

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*The Vine*

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER



## **Good Enough: Embracing, the Imperfections of Life and Faith**

Excellence, or the idea of it, is alluring. We delight in the idea that constant self-improvement is possible—that we can perfect ourselves. And sometimes, we pile onto ourselves a sense of moral obligation to be constantly bettering ourselves. After all, I did stand in front of the Bishop and all of the Annual Conference and profess to believe with all my heart that I am going “onward to perfection” when I answered the historic ordination questions. But, does that mean I must spend every waking moment in a mode of STRIVING?

No.

And neither must you.

Good enough is not about apathy. Good enough is not an excuse to act in ways that are willfully harmful to ourselves or others-

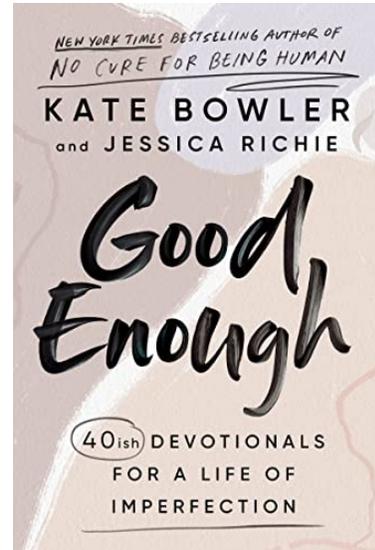
But Good enough refuses to be roped into a relentless, fruitless, disheartening attempt to be our own savior.

Good enough invites us to a faith where we can find blessing without earning it. Where we can rest in the goodness of God’s grace, where we can tend and nurture ourselves in ways that are life-giving and life-affirming.

Our series for Lent will be from the work of Dr. Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie *Good Enough: 40ish devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*.

Rev. Amanda Baker

[www.katebowler.com/goodenough](http://www.katebowler.com/goodenough)



NANCY ARNOLD, CHAIR., [ARNOLDN448@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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 January 21, 2022 ~via Zoom

**Attendees** Staff: Reverend Amanda Baker Council Members: Council Chair Nancy Arnold, Linda Ballinger, Doug Cheek, Donna Curran, Laura Dickinson, Cynthia Perez, Brad Peterson, Kathleen Thomas Advisory Member: Katherine Cook

**Opening:** Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Minutes:** Brad moved to accept the minutes from November of 2021. Doug seconded the motion; the motion carried. (There was no council meeting in December)

**Finances:** Brad indicated that finances for both the running checking account and the capital campaign look positive at this time. Pastor Amanda shared that the next major expenditure will be for upgrades to audiovisual equipment with MSM.

**SPPRC:** Liaisons have been assigned and the committee is ready to start a new year. Cynthia reminded the council of Cat's impending absence.

**Caregivers:** A small contingent of Linda's group met in January; they will determine whether to meet in person or remotely for the time being. Linda has received additional requests for the Teeny Tears materials.

**Missions:** Laura reported that Missions is launching a year-long service of loving our neighbor. They are purchasing books for the library on cultural diversity. In February they will gather items for area homeless shelters. They also plan to serve a meal on Baker campus. There will be a devotional mailing for the Lenten season. The food pantry is offering vouchers and food items twice monthly. LINK is January 29th.

**Worship:** Kathleen will host a Zoom committee meeting on January 31st.

**UMW:** Donna and the ladies are making plans, but will adjust as necessary. Lay Leader Doug shared details of the one-board model. More information will be forthcoming as it is determined whether this is a good fit for Baldwin First.

**VBS:** The theme for VBS 2022 will be Food Truck Party. Pastor's Moment

**The Board of Trustees** approved a bid from MSM for additional and upgraded audiovisual materials. They are also considering installing a new water heater for the parsonage. The paperwork was signed for the line of credit from Wesleyan Investive. The issue of ice and snow removal is being addressed. A list of those who are willing to serve is being composed. Covid protocol is once again a concern. It was agreed that ad council will have an email conversation the first week of February to determine procedures for the month. With the surge in Covid, it is necessary to determine whether we want to continue offering testing supplies from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The consensus was to use the remainder of testing supplies on scheduled Sunday afternoons. Pastor Amanda is considering how she would like to approach the Lenten season with the possibility of offering a book study outside the body of the church. Pastor Amanda offered a closing prayer, and Nancy brought the meeting to an end at 7:57.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine Cook

### Most Current Financial Update:

BaldwinFirst 2022 Budget: \$159,300  
(averaged contribution amount needed each month to stay current:  
\$13,276.00) We received \$9141.00 in contributions for the month of  
January with records indicating the general budget is at 6% needed in  
the budget plan at this time. Thank you!



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

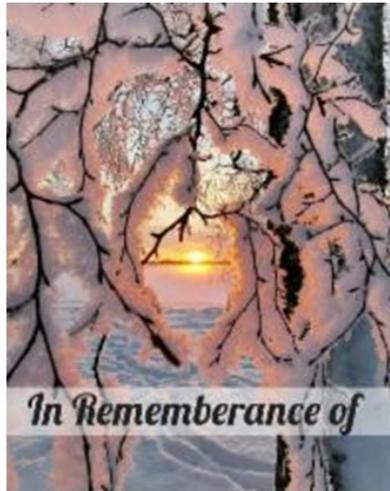
to a designated fund: general funds, food pantry, or Capital Campaign

Give Now



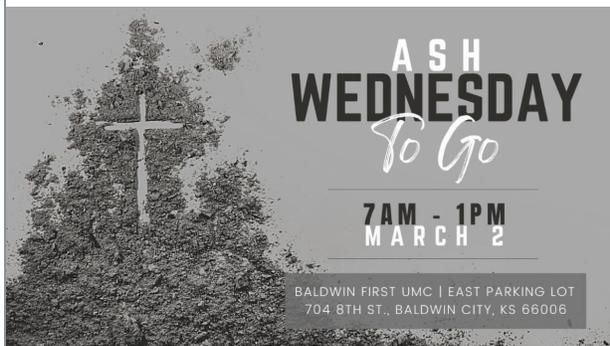
**Stanley Vickers**  
Dec. 3, 1950-Feb. 13, 2022

**Ruth Ann Nutt**  
Nov 14, 1921-Feb. 7, 2022



**John "Jack" Harris**  
Sept. 14, 1927-Jan. 23, 2022

**Enola (McClaren) Gish**  
Nov. 7, 1926-Dec. 15, 2021



### Meanings of the Backdrop for Lent

Throughout the season of Lent at Baldwin First there will be a display of visual aids (added to weekly and explained during the Children'sTime) will be added each week. On Ash Wednesday, March 2 the personal cross of forgiveness will be imposed as we receive ashes. The shape of this cross is called, Passion Cross, as it symbolizes the

the agony of Gethsemane. Also, a Crown of Thorns, such as the one placed on Jesus' head by the soldiers, is sometimes included on the cross.

On March 6th, the first Sunday of Lent, green vines and grape clusters (representing those who abide in Christ through the Spirit of Truth. In John 15, Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches". The purple cloth of this season signifies penitence.

The second Sunday of Lent, March 13th, John 18 tells of Judas who led soldiers and officials of the chief priests and Pharisees to a meeting place to arrest Jesus. A lantern, rope, sword, and money bag containing 30 pieces of silver for which Judas betrayed Christ will be added to the display.

On Sunday, March 20, a rooster signifies Peter's denial of Christ (John 18:15-27).

The 4th Sunday of Lent, the 27th, Jesus thirsted on the cross, a sponge was soaked with wine and vinegar and lifted to his lips on a stalk of Hyssop Plant. Three nails that held Christ to the cross appear.

**To be continued:** The rest of the narrative and Lent meanings of the 5th Sunday of Lent, followed by Palm Sunday, Holy Week's Maundy Thursday/Good Friday then the culminating victory of Jesus' resurrection on Easter, April 17, will be in next month's newsletter.



## March 2022

Mar 2 Ash Wednesday  
7:00AM to 1:00PM **Ashes To Go** event  
(Church's east parking lot)

7:00PM Combined Ash Wednesday  
Service at Ives Chapel

Mar 4 World Day of Prayer

Mar 6 Lent begins

Mar 7 Missions Mtg 7:00PM

Mar 9 Care Giving Mtg 1:00PM

Mar 13 Daylight Savings Day begins

Mar 14 Trustees Mtg 7:00PM

Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day

Mar 21 Finance Mtg 7:00PM  
SPPRC Mtg 7:00PM

Mar 27 UMCOR Sunday

Mar 28 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 Mtg:**

**<https://zoom.us/join>**

**mtg ID #: 9644607669**

**To join by phone, call**

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**

