



*"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 • October, 2024

As I reflect...

The other day, I was reading some Bible study materials in the church library, and I ran across a souvenir bulletin in the middle of the pages. This bulletin was from another church that has been sold. It was a 150th anniversary bulletin. It spoke of the fact that it had overcome many challenges over a century, but what struck me as I glanced through the booklet was the tone of pessimism. The writers of the booklet seemed to be saying that the best days were behind them already, at the age of 150! They spoke of a changing neighborhood. They wrote of a rapid turnover in leadership. The underlying motif of the booklet was that the dream which had given birth to that congregation had already dimmed, if not died after only 150 years.

First of all, who made the church die? There are three ways in which a church can die: 1) A congregation which does not see the possibilities in its future, 2) A congregation which does not appreciate the rich resources of its past, and 3) A congregation which does not participate in its powerful present. Believers send the church to ecclesiastical burial if they sit secure within their walls being spectators, but do not participate in the present life of the church.

Paul's prayer for the church is that "...you may know what is the hope to which he has called you..." Ephesians 1:18 NIV.

God's call for every Christian is always a call toward something. I do not believe our God calls us to sit still and be satisfied. God's call is a restlessness; God's call

is a summons to what ought to be. And if you and I are satisfied with our church just as it is, then we are guilty of betraying hope, and we are killing the church.

Who's killing the church? Those who no longer have a burning within them, a bright shining dream of a world that is not yet, but could be a vibrant dream of a church that might be faithful and alive in every respect. Who's killing the church? Those who in their cynicism, in their weariness, and in their insecurity have not kept hope alive.



When congregations forget what God has called them to do, they are going to kill the church. If we forget that the task is nothing less than the redemption of this world, then we are on the way to the cemetery. If we suppose our task is just to maintain the institution or to preserve the organization, then we are trying to kill the church.

The church of Jesus Christ is called to a hope. It is summoned to a future. If we stay with the tasks of evangelism and mission and teaching and outreach and ministry; if we spend our time and our money and our energy on building islands of hope in an ocean of hopelessness, then we will live. "I pray," Paul says, "that you may know the hope to which he has called you." Let us grasp the possibilities of our future.

Shalom,
Pastor Ezekiel



Please support the church on Maple Leaf Saturday and enjoy chili, chili dogs, walking tacos, and hot dogs.

United Women in Faith (UWF) will also be hosting a bake sale. Workers and food donations are needed. A signup sheet is located in the narthex, or contact Linda Ballinger at 913-980-3831.

Volunteer Opportunities

The church nursery has reopened and volunteers are needed! Please contact Barbara Pressgrove at 785-727-9787 or email her at bkp_barb@hotmail.com if you can help. There is also a signup link listed below. If you would like to take Gathering Training, please contact Pam Sharp at 785-7603486 or email Pam at sharp_pam@hotmail.com.



Scan the QR code to sign-up:

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.

Hometown Halloween

Halloween is just around the corner, and Baldwin First will be participating in Trunk or Treat. The Fellowship team would very much appreciate your donations of candy; there is a basket in the narthex to receive your generous contributions. You are also welcome to join us on October 31 from 5-7 pm as we hand out goodies to Baldwin's youngest tricksters!



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.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 19 -20

Maple Leaf

October 19

Church Food Booth

October 20

No church service @ BFUMC
Ives Chapel Service @ 11 am

October 22

Newsletter Items Due

October 26

Food Pantry

November 9

Thanksgiving Dinner @ 5 pm

November 17

Charge & District Conference
Leawood, 1:15-3:15 pm

"Foodlowship"

On September 8, we had "foodlowship." Church family mealtime appears to be something of the past. Sitting down together as a church family and eating together doesn't happen as often as it used to many years ago. How did this once a month event disappear? What happened to coffee and donuts in the narthex area? What happened to the Sunday dinners at Grandma's house? It is a spiritual problem. What better family function to ruin than destroying family support and love? It started when we all got too busy, including me. In today's wild world, church family meals are something that need to be fought for and reignited. Every child, teenager, or adult and young adult needs connection. We need one another, and church family members especially need each other.



I benefited from "foodlowship" on September 8. I sat at the same table with people whose names I didn't know; we had a light conversation and we got to know each other better. We also signed up to participate on church teams, to use our gifts and talents to serve God in 2025. Don't miss "foodlowship" the next time we have one!

New Administrative Assistant

Greetings everyone! Meet our a new Administrative Assistant.



Most of you have heard that Patty Lenning joined our staff team on September 10th as Baldwin First UMC Administrative Assistant. If you haven't met her yet, you are welcome to stop by the church and introduce yourself and welcome her. She works Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Patty has a rich experience in business technology, especially in graphic design, data analytics, data input and processing, software management, web application, information and automation, etc. We're super excited for this new addition to the Baldwin First UMC church family.

Again, join me in welcoming our newest staff team member.

In Christ's service,
Rev. Ezekiel Koech

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.facebook.com/baldwinfirstumc)
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Income and Expense Report

9/22/24							
					(2024 Budget = \$199,861.63 - \$16,655/month)		
Income vs Expenses by month & YTD							
					Under/Over		Under/Over
		Income		Expenses	Expenses		2024 Budget
Month							
January		\$7,967.35		\$41,574.87		-\$33,607.52	
February		\$10,297.83		\$18,605.38		-\$8,307.55	
March		\$28,759.18		\$11,109.22		\$17,649.96	
April		\$20,635.60		\$21,132.57		-\$496.97	
May		\$10,779.17		\$11,763.09		-\$983.92	
June		\$9,998.58		\$13,315.55		-\$3,316.97	
July		\$18,256.01		\$25,285.47		-\$7,029.46	
August		\$18,654.08		\$15,084.49		\$3,569.59	
September							
October							
November							
December							
Total YTD		\$125,347.80		\$157,870.64		-\$32,522.84	

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).

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



Community Events

★★★★★

SWEATS FOR VETS

Don't leave them out in the cold!

Bring **NEW** items* to the library:

jackets, sweatshirts,
sweat pants, hoodies,
flannel lounge pants,
hats, gloves, underwear,
or any warm clothing.

Oct. 1 - Nov. 1

Donations will be
delivered to the Colmery-
O'Neil Veterans Hospital
in Topeka before
Veteran's Day 11/11/24

*Adult sizes for men or women

★★★★★



**FREE COATS, HATS, GLOVES,
MITTENS, BOOTS, AND
BLANKETS!**

Saturday, October 26
9 a.m. - Noon

Lighthouse Baptist Church
6th & Baker Street



Haunted Mansion

HOMETOWN HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER 31
5-7PM
Downtown Baldwin City

TRUNK OR TREAT
LIBRARY HAUNT
BARD'S
HAUNTED WINDOW DISPLAY

CITY HALL'S HAUNTED BASEMENT
LUMBERLAND JAZZ CENTER
CRAFT & STORY SING ALONG NIGHT

GIVE BACK

Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the community food pantry at the Hometown Halloween event. Your generous contributions will help support local families in need during this festive season. Look for the large trash bins!