

The Vine

(Very Important News and Events)

*"I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,
because apart from me you can do nothing."
(Jesus, from John 15:5)*

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The Mission of Baldwin First United Methodist Church is to love and serve God and our neighbors as disciples of Jesus Christ.

PAUL'S PAGE:

We are now deeper into the season of Lent. I shared about this important-to-our-faith season in *The Vine* last month. Here is a statement from our *Book of Worship* about Lent:

"Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

During March we will continue that season and continue the journey to Jerusalem with Jesus. On Sunday March 4, we will hear Jesus tell his disciples about going to that city and what will happen there, and then tell Peter that his ideas about the Messiah are incorrect and tell everyone else about bearing their crosses; on the 11th we will hear how Jesus, in Jerusalem, cleansed the temple; on the 18th, the fourth Sunday of Lent, we will hear Jesus tell how much God loved the world and why God sent the Son to us; on the 25th Jesus teaches about those who serve, how He serves, and what His service means.

Sunday, April 1 is Palm/Passion Sunday. We will celebrate the Jesus' entry into the city; we will commemorate His Last Supper with His disciples, His passion, and His crucifixion. And thus, we will begin **Holy Week, the most important week for us and for our faith.** During that week, we will share in a Maundy (or Holy) Thursday and Tenebrae service. Then, on Good Friday evening, our choir, the choir of the Edgerton United Methodist Church, and the Baker Community Choir, will present Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*. Please plan to participate in Palm/Passion Sunday and the events of the week.

A further word for you regarding March 18, the fourth Sunday of Lent: it is also *One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday*, a special offering Sunday of The United Methodist Church. Again from our *Book of Worship*:

"... this day calls the Church to share the goodness of life with those who hurt."

This offering goes to support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

"Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps us keep our promise that 100 percent of every other gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project-not on home office costs.

Offering gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they're most needed. UMCOR's specialized ministries responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world, and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees all assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest (from gbgm-umc.org/umcor/give/oghs)."

How goes for you this season of Lent, this season of self-examination, spiritual discipline, and repentance? I hope you are using it and finding it to be a time of renewal for your relationship with God and preparation for receiving that indescribable gift

I hope to see you in worship in March and the season of Lent. May you continue to know God's blessings.

**SHALOM,
Paul**

MISSIONS

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

LINK - BFUMC serves LINK - March 3

Food Pantry - Thank you to one and all who sustain the ongoing efforts to assure families in Baldwin City and the surrounding area have food in their pantries. The Missions team would like to extend an invitation to BFUMC Sunday School classes in supporting the Food Pantry with a specific item monthly. For example, a class could provide for the once-a-month laundry detergent distribution. Perhaps a children's Sunday School class might want to provide something specific to children. Think about what might be of significance to you if you were without resources for the purchase of groceries. Again, all is appreciated and we are thankful for the bounty that is shared!!!

Nothing But Nets is a global grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa, through the purchase and distribution of long-lasting, insecticide-treated nets. Inspired by sports columnist Rick Reilly, tens of thousands of people have joined the campaign since it was created in 2006. The people of the United Methodist Church, along with the United Nations Foundation, Sports Illustrated, NBA Cares, and others, are raising funds to purchase bed nets to prevent malaria. you can join the cause and contribute money for bed nets that will keep children and families safe.

During the month of March, the Missions team will be promoting the support of the Nothing But Nets/Imagine No Malaria campaign. Additional information will be provided throughout the month. One net at \$10 can save a life!

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY MEAL

Connie Neuenswander

The Membership/Welcome Team hosted a Membership Inquiry Meal on February 19th following church. Seven families who are regular attendees attended the meal along with Rev. Paul, Bill Clement – Church Council Chair, and the other members of the Membership/Welcome Team. Thank you to all of those who helped provide the meal. Thanks also to Michaela Todd for providing childcare during the meeting.

SPPRC

Chris Lawrenz, SPPRC Chair.

SPPRC will begin interviewing for the two newly created and approved positions of Bookkeeper and Youth Ministries Assistant. Please contact the church office (594-6612) if you are interested. Dianna can give you contact information.

UMW

Donna Curran, UMW President

World Day of Prayer - March 2 @ 6:30 p.m.**Circle Meetings****March 14 - Sarah Circle 9:30 am at Ruth Ann Nutt's****March 21 - Dorcas Circle 1:30 pm at Claire Wismer's****March 22 - Eve Circle 7:00 pm at Debbie Oakleaf's**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRYShelly Todd, Director (594-2921), ksl1987@embarqmail.com

***Save the date: SKY VBS is coming to Baldwin First United Methodist Church! Please mark your calendars for July 8th-12th. Our VBS begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m.** Children in preschool through 5th grade (last grade completely) are invited to come "Soar to New Heights with God"! The creators of SKY VBS have made some exciting changes to the vacation bible school format and everyone is sure be floating on clouds of fun!

Don't forget that adults and youth can be a part of the fun! We will need enthusiastic station leaders, energetic walking leaders. and lots of Jr/Sr high assistants. And if you can't physically assist at VBS, you can be a part of the adventure by sponsoring a child for VBS (more information on our exciting sponsorship program will be coming SOON) and, of course, you can be praying for an amazing week of ministry at SKY VBS. Last summer, we ministered to 145 kids and their families! We hope to see that number SOAR this July!! ☺

***Ministry opportunity:** Have you been feeling a tugging on your heart from God to be a part of ministry at BFUMC? Are you sensing a desire to impact and affect the spiritual development of children in our church? Well, your opportunity has arrived! **We currently have a Sunday School position open in our 2nd/3rd grade classroom and will have an additional opening in this classroom at the end of May.** No formal training is required. If you love God, adore children, and have a teachable heart and mind, you are equipped to become a top-notch Sunday School teacher. We offer "on the job" training and very user friendly materials! Please contact Shelly to learn more about this incredible ministry opportunity!

CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRYEva Durand, Director of Youth Ministry
(594-0345) 785.766.5803 or eva3d@embarqmail.com

Sunday, March 4:

3:30-5:00pm**Jr. High Youth Group****6:00-8:00pm****Sr. High Youth Group****PAYMENT:****Mission Trippers: WorkCamp payment due today! Make check to "Group WorkCamps" for \$172.****RSVP/PAYMENT:****Young Christians' Weekend at Silver Dollar City (3/30-4/1) RSVP/\$44 ticket deposit money due today.**

Sunday, March 18:

3:30-5:00pm**Jr. High Youth Group****6:00-8:00pm****Sr. High Youth Group**

Tuesday, March 20:

6:30-8:30pm**Ocean View, Delaware Youth Missions Trip Meeting for PARENTS & WORKCAMPERS**For campers, parents, and adult sponsors to discuss details of the 2012 Youth Mission Trip to Ocean View, Delaware. **All campers *must* attend.**

Sunday, March 25:

3:30-5:00pm**Jr. High Youth Group****6:00-8:00pm****Sr. High Youth Group**

Friday, March 30, 4:00pm – Sunday, April 1, 6:00pm:

4pm Friday to 6pm Sun**Young Christian's Weekend in Silver Dollar City; Branson, MO**

Be a part of amazing concerts by Christian rock groups, hear inspiring messages from some of the most respected youth speakers of our time, and thrill your heart with over 30 rides and attractions! Total Cost = \$140+ food (\$44 for ticket + \$96 for hotel/transportation).

RSVP with ticket money of \$44 due 3/4. Hotel/transportation money of \$96 due 3/30.

The First United Methodist Church
704 Eighth Street, PO Box 25
Baldwin City, KS 66006
(Phone: 785-594-6612)
www.baldwinfirst.org

<p>Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Baldwin City, KS 66006 PERMIT NO. 10</p>
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Return Service Requested

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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.

**NEWS ITEMS FOR THE VINE NEED TO BE IN THE OFFICE
BY THE EVENING OF CHURCH COUNCIL**

Items received after evening of Church Council will not be in the Newsletter.

March 2012

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| Sunday Services | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School/Bible Study |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Worship – Sanctuary |
| 1st Monday | 7:00 p.m. | Missions – Fellowship Hall |
| 2nd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m. | Trustees – Fellowship Hall |
| 3rd Monday | 7:00 p.m. | SPRC – Library |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Finance – Chapel |
| 4th Monday | 7:00 p.m. | Church Council – Chapel |
| 1st Saturday | 9:30 a.m. | UMW Executive Board – Library |
| 1st & 3rd Saturdays | 7:30 a.m. | United Methodist Men – Vintage Park |
| | | |
| Each Sunday through April 22 | 2–3:30 pm | Confirmation Class (no class on March 11) |
| Each Thursday – through March 29 | 1:30 p.m. | Bible Study - Library |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study – Library |
| Friday, March 2 | 6:30 p.m. | World Day of Prayer |
| Saturday, March 3 | | LINK served in Lawrence |