



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# The Vine

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER



There are a few phrases I am truly tired of hearing, uttering, and typing: “In these uncertain times...”, “Out of an abundance of caution...”, “In this unprecedented moment...” and “We are in uncharted territory...”

I am reminded that medieval map-makers often used illustrations of giant serpents and dragons and the words “Here Be Dragons” to mark uncharted places on their maps, warning sailors and explorers alike of the dangers of wandering into the unknown.

For many of us, in life’s many, many changes, the church has served as a constant. A source of certainty and familiarity, either in the physical building, the rituals, or both. It isn’t uncommon for elderly residents of long term care facilities to ask their aids to help them get dressed and get their hair done when they learn it is Sunday, for this has been their routine their whole lives. There really are not words to describe how disorienting this time of physical distancing has been, particularly when Sunday rolls around. I must warn that even when our building begins to re-open, the boundaries and changes that will be required to protect our most vulnerable neighbors will mean that things will not be the way that we remember them. With or without our consent, we have been thrust into a new moment in the life of Christianity. One in which our familiarity, our stability, our sense of normalcy must yield to our love for one another, our care for the vulnerable, and our respect for the risks taken by frontline workers.

Many of you will hear the cry “Faith over Fear.” For some that will mean disregarding the data and research coming from those who have devoted their lives to the study of how disease spreads in favor of a return to worshipping in the ways that are most familiar.

When I consider that call, in light of our Wesleyan tradition of reading scripture through the lenses of reason, experience and tradition, I think of 1 John 4:18 “perfect love casts out all fear.” And I wonder if we can love our neighbors perfectly enough to cast out our fear of the unknown. Can we love God perfectly enough to cast away our fears that worship won’t be worship if we don’t do it in the ways and places that are familiar to us? Do we trust God? Do we trust in God’s promise that wherever (and perhaps however) 2 or 3 are gathered, God will be present? Do we believe that ours is a God of life and transformation who can use all things for the good of those that love God?

Could this be a moment in which we are called into unfamiliar territory, so that the Good News of God’s unfailing, unrelenting love can be heard by those who have not heard it before?

Church: we are in the part of the map marked “Here Be Dragons” but I believe that we will find not serpents poised to end the church, but God, poised and ready to breathe into us new and abundant life.

Thanks be to God,  
Rev. Amanda Baker



OUR MISSION IS TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBORS AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST



FOOD PANTRY HOURS ARE EVERY SATURDAY 10AM  
LAURA DICKINSON, MISSIONS CHAIR., [LDINBC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LDINBC@GMAIL.COM)

## Peace With Justice Sunday - Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding

The gospel is a message of redemption but also of peace and freedom. As Christians, we are called to spread peace, do good and stand for justice. Take a look at the scriptures:

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

- (Matthew 5:9)
- “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)
- “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)



Not much has changed when it comes to peace and justice from the culture and context of those Scriptures to today. We still need to work to encourage peace and seek justice. As United Methodists, Peace with Justice Sunday is one way we are working together to seek justice.

While we recognize that no nation or culture is absolutely just, we believe that we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as peacemakers. It is necessary to work together to resolve conflict peacefully because it is in that resolution where work such as eliminating poverty, caring for orphans, and kick starting health initiatives can be successful.

So what does being a peacemaker, peacekeeper or peacebuilder look like?

Peacemaking is defined as the process of creating a settlement between differing parties. If you have children, we are sure that you have played the role of peacemaker many, many, many times. Even if you don't have children, perhaps this is a role that has been played by you or a friend to help settle a dispute.

Peacekeeping is keeping people from attacking one another by creating a buffer of neutrality between them. On a global scale, we've seen the UN or neutral nations act as peacekeepers. At a local level, this could mean involving a mediator to help.

Peacebuilding is a process that establishes peace through resolution, institution building or at the political level with the goal of preventing recurring violence.



Like any good lesson, it is never enough just to learn it. We must now act on what we know. Peace with Justice Sunday (June 7) is based on these ideas that the way to stand for justice is to simultaneously create pathways for peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. It is a day to take action by funding peace with justice programs in our communities.

One such program we want to highlight is the Peace with Justice Network. This network provides resources and legislative actions to support peacemaking and peacebuilding. Learn more by visiting their website:

[https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice.](https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice)



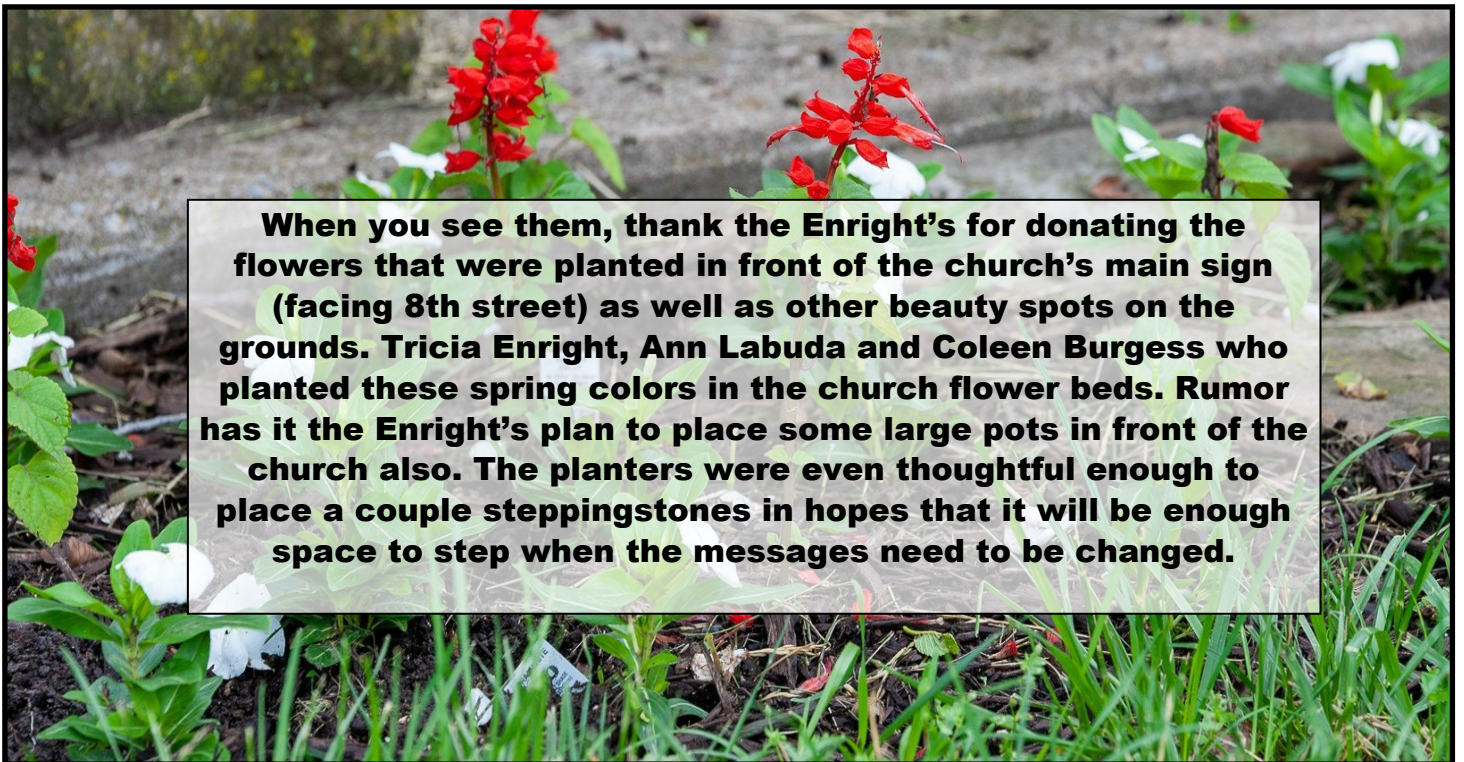


UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

DONNA CURRAN, CHAIR., [DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM](mailto:DONNAGCURRAN@YAHOO.COM)

We miss you all and hope you are staying safe.

The United Methodist Women



**When you see them, thank the Enright's for donating the flowers that were planted in front of the church's main sign (facing 8th street) as well as other beauty spots on the grounds. Tricia Enright, Ann Labuda and Coleen Burgess who planted these spring colors in the church flower beds. Rumor has it the Enright's plan to place some large pots in front of the church also. The planters were even thoughtful enough to place a couple steppingstones in hopes that it will be enough space to step when the messages need to be changed.**

Photo by Frank Perez



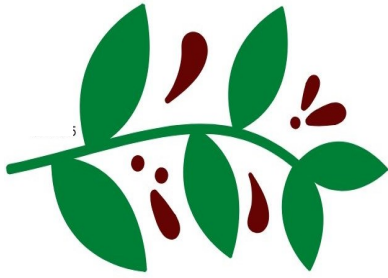
There are still mowing slots available for volunteers to mow the BFUMC grounds, please sign up if able at :

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4caaa928abfd0-2020>

Thanks! And much appreciation to all of you who have already signed up.



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## About our Building

There are many changes each week as we track infections of the novel-coronavirus, and emerging research regarding best practices for protecting the most vulnerable in our community. There are many many logistical details to consider, particularly in a beautiful historic building like ours. We ask for both your patience and your prayers. Here's some of what we CAN tell you about the process right now:

1. Cat continues to be physically "in-office" on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and to work from home on other days of the week. Church calls are forwarded to her home.
2. Our building continues to be closed for casual traffic. We ask key-holders who come in for essential business to please wipe down after themselves. If you do not have a key, but need to come in for essential business, please call to make an appointment.
3. Pastor Amanda has resumed coming to the office most days (Mon-Thursday) but if you would like to see her, please call to make an appointment.
4. Worship services will continue to be pre-recorded each week during the month of June. As we are able to make logistical arrangements, we may open the Sanctuary for a limited number of worshippers to come and view the pre-recorded services there. When we have a completed plan for re-opening the sanctuary, you will receive that notice in a variety of ways, as well as the new policies and attendance processes that will be in place to reduce risk.



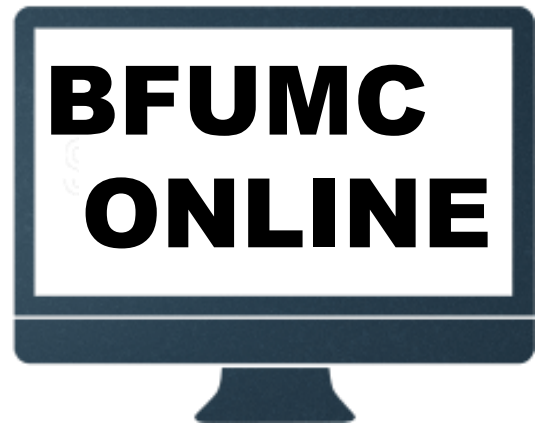
**ADMIN NOTES: NEWS ITEMS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST GOING ON IN YOUR AREAS OF MINISTRY FOR THE VINE ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE BY THE EVENING OF CHURCH COUNCIL (THE 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH). IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS BY MAIL AND HAVE AN EMAIL, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS (594.6612 OR WWW.BALDWINFIRST.ORG) TO HELP ALLEVIATE MAILING COSTS. CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE 9 TO 2, MONDAY & WEDNESDAY FOR THE NEAR TERM. THANK YOU.**





# Calendar

## JUNE 2020



### MONTHLY SCHEDULE\*

Please contact your leaders of regularly scheduled meetings for information on times and password for zoom meetings.

Sundays Worships 10:45AM via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/baldwinfirstumc>) or YouTube ([youtube.com/baldwinfirstumc](https://www.youtube.com/baldwinfirstumc))

KIDMinistry 9:30AM

B.L.A.S.T 9:30AM each Sundays:

<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/453003359> By phone: 312 626 6799 US (CT) Meeting ID: 453 003 359

**For all church meetings tits <https://kansas.zoom.us/j/9644607669>, password 042020 unless**

***indicated otherwise***

June 1 Missions 7:00PM

June 15 Finance 7:00PM

June 7 Peace with Justice Sunday

June 21 Father's Day

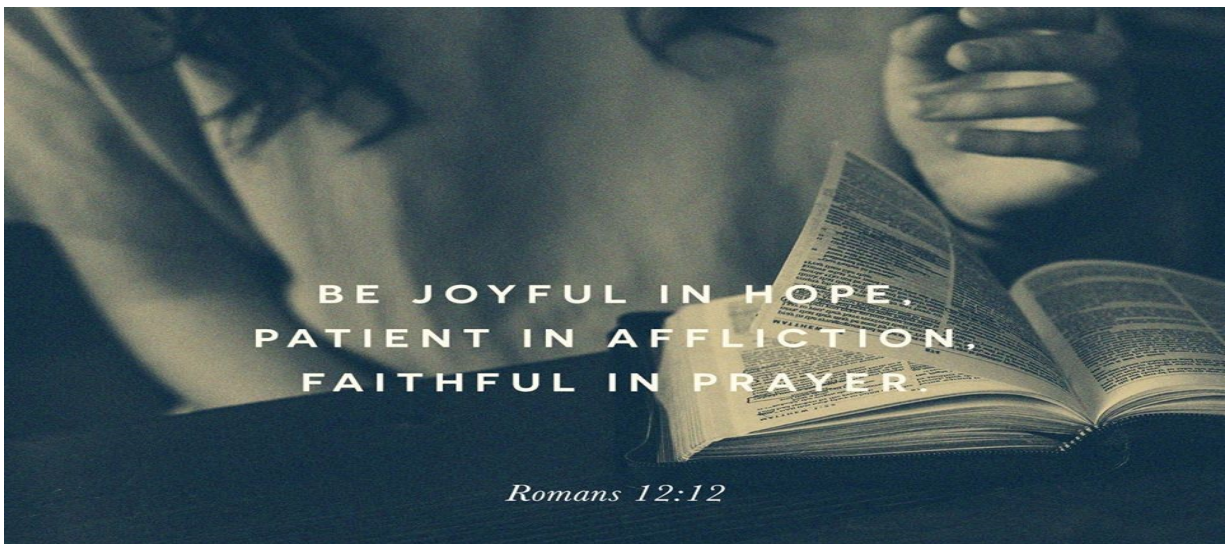
June 8 Trustees 7:00PM

June 22 Council 7:00PM (<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/92295961164> password: 889023)

June 15 SPPRC 7:00PM

(<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/99933704758> password: 671682)

June 29 Baldwin Community Blood Drive  
BFUMC Fellowship Hall noon to 5PM



BE JOYFUL IN HOPE,  
PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,  
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER.

*Romans 12:12*