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Church Picnic

Sunday, September 9th, at 4:00 p.m. in front of the church.

Join us for our annual gathering of food and fellowship.

The main dish will be provided (still finalizing); please bring a side dish or dessert to share. All are welcome to attend.

There will also be games and activities for all ages. We hope you can join us!

Please RSVP by using the Connect Form attached to your announcements or by contacting the church office – info@baldwincommunityumc.com or 412-882-9300.

CONNECT-GROW-SERVE-GO at Baldwin Community UMC



*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.
Psalm 19:1-4*

Throughout September we will be exploring the wonder of God in a season of creation. Mountains and sky, planting and harvest, plants and creatures are some of the themes. If the heavens are declaring the glory of God, are we listening? How can we see God in creation, and what are we told about our God?

Sigurd Olson writes about listening in the *Singing Wilderness*. “I have discovered that I am not alone in my listening; that almost everyone is listening for something, that the search for places where the singing may be heard goes on everywhere. It seems to be a part of the hunger that all of us have for a time when we were closer to lakes and rivers, to mountains and meadows and forests, than we are today.”

SEASON OF CREATION WORSHIP SERIES

This September at Baldwin Community:

God is still at work! Do we see it in the world around us?

September 1-2	Planting: Good Beginnings - Song of Solomon 2:8-13
September 8-9	Mountain: Protection and Care - Psalm 125
September 15-16	Sky: Dominion and Exploitation - Psalm 19
September 22-23	Harvest: Cultivation and Fruits - Psalm 1
September 29-30	Blessing All Creatures: Bring It! - Psalm 124

2018 Fall Newsletter



CONNECT

Join us for Worship

Saturday

In the Chapel

5:30 p.m.
Saturday Worship

Sunday

In the Sanctuary

8:00 a.m.
Early Worship

9:30 a.m.
Engage Worship

11:00 a.m.
Classic Worship

GROW

BECOMING DISCIPLES

Discipleship focuses on actively following in the footsteps of Jesus. The Christian life is our response to God's love and grace. As Christian disciples, we are not passive spectators but energetic participants in God's activity in the world. We order our lives in ways that embody Christ's ministry in our families, workplaces, communities, and world.

Loving God

Discipleship is about loving God. It is more than an acknowledgement of God's existence or a statement of belief regarding God. It is the deep desire to know God, to be one with God, and to worship God. There are a variety of ways that we can develop our knowledge of and love of God.

These include prayer, Bible study, worship, fasting, conversation with other Christians.

Loving Neighbor

The Bible teaches us that loving God and loving neighbor are the Greatest Commandments. We cannot do one without the other. Loving our neighbors means responding to specific needs—hunger, illness, imprisonment, loneliness, and so forth.

Love is more than a feeling; it is behavior. It is practical and concrete. Loving neighbor is more than random acts of kindness. It takes time, energy, and commitment. It is a lifestyle carefully cultivated in response to God. It is what Christians do and what Christians are.

*Our lives are a testimony to
our love*

*—our love for God and our
love for neighbor.*



GROW INTENTIONALLY—FOLLOW THE PATHWAY

Make a commitment to become more like Jesus by participating in a class or small group.

Within a period of several years, strive to fit in as many of the pathways below as possible.

1. **A Study of the Scriptures** – Providing both an overview of the structure and the meaning of the Bible and a focus on specific aspects of the text.
2. **Church, Community, and Culture** – Studying and discussing the world in which Christians live, with an effort to understand and engage that world.
3. **Sharing the Gospel** – Telling people about Jesus, or the ministry of evangelism.
4. **Ecumenical Christianity** – Studying the Gospel of Christ across centuries and nations.
5. **Growing Disciples** - Deepening faith and practice.
6. **Nurturing the Spiritual Life**—Sharing in fellowship and building personal bonds with other Christians.

Schedule of Classes and Small Groups – Fall 2018

To sign-up for a class or small group, contact Jim Lombardi at
jlombardi@baldwincommunityumc.com or 412-882-9300 Ext. 23.

You can also note your interest on the Connect Form in your weekly announcements.

Sunday

9:30 a.m. The Parables of Jesus– led by Rev. Erwin Kerr - beginning September 9

6:00 p.m. Faiths of History – led by Rev. Jack Aupperle - beginning September 16

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Men's Ministry—2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month—Mike Daly

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. The Women of the Bible – Women's Study - led by Janise Daly, beginning September 5

6:30 p.m. The New Testament – Panera Small Group – led by Carol Coyle, meeting every Wednesday

7:00 p.m. “The Great Courses – Old Testament” – led by Nick Coxon, beginning September 12

7:00 p.m. The Devoted Disciples - Small Group – led by Pastor Brad Neel

7:00 p.m. The Ragamuffin – Small Group – led by Pastor Brad Neel

Special Presentations

On a few Sunday evenings throughout the year, we will be having special presenters/speakers at the church. There will also be a meal prior to each session. All in the community are invited to attend.

Our first session will be on Sunday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. following the church picnic.

“Breathe In the Spirit of God” - God at work in the world around us.

Look for another Special Presentation/Dinner in late October or early November.

LORD’S PANTRY

The Lord's Pantry is consistently serving 45 families a month. Our current clientele consists mainly of seniors and disabled individuals. We have approximately 20 children. It is these children who will be outfitted with the backpacks that we have requested. Our next request will be for items for the Thanksgiving dinner boxes: pumpkin pie mix, cranberry sauce, evaporated milk, stuffing mix, yams, napkins, etc. Last year, this was a great opportunity for all of you to get involved so we decided to do it again on Sunday, November 11th at 10:30. Thank you all for your continued support of the Lord's Pantry. We are so blessed to be a part of this congregation. Whenever we have a need, you respond with generous and loving hearts.



*I thank my God every time I
remember you.—Philippians 1: 3*

STEWARDSHIP

ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?

No one expects the Annual Stewardship Campaign will be fun! And yet it is essential to the ongoing well-being our congregation. The Stewardship Emphasis will unfold in October-November this year, with the Commitment Sunday scheduled for November 18, 2018.

What we expect in the stewardship effort is information and inspiration. **Inspiration** because dealing with stewardship means dealing with God's gifts to us and our offerings in response to God's abundant blessings. Stewardship is a spiritual matter. **Information** because we expect to hear about the ongoing programs and operations of the church---caring for our ministries, facilities and staffing that makes a congregation viable. In addition, information and inspiration will be communicated in our weekly October-November worship services and through other communications in that period. Personal testimonies and brief videos plus sermons will show and tell us about United Methodists in ministry, all because of our commitments in response to God's gifts to us. Anticipate information and inspiration in October and November as our Stewardship Emphasis unfolds. Creative initiatives for the 2019 year are expected. Who knows? Maybe we will even have some fun!

USE ELEXIO TO KEEP YOUR RECORDS UPDATED

The church is currently using Elexio Community, a program that maintains our membership records and events calendar. Each person in the database can access directory information. You are able to view contact information for those in the directory, edit your family's information, view your giving, make a pledge, see what groups you are a part of, and view the church calendar. This is a great tool in maintaining accurate information for those who attend this church. We encourage you, if you have access to the internet, to follow the instructions on the enclosed insert, and sign in to Elexio Community either via a smart phone, tablet, or iPad using the Elexio Community App or via a computer by going to the following website: <https://baldwincommunityumc.elexiochms.com>. If you have any questions or need help, please contact Elizabeth Meriwether at the church 412-882-9300 ext 14 or emeriwether@baldwincommunityumc.com.

BUS TRIP

There are a few seats left for the *Deck the Halls* bus trip on November 29, 2018. If you are interested in attending this trip, please contact Elaine Lewis at 412-885-4560. All tickets are first come first serve.

Deck the Halls

Thursday, November 29, 2018

This day trip includes transportation, guided city tour of Akron, Donzelles Green House, early dinner at Papa Joes, Stan Hywet Hall and gardens for Deck the Halls event, gift shop in Carriage House, meal, guide and driver gratuity and taxes.

GO

*Therefore go and
make disciples of
all nations,
baptizing them in
the name of the
Father and of the
Son and of the
Holy Spirit
Matthew 28: 19*

SERVE

*For we are God's
handiwork, created in
Christ
Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in
advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2: 10*

Why?

Because as it states in Ephesians 2: 10, the work has already been prepared for us. We just need to get it done. There are so many different opportunities to serve at Baldwin Community. Follow your passion! You were “created in Christ Jesus to do good works.”

How?

Sometimes it’s as easy as signing up and showing up. Sometimes there is a little bit of training involved. Sometimes you might need to have your clearances up-to-date before you volunteer. None of these steps is too difficult, and there are people here at the church who can help you through the process. Don’t let anything stand in the way of doing the work that God has prepared for you. Volunteer! Serve!

GO

UMCOR NEEDS AND VOLUNTEER DAYS

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

As we all know, flooding in Western PA and other areas has been a big problem this summer, and there is a need for supplies for both the hygiene kits and the cleaning buckets. Our UMCOR collection for these items will be ongoing through October. Just place items in the UMCOR bins around the church. You can find the lists of items needed at www.umcor.org.

Outreach Volunteer Opportunity at East Brook Mission Barn

Saturday, September 22nd, and Saturday, October 20, 2018 are scheduled “volunteer days” for helping to verify and assemble cleaning buckets and hygiene kits at the Eastbrook Mission Barn near New Castle. Please sign up in the Narthex to participate in this activity. We will leave the church at approximately 9:00 a.m. and return at approximately 3:30 p.m. Our help is needed to replenish the kits and buckets that were used in Western PA and beyond. Children as young as 5 can help with this project, so make it a family service day.

If you have questions, please feel free to call Elizabeth Bjerke at 412-418-0226 or by email at bettyann10@msn.com

VOLUNTEER TO BE A READING MENTOR

If you love books and children and have one hour each week to volunteer, please prayerfully consider becoming a Reading Mentor. In the Spring of 2017, 11 members of Baldwin Community UMC, along with a few of their friends, began to serve through the United Methodist Church Union as Mentors at West Liberty Elementary School in Brookline. At West Liberty School, we are working with kindergarteners and first graders on a one-to-one basis. At the beginning of the school year, we are reading to each child; by Spring the child may be reading to us! If you are interested in learning more and/or volunteering, you may sign the paper on the Spotlight Table and/or call Myra Mann (412-882-6252). Cheri Pogue, Program Director at United Methodist Church Union, will meet with those presently mentoring and newcomers who wish to learn more about the program and at Baldwin Community UMC on Thursday, September 6th, at 10:00 a.m.

COLLEGE/MILITARY ADDRESSES

We are planning some additions to the College/Military boxes. We are asking that anyone wishing a box sent to their family members to send in the names and address as soon as possible. This will allow for us to send additional items out earlier and continue throughout the year in addition to the much anticipated College/Military Boxes, that we send out each fall and spring. Please send the addresses to either Elizabeth Meriwether meriwether@baldwincommunityumc.com at the church or Paula Turek, pturek401@hotmail.com. More information will follow.

OLMSTED MANOR FALL WOMEN’S RETREAT

Practicing Christian Mindfulness with Dr. Amy Oden, Sept. 14-16, 2018.

Join other women for this retreat to learn how the practice of Christian mindfulness begins with the teachings of Jesus and continues throughout Christian history. Participants will be guided in step-by-step instructions for practicing Christian mindfulness today to deepen the life of faith and be empowered for God’s mission of love in the world. For more information visit www.olmstedmanor.org/events.

Descriptions of Classes and Small Group Offerings

(The number in parenthesis refers to the Adult Education Pathway)

THE PARABLES OF JESUS - Glimpses of the New Age by Neal M. Fisher—Copies of the book will be available. *(Pathway 1)*

Led by Rev. Erwin Kerr - Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m. in the 2nd floor conference room, beginning September 9.

1. Introduction to the Parables of Jesus, 2. The Irruption of God’s Reign, 3. The Joy of the New Age,
4. The New Age as reversal of Conventional Notions, 5. The Response Required, 6. Assurance of the New Age, 7. Living in the New Age,
8. Concluding Considerations

Each session will explore at least one of the 46 parables of Jesus found in the Gospels. The parable(s) for each session will be selected according to the title of each session. Comment and discussion from participants will be a feature of the sessions, and relevance of the parable to our personal and public life will be sought as each parable is discussed.

Faiths of History (Pathway 2 and 4)

Led by Rev. Jack Aupperle – meeting in Wynne Hall

September 16 Islam: A Misunderstood Tradition - A discussion of Islam’s founder, beliefs and diversity.

September 23 Buddhism: A Faith in Search of Reality - A discussion of this meditative tradition, its founder and it’s Four Noble Truths as well as its path of enlightenment.

September 30 Judaism: A Faith of Patriarchs and Prophets - The beginning of Judaism and its tradition and literature which have produced a culture of belief and behavior.

October 7 How Do We Coexist - A discussion of living in a world of different and yet compatible traditions.

"Ten Women of the Bible", One by One They Changed the World by Max Lucado. *(Pathway 1 and 5)*

Led by Janise Daly 412-897-8468 and Mary Lou Englert 412-389-5858

This Women’s study will meet at 12:00 p.m. in the parlor - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month beginning September 5.

Each lesson includes five daily Bibles Studies to help navigate stories of Scripture, summary notes to help remember key points from each lesson, and daily prayers to help focus on your thoughts and time with God. As we go through the lives of the women of the Bible, we hope to find the stories relative to the challenges we face in our own lives today and further understand that God sees us and loves us for who we are.

The Great Courses – The Old Testament (Pathway 1 and 4)

Led by Nick Coxon – Meeting Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room beginning September 12. This class will be using “The Great Courses” DVD’s of the Old Testament. Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School does the lectures. There are a total of 24, 40-minute lectures. Two lectures will be done per evening with a discussion following each. If you would like more information, you can go to the Great Courses website www.thegreatcourses.com. In the spring the New Testament will follow the same format. If you are interested, please send an email to ncoxon@gmail.com or call 412-225-7221 or 412-881-2504.

Men’s Ministry (Pathway 6)

The mission of the BCUMC Men’s Ministry is to provide a venue to encourage its members and others to strengthen their commitment to follow Christ in their daily living, by putting their faith in action. All men are welcome to attend the group which meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month in the 2nd floor conference room. Contact Mike Daly at mandjdaly1@verizon.net

UMW – Abigail Circle (Pathway 6)

If you are considering joining a UMW Circle, Abigail welcomes you to come to one of our meetings and check us out! We meet the first Wednesday of the month in the Parlor at 10:00 AM. (next two are Sept 5th and October 3rd)

We are active in a variety of service projects including the Church Union's Reading & Mentoring Program. We help with mailings at Brother's Brother Foundation and we're already planning the next BCUMC Women's Day Retreat at Jumonville for Spring 2019. PS - don't forget our famous Cookie Walk in December.

Questions, contact Trish Riani 412-334-6814, Carol Coyle 412-228-8407 or any other Abigail member. We'd love to welcome you to our group.

UMW—Esther Circle (Pathway 6)

The Esther Circle is a newly-formed group within the United Methodist Women. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor, and we welcome new members!

Inspired by Esther’s remarkable courage and strength in sharing her faith, we hope to encourage young women (pre-teen through young adult) to grow deeper in their faith through a challenging phase of life. We have many outreach ideas planned for this year, but we need your help to get us started! Our first plan is to partner with Sisterfriend.org, a local organization that supports menstrual hygiene for vulnerable women and girls through the collection and distribution of feminine hygiene products. Sisterfriend.org partners with food pantries, homeless shelters, and underserved schools to distribute needed products, raise awareness, and provide leadership activities for young women.

How can you help? Throughout the month of October, we are collecting feminine hygiene products in the form of individually wrapped thick pads, individually wrapped thin pads, and individually wrapped tampons with an applicator. You can donate any supplies to the bins located in the Narthex marked “Sisterfriend.org.”

If you have any questions or if you’d like to get more involved, please contact Sarah Gintner or Elizabeth Meriwether @ 412.882.9300.

UMW—Miriam Circle (Pathway 6)

We meet at 12:30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at Calabria’s restaurant on Rt. 88. In addition to participating in the activities of our church we make blankets for shut-ins and nursing homes and give our monetary support to the church and its missionary projects. For more information call Margaret Mima at 412-653-3651.

GROW

“The best of all is,
God is with us.”
-John Wesley’s final words

John Wesley,
founder of the
Methodist movement, suc-
cinctly described the plan
of discipleship in what he
called

The General Rules.

As Christians, we are to

- (1) do no harm
by avoiding evil
of every kind;
- (2) Do good to all people;
and
- (3) Attend upon all the or-
dinances of God like
participating in wor-
ship, taking Commun-
ion reading the Bible,
praying, and more.

SMALL GROUPS

The Devoted Disciples Small Group and the The Ragamuffin Small Group (Pathway 5)

You are invited to live out your faith with others and find support in your spiritual life. We meet at the parsonage (Pastor Brad’s home), 4887 Doverdell Drive on the 1st and 3rd or the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 pm. These are open small groups, and everyone is invited. Presently we are discussing “That the World May Know,” a video series by Ray Vander Laan, filmed in the Holy Land.

Panera Small Group (Pathway 5)

A small group of people has been gathering through the summer at Panera Bread in Caste Village to study the New Testament. Continuing into the fall, the group is welcoming all who are interested to join them as they look at Acts through Revelation. Grab dinner, a coffee, or one of the many delicious treats at Panera, and join in great conversation about the New Testament and how God has been active in your life.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

New member classes for the fall for those folks interested in knowing more about Baldwin Community United Methodist Church will meet with Pastor Bradley Neel and Bonnie Deal on September 9th and 16th in the conference room on the 2nd floor at 6:00 p.m. It is a requirement to attend both classes to become a member of the church.

Please email Bonnie Deal, bdeal@baldwincommunityumc.com, Visitor Coordinator to sign for the classes or call 412-427-7526 if you have any further questions.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group

Youth Group will start up again on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. till 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to attend. We will have fellowship, worship, lessons, small groups and lots of other activities planned throughout the year. You are always welcome to bring a friend or two.

Youth Group Kick off

Youth Group Kick Off Night will be Sunday, September 16, 2018, 5:00—7:00 p.m. in Youth Room. All Youth 6th through 12th grade, please join us as we kick off Youth Group for the 2018/2019 season. There will be Pizza and games. PLEASE feel free to bring a friend.

Any questions please feel to reach out to Jenn Pogany at jpogany@baldwincommunityumc.com or 412-882-9300

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation 2019

If you have children that are going into the eighth grade or above and would like to make their Confirmation in spring of 2019, please contact Jenn Pogany at 412-882-9300 or email at jpogany@baldwincommunityumc.com. Classes will start this fall.

CHILDREN MINISTRIES

Deep Blue Children’s Worship

Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. during ENGAGE Worship

The 2018-19 school year begins on Sunday, September 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Family – It’s all about family this fall with Deep Blue. In September, the kids will learn about **Jesus and His Family**. October’s theme is **We Are Family**. We will look at the books of Genesis and Exodus. In November, **Different Kinds of Family** becomes the focus as we investigate the stories of Ruth and Naomi; Hannah, Samuel, and Eli; the Widow and her sons; and Esther and Mordecai.



*“From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth
your praise.”
Matthew 21:16*

BALDWIN COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

HI HO, HI HO, IT’S OFF TO SCHOOL WE GO!

On Tuesday, September 4th, we will start another school year here at the Preschool. Our dedicated staff of fourteen teachers and four substitute teachers will be ready to welcome all new and returning families back to school. The rooms are cleaned, the hall floors are shining thanks to Mr. Bob and college student Mason. The newly purchased resources are unpacked and ready for the children to explore. The children’s names labeled on cubbies. All the specials such as Science, Music and Yoga are scheduled for the school year. The teachers have lesson plans organized to be sent home with a developmentally appropriate curriculum.

In a quality preschool program, we know that what is *most important* though, is the positive interactions between the teachers and children. Those opportunities tell the children that we care about them, what they have to say is important, and that they can trust us. Once the children feel safe and secure in their environment, they will begin to learn and flourish.

Every year is a new adventure and a very rewarding one. As we start another school year, please keep us in your prayers.

MUSIC NEWS

We’ve all enjoyed the soloists who have added musical joy to our summer worship services, but on the horizon, it’s time for choir to start up again. EMPHASIS: THERE IS NO BETTER TIME TO JOIN CHOIR THAN THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH YEAR - AND THAT’S SEPTEMBER!! Chancel Choir will begin its regular Thursday evening rehearsals on Sept. 6th at 7:00 p.m. If you have the voice and lots of spirit of adventure, join us: high school kids and older! Praise Kids Choir - Grade school age (and this includes 5th graders!!!) are welcome to join our group of excited kids singing for church every couple of months. Rehearsals are at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Our first rehearsal to prepare for Christmas will begin on Sunday, October 14th. Parents, I need your support to see that the kids attend these rehearsals every Sunday - If you have questions about any of the information above - call Phil Aley at 412-302-8653... LETS’ HAVE A JOYFUL YEAR AT BALDWIN FULL OF GREAT MUSIC!!!

GROW

To volunteer in the
Children’s Ministries
at Baldwin Community,
contact Jim Lombardi—
jlombardi
@baldwincommunityumc.com
or 412-882-9300 Ext 23



Preschool Director
Carol Barringer
cbarringer
@baldwincommunityumc.com
or 412-440-0509

Music Director
Phil Aley
paley
@baldwincommunityumc.com
412-882-9300 Ext. 21