awards will be given for the top three soups!

The Living Nativity will be performed during the Festival of Lights. We are seeking wise men, shepherds, and members of the holy family. Please contact Samantha Cheek or Katherine Cook if you would like to be in this production.

DECEMBER EVENTS

- December 1**

Advent Begins
- December 7**

Soup Supper & Living Nativity @ 5-7 pm

Baldwin City Festival of Lights
- December 8**

Bible Study @ 4-5 pm
- December 14**

UMF Holiday Brunch @ 10-11:30 Fellowship Hall
- December 15**

Bible Study @ 4-5 pm, Library

Bones Midwest Trombone Concert @ 4 pm, Sanctuary
- December 22**

Bible Study @ 4-5 pm, Library
- December 24**

Christmas Eve Service @ 11 pm



Mission Team News

Mission Team Projects:

- Baldwin Community Food Pantry-Open 2nd and 4th Saturday's 9-10:30
Check the schedule on the east door as holidays may cause a time change. Baldwin Community food pantry now helps support the four food pantries in Baldwin USD 348 schools, the city library snacks program, Indian Mission Methodist Church pantry, and the Assembly of God pantry. We have no federal or state funding but are supported generously by local churches, Baker University, USD 348, local merchants and businesses, and by many individuals. Please stop by and see us Friday mornings at 10 am every week as we prep for the pantry.

Vacation Bible School:

- Our missions team served dinner to VBS volunteers and their families Monday thru Thursday during July Vacation Bible School.

LINK:

- We served LINK meals, a program providing free lunches daily in Lawrence, four times this year providing 468 meals. The meals consist of a main dish, vegan dish, vegetables, green salad, fruit salad, bread and butter, desserts, and milk. Many other church members volunteer for this service. We also provide green beans, mashed potatoes, and stuffing for LINK Thanksgiving dinner. The 2025 LINK dates are: February 22, April 26, August 23, and October 25.

Did You Know???

There are two adult Sunday school classes that meet at 10:30 am each Sunday?

- Lamplighters meets in the library using a book and videos. Currently the topic is "Mysteries of the Middle Ages-The Early Church." This lesson is being taught by Dennis Domer.
- Journey class meets in Beeks Chapel. They are currently studying the Book of Isaiah. Round table discussion is the preferred way of learning.

Come visit a class this Sunday! Everyone is welcome!

Advent Bible Study



Join Rev. Ezekiel for a Bible Study, *Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph, the Miracle of Christ's birth through the Eyes of His Father, Joseph*. The studies will be held Sunday's from 4 pm in the church library on December 8, 15, and 22. A signup form may be found in the narthex or contact the church office to enroll.

MISSION TEAM MEMBERS

Nancy Arnold
Susan Butell
John & Marilee Beins
Coleen Burgess
Kelley Bethell-Smith
Martha Harris

Pastor Ezekiel's Upcoming Mission Trip

I will be traveling to Kenya on November 18, 2024. Please pray for me because traveling overseas these days is not that easy. From Kansas City to Nairobi, it will take 19 hours and ten minutes. Going through security checks can also be stressful.

On Saturday November 23, I will attend my nieces' wedding (first born daughter of my brother) in Nairobi at Karen African Gospel Church. The following day, I will travel to the village to visit my mother. During that same week in the village, I will join Cheptuech Africa Gospel Church members in fitting purification kits to water containers so that the elderly people in the village can have drinkable water. There are many waterborne diseases in the villages because people fetch water from creeks and drink it with no purification. As a result, they find themselves with disease such as h.pylori, cholera, schistosomiasis, dysentery, and typhoid. It has killed mostly the elderly people because their immunity is very weak. I therefore feel called to teach them how to purify water before they drink it.

My target in this quick trip to Kenya is to provide ten families with water purification containers. We are needing donations to buy water purification kits. The Lion's Club in Russell County, Kansas, is partnering with me in doing the fundraising for this project. Kendra and other members of the club have been to the village in Kenya before and they witnessed for themselves the need.

The one major challenge I'm encountering at the moment is to get water purification kits within Kenya. There is only one place in Kansas City I can buy water purification kits for \$65.50 per piece, and then I buy the containers in Nairobi for \$12.50 per piece. Your donation to save lives will be appreciated.

The following pictures are from last year's mission trip.



We pray and hope that we can do 10 buckets or more. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Ezekiel.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Doug Cheek, Chair
Nancy Arnold
Ryan Berg
Mike Curran
Christi Darnell
Carolyn Groves
Marcia O'Neil
Brad Peterson
Pam Sharp
Katherine Cook, Secretary

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact the church office, Rev. Ezekiel Koech, or Linda Ballinger for pastoral care needs and to be added to the prayer list.

Linda Ballinger,
Care Giving Team Leader,
913-980-3831

Rev. Ezekiel Koech, Pastor
785-324-9174



BALDWIN FIRST

Volunteer Opportunities

The church nursery is open and volunteers are needed! You may sign up in the narthex or contact Barbara Pressgrove at 785-727-9787 if you can help. If you would like to take Gathering Training, please contact Pam Sharp at 785-760-3486 or email Pam at sharp_pam@hotmail.com.

The American Cancer Society Road to Recovery is establishing a program in Douglas County. The program provides rides to and from cancer treatment in the Douglas County area. Most requests are from Baldwin City to Lawrence and back. Interested parties may call 800-227-2345. For more information, you can visit cancer.org/drive.

Giving

We believe that all people are a gift from God, so it is important that you decide how your gifts are used by the Church. There are three ways for you to give financially. Please review the options below before submitting your offering. Go to **baldwinfirst.org/give** for more information.

Give to the General Fund

Offering goes towards Church operating expenses. This also supports the ongoing ministries the Church supports outside of the food pantry.

Give to the Food Pantry

Funds are directed to support the Baldwin Community Food Pantry.

Give to the Baldwin First Capital Campaign

Funds directed towards the **Baldwin First Capital Campaign** will address the current needs of Critical HVAC/Boiler Repairs (Phase 1), Critical Audio/Visual Updates (Phase 2), and preventative updates (Phases 3 & 4).

Bulletin & Newsletter Information

Please submit information you would like in the Sunday bulletin the Tuesday before church service.

Articles or announcements for the monthly newsletter may be turned by the 25th of each month.

LOVE.SERVE.DISCIPLE.

Since 1855, the mission of Baldwin First UMC is to love and serve God and our neighbors as disciples of Jesus Christ.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Believing that all persons are created by God and loved through and by Jesus Christ, the people of Baldwin First United Methodist Church understand that our neighbors include persons of all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientation and identity, economic or marital status, and physical and mental condition, and are welcome to participate in the life of our congregation.

CONTACT US

Rev. Ezekiel Koech, Pastor
785-324-9174
ezekiel.koech@baldwinfirst.org

Church Office
785-594-6612
office@baldwinfirst.org

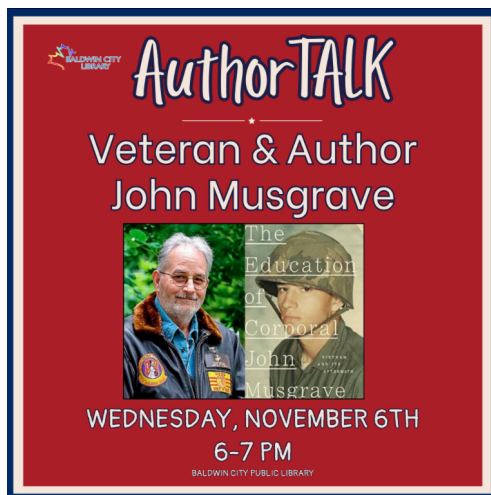
Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
10 am - 2 pm

Website
baldwinfirst.org

Social Media
[@baldwinfirstumc](https://www.instagram.com/baldwinfirstumc)



Community Events



Tech Time Nov 18

Baldwin City Library, 2:00-3:00 pm
Bryan Butell, President, Baldwin State Bank will speak on scams, breaches, and more!



Mobile Blood Drive

Tuesday, November 12, 2024
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Baldwin High School BHS Gym

To reserve an appointment:

https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/82996

Craft Your Stress Away

Thursday, November 7, 2024
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Nov. 30 PLANTALAND

Vinland Valley Nursery, 9-3
Pop up Holiday Mart



Holiday on High

FA LA LA LA LA
BALDWIN CITY PLAYERS
MUSIC & THEATRE at Baker University
LUMBEYARD ARTS CENTER

Community Variety Show

Live music, comedy, singing, caroling & ventriloquy.
Ring in the season, laugh and be merry! An all ages show.

FEATURING
Baldwin Junior High Brass Quartet
Baker University Theatre presents a scene from, "A Christmas Carol"
Comedy & Vocals - Maddy Roger
Vocalists - Terry Thoeke, Ryan Nichols, Kartina Kuntz
Ventriloquy - Diana Rockwell
Community Carolers - Sing along!

November 23, 7 pm
doors open 6:30 pm
Refreshments available

Tickets \$10

A circular wreath made of pine branches and pinecones, hanging on a wall.

November 30

Shop Small Saturday Shop Hop!

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Locations

Baldwin City Beer Company | 520 High Street

Lumbeyard Arts Center | 719 High Street

Shop Art for the Holidays

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Gallery reception for the Itty Bitty Art Show complete with donuts and mimosas. Meet the artists, explore the gallery, vote on your favorite entry, and enjoy shopping in Lucy's Corner. A creative glazing studio will be open for patrons.

Lovely Flower Co | 803 High Street

Ad Astra Alpaca Holiday Open House | 168 East 1700 Road

A decorative border featuring green garlands, red and white striped ornaments, and snowflakes.

Vintage Park Holiday Bazaar

321 Crisman Ave Baldwin City, KS 66006

Dec 2, 2023

10a.m. to 2p.m.

Local vendors, crafts, food, and drink
Please come start the Holiday Season off right
With the Vintage Park Family
Help us make magical Christmas memories

A decorative border featuring green garlands, red and white striped ornaments, and snowflakes.



BALDWIN FIRST
P.O. Box 25
Baldwin City, KS 66006

SCAN ME



The Vine is a monthly newsletter centered around the events, discipleship, and ministries of Baldwin First United Methodist Church. Please use the QR code to choose if you would like to receive the newsletter via mail, email, or if you want to be removed from the mailing list. You may also contact the church office at office@baldwinirst.org.