



Baldwin Community News

A United Methodist Church

Fall 2020

“Thankful for Baldwin”

Mark your calendars for a 2 day event in the church circle.

November 21st and 22nd

1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Music, Fellowship, and More

You will have an opportunity to turn in your pledge card, choose an ornament from the Angel Tree, pick up your at-home Advent bag, and donate to Outreach Ministries.



In this newsletter:

- ◆ Discipleship page 2
- ◆ Youth page 3
- ◆ Church Family News page 4
- ◆ Outreach page 5
- ◆ Announcements page 6
- ◆ Technology page 7

A Note from the Pastor

Dear church family,

Baldwin Community UMC is doing great things! We celebrate that even in the midst of a pandemic, our church members are continuing to worship God, grow in their faith, and reach out to others in love. Faithful members have been making lay shepherd phone calls to check on other church members, attending Sunday School classes online, packing lunches for hungry community children, teaching and preparing youth for confirmation, setting up live streaming equipment so that our Sunday worship can be shared with all, checking temperatures for church meetings so that recovery groups and other small group ministries can meet in our building, and so much more. Thank you for the ways you continue to be faithful as God's church in a world that needs God's love!

We have a lot to look forward to this fall. Dress up the kids, the car, and Fido and enter the Spooktacular Costume Contest. Join the new adult Zoom Sunday School class focusing on the Sermon on the Mount. Try out the new Wednesday scripture reflection time on Zoom called Ponderings: A Mid-Week Conversation. Mark your calendar for the Thankful for Baldwin events. Pick up an Advent bag so that your household can be prepared to celebrate the season with joy and meaning. Help unload the truck or make deliveries for the Lord's Pantry. And call to make your reservation, or join us online, for Sunday morning worship at 10am every weekend.

We hope you will use this season to give thanks to God for your many blessings, especially the gift of your church.

Grace and peace,

Pastors Pam Gardner and Ginger Thomas

Baldwin Community United Methodist Church
5001 Baptist Road Pittsburgh, PA 15236
412-882-9300

412-882-9300

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA.
Permit No. 308

REGISTER AT: [BIT.LY/BALDWINSPOOK](http://bit.ly/Baldwinspook)

SPOOKTACULAR COSTUME CONTEST

PRIZES FOR:

BEST COSTUME
BEST GROUP COSTUME
BEST PET COSTUME
BEST DECORATED CAR

ALL-AGES, FAMILY FRIENDLY

OCT 24, 2PM

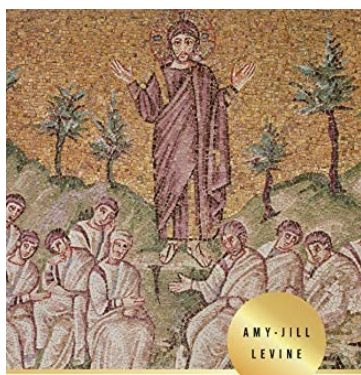
FUN, MUSIC, PRIZES

Candy donations can be dropped off at the church until October 18th. Please call before you come.

Adult and Youth Discipleship



On October 11th at 11:00 a.m., the Adult Sunday School class will be starting up its next 6-week online unit titled *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*. This curriculum was developed by the wonderful Bible scholar Amy-Jill Levine and will be led by our own Mary Lou Englert. For more information, including curriculum and login information, contact Justin at jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com



SERMON on the MOUNT
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN



Talking About Technology



The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is delighted to report that Bryan Engel has been hired as our church's new Tech and Media Coordinator.

Bryan is the Marketing Director of St. Vincent de Paul and the Operations Director of their Recycling Center. Prior to working in non-profits, Bryan was the Marketing Director for ESPN and worked at other local radio stations. He currently lives in North Huntingdon with his wife (Jennie), two children (Paige and Brooks) and two dogs (Ivy and Kylo). If he's not at work or assisting the church, Bryan enjoys being outdoors in a kayak, hiking, or playing dek hockey.

Baldwin Community UMC Youth Group

During this unprecedented time, the youth group has moved to outdoor, socially distanced gatherings – past gatherings have included an ice cream outing, mini golf, hikes, service opportunities, and more. If you have a student from 6th to 12th grade who is interested in joining up we would love to have them. For more information, you can contact Justin at jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com

Thank you to everyone who came out to the 2nd annual Baldwin Community Kickoff Kickball game. It was a tight game, but the Tigers pulled off an upset win in the final inning.



Please consider giving online to keep up with your pledge.



Option 1: Visit bit.ly/baldwingive (or choose "GIVE" under the Resources tab of baldwincommunityumc.com). You will be prompted to set a one-time or recurring donation amount that can be paid by credit card or from a checking account.



Option 2: Text "give" to 412-201-0308. You will be prompted to set a one-time or recurring donation amount that can be paid by credit card or from a checking account.



Option 3: Use online bill pay from your bank. Many banks charge no fee to send a one-time or recurring payment through online bill pay. Enter the church's name and address—5001 Baptist Rd, Pittsburgh PA 15236, and use a bank account to send your gift.

Tech Upgrades:

We are grateful for the sanctuary technology upgrades that were made possible by volunteer efforts and a check from the sale of the UM church in Dormont. Because of these upgrades, we have been able to live stream the Sunday morning worship service from the sanctuary to the larger community since August. In addition, the Trustees and Church Council have approved a project to expand and improve the wifi system throughout our facility. This became a priority with the installation of the security system that relies on internet service. This project is being made possible with the help of a technology grant from the annual conference, a grant from the county for wireless internet access for the childcare program, remaining funds from the sale of the Dormont church, and regular giving to the Trustees and the church operating fund. Special thanks to Dave Stout, Lance Gjerstad, Dave Novak, and Barth Olds for working on this project for many months!

**A MESSAGE OF THANKS TO ALL PEOPLE OF BALDWIN
COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:**

I write this letter of sincere gratitude to the many, many folks who supported me in my retirement as your Music Director/ Organist for the past 13 years. These times in my life were joy filled with music making: choral and organ, bells, joys of children’s voices, instrumentalists, weekly worship along with memorial services, and weddings! I look back on my years at Baldwin with more joys that I can list. To all the staff members who I had the pleasure of interaction, both professionally and socially, I say, thanks for your support and friendship. My retirement came at a very odd time in the life of Baldwin Church as my music came to an abrupt halt in March - as our unusual celebration of the Easter holidays became real to me, I knew it was time to retire.

The joys showered upon me, especially the drive-thru parade was a day I will cherish. The many cards and letters I have received with good wishes and many gifts are so dear to Winnie and me. I would have desired to send each of you thank-you notes, but the task would be daunting. Knowing that the entire membership and friends of Baldwin church would receive this was a way for me to say: THANK YOU, THANK YOU - as I now have a void in my life looking for ways God can use my talents to His Glory! My prayer is that we can all stay in touch.

Sincerely,
Winnie and Phil Aley



Join the tech team! Dave Stout & Lance Gjerstad welcome you to help run the sound and live stream equipment during worship.

Sock Drive:

The Youth Group and Outreach Team held a sock drive on October 4th, to benefit Pittsburgh Mercy’s Operation Safety Net—a street outreach team that serves Pittsburgh’s homeless population where they are. The group successfully collected over 1400 pairs of socks!



Our annual Charge Conference will take place on Zoom on Monday, October 26th at 7pm. All church members are invited to attend. Church Council members are eligible to vote, and the District Superintendent Dawn Hand will lead the meeting. The Charge Conference will deal with matters such as approving pastors’ salaries and a new slate of church leaders for 2021. The charge conference also receives reports about finances, facilities, and membership changes from the past year.

To join the meeting, install Zoom on your computer or smart device, then go to this link: <https://zoom.us/j/99817617404>. If you prefer dialing by phone and participating with audio (not video), call: 1 312 626 6799. If you are prompted to enter a Meeting ID, it is: 998 1761 7404. You will enter a “waiting room” when you dial in, and will be allowed entry into the meeting after a few moments.

If you have trouble connecting, you may call Pastor Ginger on her cell phone at (919) 328-0836 for help.



As the 2020-2021 school year begins, I want to welcome all the Preschool families and students. We have had to start this year like no other. The safety and health of our students remain our top priority. We are super excited to have started the new school year and see all the beautiful children again! We have been working hard all summer to plan for a safe opening. The classrooms have been modified to increase social distancing and signage has been installed throughout the building. Our schedule has been modified to allow even more time for hand washing and sanitizing. Every student gets their temperature taken at the door before they enter. At this time, parents are unable to come into the building, with the exception of our darling 2 year olds. I am privileged to work with an outstanding staff that make it such a smooth transition for our students during this uncertain time. They are working above and beyond to make this situation as normal as possible for the students. Partnering with families will be crucial this year as we face many obstacles due to the pandemic. We greatly appreciate the parents’ support and patience as we navigate this new school year. These are exceptional times right now. Thankfully, we are blessed with an exceptional preschool and church staff and a congregation that has supported the Preschool for many years. Please continue to pray for this wonderful Preschool Ministry that is an integral part of this community.

Jamie Carr
Preschool Director



Sunday School, for Pre-K through 5th grade students, meets online every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and is led by Mr. Leo. Each Sunday, students hear a story from the Bible and have the opportunity to share a show-and-tell object or a story from their life. Approximately every 5th week students can participate in Bible Whiz, a game show where they show off their knowledge of the stories we have been looking at during that unit. For more information, including login information, contact Justin at jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com

Do you have a 3rd grader who would like to receive a Bible on Bible Sunday this fall? Let Justin know at jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com



Ponderings

A MID-WEEK
CONVERSATION



Ponderings: A Mid-Week Conversation, focused on scripture and reflection with Pastor Pam begins on October 14th. These weekly sessions will be held on Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. at bit.ly/BaldwinPonderings

This new mid-week online gathering for reflective meditation on scripture will take the place of online Saturday evening worship which has ended due to low attendance.



We celebrate these eight youth who confirmed their faith in a special outdoor Confirmation worship service on Sunday, September 13th. A video of their Confirmation service can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/BaldwinCommunity/videos/4430301583678561>

Confirmands:

- Daniel Robert Daly
- Adrian David Gjerstad
- William John Kelly VI
- Elena Louise Wassil
- Mika Daniel Diethorn
- Julia Elizabeth Graham
- Kassidy Makayla Rohland
- Grant Ryan Wassil

Infant Baptisms:

- Leon Peter Calabria
- Taylor Liluth Yankovich
- Alexander Andrew King
- Eva Mae Robinson
- Ava Rose Werner

Adult Baptisms:

- Adrian David Gjerstad

New Members:

- Bob and Tia Janicki have been attending regularly and were received as a Profession of Faith.
- Scott Biddle transferred his membership from Central Highlands United Methodist Church.

Outreach News

Nyadire Connection:

Two years of drought, the coronavirus, high unemployment, and an inflation rate of 837.5% (as of July 2020) have resulted in a hunger crisis in Nyadire. Last spring, The Nyadire Connection appealed for donations in order to provide “food bundles” to sustain families in Nyadire. Generous donations made it possible for Nyadire Social Committee in Nyadire to do this for June, July, Aug. and Sept. TNC feels this need will continue for 6 more months and is asking for donations to make this possible. The goal is to provide one food package /month to 407 families. Each package is a minimum bundle for a family of 5 and contains: “mealie meal” (corn), sugar, cooking oil, and beans at a cost of \$18. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, a check can be made out to “The Nyadire Connection” and mailed to BCUMC, or you can donate online at www.nyadire.org/donate.html. If you have questions you may contact Molly Michael, BCUMC Outreach steward for The Nyadire Connection.

Angel Tree Ministry:

The congregation is invited to choose an angel from the tree that will be at the event on Saturday and Sunday November 21st and 22nd from 1:00—3:00 p.m. If you cannot make the event, you can pick your angel in the church office or sanctuary. Each colored angel represents a child or teenager from one of the following: Sojourner House, Ward Home. Lydia’s Place, 8th Avenue Place, or The Lord’s Pantry.

Only new items will be accepted and a \$25 maximum is asked per gift. Gifts and gift cards can be brought to the church office between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. weekdays from November 23rd—December 3rd. Thank you for your support!



Outreach During a Pandemic:

During the past 7 months, we have all likely been involved in conversations about the pandemic and the impact it is having on the world, our communities, and our lives. It does not come as a surprise that the needs of many are great during this time. We are happy to report that our church has continued to be a beacon of hope for many as we continue to serve through our various outreach ministries. Below you will find more information on the work that we as a congregation are doing:

In the midst of the pandemic, a group of dedicated volunteers came together to provide meals to the children of our community. We operated two distribution sites; one at the Baldwin Library and the other as the lunch provider to a summer camp being run by SHIM at Prospect Park. Between June 22 and August 13, we provided 874 lunches and 267 breakfasts.

Lord's Pantry has remained open and serving our community. There has been an increase in the number of families seeking help. The pantry has changed our distribution to a drive up so there is less interaction in keeping with the governor's mandate. We will continue to serve our neighbors this way through 2020.

Over the next few months, we will be supporting 8th Avenue Place by packing lunches to be delivered to the Coffee House on the last Friday of the month. Over the next month, we will be meeting with 8th Avenue leadership to explore how we will continue to serve this ministry through the winter and Christmas season.

Throughout the pandemic we have continued to provide meals to the Daily Bread food ministry on the Northside.

It is at this time that we want to send a great big THANK YOU to all of those who have given their time and resources to supporting these ministries. Your support is greatly appreciated by those we serve and the outreach committee here at Baldwin Community UMC. If you wish to get more information and/or volunteer your time with any of the outreach ministries please feel free to contact Jessica Speer at jessicaspeer83@gmail.com to get connected.