



THE CHRISTMAS DILEMMA

Nobody expected the arrival of a baby to change the world. But when that baby is Jesus, plans are rearranged, beliefs are challenged, and ordinary people find their lives forever changed.

What dilemmas are you facing this holiday season? How will the celebration of Jesus entering the world change your life this Christmas? Join us in worship to ponder the possibilities!

Advent Worship

December 1-2 "The Dilemma of Doubt" (Joseph) Matthew 1: 18-25

December 8-9 "The Dilemma of Saying Yes" (Mary) Luke 1: 26-38

December 15-16 "The Dilemma of Belief" (Innkeeper) Luke 2: 1-7

December 22-23 "The Joy Dilemma" (Shepherd) Luke 2: 8-20

Christmas Eve

"The Dilemma of Obedience" (Wise man) Matthew 2: 1-12

ENGAGE Worship 4:00 p.m.

Traditional Worship 8:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.

2018 Christmas
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

Lifelong Learning Special Event

Sunday, January 27

Dinner—4:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker,

Hedda Sharapan—6:00 p.m.

Hedda Sharapan has been with Fred Rogers and his company (previously Family Communications, Inc.) for over 52 years, and currently serves as a Senior Fellow at the Fred Rogers Center and a child development consultant for *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* and other projects for Fred Rogers Productions. Over the years, she served as Assistant Director, Assistant Producer, and Director of Early Childhood Initiatives for Roger's small non-profit production company. Hedda is currently a script consultant for *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*, the award-winning preschool series produced by Fred Rogers Productions for PBS Kids. Her monthly e-newsletter, "What we can continue to learn from Fred Rogers," is distributed through the Fred Rogers Center and reaches more than 16,000 subscribers. Hedda continues to be a highly sought-after speaker at conferences around the country, helping audiences reflect on Fred Rogers' messages. She received an M.S. in Child Development from the University of Pittsburgh and an honorary doctorate degree from St. Vincent College, home of the Fred Rogers Center. Join us on January 27th to hear Ms. Sherapan at BCUMC.

LIFELONG CHRISTIAN LEARNING

The Great Courses – The New Testament

Led by Nick Coxon – Meeting Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in Wynne Hall. This class **will be using "The Great Courses" DVD's of the New Testament. 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. If you are interested, please send an email to ncoxon@gmail.com or call 412-225-7221 or 412-881-2504.**

Ten Women of the Bible, One by One They Changed the World

Led by Janise Daly and Mary Lou Englert, this ongoing women's study meets at 12:00 p.m. in the parlor the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Each lesson includes five daily Bible 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 in 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.

BCUMC Men's Ministry

This group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. **The mission of BCUMC's Men's Ministry is to provide a venue to encourage its members and others to strengthen their commitment to Christ in their daily living by putting their faith into action.**

Finding God in Music Monday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Does music inspire you to grow closer to God? Music is an important part of worship, but it also fills a void in our daily lives. We can listen to music intentionally or hear it as the background to our TV shows, movies, commercials, and more.

We will examine a variety of music and songs from the popular genre to those found in our hymnal to learn more about how we might find God in music and song. Weekly topics will include praise, love, sorrow, communication/teaching, and entertainment.

Small Groups

The Devoted Disciples Small Group and the The Ragamuffin Small Group

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 – Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

A small group has been meeting at the Caste Village Panera Bread to discuss a variety of topics and to discern how God has been active in their lives. All are welcome to join the group as they are able for dinner, coffee, a snack, or just great conversation.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Deep Blue Children's Worship

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

"Celebrate Advent with your family."

The kids will dive into the story of the birth of Jesus and see how family played a big role. The relationships between Elizabeth and Zechariah, Mary and Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus are all important **to the story of God's family.**



*"In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior."
Luke 1: 47*

YOUTH GROUP

So far this year Youth Group is off to a great start. We have lots of new faces and a new addition to the Youth Leader crew. We went to the Mission Barn in New Castle and helped by making 5 handicapped ramps, we served dinner and fellowshiped at Eighth Avenue Place; we will be sponsoring a Breakfast with Santa and Spaghetti Dinner to raise funds for our mission trip to Kentucky in July.

Spaghetti Dinner Volunteers Needed

The Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, November 29th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Asbury Hall. This is also the same night as the church-wide Christmas decorating. We will need volunteers, both adults and kids, to help with food preparation, serving, set-up, clean-up, and greeting.

Breakfast with Santa

This year our Youth will be hosting a Breakfast with Santa! This event is scheduled for Saturday, December 1st, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Asbury Hall. We will be hosting the breakfast for the church family and community. During the breakfast, there will be pictures with Santa, a reindeer food station, and a letters to Santa station. Volunteers are also needed for this event. Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited.

All proceeds from these events will go directly into the Youth Group and help offset the cost of our mission trip. For the fourth year, we will be traveling to Redbird Mission, located in Beverly, Kentucky. This trip is a very humbling and spiritual experience for the youth. It introduces an amazing opportunity for youth to get out of their comfort zone and experience life outside of their community to help those in need. If your child is interested in joining us on the mission trip, it would be greatly appreciated if they volunteered for these events.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Youth Coordinator, Jenn Pogany at jpogany@baldwincommunityumc.com or 412-882-9300 x13.

To volunteer in the **Children's Ministries** at Baldwin Community, contact Jim Lombardi—
jlombardi@baldwincommunityumc.com
or 412-882-9300 x23

Youth Group

Youth Group meets every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to attend. We 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.

For more information on the Youth Group here at Baldwin Community UMC, contact the Youth Coordinator, Jenn Pogany at jpogany@baldwincommunityumc.com or 412-882-9300 x13

For more information on the music programs available at Baldwin Community, contact Phil Aley—paley@baldwincommunityumc.com or 412-882-9300 x21

MUSIC NEWS

Every year there are singers from our congregation who like to join us for the holidays. This year we can really use your voice!!! Choir rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All you have to do is show up and bring your voice with you!

For the Christmas season, we are looking for solos, duets, or small ensembles comprised of children and youth (all school ages including middle school and high school). **If you're interested, please contact Phil Aley at 412-302-8653** asap to express your interest. The Praise Kids Choir we have enjoyed for so long has diminished in numbers and is not currently meeting. We still have youth in our church who love to sing and Christmas is the perfect time for you to express yourself in song! Give Phil a call!

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13-14

*For
unto us
a child
is born.
—Isaiah 9: 6*

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Hanging of the Greens... and Other Festive Colors

Dinner and Decorating at the Church

Thursday, November 29th

Spaghetti Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner will be provided by our Youth Group. Proceeds from the dinner go toward the **Youth's summer mission trip.**

Decorating begins at 7:00 p.m. We will be decorating the sanctuary, the chapel, Asbury Hall, as well as putting candles in the windows of the church. We need your help! Join us and bring a friend.

HOLIDAY MAIL FOR HEROES

The Voluntary Services Office at the Veteran Hospitals in Pittsburgh delivers Holiday greetings to veterans. Our Outreach Team will be participating in this opportunity and is asking the congregation to participate as well. If you are interested in sending a card or cards to our veterans to wish them a Merry Christmas, here is what you need to do: Cards only – no letters, inserts or photos. You can use generic salutations such as **"Dear Veteran."** **Please sign your name but no addresses or email addresses.** No cards with glitter; it can aggravate health conditions. No need for envelopes. You can drop your cards off in the collection boxes located throughout the church by Sunday, December 2nd.

EIGHTH AVENUE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Outreach Team will provide the dinner for the Eighth Avenue Place Christmas Gathering on December 15, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. The Christmas Gathering is held at Homestead United Presbyterian Church, 908 Ann Street, Homestead, PA. All are welcome to join us for a great dinner followed by musical entertainment at 4:00 p.m. and a worship service at 5:00 p.m. with the people of Eighth Avenue.

We are looking for a few volunteers to help serve dinner. If anyone is interested in volunteering to serve the meal, please contact Paula Turek at 412-608-0789.

KID'S MOVIE EVENT

Calling all kids! Please join us for a movie night! Saturday, December 29th, in Asbury Hall. 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. we will show *The Star* for kids in elementary school. 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. we will show *Miracles from Heaven* for kids in middle school and high school. Popcorn provided. Feel free to wear your jammies; bring a blanket and a friend! Sponsored by Esther Circle.

COOKIE WALK

The UMW Abigail Circle Cookie Walk will be on Saturday, December 8, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Our homemade and church-made cookies will sell for \$9.00 per lb. We will have more variety and more cookies than *EVER BEFORE!!* We're expecting another sell-out – **so don't miss selecting your favorite cookie!**

In the 150 year history of the United Methodist Women, the focus has been on ministries that affect and support women, children, and youth. Sales from the Cookie Walk have supported a variety of missions including our own **Lord's Pantry**, 8th Avenue Place, Bethlehem Haven, Ruth M. Smith Center, and Sojourner House. We also support the UMW PA District which funds other national and international projects.

Important Notes: **We'll be baking in Asbury kitchen on Monday, November 26th**, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and **Tuesday, December 4th**, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We invite you to join in the fun!

We'll be accepting your homemade cookies on December 7th and 8th in the Asbury kitchen. Please mark any that contain nuts and tag with UMW Cookies. Questions, please contact Carol Coyle at 412-228-8407 or via email: cclh22@yahoo.com

CALLING ALL SCOUTS—P.R.A.Y. AWARDS

P.R.A.Y. Awards are an opportunity for all Girl and Boy Scouts to grow in their faith. Starting in January, we will offer these opportunities for all scouts in 1-12 grade. For more information on these awards, go to www.praypub.org and click on the link on the left for the P.R.A.Y. Program. If your child is interested, please contact Elizabeth Meriwether at 412-882-9300 or email emeriwether@baldwincommunityumc.com.

FLAPJACK FESTIVAL

Methodist Men – 64th Annual Flapjack Festival

Saturday, February 9th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Asbury Hall

You have the opportunity to pre-order **Ricci's 2.0 oz. fresh sausage to enjoy at your home**. Cost is \$6.00 / pound. If interested please contract Rich Katilius @ 412-398-6336 or email at richkatilius@yahoo.com by January 14th.

Proceeds benefit the United Methodist Men's 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 Baldwin Community U.M.C. established this annual post secondary award in memory of the Laity of this church.

For God so loved the world.
— John 3: 16

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. —Matthew 2:

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Yovena Pierre-Louis was received into membership on October 20, 2018 at the Saturday evening service. Yovena is a teacher and mother of two sons, Anthony and Jeremiah. Yovena has been very active in our church and attends the Saturday service on a regular basis.

Ed Wirth is retired and attends the Sunday Classic service at 11:00. Ed resides in Whitehall and helps with the Outreach programs.

Lori and Michael Pogany were received at the Contemporary service on Sunday, October 21, 2018. They recently moved here from Florida and became interested in Baldwin Church. Lori is employed and Michael attends Baldwin Whitehall School District.

If you are looking for a new church home, please mark your calendars for the new member classes in January, 2019. New member class will be on Sunday, January 13, 2019 and January 20, 2019 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall. New Member classes will be taught by Pastor Brad Neel. Please contact Bonnie Deal, Visitor Coordinator at 412-650-2776 or email bdeal@baldwincommunityumc.com to register for the classes or if you have any questions.

NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD

Dear Members of Baldwin Community United Methodist Church,

My friends, after much prayer and discernment over the past few months, I have requested to retire effective June 30, 2019. This is a decision that Robin and I came to several months ago, and we are working through the process with the Annual Conference.

It has been a privilege to serve you for these past years. We have been touched by your love for our Lord Jesus Christ and your compassion for others. You are a blessing to so many.

It is time for new leadership at Baldwin Community UMC. There is much to do as we look forward to what God has in store for you all. We are blessed to have Rev. Ginger Thomas serving in such a wonderful and important way. Please keep the Staff Parish Relations Committee and Ginger in your prayers as we work with the Annual Conference in this time of transition.

We still have a number of months together, and there is a lot of work and blessings ahead of us. God is not done working in us and through us. Praise be to God.

In Jesus' Love and Service,

Rev. Bradley K. Neel

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

At Charge Conference our associate pastor, Ginger Thomas, was given additional hours and the title Pastor of Administration. She will be working more closely with administrative committees and staff in this role, along with developing some new ministry teams and continuing to focus on worship. **She hopes to help make the church's transition time one of fruitfulness and growth.**

ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING

Baldwin Community is offering two opportunities for the congregation to come together for Active Threat Training. All are encouraged to attend. This training will educate the congregation as a whole on what to do in case of an emergency at the church.

Derek Kuntz, a member of BCUMC and trainer for the City of Pittsburgh Police Department, will conduct the trainings on Sunday, December 16th, and Sunday, January 13th, at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. You should plan on attending only one of the roughly 2 -2 ½ hour sessions.

This year you have a choice to give a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one **OR** give \$10.00 or more to the Lord's Pantry in honor or memory of a loved one. The Poinsettia and the Lord's Pantry each have their own form.

Poinsettia Order Form-2018



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Plants are \$10.00 each. Qty _____ Amount included _____

Please print your requests CLEARLY

In Loving Memory of _____

GIVEN BY _____

In Honor of _____

GIVEN BY _____

Deadline to order: Sunday, December 2, 2018

Please mail this form with payment to the church or place form with payment in an envelope in the offering plate.

Christmas Lord's Pantry Donations - 2018



Name: _____ PHONE _____

\$10 or more for Lord's Pantry Donation

Amount Included _____

Please Print your requests CLEARLY

In Loving Memory of _____

GIVEN BY _____

In Honor of _____

GIVEN BY _____

Deadline to order: Sunday, December 2, 2018

Please mail this form and payment to the church or place form and payment in an envelope in the offering

Baldwin Community
United Methodist
Church

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The Christmas Dilemma

Worship with us during Advent

December 1-2

“The Dilemma of Doubt” (Joseph)

Matthew 1: 18-25

December 8-9

“The Dilemma of Saying Yes” (Mary)

Luke 1: 26-38

December 15-16

“The Dilemma of Belief” (Innkeeper)

Luke 2: 1-7

December 22-23

“The Joy Dilemma” (Shepherd)

Luke 2: 8-20

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Nobody expected the arrival of a baby
to shake up their lives.

But when that baby is Jesus,
plans are rearranged,
beliefs are challenged, and ordinary
people find their lives forever changed.

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Contemporary

with live band, drama,
and a special children’s message.

8:00 p.m. Traditional
with organ and choir

10:00 p.m. Traditional
with organ, choir, and communion