



Baldwin Community United Methodist Church

CHURCH TIMES



... makes the Presence of God Real!

FALL
2017

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.



THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

*The Bible is central to our faith,
but many people are intimidated by its scope and size.*

The Story helps readers understand God's story from Genesis to Revelation and how their own stories intersect with God's. Consisting of 31 chapters of carefully-selected scriptures sequenced in chronological order, *The Story* presents the word of God in an engaging format, reading like a novel.

Even though he owned thousand's of books, John Wesley was a man of one book, the Bible. He wrote, "Give me that book! At any price give me the Book of God!"

Baldwin Community United Methodist Church would like to invite you to experience *The Story*. Starting Saturday and Sunday, September 9-10, sermons and small group experiences will focus on a chapter each week.

Watch for Small Group opportunities at different days and times at the Church and in homes. If you are interested in facilitating a Small Group, please contact Pastor Brad.

Books are available now and can be picked up at any of the worship services or in the Church Office. There is an envelope in each book to receive a suggested donation of \$5 to go toward purchasing the books, but don't let the cost stop you from exploring *The Story*. You may place the envelope in the offering plates.

JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY THROUGH *THE STORY*!

DISCIPLESHIP

Adults

SMALL GROUPS

What is a small group? A small group provides a great opportunity to know people at Baldwin Community, grow in Christ, and share the love of Christ with others. The best way to learn Spanish, lose weight, quit drinking, or run a marathon is to do so in the company of a small group of other like-minded folks. The best way to become more like Jesus is no exception: it happens most powerfully in a small group.

Often the focus of the small group meeting is to apply the weekend message (whatever the pastor spoke about) to our lives. Sometimes small groups reach out in service, (i.e. to serve at a local the church or in the community).

STEPPING UP

A men's ministry is forming this fall to refocus our lives toward Christian living. Fathers, husbands, sons, brothers, grandfathers, husbands to be and fathers to be, you are invited to come together to form a band of brothers, digging deep into what it means to "step-up" and live a "courageous life." **We will unpack what "Biblical Manhood" looks like and what it means to be a Godly, courageous man in today's world. Initial plans are to meet twice a month in the evenings.** For additional information, please contact Mike Daly at 412-882-6687 or mrdaly6@gmail.com or Dave Rauth at 412-884-7863 or rauthdr@verizon.net.

DISCIPLE FAST TRACK

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 the first 12 weeks will be completed on December 6th. The second 12 week session will begin January 10, 2018 and end on March 28th. There will be two sessions on Wednesdays— one at 10:30 a.m. and one at 6:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF SMALL GROUPS AND CLASSES FOR ADULTS – BEGINNING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10TH

Sunday

6:30 p.m. The Rest of the Story—Weekly Talkback Group – led by Dr. Bruce Bryce at BCUMC

Monday

7:00 p.m. The Story Small Group – led by Pastor Brad Neel at BCUMC

7:00 p.m. The Story Small Group – led by Pastor Dave Pogany at his home.

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. The Story Small Group – led by Pastor Brad Neel at BCUMC

7:00 p.m. Stepping Up – **Men's Small Group Ministry** – led by Mike Daly and David Rauth at BCUMC

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. Discipleship with Bruce Bryce at BCUMC in Wynne Hall

10:30 a.m. Disciple Fast Track – led by Nick Coxon at BCUMC

6:30 p.m. Disciple Fast Track – led by Nick Coxon at BCUMC

6:30 p.m. The Story Small Group – led by Rich Smith and Jim Lombardi at Panera Bread in Caste Village

7:00 p.m. the Ragamuffin Group and Devoted Disciples (alternating weeks) – led by Pastor Brad Neel - at the parsonage

7:00 p.m. Financial Peace University—led by Charlie Fleming at BCUMC

DISCIPLESHIP

Youth

CROSSROADS YOUTH GROUP

Crossroads Youth Group will start up again on Wednesday, September 24, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to attend. We will have fellowship, worship, lessons, and small groups.

GIRLS ONLY STUDY

Starting on Sunday, October 1, 2017 Jenn Pogany, Shannon Stout, Ann Harmon, and Laura Rohland will be offering a girls only study. **This will take place in Jenn's home on the first Sunday of every month from 5pm-7pm.** All girls in in 6th through 12th grade are welcome to attend.

MISSION

The week of July 2nd, 2017, we took a group of 24 people to Beverley, Kentucky: 17 youth and 7 adult leaders. We all worked hard on three different sites: painting, replacing flooring, underpinning of a house, power washing, putting up FRP in kitchens and bathrooms, replacing a bathtub, and much more. Thank you ALL for your prayers, donations, supplies, snacks, drinks, and monetary gifts. This mission would not be possible without your love and support. Please continue to keep Red Bird Mission in your prayers.

Children

Deep Blue Bible Adventures - Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. during ENGAGE Worship. Begins September 10, 2017.

Deep Blue is the Sunday morning Bible adventure for kids which includes exciting stories, music, science experiments, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games—all combined into a living—faith experience that will help children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today!

Kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade will journey to Asbury Hall near the beginning of worship to start their adventure. We take advantage of the large space and the multimedia capabilities in Asbury Hall to give the kids an experience that will make them want to come back again and again.

Preschool Bible Adventures - Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. during ENGAGE Worship.

Our preschool kids will use age-appropriate lessons that match what the older kids are learning. They will meet in Room 215, a preschool classroom designed specifically for their needs, where they can learn and play together and at their own pace.

Preschool

After a busy summer adding air conditioning units in the preschool classrooms and stripping and waxing the floors in the Education wing, we are ready to start another school year. Elizabeth, Bob, the maintenance staff, and Church volunteer George Koontz have worked tirelessly this summer. Thank you all so much!

There are approximately 200 children coming to the school this fall, including four classes of two year olds. Our staff of teachers and assistant teachers are preparing lessons plans and making their rooms inviting for the children. If you ever have a chance to come into the building during the week, you can find us utilizing different parts of the building. We are stretching with Miss Missy for yoga, climbing and jumping during gross motor time, enjoying Science classes with Miss Verna, and singing and dancing to music with Mrs. Ricci. **The highlight of every school day is always playing in God's Garden. Wasn't it your favorite growing up? "Recess" has** always been a favorite thing to do at school. Without the support of the weed whackers and the scouts pulling weeds, pruning trees, and moving tons of sand and gravel, we could not keep up with the ongoing work that comes with our special play space.

After reading this, I'm sure it made you realize how many people it takes to keep the preschool operating. I call these people a real "blessing" to the children of Baldwin Community Preschool and myself.

WORSHIP

Music News

Fall is the best time to join Choir since preparation for Christmas starts during this time. We can always use more voices for all voice parts. Come out and join us in singing to the Lord!

The construction project in the Sanctuary will delay the start of choir rehearsals for the fall, so please note the later start dates.

Chancel Choir will start on Thursday, September 21st, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in Wynne Hall. The choir will begin singing for 11:00 a.m. worship on World Communion Sunday, October 1st. Summer soloists will continue well into September.

Praise Kids Choir will start Sunday, October 1st, 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. in Wynne Hall.

I am also planning special music for the Sanctuary Grand Re-opening on Sunday, October 8th.

Don't miss out on this exciting program! All are welcome!

For more details call Phil Aley, Music Director, at 412-302-8653.

SILVER SEEKERS

Initiative

Get off you seat and get on your feet, By Dr. Bruce E. Bryce

Initiative is defined as the first step in a process that once taken determines subsequent events. Two of its synonyms are resourcefulness and ingenuity.

For more than fifty years, I have been able to get off of my seat and onto my feet to minister to the sick, the suffering, the dying and the grieving. The time has come when my strength is failing and my mobility lessened. I have fought a fight with cancer for nearly four years now and you know who is winning.

However, that does not mean that my ministry is at an end. It is only taking on a new Initiative. You may recall that seven or eight **years ago I formed a team called "Silver Seekers."** They are fifteen of the most dedicated, loving, and devoted members of this church. They visit and minister to more than thirty shut-ins, those who belong to this church but who are unable to attend worship and other activities.

Every week our shut-ins receive a meditation along with a copy of the Sunday bulletin to help keep them involved in the worship and activities of their church.

YOU can join with us. I want to recruit YOU to make a new Initiative and become ministers to the 5th Congregation, those who are shut-ins. **A card, a personal letter, or a visit can make those whom Jesus referred to as the "neglected" to be perceived as Him** in their form.

If you are interested in contributing to this ministry or would like to know more, you can call me, Pastor Bruce Bryce, at 412-420-0578 or Janise Daly, Silver Seeker Coordinator, at mandjdaly1@verizon.net or at 412-897-8468.

How much time or effort can it take to make a lonely person's day brighter? Not much, but it will mean a lot to someone who is on the receiving end of your devotion, concern, and love. Initiative...it's a great word to characterize your time, talents, and service to Yahweh.

STEWARDSHIP

Assets and Aspirations

Three questions will be featured in the 2017 Stewardship Emphasis. This annual effort through which we are invited to offer our gifts to underwrite the ministry of our congregation will launch in September. All members will have opportunity to join in responding to the three questions. The questions are:

- WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS/ASSETS OF OUR CONGREGATION?
- WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS/ASPIRATIONS FOR OUR CONGREGATION?
- WHAT IS THE CHIEF CHALLENGE FACING OUR CONGREGATION?

Offering our heartfelt views on these questions will help shape the future direction and ministry of Baldwin Community UMC Church. The Stewardship Emphasis Team will use the responses from members to state the cause and course of our ministry. The statement of our cause and course will be shared with all members of the church. The responses will also provide insight to the Finance Committee as the 2018 annual budget is prepared. Keep an eye out for announcements about the times and places for the listening sessions. If you are not able to attend one of the listening sessions, responses to the questions may also be written, addressed to the Stewardship Team, and sent to the Church Office. Responses may be anonymous.

Also, beginning in September, communications about the United Methodist ministry in our community, in Pennsylvania, in the United States, and around the world will be offered. Bulletin announcements, emails, and careful use of social media will be used to make us aware of the relevant and effective ministries of the United Methodists happening daily. This effort in communications will also offer up-to-date information about the financial status and resources of the congregation.

Following direct mail contact with our membership in November, the Advent and Christmas seasons will provide spiritual foundations for this stewardship emphasis. This will be a period of reflection, prayer, and preparation. Advent is the time **when we look and yearn for God's presence and for the fulfillment of God's promises. When Christmas comes, we celebrate God's answer to our yearning, the gift of Jesus our Savior whose love holds us now and for all eternity.** This stewardship project will culminate on the first Sunday of January, 2018 when we observe the Wesley Covenant Service with Holy Communion. That Sunday we will have opportunity to commit our lives and our offerings to God. Our commitments will be a sign of our joining the ongoing ministry of Baldwin Community Church; the offerings we bring will show our strengths and dreams, our assets and aspirations. Our prayer is that the entire effort will be solidly grounded, unfolding on the foundation of the gospel of Jesus.

Your comments and suggestions will be gratefully received by the Stewardship Team. Members of the Team include Don Fox, Fred Gealy, Vanessa Gleason, Tom Harmon, Erwin Kerr, Judy Kregor, Shane Pogany, David Rauth, and Nancy Theodore. Lead Pastor Brad Neel and Pastor Dave Pogany and staff members Jim Lombardi and Elizabeth Meriwether are providing resource and guidance for the group.

OUTREACH

Help... We Need Your Books

There are many of us here at Baldwin Community UMC who volunteer on a weekly basis in a Reading/Mentoring Program through the United Methodist Church Union. Our group is working out of the West Liberty Elementary School in Brookline. What we need **are gently used children's books from early readers to later elementary chapter books.** If you have any books that you are no longer using, this program could greatly benefit from your donations. Books can be dropped off in any of the designated bins located throughout the church. Any questions can be addressed by Myra Mann or Robin Neel 724-987-2931.

MEMBERSHIP

Baldwin Church Family News

BAPTISMS

Brayden Theo Backstrom	January 22, 2017
Connor Michael Bell	February 19, 2017
Karen L. Baumiller	March 5, 2017
Norah Jean Jones	March 26, 2017
Aria Renee Donaldson	April 2, 2017
Aurora James Scarletelli	April 29, 2017
Lucille Jane Stocker	April 30, 2017
Tawnya Styles Heck	May 13, 2017
Jack Edward Patterson	May 21, 2017
Jack Michel Schultz	June 25, 2017
Kyle David Maholage	July 23, 2017
Leo Thomas Englert	July 23, 2017

DEATHS

Beatrice Young	February 7, 2017
James T. Hastie	February 7, 2017
Margaret A. Shuck	February 18, 2017
Barbara Jean Keyser	February 21, 2017
Grace R. Fassbinder	May 23, 2017

UNITED IN MARRIAGE

Brittany Myers & Karl W. Bixler	February 25, 2017
Lauren K. Johnson & Nicholas H. Coxon	April 29, 2017
Ashley Marie Lalonda & Robert Stephen Kindle	May 6, 2017
Mallory L. Souleret & Zachary Herd	July 8, 2017
Rebecca Ferragonio & Zack Scahill	July 15, 2017
Nicole Buckle & Lee Nizan	July 29, 2017

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Baldwin Church was started with a strong desire for Christian education. Our church family has grown, and we continue to offer fellowship, small group opportunities, as well as outreach programs that support a variety of individuals.

New member classes will be Sunday, September 24th and October 1st from 6:00-7:00pm. Classes will be led by Pastor Brad Neel in the Conference Room on the 2nd floor. If you have any questions, or would like to sign up for the classes, please contact Bonnie Deal (Visitor Coordinator) at 412-650-2776 or bdeal@baldwincommunityumc.com.

BUSINESS



Growing Faithful Ministries

We would like to thank the Congregation for their continued support of the Growing Faithful Ministries campaign. We currently have \$68,000 in the fund. That will be enough to update Asbury kitchen. In fact, work will begin as soon as the proper permits are obtained from Whitehall Borough. With your continued giving, we hope to be able to have enough money to add the Sanctuary bathroom. You can make a difference!!!!

Operating Budget

On the operating side of BCUMC (everyday expenses), we are looking at possible an end of the year deficit of \$21,000. Hopefully this is just a matter of it being summer and folks will catch up on their giving beginning in the fall. Hopefully by controlling expenses and a return to regular giving, we can mitigate this potential deficit. **With God's help and the Congregation's continued support, we hope to close the gap in our Operating Budget and end the year on a high note.**

TRUSTEES

Building and Grounds Ministry

These are our opportunities this fall to serve alongside others as we spruce up the church grounds and facility. These are awesome opportunities for the whole family as there are tasks for all ages! If you are interested in volunteering for any/all of these opportunities or if you have questions, please contact the church office at 412-882-9300.

Outside

On Saturday, October 21st from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. join the Weed Whackers, our outside crew, with the fall clean-up of our grounds. Snacks will be provided.

Worship Spaces

After the work is done in the Sanctuary, we will need a crew to come in and put everything back for worship. As the work progresses we will give an update in the announcements about a date and time for this work to be done. Please, keep an eye out for that information if you are able to help. Contact the church office, 412-882-9300 with any questions.

The Crew

“**The Crew**” is a diverse and energetic group that likes to paint (walls, ceilings, etc.) and tackle various projects around our church building and property. They have also come together to perform some DIY services for others, such as 8th Avenue Place, Habitat for Humanity, and patrons of the Lord's Panty that have found themselves in need of assistance beyond the dietary needs of their families. A couple of projects are coming up that will count on the ambitious services provided by The CREW:

Asbury kitchen project: paint walls and ceiling

Sanctuary: paint walls

Also, some small projects in the Pre-school are always on the to-do list.

If you enjoy these kind of projects, please join us for a work session or two. We usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a couple of hours; other times can be arranged, and solo DIY jobs are highly blessed.

For more information or to express your interest, contact The CREW through Elizabeth Meriwether, [412-882-9300](tel:412-882-9300), meriwether@baldwincommunityumc.com or George Koontz, geokoontz@verizon.net.

Doverdell Storm Water Project

The Doverdell Storm Water Project, is slated to start the week of September 18th. This is the project Whitehall Borough is doing to improve the flooding issues at the intersection in front of the church and also on Doverdell Drive. During the first few weeks, they will be working on Weyman Road from Village Lanes to the intersection with Baptist Road and in the park adjacent to our parking lot. Once they cross Baptist Road the project will continue through our parking lot, and we will be limited on our access to some parking spots as they install the new storm water drains. We are asking that if you are able to park across the street in Caste Village for service on Sunday, you do so for the few weeks when our parking lot is disturbed. Hopefully, the majority of the work will be done in our parking lot by the beginning of November. Keep an eye out in the announcements and on the website for additional information.



Baldwin Community United Methodist Church
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Non-Profit Organization

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Permit No. 308

www.baldwincommunityumc.com

Grand Re-opening Weekend!

Our Sanctuary is undergoing repairs and upgrades. To celebrate the completion of this project, we will be having a Grand Re-opening Weekend!

Saturday, October 7th

Vendor Show, Food, Outside Fun, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 8th

**Join us for worship in our newly upgraded Sanctuary, 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
and 11:00 a.m. Fellowship and Cookie Reception all morning.**

**Visit our website, www.baldwincommunityumc.com for detailed information
or call the Church Office at 412-882-9300.**