



Baldwin Community United Methodist Church

# CHURCH TIMES



... makes the Presence of God Real!

SUMMER  
2017

## Summer Reading List

We Believe ...

A Disciple is a person who makes a choice to love God and then makes choices to love others.

We will ...

Love God, love others, and live authentically in this world.

We live ...

Forgiven means Forgiving others.

Loved means Loving others.

Praying means to be the answer to someone's prayer.

Kindle, Audible, and other ways of reading or listening to books have opened up new possibilities for summer enjoyment. These options are dangerous for me because now I can buy and start to read a book without leaving my chair. Check out the church and local libraries as well for great summer reading. Here are a few suggestions from my library.

**C.S. Lewis has written a number of great books. The children's series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, are sure to delight even adults. Start with *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and enter Narnia, a place where it is always winter and never Christmas, but Aslan is on the move.**

Two other C.S. Lewis favorites are *Mere Christianity* and *The Great Divorce*. *Mere Christianity* is a little harder to read, but Lewis builds a great foundation for the Christian faith. The *Great Divorce* is about a fictional bus ride to heaven, and not everyone is happy to be on board.

**If you enjoy autobiographies, Frederick Buechner's *Sacred Journey* and Brennan Manning's *All is Grace* are two of my recommendations. Both are great reads, especially if you have read any of their works already. Brennan Manning's *Ragamuffin Gospel* and *Ruthless Grace* will breathe air into a stagnant faith. Discover how free God's grace really is, and let it break down the walls that separate us.**

One of my favorite authors is Sigurd Olson. In *The Singing Wilderness* and *Listening Point*, Sigurd helps you hear the sounds, smell the scents, and experience the wilderness as if you were walking beside him. *Wilderness Days* is a compilation of his works in a seasonal format.

It might also be a good time to check out a new devotional. Some of these are new, and some are classics.

*This Day with the Master* by Dennis Kinlaw  
*My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers  
***A Guide to Prayer for All God's Servants*** by Upper Room Books  
*Grace for the Moment* by Max Lucado  
*Stearns in the Desert* by L. B. Cowman

If you find a great book this summer, please share the title with me.

Rev. Brad Neel

# DISCIPLESHIP

## Disciple Fast Track to Be Offered This Fall

Disciple Fast Track, an adaptation of the original, bestselling Disciple Bible Study, provides a viable option for busy people seeking comprehensive engagement over time with the entire biblical text. Fast Track groups meet for a total of 24 weeks, devoting 12 weeks each to the Old Testament and the New Testament. Participants read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly meetings, which last approximately 75 minutes.

This course will begin Wednesday, September 13, 2017 and complete the first 12 weeks on December 6. The second 12-week session will begin January 10, 2018 and complete on March 28. There will be two sessions – one during the day and one in the evening.

## Youth Group

### Mission

Our Youth Group and adult leaders will be heading to Kentucky the week of Sunday, July 2nd, through Saturday, July 8th for mission trip this summer. There, we will work on a variety of projects, such as painting, cleaning, roofing, and much more. The organization we will be working with is Red Bird Mission. If you would like more information about this organization, please go to [www.redbirdmission.org](http://www.redbirdmission.org).

### Fundraising

On May 7th, two teams consisting of five people per team ran as in the Pittsburgh Marathon. The youth did a great setting an impressive pace, running an average of a fifteen minute mile. Great job Dave Pogany, Ann Harmon, Tyler Pogany, Shane Pogany, Macy Falcione, Maggie Veres, Macin Watson, Myles Hamel, Michaela Meriwether, and Paige Meriwether. Thanks to everyone who made a donation and/or prayed for us. It is not too late to donate! All you have to **do is place your donation in the offering basket or mail it to the church. Make sure it is marked "marathon"!** All donations will go towards our mission trip to Kentucky in July.

## Camp News

Finding God in the everyday! Meeting new friends and learning about faith, courage and love are all blessings that come to the youth and adults that experience our UMC camps! Please consider these opportunities to help this vital ministry.

### Camp Scholarship Offering

This is our ninth year for this awesome opportunity to bring kids to Christ! Last year, we had 34 campers attend a camp. Twenty-five of those used some scholarship money. On average, camp costs about \$350 for a week. Without our scholarship fund, some kids would not get to go. Thank you to those who gave!

### Clean Closets for Campers

Spring is here! Time to clean those closets and help our kids go to camp! Donate your unwanted clothes, hats, purses, shoes, belts, and even damaged items too. Money from these donations benefits our Camp Scholarship Fund. You can drop-off your items in the collection bins, located in the church parking lot.

Where does my donation go? Items in good condition are resold at local thrift stores. Damaged items are made into reusable rags and eco-friendly insulation for homes. A small percentage of the items are sent abroad to create local jobs in the resale of affordable clothing.

# BUSINESS

## Update from the Board of Trustees and Finance

Gerrit Goodman, President of the Board of Trustees, and Vanessa Gleason, Chair of Finance, updated the congregation as to the status of completed facility projects (2013-2016) as well as projects that are to start within the next nine months. This update took place at all 4 worship services on the weekend of May 6-7, 2017.

Gerrit provided the congregation with a list of the completed projects along with their costs. He also discussed the anticipated costs of the Asbury kitchen renovation and the construction of the Sanctuary bathroom. He also talked about the Sanctuary lift and that it was difficult to get cost estimates. It is anticipated that the kitchen renovation will begin this summer and the bathroom construction will begin in early 2018. Gerrit also stated that the church heating system is complete, fully operational, and totally paid for.

Vanessa talked with the congregation about how these projects could be paid for. The Growing Faithful Ministries (GFM) account has a balance of \$52,000 as of 3/31/17. If people extended paying their GFM pledge through the end of the year (12/31/17), another \$55,000 could be generated. Along with the kitchen fund balance of \$4,800, there would be \$111,800 to complete the Asbury kitchen update as well as the Sanctuary bathroom. There will be some funds left over for any cost overruns and perhaps design of the lift.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Please prayerfully consider contributing to the completion of these projects. With your faithful giving, Baldwin Church will continue to prosper as a place of service and worship.

Board of Trustees Projects (2013-2016)		
<b>PARSONAGE</b>		
Jan-13	chimney cleaning	\$ 173
Apr-13	washer	\$ 534
Aug-13	flooring	\$ 1,295
Sep-13	masonry- pointing	\$ 2,443
Oct-13	microwave/ cabinet	\$ 475
Dec-13	carpet family room-	\$ 3,000
Dec-13	drain/ family room	\$ 2,040
Oct-14	windows	\$ 1,735
	baseboard heat family	
Jan-15	room	\$ 1,567
May-15	carpet	\$ 2,034
Jun-15	roof	\$ 5,450
Aug-15	dryer	\$ 507
Oct-15	carpet family room	\$ 2,185
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,570</b>
<b>CHURCH</b>		
May-13	Lights pole parking lot	\$ 7,846
Jun-13	Replace outside lights	\$ 1,500
Jun-13	Portico - drain repair	\$ 383
Jul-13	Wesley floor - replace	\$ 3,836
Jul-13	Portico -painting	\$ 750
Jul-13	Portico - welding	\$ 5,500
	Cleaning of bricks front	
Sep-13	of church	\$ 11,145
Nov-13	Dryvit - portico painting	\$ 3,500
Dec-13	Lights on steps- removal	\$ 137
Dec-13	Lights out back	\$ 458
Feb-14	Wynne flooring	\$ 3,331
Mar-14	Sanctuary lights - LED	\$ 4,371
Apr-14	Wesley Kitchen	\$ 40,923
	Wifi - add additional	
Aug-14	points	\$ 7,731
May-15	Masonry work -	\$ 24,160
Jun-15	Chapel doors - replace	\$ 1,361
Jun-15	Line painting - parking	\$ 1,350
Dec-16	Tree cutting	\$ 2,700
Dec-16	Light pole (insurance)	\$ 3,310
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 127,418</b>
<b>GFM</b>		
	Administrative - UMF	\$ 22,958.30
	Engineering	\$ 21,583.03
	Heating system	\$ 477,432.84
	Asbestos remov.old hes	\$ 40,000.00
	Grant from LW'E	\$ (166,000.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 334,034.77</b>

GFM Remaining Projects (Estimated costs)		
<b>Asbury Kitchen:</b>	\$ 65,000.00	Curran-Taylor bid
	\$ 24,000.00	Allegheny Refrigeration bid (exhaust hood not included in bid)
		*Estimated hood cost = \$25,000
		Third bidder dropped out
<b>Sanctuary bathro</b>	\$ 28,500.00	Plumbing
	\$ 3,000.00	Electric (estimate)
	\$ 2,500.00	Flooring/walls
	\$ 34,000.00	
<b>Sanctuary lift:</b>	\$ 30,000.00	Estimate (sole bidder dropped out)
<b>Potential Money Available</b>		
	\$ 52,000.00	3/31/17 GFM Balance
	\$ 55,000.00	4/1/17-12/31/17 (continue GFM)
	\$ 4,800.00	Kitchen Fund Balance
	<b>\$ 111,800.00</b>	
	\$ (60,000.00)	Kitchen
	\$ (34,000.00)	Bathroom
	<b>\$ 17,800.00</b>	Remainder for Contingencies/Lift Design

# UNITED METHODIST MEN

## 2017 Laity Memorial Educational Award

In appreciation and in recognition of their contributions to the life and history of Baldwin Community United Methodist Church, the men of BCUMC establish this annual post secondary award in memory of the Laity of this church. There may be only one or more recipients regardless of gender who are on the active roles of this church. **Past award recipients' possible consideration is based upon the volume of applications received. The awards shall be used to assist the educational development of the recipient regardless of his/her choice of vocational study.**

All active members and clergy of this Church are eligible to submit the required nomination form. Forms are available in the church office or contact Jerry Rohland at [jerz217@comcast.net](mailto:jerz217@comcast.net), attention 2017 Laity Award. To be considered, applicants must submit a completed nominee and nominator form to the Methodist Men at the church office no later than Sunday, June 18, 2017.

## OUTREACH

### Outreach Team Update

The Outreach team continues to assist the local community needs, the regional needs, and the international needs through your generous donations.

The Nyadire Connection Hearing Impaired Program has 27 children participating. There is a sponsorship program available. The Outreach Team is sponsoring 3 children along with other members of the congregation. Please contact Molly Michael, Mary Ann Belles, Myra Mann, or the church office for more information about becoming a Hearing Impaired Sponsor.

The College/Military Boxes were distributed and enjoyed. Thank you to everyone that contributed donations. The Outreach Team will be collecting items again in the fall for the College Students and care packages for the Military.

### Eighth Avenue Place

The Outreach team is serving at Eighth Avenue Gathering dinner on Saturday May 6th and provided dessert for 100 people. Eighth Avenue Place is a ministry supported by churches in the Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church, as well as by local congregations, individuals, and local businesses. They have a wide variety of mission opportunities for individuals and churches with a heart for reaching out to the community.

### Lord's Pantry

**The Lord's Pantry has served an average of 57 families over the last few months and will continue to serve needy families throughout the summer.** Please check your bulletin every week to see what items are needed. In conjunction with the Youth this summer, the Lord's Pantry will have a Back Pack Collection program for school age children. **Please watch your bulletins to help participate.** In the fall, the Lord's Pantry would like to have a New or Gently Used Coat Drive for all ages. More information will be forthcoming in the Fall Newsletter and in the bulletin, so please save coats to donate.

# OUTREACH

## The Nyadire Connection

### OPEN MY EYES THAT I MAY BEHOLD WONDROUS THINGS

Logan Boyer, 17, of Cranberry, does not wear glasses. Nor has he ever had any concerns about his vision.

**His work on the Eyeglass Project as a member of The Nyadire Connection's July Mission Team to the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe was an "eye opener."**

When an elderly man arrived at the Mission carrying a battered, old backpack and said he had walked 30 km (@18.5 miles) to have his vision screened, Logan was astonished. The elder took his place in line and went through the **process. But Logan could hardly believe the elder's reaction when Logan fitted the man with glasses. The look – the smile – a huge hug – followed by the elder's insistence that Logan accept the five ears of corn from the battered bag** were beyond him.

Similar reactions were repeated over and over during the five days of the Eye Glass Project made possible through a partnership with Mission Vision, <http://www.facebook.com/MissionVisionPgh>. This non-profit partners with providers to deliver free eye exams, eyeglasses, and other critical supplies to homeless and working poor in Pittsburgh and around the world. Mission Vision trained co-leaders, Faith Geer and Molly Michael, and team members **Mark Boyer and son, Logan, and Natalie Geer to screen a person's vision. Two thousand pairs of donated** eyeglasses, cleaned and placed in racks according to strengths, were given to the Mission Team. The team packed them in four suitcases to carry to Zimbabwe.

**"Although an optometrist does visit Nyadire, many cannot come or afford the service. News of the Project spread** quickly. People came from all around the area, some lining up as early as 7 a.m. We registered 332 people of all ages noting their names, gender, presently wearing glasses, and how far they had walked. Each was given a slip of paper **to record information," stated Mark Boyer. "Wait time in the sun was 2 ½ - 3 hours."** **Crescencia, the Matron of the Hospital, provided space and assigned outpatient nurses, Dorcas, Evelyn, Winnie, and Esther. Elizabeth Muvi, a surgical nurse, was trained to carry on the project once the Team returned to Pittsburgh. The nurses were able to ask clients specialized questions as well as to assure them they were getting the best possible fit.**

The standard E Chart was used to measure vision and was conducted by two persons. The chart was set up 20 feet **away and various lines of "E's" were offered to determined if a person was 20/20, 20/30, 20/40. Mark and Molly asked, "Is this line better? What line can you read?" Whatever line was the clearest determined the strength of the eyeglass. A popsicle wand with five gradients was used to determine strength. The number was written on the slip of paper ( R: -.75 L -.25). Logan and Faith were "the Seekers" combing the database of available strengths available in the stock brought from Pittsburgh. Various pairs were tried and tested by looking out the window at a tree and a house in in the distance to see if the bricks were clearly seen.**

Reading glasses were also offered after looking at the screening sheet, like the one in a drug store. Whatever line was clearest indicated the strength of eyeglass needed.

Surgical Nurse Elizabeth Muvi is the contact person who could restack eyeglasses collected from UM churches and distribute them. My dream is that an eye clinic could take place once a month and more people could be tested and fitted with glasses. We hope to have bins in churches to collect old and unused eyeglasses for Mission Vision to **process and repeat the cycle. TNC chair, Drew Harvey took 500 pairs of glasses to Nyadire in August."**



# SILVER SEEKERS

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## Silver Seekers and the 5th Congregation

With very little fanfare but with much personal commitment, there is a ministry of our church that makes a significant impact on the lives of a few of our very special members. They are called the Silver Seekers. They visit those who are confined to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or who are homebound.

Holy Communion, prayer, devotional literature and sometimes a poinsettia or an Easter flower brighten their day and remind them that they are not forgotten. To give them special recognition, the Silver Seekers have dubbed them the 5th Congregation.

How did they get the title of the 5th Congregation? Well, there are members of the 1st Congregation that meet on Saturday evenings, and members of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Congregations that meet on Sunday mornings. So, the 5th Congregation are those who can no longer make it to our building for worship but are still members of our **congregation. The Silver Seekers' mission is to provide these members with a connection to their church.**

Please keep the Silver Seekers and the 5th Congregation in your prayers and ask God to give them the grace to serve and the blessings to be served.

### Silver Seekers

Amy Leasure, Coordinator

Dr. Bruce Bryce, Staff

Volunteers: Helen and Jim Akers, Elizabeth Bjerke, Molly Butcher, Arleen and Fred Gaeley, Karen Hritz, Linda Jopinko, Karen Kleinhapl, Myra Mann, Margaret Mima, Trish Riani, Becky Rohland, Lois Van Antwerp, Joann Wilson

### The 5th Congregation

Dorothy Abel, Kareen Apel, Harold Berkoben, Lee Berry, Evelyn Bland, Charles Brown, Sylvia Buehl, Judy Campbell, William Foster, Jim Foster, Mildred Gibson, Ruth Keeler, Virginia Kraft, Ted Lau, Jim Marshall, Helen Mather, Ruth Reardon, Nellie Reynolds, Sophia Rouda, Laverta Sander, Robert Tinder, Audrey Vondrey, Tom Weigle

# FELLOWSHIP

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## Bus Trips 2016

### Finger Lakes and Corning Class, NY

Monday, August 14—17, 2017

This five day trip includes transportation, lodging, three breakfasts, three dinners, Lazy Acre Alpacas, Wine **Tasting at Belhurst's Castle, Lively Run Dairy, Taughannock Falls Overlook, shopping in downtown Ithaca, Six mile Creek Vineyard, sightseeing cruise on Seneca Lake, Harriet Tubman Home, Willard Memorial Chapel with Organ concert, New Hope Mills Manufacturing Company's factory store, Smokey Hollow Maple Syrup, Glen Gurtiss Museum, Corning Museum of Glass, baggage handling, taxes, meal, and driver gratuity.**

### A Dickens Christmas

Thursday, November 30, 2017

This day trip includes transportation, Reeves Mansion with lunch, costumed guided tour of Dickens Victorian Village, National Museum of Cambridge Glass, shopping, Courthouse Holiday Light Show, meal, guide and driver gratuity and taxes.

For costs and more details on these exciting bus trips, pick up any of the trip forms located around the church or contact Elaine Lewis at 412-885-4560.

# MEMBERSHIP

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## Baldwin Church Family News

### Welcome New Members

Ciarra Karnes and Andy McClaine were received into membership in March, 2017

Ciarra is transferring from Eastbrook United Methodist Church. Andy is happy to be attending with Ciarra at the 9:30 service.

Erika and Derek Donaldson and Kevin & Kate Patterson were received at the 11:00 service. Both families reside in **Brentwood. The Donaldson's baptized their daughter, Aria on April 2 and the Patterson family baptized their son, Jack on May 21, 2017.**

The Confirmation Class of 2017 was received into membership on the weekend of April 30th. Confirmands are:

Jillian Airesman  
Harrison Fleming  
Aidan Greenaway  
Shane Pogany  
Thomas Wible

Grant Clarke  
Griffin Grahm  
Kelly Katilius  
Keegan Rohland  
Alysa Zirngibl

If anyone is interested in knowing more about joining, please contact Bonnie Deal, Visitor Coordinator at 412-650-2776 or [bdeal@baldwincommunityumc.com](mailto:bdeal@baldwincommunityumc.com).

## BOY SCOUT TROOP 323

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### Eagle Scout Projects

My Eagle Scout Project – Leland Park Field Stair Replacement by Christopher D. Collins

Since I was five years old, I have been playing baseball with the GBWAA. Our home fields are at Leland Park. For decades, access to several of the fields was by way of a dilapidated set of wooden stairs. The condition of the stairs made it difficult for young children and the elderly to access the fields. When it came time to plan my Eagle Scout Project, I knew I wanted to improve the field where I have spent so much time.

After obtaining approval from the borough, and with help from family, friends, and fellow scouts, I demolished the old set of stairs, dug a foundation for the new stairs, built and installed wooden forms for the new stairs, and poured a new set of concrete stairs. Matt Zalar, of Zalar Construction, was instrumental in the pouring of the concrete. We also added concrete landings at the top and bottom of the staircase. After six weeks, the project is nearly complete: I will be installing handrails on both sides of the staircase within the next week.

The feedback I have received thus far has been extremely positive, and I hope that the new staircase will make it easier for parents, grandparents, and siblings of little league baseball players to support and encourage them by attending their baseball games.

### **God's Garden Project**

Joshua Manning will be building "natural wood benches" for God's Garden. These will be going around the sand pit so that the kids have a place to sit while they play in the sand. Josh is a Junior at Baldwin High School and has attended Baldwin Community U.M.C. for two years of preschool.



Baldwin Community United Methodist Church

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Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

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Permit No. 308

[www.baldwincommunityumc.com](http://www.baldwincommunityumc.com)

# Fireworks Night

June 30, 2017

**This annual event is a great opportunity  
for Baldwin Community U.M.C.  
to join the community in celebration.**

**We will have food, music,  
and the perfect spot for you and your family  
to watch the fireworks at the end of the night.  
For more information contact the church office.**

**412-882-9300**