

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vine

NOVEMBER 2020



“Best of all, God is with us!”

These are told to have been the dying words of John Wesley, founder of Methodism. At the end of a life marked by great difficulty, a ministry that was both highly effective and incredibly controversial, and many trials in his personal faith, the words he imparted on his family, gathered at his side to say good-bye were reassurances that God is ever-present.

Many will begin a season of gratitude in November, and there is spiritual good to be found in the practice of cultivating gratitude in ourselves. AND, it is ok not to be Pollyanna. Wesley's words remind us that gratitude does not negate fear, or sorrow, or anger, but can co-exist with those human emotions. We can feel gratitude for the safety measures that protect a loved one, while feeling deep sorrow at the ways those measures will change our holidays.

We may feel afraid of all the many unknowns that pile into our hearts and minds as we watch the news, and yet give thanks that God is merciful and has walked with humanity through difficult times before.

We can feel righteous anger where systems of oppression harm and abuse, while giving thanks that the Bible reminds us that God is just, and calls us to seek justice.

The month of November holds a great deal- a contentious national election, here at church our finance committee will be budgeting for next year, members will be prayerfully discerning their giving pledges, our UMW will do their annual Turkey Dinner in a way they've never done it before, all over the world families will make hard choices about holiday gatherings.

So now more than ever, we rely on the Scripture to remind us of God's promises.

Fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

- Isaiah 4:10 ESV

May it be a blessing,

Rev. Amanda Baker

Fear not,
FOR I AM WITH YOU;
BE NOT DISMAYED,
FOR I AM YOUR *God*
I WILL
Strengthen YOU.
-ISAIAH 41:10



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
DONNA CURRAN, CHAIR., DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM

BALDWIN
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



8th and Grove
Baldwin City

UMW DRIVE THRU Turkey Dinner

November 14, 2020

Pick-up 5-7 on east side parking lot

**Pre-order on website:
baldwinfirst.org
& call in orders on
the day: 594-6612**

**\$12 for Adults
\$8 for Children**

**Cash & Check
Only.**



United Methodist Student Day

United Methodist Student Day is one of six Special Sundays when we receive an offering for a particular ministry through the denomination. On the last Sunday in November, the 29th., your gifts through this offering benefit students as they pursue opportunities in higher education. Your contribution will be joined with those of millions of other United Methodists to provide scholarships to deserving recipients. You can donate on line here: <https://bit.ly/3kGu3Ld>



BELIEVING. LOVING. AND. SERVING. TOGETHER.

BRAD PETERSON, PETERSONBRAD@HOTMAIL.COM

ANGELA MURRAY, MURRAYSLANDING@GMAIL.COM

On Saturday , Oct. 26, B.L.A.S.T. be put up banners on the church in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. They “planted” pink ribbons in the front lawn of the church to recognize survivors and those we have lost to breast cancer.

Thank you Frank Perez for the great photos and to Baily for adding names from the community to ribbons on Sunday..



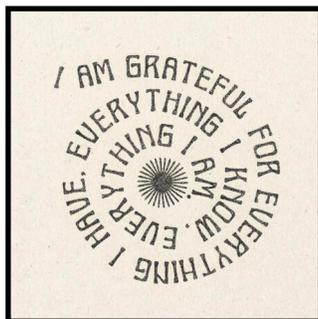
Help Us Know How You Will join Us in Ministry in 2021...

2020 has been nothing like any of us probably envisioned this time last year. I want you to know how proud I am of the way the Baldwin First UMC family has prioritized the well being of our neighbors and found safe ways to be a city on a hill. We pray that whatever you are able to pledge and give this year, that it will be an outpouring of gratitude for the many blessings you have received, and an act of trust in a God who is with us always. We also pray that you will have the op-

Scan Here for your BFUMC Pledge



And while you are at it (meaning at being thankful), here is a Gratitude menu of things to do to bring the message home. Links in menu are below:



[video](#)

[gratitude game](#)

[prayer stations](#)

[gratitude stones](#)

[gratitude scavenger hunt](#)

GRATITUDE MENU

EARN AS MANY POINTS AS YOU CAN!
SHARE PHOTOS AT #GPGRATITUDE

APPETIZERS - 1 POINT

Write down three things you are grateful for.
Watch this [video](#) on gratitude.
Give to your favorite charity.

SIDES - 2 POINTS

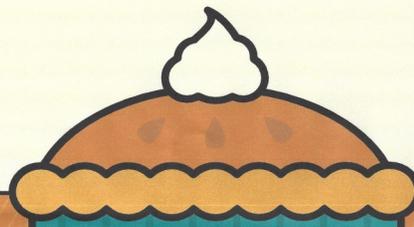
Send a Thank You letter to someone you're grateful for.
Check out a book about gratitude at the public library.
Play this [Gratitude Game](#).

ENTREES - 5 POINTS

Host a virtual Friendsgiving event.
Explore these [Prayer Stations](#) with your family.
Volunteer your time to a local organization that does good.

DESSERT - 2 POINTS

Paint or make these [Gratitude Stones](#).
Play this [Gratitude Scavenger Hunt](#) with your family or friends.
Make a homemade Christmas gift for a loved one.



Great Plains UNITED METHODISTS



Note: Minutes are posted a month after the date of the Council meeting once they have officially been approved and accepted

Baldwin First United Methodist Church September 28, 2020 ~via Zoom

Attendees: Staff: Reverend Amanda Baker, Council Members: Council Chair Doug Cheek, Linda Ballinger, Donna Curran, Cynthia Perez, Brad Peterson. Kathleen Thomas, Tara Welch Advisory Member: Katherine Cook, Visitors: Marvé Ralston

Opening: Doug opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Brad offered a prayer.

Minutes: Brad moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Donna seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 'aye.'

Questions from the Congregation: Marvé shared that she is seeking to be recertified as Lay Speaker and asked for the support and prayers of the congregation. Doug offered his support and best wishes. The Council approved Marvé's continued efforts with vote of "Amen!"

Church Reopening Update: The early service will reconvene at 8:00 a.m. as long as the weather permits. Indoor service is held at 10:45 a.m. and will be live-streamed. Other issues surrounding reopening indicate that we need to train more ushers. It is not likely that we will be able to bring children back into the building any time soon.

Finance and Stewardship: Brad said the finance committee met recently to discuss a new platform to make on-line giving more accessible. Breeze's organizational platform is being considered as a replacement for Power-Church (churches data base system). As the committee began to ponder concerns for next year's budget, they realized they don't know the status of membership. Postcards will be sent to members letting them know the building is open and they are missed. Letters will be sent to families reminding them of the financial obligations of the Church and encouraging them to make a financial pledge.

The working checking account is less than \$1000 at this time. It is clear that we can pay current bills, but we need a more clear picture of membership and giving to be able to move forward. Giving has been approximately \$5000 short of expenses for the past several months. Doug and Brad will speak at both services to help make attendees aware of the current situation and make a plea for pledge cards.

Building and Maintenance: Pastor Amanda enumerated current needs and concerns. The bathroom needs attention even though some of the mold has been removed. The air conditioner in the sanctuary leaked into the lower level, but the situation has been rectified. Lights in the chancel need to be changed which necessitates the use of building scaffolding. Trustees have been working on the Parsonage; in addition to other repairs, it needs a new roof.

UMW: The ladies are discussing the potential for a turkey dinner with modifications.

Blast Crew: There is a slide show highlighting the activities Blast Crew has engaged in over the past few months.

Pastor Report: There is another movie night in the works for October. Pastor Amanda offered a closing prayer at





Missions

FOOD PANTRY HOURS FOR VOUCHERS ARE EVERY SATURDAY 10-10:30AM
LAURA DICKINSON, MISSIONS CHAIR., LDINBC@GMAIL.COM

FOOD PANTRY: The Baldwin Community Food Pantry provides food vouchers to 50 - 60 local families each week. Approximately \$25,000 has been given to households in USD 348 with the vouchers since March of 2020. The pantry will continue to operate in this manner for the time being. Funds and prayers are always greatly appreciated. **THANK YOU** to all who support the pantry!

LINK: BFUMC will be serving at LINK on November 7. Meals are provided in a to-go manner to maintain social distancing while maintaining this long-standing community service. The Beins and Arnold families coordinate this activity.

Gratitude Activities: The holidays may look different this year, but our mission to serve others and love ALL our neighbors and to do so with a grateful heart is ever-present. Here is a sample list of activities to engage in during the holiday season.

- Create Blessing Bags to give to those experiencing homelessness
- Write a thank you note to essential workers in medical and educational fields
- Offer to take a meal to someone
- Praise people
- Lend an ear – reach out and really LISTEN
- Send bakery items to Baldwin Care Center and Vintage Park staff
- Offer your skills to another via video – teaching guitar, sewing, woodworking, etc.

- Offer to complete outside activities for someone who cannot get outside
- Read to others
- Donate to the Community Emergency Fund, Food Pantry, UMCOR
- Challenge yourself or family to make your own list and complete during the holiday season

Advent Bible Study groups: Missions will be offering the opportunity to participate in a ZOOM Advent Study group(s). Curriculum will be paid by Missions funds. All are invited and welcome. An email will follow with the curriculum, dates and times.

DISMANTLING RACISM is an initiative of the UMC. <https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/advocating-for-justice/racial-justice/united-against-racism>

United Methodists Stand Against Racism
We recognize racism as a sin. We commit to challenging unjust systems of power and access. We will work for equal and equitable opportunities in employment and promotion, education and training; in voting, access to public accommodations, and housing; to credit, loans, venture capital, and insurance; to positions of leadership and power in all elements of our life together; and to full participation in the Church and society.





JN:15:5

Calendar

Church Internet/Links Directory

Worship Services

10:45AM Indoor Services

10:45AM Live Online Services*

- Nov. 1 Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov. 2 Missions 7:00PM
- Nov. 3 Election Day
- Nov. 7 LINK
- Nov. 9 Trustees 7:00PM
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day
- Nov. 14 UMC Turkey Drive Thru
- Nov. 16 Finance 7:00PM
SPPRC 7:00PM zoom mtg link:
 <https://www.zoom.us/join>
Mtg ID# 99933704758
Password: 671682
- Nov. 23 Council
 <https://www.zoom.us/join>
Mtg ID # 92295961164
Password: 889023
- Nov. 26 Happy Thanksgiving!
- Nov. 29 UMC Student Giving Day

Church Internet Addresses & Zoom

Links Directory

Note: Links are assessable in the email version of this newsletter, the links are not available in the website version which is posted as a pdf.

Sunday 10:30AM Virtual Coffee time

 <https://www.zoom.us/join>
Mtg ID # 98614212250

Sunday 10:45AM **Worship Sign Up** at

<https://www.reopen.church/r/FINUSZyc>

*10:45AM Worship Live Stream:
<https://www.Baldwinfirst.org>

 <https://www.facebook.com/baldwinfirstumc>

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMwpl81KtGg7h9AhRFW9NWQ>

For **ALL OTHER CHURCH Zoom Mtgs**

 <https://www.zoom.us/join>
Mtg ID #9644607669
Password: 042020

ADMIN NOTES: NEWS ITEMS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST GOING ON IN YOUR AREAS OF MINISTRY (FROM LAST MONTH TO UPCOMING EVENTS) FOR THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE BY THE EVENING OF CHURCH COUNCIL (THE 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH). YOUR CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED! IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS BY MAIL AND HAVE AN EMAIL, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS (594.6612 OR WWW.BALDWINFIRST.ORG) TO SAVE ON MAILING COSTS. CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE 9 TO 2, MONDAY & WEDNESDAY FOR THE NEAR TERM. THANK YOU.

[OUR MISSION IS TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBORS AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST](#)

