



*"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*

Newsletter • September 2026



As I see it.....

A healthy church is built not only through worship but also through the willing service of its members. Every person has unique gifts and talents that can be used to glorify God and strengthen the church family. Whether it is singing in the choir, doing children's message, helping in the nursery, welcoming visitors, helping with congregational care, serving on the media team, or assisting with church maintenance, every act of service makes a meaningful difference.

Volunteering is more than filling a role. It is an opportunity to grow spiritually, build lasting relationships, and reflect Christ's love through action. When each member contributes according to their abilities, the work of the church becomes lighter, more effective, and more impactful in the community.

If you have been considering getting involved, this is a wonderful time to take the first step. Pray about where God is leading you to serve, speak with pastor Ezekiel or Lay leader Jeanne Stanley about your willingness to use your gifts for God's glory. Remember, no act of service is too small when it is done with love and faithfulness.

Together, let us serve with joyful hearts, encourage one another, and work as one body in Christ to fulfill God's mission.

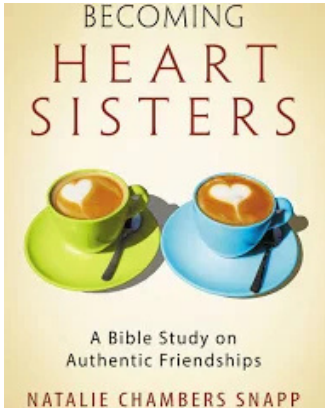
In His Service,
Pastor Ezekiel

Greetings & blessings from Kenya!

We arrived safely!
These are pics
of us at the Umojo
Children's Home.



UWF Book Study



UWF book study will continue in the Fall on the following dates: 9/16, 10/14, and 11/18 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Our book is "Becoming Heart Sisters" by Natalie Chambers Snapp.



Even if you did not attend in the summer, it is designed as a drop-in class and you are very welcome. Just be prepared to be very loved!

Finance Quarterly Report

- July's income: \$15,977
- July expenses: \$18,634

As of this report, it appears we are \$2,500 in the red; however, this places us in a good position at this time of the year.

Hospitality Team Supports Baker Chapel

Baldwin First's Hospitality Team welcomed students to the first chapel of the 2026-27 school year. Cookies were provided to those who were in attendance.

Services are held in the Clarice L. Osborne Memorial Chapel on the Baldwin City campus on Thursdays at 11 a.m. No classes are held at that time to allow people who wish to attend chapel to do so.

Baker prides themselves on the opportunities provided to students to grow in their faith. University ministry is ecumenical in nature, open to all people of faith, regardless of practices and denomination.

Baker University was founded by members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1858 and named for the Kansas-Nebraska bishop of the MEC at that time, Osmond C. Baker. It is one of 196 colleges and universities in the United States with connections to the United Methodist Church.

Baker seeks to continue the tradition established more than 160 years ago—devotion to the Christian faith and academic excellence.

Baldwin First will host Baker's Chapel service on September 24 at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this service!



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship	9:30 am
Sunday School	10:45 am
BLAST JH/HS Group	
(BLAST resumes September 13)	
Adult Bible Studies	10:45 am
Young Adult Bible Study	10:45 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 12 & 26

Men's Group, 8:30 a.m., Ives Chapel
Food Pantry, 9-10:30 a.m.

September 13

Communion, BLAST Crew Resumes

September 16

UWF Book Study 6:30 p.m., Library

September 21

Leadership Team Meeting, 7 p.m.

September 24

Baker Chapel @ Baldwin First
11 a.m. - All Are Welcome!

September 27

Ministry Sunday
Potluck after Service

October 1 and November 4

Just Food Cooking Class

October 14

UWF Book Study 6:30 p.m., Library

October 17 - 18

Maple Leaf Weekend
No Service October 18

October 31

Hometown Halloween

November 14

UWF Turkey Dinner, 5 - 7 p.m.

Cookout & Pool Party

The cookout and pool party held on Sunday, August 2 was a “splashing” success! Adults and kids alike enjoyed fellowship and fun in a cool, relaxing setting!

Jill Dodge said, “The kids and adults had so much fun hanging out with each other.

It was a beautiful night and we enjoyed the time with each other!”

Thanks to those who organized this fun night of fellowship!



Rev. Alice Purvis Installed as the SE Kansas District Superintendent



Through anecdotes and physical mementos, Rev. Dr. Alice Purvis gave some glimpses into her life during her installation as Southeast Kansas District superintendent.

“She’s tied her whole ministry journey into today.” Dorcia Johnson, pastor of Columbus-Baxter Springs-Opolis-Galena, said before the Aug. 22 ceremony at Chanute First United Methodist Church.

Rev. Dr. Alice Purvis explains the significance of the stoles she wore for her installation ceremony.

Purvis wore two stoles – one belonging to her father, Rev. Wilbur Purvis, who served Kansas East Conference churches including Axtell, Richmond, Bushong, Cottonwood Falls and Girard. He died in 1998. The other stole was a gift to her from the Riley, Kan., UMC, her home church, signed by all of the congregation and many of the subsequent churches she’s served, including Jarbalo, Leavenworth Fairmount, Horton, Osage City and Fredonia.

“I have the beginnings of faith from my family,” she explained, “and I have the continued faith of God’s children from church to church to church.”

“Alice is a multi-talented and deeply spiritual person,” Bishop David Wilson said. “Alice knows the demands and challenges of rural life very, very well. (She has) a great gift of continuing service for all of Southeast Kansas in this new role.”

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

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Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
10 am - 2 pm

Website
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Social Media
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Children's Ministry News

"We have finished our summer of Building Our Faith Brick by Brick with our elementary Sunday School Class. We are now back to the regular Sunday School classes. Baldwin First UMC Sunday School starts at approximately 10:30 after our church service and ends at 11:30. Children will be offered a snack during the Sunday School hour. Email Jill Dodge (jillmdodge@gmail.com) or Amy Berg (amy.m.berg@gmail.com) with any questions." Jill Dodge



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jill Dodge, Marcia O'Neil,
Amy Berg, Cynthia Perez
Barbara Pressgrove, Nursery
Angela Murry, BLAST Leader

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

Dr. Frank Perez, Mixer/Editor
Ryan Berg, Worship Technology

WORSHIP TEAM

Pam Sharp
Cynthia Perez
Donna Curran
Kathleen Thomas

SEPTEMBER 6

Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 13

Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 20

Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 27

Ministry Sunday Potluck
after Church

OCTOBER 4

Sunday School

Journey Adult Class

We will be starting a new book September 13th. This will be a great time for anyone to jump in and see what an adult "Sunday School" is all about. We meet in the back of the sanctuary by the coffee area (Beeks Chapel) starting right after the church service.

L.I.N.K.

Neighbors at L.I.N.K. were provided a delicious meal of chicken, baked beans, green salads, fruit salad, chips, desserts, and milk on Saturday, August 29th. Those providing desserts were: Trish Batchelder, Katherine Cook, Peggy McMillon, Kay Kuhlmann, Letha Williamson, Nancy Arnold, and Mary Tye.

Serving our guests and working in the kitchen were: Scott and Leslie Erwin, John and Marilee Beins, Roger and Nancy Arnold, Trish Batchelder, and Mary Tye.

We served 145 meal. Our next opportunity to serve at L.I.N.K. is Saturday, October 24th.

USD 348 Food Drive

U.S.D. #348 held a food drive prior to convocation on August 6th that netted the food pantry over 900 food items and money. Donors received a ticket for each item or dollar donated and winners received a gift card. Thanks to district nurse Lisa Patrick for organizing it and to the Employee Wellness Committee who gave out 30 gift cards donated by the Baldwin Education Foundation. The gift cards to local businesses were in amounts of \$25.00-\$50.00.

Those helping with the drive were:

John & Marilee Beins & Jett
Coleen Burgess
Susan Butell
Kelley Bethell-Smith
Katherine Cook
Jill, Dylan & Ryan Dodge
Mark Reynolds

Leadership Team

Jeanne Stanley, Chair
Ryan Berg
Susan Butell
Mike Curran
Christi Darnell
Martha Harris
Marcial O'Neil
Frank Perez
Glen Sharp
Katherine Cook, Secretary
Coleen Burgess, Finances

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Just Cook Classes

Baldwin First's Mission Team will be hosting two Just Cook Classes sponsored by Just Food on October 1 and November 5. Participants will learn to cook a meal and will be supplied ingredients to cook a delicious meal at home.

Just Food is the food bank of Douglas County, supplying over 30 partner agencies with fresh produce, dairy products, meat, bread and pantry staples. Just Food operates a food pantry serving 400+ families daily. They are a team dedicated to our listening to shoppers and community to serve the larger needs of their neighbors facing food insecurity.

WHAT IS JUST COOK?



Just Cook is a casual, hands-on cooking class where participants learn to make delicious, low-cost meals. Classes are designed to be accessible and enjoyable, providing skills and confidence to cook nutritious meals on a budget.

WHO IS JUST COOK FOR?

Just Cook is open to all Douglas County residents looking to brush up on their cooking skills! All participants will get hands-on experience and will enjoy a full serving of the dish.

CRUISING CUPBOARD



The Cruising Cupboard is Just Food's mobile food pantry, providing access to food in rural areas of Douglas County.

Cruising Cupboard is in Baldwin the first Tuesday and third Thursday of each month at Liston Stadium from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

JUST FOOD LOCATION:

1000 E. 11th Street, Lawrence, KS

PANTRY HOURS:

Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 6pm

Wednesday & Friday 9am - 3pm



MISSIONS TEAM

Susan Butell

Nancy Arnold

Marilee Beins

John Beins

Coleen Burgess

Kelley Bethell-Smith

Martha Harris

Robin Schrack

Corey Schrack

FELLOWSHIP / HOSPITALITY

Linda Ballinger

Trish Batchelder, Co-Chair

Coleen Burgess

Randi Canterbury

Samantha Cheek

Sheryl Cleverley

Katherine Cook, Co-Chair

Christi Darnell

Jill Dodge

Jennifer Fulton

Lori George

Carolyn Groves

Kay Kuhlmann

Peggy McMillon

Marcia O'Neil

Jeanne Stanley

Kathleen Thomas

Janet Venable

Tara Welch, Co-Chair

Letha Williamson

Thirsty?

The water fountains on both floors have been repaired! Cold water awaits you! Thank you, Darren Lawrenz, for making this happen!



Ministry Sunday

Pastor Ezekiel’s message this month reminds us that all service is both welcome and integral to the success of the church. Ministry Sunday, September 27, offers an opportunity to let us know how you would like serve. Below, you will see the various teams and their leaders. Consider your gifts, talents, and desires. Where would you like to make a difference in Baldwin First. Details will be shared in the bulletin the next few Sundays.

Adult Ministries Carolyn Groves Sheryl Cleverley	Children’s Ministry/VBS Jill Dodge, Amy Berg	Choir Kelley-Bethell Smith
Fellowship Trish Batchelder Katherine Cook	Hospitality Tara Welch	Maintenance Mike Curran
Men’s Group 2 nd & 4 th Saturday 8:30 a.m., Ives Chapel	Missions Nancy Arnold Susan Butell	Technology Ryan Berg Frank Perez
United Women in Faith Donna Curran	Widow/Widower’s Linda Ballinger	Worship Arts Pam Sharp, Music Kathleen Thomas, Liturgists & Children’s Time

Let’s Break Bread Together

Join us in Fellowship Hall following service on September 27 for a traditional pot-luck lunch! You bring a dish to share and your appetite; we provide drinks and table service. No time to cook? No worries! There will be room for everyone at the table!

Importance of Ministry

“4 Reasons Volunteering Within the Church is Crucial,” Lifeway Research (July 28, 2023).

- 1 Peter 4:10: “Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God” Every believer has a spiritual gift. That gift is to be used for others. We are temporary stewards (managers) of that gift. And when we use our gifts, it’s an outworking of God’s grace.
- To serve is to look more like Jesus. The apostle Paul encourages us to “Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant...” (Philippians 2:5-7).
- There are benefits that go far beyond ourselves when we serve. God commanded the prophet Jeremiah to “pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the Lord on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive” (Jeremiah 29:7).
- Volunteering is a key metric in whether someone feels fully connected to the church.
- It’s serving—more than any other factor—that determines whether someone feels like they are fully engaged with the life of the church.

FOOD PANTRY

FALL 2026

9:00 - 10:30 AM



SEPTEMBER

12 & 26

OCTOBER

10 & 24

NOVEMBER

14 & 21

DECEMBER

12 & 19

