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A Note from the Pastor

Pamela Gardner, Senior Pastor

Christmastime is upon us with promises of more – more lights, more food, more festivities, more gifts, and more of everything! As Christ-followers, it is easy to get caught up in this season of “more” and miss the wondrous story so central to our faith. God, incarnate, comes to earth in an act so generous that on Christmas Eve, we are finally silenced to awe.

Advent is a God-given gift to help us balance a more secular celebration of more to ask what God might be trying to give to us during holy days. God’s “more” offers a different path to all searching for the child wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. How can we follow our spiritual ancestors to a place where Christmas offers us newness of faith?

Each Sunday of Advent, our scriptures will be opening the world-shattering, terrifying news that God is on the move initiating the incomprehensible. Mary, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Joseph, along with a host of shepherds are the first to hear God’s momentous plan to come to earth in human form to show the path to more hope, more peace, more joy, more love, and more awe. God’s “more” opens the possibility of a deep way of living in union with God as opposed to glutting our lives with the stuff of this world.

God’s invitation to behold the Savior of your life might be intimidating or fearful when we think about celebrating Advent and Christmas steeped in prayer, scripture and discovering what “more” truly means for us. But the message to the faithful is still the same and echoed down through centuries of angels encountering us as we embark on new paths... “Do not be afraid.”

Welcome Advent! May we receive more hope, peace, joy, and love as we search for the Holy One, Emmanuel, come to be with us. Blessings!



Christmas Eve Services:

5:00 p.m. Casual Christmas
in Asbury Hall

7:00 p.m. Candlelight
Christmas in the
Sanctuary

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You are invited to the

Christmas Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 11
9am - 1pm
Asbury Hall

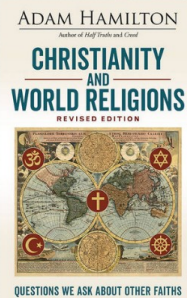
BALDWIN COMMUNITY UMC
5001 BAPTIST ROAD
PITTSBURGH



BOXED VARIETIES - \$10 EACH

Adult & Youth Discipleship

CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS



Book Study

Sundays at 4
January 9 - February 27
bit.ly/BaldwinBookStudy



Led by
Dr. Justin Pearl and
Rev. Pamela Gardner

If there ever was a time when Christians needed to build bridges with others, seeking peace in our world, loving our neighbors, and finding positive ways to share the gospel, it is now. In *Christianity and World Religions*, author Adam Hamilton deals with questions so many of us have about the four major world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism—and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. In his trademark honest and open writing style, Hamilton helps answer questions such as: *Why are there so many different religions? How should we view their beliefs? What is the fate of those who have these beliefs?*

Join this study, which will take place on Sundays at 4pm starting on January 9th, by contacting Justin or responding on this site: bit.ly/BaldwinBookStudy.



Youth Group members acted out the Biblical characters in a traveling nativity during Hanging of the Greens.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this fun and productive evening.

Narnia MOVIE NIGHT

and Carol Sing

DEC 12

4 PM



Chapel
Baldwin Community UMC

Church News

Help us welcome our new receptionist, Nicole Martik. She will be responsible for greeting visitors, answering the phones, and coordinating with the various groups that meet within the church. Nicole has been a stay-at-home mother for the last 7 years. She obtained her Masters degree in Counseling from Chatham University and worked as a full-time counselor prior to the birth of her daughter. Nicole enjoys spending time with her husband, Adam, her daughter, Kendal, and her rescue dog, Benny. She also loves being outdoors.

Special thanks to the hiring team consisting of Wendy Beck, Linda Funk, Mike Slaven, Helen Akers, and Pastor Pam Gardner for this wonderful addition to the team.

Ria Fruscello will be transitioning to a new position as our Communications Coordinator. She continues to be responsible for all forms of communications within the church and the greater community through newsletters, bulletins, post cards, email updates, and the electronic sign as well as the task of managing the church files.

We celebrated Bob Lee's 25 years of service last month. We are so blessed to have such dedicated team members here. Thank you for all you do to support the staff!



Stewardship Update

Thank you to the many who have taken the time to return their 2022 pledge card to the church office. We are working to create a vibrant and missional budget for the new year and are excited about the ministry possibilities before us. Right now, we are about halfway to our budget support goal. If you have not had the opportunity to return your pledge card to the church office, we are inviting you to share your pledge information with us as soon as possible. Your pledge shares important information regarding your wishes to support our ongoing work at Baldwin Community UMC. 2022 is going to be an important year for us as we strengthen our ministries and prepare for the work God has before us.

Thank you for your ongoing support! We value your commitment to Baldwin Community UMC.

Our Five Areas of Focus for 2022:

Our belief is that God will make a significant difference in our world and church if we work in committed and cooperative ways around these five areas of focus.

1. **Developing Principled Christian Leaders**
2. **Creating New and Renewed Congregations**
3. **Dismantling Poverty**
4. **Promoting Abundant Health.**
5. **Dismantling racism**

Options for Online Giving

Option 1: Visit bit.ly/baldwingive (or choose "GIVE" under the Resources tab of baldwincommunityumc.com). You will be prompted to set a one-time or recurring donation amount that can be paid by credit card or from a checking account.

Option 2: Text "give" to 412-201-0308. You will be prompted to set a one-time or recurring donation amount that can be paid by credit card or from a checking account.

Option 3: Use online bill pay from your bank. Many banks charge no fee to send a one-time or recurring payment through online bill pay. Enter the church's name and address—5001 Baptist Rd, Pittsburgh PA 15236, and use a bank account to send your gift.

Mark Your Calendars

You are invited to the



Christmas Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 11
9am - 1pm
Asbury Hall



BOXED VARIETIES - \$10 EACH

BALDWIN COMMUNITY UMC
5001 BAPTIST ROAD
PITTSBURGH



FLAPJACK FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12
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 Lait Memorial Education Award Program




SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

*Wear colors to represent your favorite sports team during service.
Bring canned soup for the Lord's Pantry.
~Chili Cookoff after 11am service~*



FEBRUARY 13TH
NOON
ASBURY HALL



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Dec 11th—9am Cookie Walk
- Dec 12th—4pm Movie Night/Carol Sing
- Dec 23rd—Concert of Praise
- Dec 24th—5pm Casual Christmas Eve
- Dec 24th—7pm Candlelight Christmas Eve
- Dec 26th—11am Shared Service
- Jan 9th—Christianity & World Religions begins
- Jan 30th—Love Your Neighbor Kickoff
- Jan 30th—DS Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian here
- Feb 12th—Flapjack Festival
- Feb 13th—Souper Bowl Sunday



Keep in touch with us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Sign up for weekly emails by messaging Ria at info@baldwincommunityumc.com or call the church office: 412-882-9300 x210.

Advent & Christmas 2021

Hear the Word of God for the holidays.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th
5:00 p.m. Casual - Asbury Hall
7:00 p.m. Candlelight - Sanctuary

Live Streaming available for
7pm on YouTube, the website,
and Facebook.

Angels Among Us

November 28 - December 26

BCUMC WORSHIP BAND

CONCERT OF PRAISE

December 23rd
7:00 pm
Asbury Hall



Lamppost Lunches



Wednesdays at noon - Facebook Live
December 1st-29th
[Facebook.com/BaldwinCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/BaldwinCommunity)

This Advent, the sermon series is "Angels Among Us" and with the help of the decorating team, the Adult and Children's Choir as well as soloists and other musicians, the atmosphere on Sundays has been truly magical.

On Wednesdays at noon, Pastor Pam is going live on Facebook with some words of encouragement for Advent.

Mark your calendars for an evening of praise with our very own worship band. Join us in Asbury Hall on Thursday, December 23rd at 7:00 p.m. to get fully into the Christmas spirit with live music.

Christmas Eve services this year will be:

5:00 —Casual
Christmas in Asbury Hall

7:00—Candlelight
Christmas in the Sanctuary

The 7:00 service will be live-streamed.



Helping Our Neighbors

The United Methodist Men would like to request the following help with their annual Flapjack Festival, to be held on February 12th:

- Volunteers to sell tickets before and after church services on the weekends of January 30th & February 6th.
- Volunteers to work the front desk: greeting customers & selling/collecting tickets
- Volunteers to work in the dining room: taking orders, serving food & drinks, busing tables, and refilling syrup containers
- Volunteers to work in the kitchen: making pancakes, filling orders, and washing dishes.
- Help getting the word out to the local community.

Contact Tom Gintner for more information.
Email tgintner@msn.com or call 412-352-6230.



We are proud of our partnership with Daily Bread, providing and serving meals throughout the year.



For all the loving and compassionate people of our congregation, here is a list of suggested donations for the Lord's Pantry this coming year:

January: cereal, jelly, and paper towels

February: soup, crackers, and shampoo

March: pancake mix, syrup, and bar soap

April: cookies, tuna, and hand soap

May: condiments and cake mix

June: cereal and paper towels

July: salad dressing and toilet paper

August: cookies and shampoo

September: cereal and ketchup

October: soup and crackers

November: stuffing mix and pumpkin

December: cranberry sauce and soup

2022 Distribution Dates

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|-----------------|------------------|
| • January 27th | • July 28th |
| • February 24th | • August 25th |
| • March 24th | • September 22nd |
| • April 28th | • October 27th |
| • May 26th | • November 17th |
| • June 23rd | • December 15th |

Angels Among Us



Quiet Week and Prayer Vigil—December 26-31

As many of us regroup from our Christmas celebrations and turn our attention to New Year's Eve, the church office becomes very, very quiet. The staff at BCUMC will be using that week as quiet time to rest, take online classes, read books, brush up on tech skills, and other tasks we don't normally have the time to attend to when things are busy. Quiet week offers the staff flexibility and freedom work at home or in the office, so if you are planning to stop by the church office you might want to call first to make sure the person you want to talk to will be in the building.

You are invited to join in a week-long prayer vigil during from December 26-December 31 to pray daily on behalf of our church for blessing, strengthening of community, and a unity of heart and life. Below you will see the list of suggested daily prayers that you can immerse your thoughts and focus as we ask for God's blessing in the new year. You may choose to craft your own prayers for each day, or you are invited to pray daily the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer as follows: *"Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things. Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed by you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal. Amen."*

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| • Sunday, December 26 | Pray for Baldwin Community UMC |
| • Monday, December 27 | Pray for the church staff |
| • Tuesday, December 28 | Pray for our Outreach ministries |
| • Wednesday, December 29 | Pray for Discipleship ministries |
| • Thursday, December 30 | Pray for the United Methodist Church |
| • Friday, December 31 | Pray for a blessed New Year |

