

Baldwin Community United Methodist Church  
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# BALDWIN COMMUNITY NEWS

A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

APRIL 2022



## Opportunities Abound

**Pastor Pamela Gardner**

I'm so glad that you are taking a few moments to look over the April newsletter! As the pandemic seems to be ebbing to lower Covid numbers, we are beginning to imagine what our next steps will be as a church. I would invite you to pause and discern with me what comes next. Are we anxious to get back to the way things used to be? Were the things of the past working for our benefit and blessing the way we thought they were? Might there be new opportunities before us that we haven't even considered that will grow our congregation into a body bound and driven by the presence of the Holy Spirit? Galatians 6:10 commends, "So then, let's work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity and especially for those in the household of faith." We are on the cusp of opportunities not available to Baldwin Community UMC prior to the pandemic, but it will take some prayerful discernment to reveal what God might be calling us to become in a new season of ministry. In this newsletter, you will find opportunities for...

\*Discipleship designed to help you grow deeper in your journey with God. Holy Week offers the soul a gravity as we experience the death and resurrection of Jesus, there are many offerings between Palm Sunday and Easter to experience. Perhaps you might want to volunteer to help with the youth group during the upcoming 30 Hour Famine event. New member classes are beginning June 8th at 7pm for anyone looking to join our congregation.

\*Service engaging our wider community and world as Baldwin heads to the Eastbrook Mission Barn on April 9th. You can gather up your gently used things to donate to Saint Vincent de Paul for those in need and bring them to the church on April 16. Also, help us to celebrate the Lord's Pantry as volunteers are recognized for their service on May 15th.

\*Community Life binding us together in the spirit and grace of God will hold our ministries in common with one another. Soon, you'll be hearing information about a new opportunity being undertaken by the Lay Leadership and Nominations committee as they introduce you to the "Simplified Accountable Structure" being adopted by United Methodist Churches across the denomination. Save the date! July 10-11, 2022. Stay tuned for more information for more details!

The grace of God is upon us as we move forward with joy! Not even a pandemic can rob us from the opportunities that God desires for us. Baldwin Community UMC is strong, blessed, gifted, and called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, let us work for the good of all!

In certain and sure expectation of God's movement among us,

Pastor Pam



### IN THIS ISSUE

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**Lay Leadership**

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**Lent, Easter, and Beyond**

**Guest Preachers**

**Worship with Us**



**The Youth Group enjoying a fun afternoon of ice skating, sweet treats, and fellowship.**



## EMERGING IN A GARDEN

CELEBRATE AND WORSHIP WITH US AS WE WAKE TO A BLESSED AND HAPPY EASTER!

April 17, 2022  
9 AM & 11 AM

5001 BAPTIST ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15236



**YOUTH**

SUNDAYS  
JR. HIGH 5:00 | SR. HIGH 6:30

BALDWIN COMMUNITY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**GROUP**

We have had a lot of exciting changes in Youth Ministry as we expanded to include 5th graders and split into two groups. On Sunday nights, the 5th—7th graders meet from 5:00-6:30 and the 8th—12th graders meet from 6:30-8:00. The two groups come together for events sometimes. One of their largest upcoming events is their 30 hour famine which will take place May 21/22 and end with cooking a fellowship breakfast for the congregation at the 9am service. Youth should sign up at [bit.ly/BCUMC30hour](https://bit.ly/BCUMC30hour). In order to raise some money for this venture, they will be hosting a spaghetti lunch on Sunday, May 1st at noon in Asbury Hall. We hope to see many of you there supporting our youth, so mark your calendars now. Looking ahead to June 5th, we will be gathering together at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary for Youth Sunday. This will be in lieu of the usual 9am and 11am services and will include Confirmation. From June 27th to July 1st, we will be holding New Creation Sports Camp. We are so happy to provide so many opportunities for our children and youth.

**Sunday School & Children's Choir**  
10:00 a.m. Sundays

BALDWIN COMMUNITY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**NEW CREATION  
SPORTS  
CAMP**

Pre-K-5th Grade  
June 27th-July 1st

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**  
Help sustain this exciting ministry!

contact Justin at: [jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com](mailto:jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com)

**30 Hour  
Famine**  
May 21st-22nd

May 1st, 12:00pm  
Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser

May 22nd, 9:00am  
Fellowship Breakfast

Register at: [bit.ly/BCUMC30hour](https://bit.ly/BCUMC30hour)

World Vision

BALDWIN COMMUNITY UMC

**YOUTH  
SUNDAY**

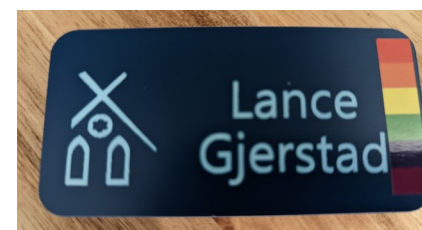
JUNE 5TH  
10:00AM

CONFIRMATION | CHILDREN'S CHOIR | AND MORE!

## Q & A for BCUMC

### Q: What is a Simplified Accountable Structure?

**A:** Throughout the history of BCUMC, we have followed the committee structure promoted through the United Methodist Book of Discipline. This structure has not aged well and was never tailored to the needs of our congregation. Under this structure, we have four administrative committees, each with 9 members, in addition to representatives from other committees, pastors, and other lay leadership. That's 55 person-meetings per month, if all committees meet, which is a lot of overhead that we could be spending doing the work of the church rather than working on the church. Unfortunately, between general declines in the church and particularly with the impact COVID has had on attendance, this system is not sustainable. The Nominations committee (consisting of Helen Akers, Bonnie Deal, Pam Gardner, Tom Gintner, Barbara Gjerstad, Lance Gjerstad, Edward Lawrence, Diana Paladino, and Hilary Paladino) has already started taking action by reducing committee sizes from 9 to 6 for 2022. This change helps, but with careful consideration and planning, we're taking this opportunity to re-evaluate and modernize our administrative committees by adopting a Simplified Accountable Structure. This means we're reducing the number of administrative committees from 4 down to 1, which dramatically cuts down the overhead of running the church. We'll be hosting listening posts to hear your thoughts, questions and concerns. When those are scheduled, they will be announced. Until then, if you have any questions, please contact Helen Akers or Ed Lawrence.



### Q: Why the Rainbow?

**A:** By now, you may have seen a few people at church wearing a rainbow stripe on their name tag, and you may wonder what it means.

It indicates that the person is an ally--in support of the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the life and ministry of our church and a safe person to speak to for anyone who needs a friendly ear. It also indicates that the person is open to calm, honest conversation about the future of our denomination and our congregation's role in it.

If you need someone to speak to, look for a rainbow. If you'd like a rainbow for your own name tag, please e-mail Barbara Gjerstad at [wildirishrose@gmail.com](mailto:wildirishrose@gmail.com).

### Q: What is happening with our denomination?

**A:** The short answer is that we don't know what is happening and when. The United Methodist Church has twice postponed its General Conference and won't meet again until 2024. The UM News at [UMnews.org](https://umnews.org) and The United Methodist Church site at [UMC.org](https://umc.org) will both have the latest rulings from the Judicial Council and responses from the Council of Bishops. Any questions can be directed to Pastor Pam.



### Q: What is happening with BCUMC?

**A:** We recognize that any premature choice will have lasting implications, so absolutely nothing will be changing at this time.



# Looking Ahead in Worship

MAY 15TH - MAY 29TH

## WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?

Conversational Worship - 9:00 a.m. Asbury  
Traditional Worship - 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

## The Forgotten Part of God

Summer worship series begins on June 12th

### Holy Week SCHEDULE

April 14 (Maundy Thursday)	7:00 P.M. SANCTUARY
April 15 (Good Friday)	7:30 P.M. CHAPEL
April 17 (Easter Sunday)	9:00 A.M. ASBURY HALL
April 17 (Easter Sunday)	11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY

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JOIN US FOR AN

## EASTER EGG HUNT

EASTER (APRIL 17TH) DURING 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE

It's hard to believe how close we are to Easter now. To kick-off Holy Week, on Sunday, April 10th, the Praise band will be playing some music in Asbury Hall followed by our Chili Cook Off. You are invited to make a crockpot of chili for the competition or simply come and enjoy the evening of music and fellowship. Chili-makers should sign up by emailing Justin or responding on [bit.ly/baldwinsoup](https://bit.ly/baldwinsoup).

On April 14th, we will be gathering at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for an immersive experience for Maundy Thursday. This service includes communion. Good Friday will be a Contemplative service in the chapel, led by Dr. Justin Pearl. Plan to be in your seats by 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, as always, will be a beautiful experience with two opportunities for worship: 9:00 a.m. in Asbury Hall or 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. The children's choir will be at both services and having an egg hunt between. It will be a wonderful experience. As always, if you feel more comfortable joining us online, the 11:00 a.m. service will be live-streamed.

The church office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Easter flower pick-up will be after the 11:00 a.m. service or Tuesday from 9:30—12:30 in the church office.

# Upcoming Guest Preachers

April 24th

## MITCHELL HORTERT, MSW

COMMUNITY LEADER, ADVOCATE, AND EDUCATOR

- Member of Sewickley United Methodist Church
- Past President of PFLAC, a non-profit organization that supports the LGBTQIA+ community
- Currently working towards a Master of Divinity through Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- His favorite vacation was taking his children to Bethany Beach last summer.

May 8th

## REV. LIDDY BARLOW

FIRST WOMAN INSTALLED AS EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF PA

- Grew up in Keene, New Hampshire and now resides in Pittsburgh
- Married to Gregory, a robotics engineer and has 2 children
- Masters of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theology School
- Recognized as "40 under 40" Leader by Pittsburgh Magazine

Please follow at [facebook.com/christianassociateswpa](https://facebook.com/christianassociateswpa)

May 1st

## REV. DON BLINN

RETIRED MINISTER AND FORMER ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF BCUMC

- Western PA native and currently lives in Bethel Park
- Married to Kim and their son, Benjamin is a middle school math teacher
- Masters of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- Took a 7 day rafting trip through the Grand Canyon covering 180 miles and sleeping on the banks the Colorado River

### Palm Sunday Praise & Chili COOK OFF

SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH 5PM ASBURY HALL

[bit.ly/baldwinsoup](https://bit.ly/baldwinsoup)

Lev 2022

## 40 ITEMS IN 40 DAYS COLLECTION

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TRUCK HERE: APRIL 16TH 10AM - 12PM

Pastor Pam recently had lunch with Ginger and presented her with this beautiful communion set. Thank you to all who contributed to this gift.

the power of camp

YOUR SUMMER ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE...

WPAUMC.ORG/CAMPING

Visit [wpaumc.org/camping](https://wpaumc.org/camping) for camping opportunities. Scholarships are available. The deadline is May 20th! We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.



FLAPJACK FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY, APRIL 23  
8AM - 1PM

All-you-can-eat pancakes & sausage  
\$10 adults, \$5 kids, 3 and under eat free



All proceeds benefit local scholarships:  
The United Methodist Men's Laity Memorial Education Award Program

The Flapjack Festival is BACK!

- Saturday, April 23rd from 8am - 1pm.
- All-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage
- \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, 3 and under eat for free
- Tickets will be pre-sold in the church office on weekdays and before/after church services on Sundays.
- Tickets will also be available at the door.
- Invite your friends and family!
- All proceeds benefit local scholarships: The United Methodist Men's Laity Memorial Educational Award Program

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 9th—Outdoor Clean-up Day, starting at 8am/Mission Barn volunteer opportunity
- April 10th—Palm Sunday Praise and Chili Cook-off, 5pm in Asbury
- April 13th—Final Lenten Reflections—12pm Chapel
- April 14th—Maundy Thursday service, 7pm in the sanctuary
- April 15th—Good Friday service, 7:30pm in the chapel
- April 16th—Final Lenten Hike, 8:30am/40 items in 40 days collection truck here, 10am—2pm
- April 17th—Easter Sunday services
- April 23rd—United Methodist Men Flapjack Festival, 8am-1pm in Asbury
- April 24th—Guest Preacher: Mitch Hortert
- April 28th—12pm Lord's Pantry Distribution
- May 1st—Guest Preacher: Don Blinn
- May 1st—Spaghetti Lunch Youth Fundraiser, 12pm in Asbury
- May 8th—Guest Preacher: Liddy Barlow
- May 14th—District Conference, 10am at Trinity Towers
- May 18th—Lucy Land Bus Trip
- May 20th—Campership Scholarships due
- May 21st—30 Hour Famine for Youth Group/Lock-in
- May 22nd—Youth Host Breakfast, 9am in Asbury
- May 26th—12pm Lord's Pantry Distribution
- June 5th—Youth Sunday, 10am Worship only, Confirmation, UM Student Day
- June 8th—New Member Classes begin, 7pm

SAVE THE DATE!  
**NEW MEMBER  
CLASSES**

What is Methodism?

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS TWICE A MONTH  
STARTING ON JUNE 8TH



You may have noticed new areas set up in the narthex and Asbury Hall. We invite you to check them out to see where you can help. Current opportunities are:

- April 9th: UMCOR Mission Barn 9:00 a.m. Contact Steve King at dsktjk1@aol.com
- April 10th: Make chili for the Palm Sunday Praise and Chili Cook-off. Contact Justin Pearl or visit [bit.ly/baldwinsoup](http://bit.ly/baldwinsoup)
- April 23rd: Help with the Flapjack Festival by working the door, helping in the kitchen, bussing tables, or clean up/set up. Contact Tom Gintner at [tgintner@msn.com](mailto:tgintner@msn.com)
- June 27th—July 1: New Creation Sports Camp needs many adult and youth volunteers to help this special week be a tremendous success.

Please consider giving your time and talent to Baldwin Community.

Grow Your Business for Christ

Christian Business Partners is a National Christian Business Networking Group with the objective of helping small business owners grow their business and grow their faith. Our local chapter of CBP meets at Gianna Via's on Tuesday mornings from 8:15 to 9:30. CBP will buy your breakfast when you come to test out the group to see if it is a good fit. More information on the group is available by visiting their website at <https://cbpnetwrking.com> or emailing their Vice President, Bruce Tenenbaum, at [btenenbaum8@gmail.com](mailto:btenenbaum8@gmail.com).

The deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is Friday, May 20th. For weekly bulletins & announcements, email Ria Fruscello by Monday of the week you'd like it to appear. All rooms can be booked through Nicole Martik.

