

Baldwin Community United Methodist Church
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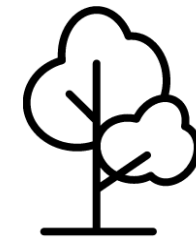
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BALDWIN COMMUNITY NEWS

A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

FEBRUARY 2022



Pruning Encourages New Growth

Pastor Pamela Gardner

Right now, in Northeastern Pennsylvania, vineyard workers are pruning back vines from last season to encourage new growth in the spring. It is hard to work with the bitter cold winds coming off the lake but essential for a good harvest toward the end of summer. These skilled laborers know well how much to prune off each vine and how to tie the branches to support the weight of new grapes. Without their determined effort, the grapevines would go wild, quickly producing unsellable grapes and brambles. Pruning is essential!

Jesus was very clear in His teaching on the vine and branches that ministry would not be easy or painless for those desiring to be his disciples. Faithful ministry means that, at times, we do the things we don't want to do and embrace changes we never thought possible. In John 15:8, when Jesus says, "This is my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples," He was also saying that faithfulness requires a pruning of heart and life. Disciples daringly prune all that no longer works or serves in order to build new growth, throwing the overgrowth into the flames. This barely makes sense as overgrowth looks fine to the untrained eye, but it's presence devastates any future harvest. Faithful pruning encourages new growth. Jesus, well aware of the harshness of pruning, brings a season of newness, encouraged by the spiritual gifts of obedience, patience, and dedication to pruning that builds the Kingdom of God now.

Our culture, no longer having an agricultural orientation, tends to miss the beauty of pruning as shared by Jesus in John 15:1-4. Pruning clears away growth that is unsustainable or out of season for the plant, our spiritual relationship with Jesus, and church ministries. Throughout 2021, we found ourselves needing to do some pruning or right-sizing in response to all that was happening around us. The pain of those changes still linger for us yet, in response to pruning or change, new opportunities for growth and vibrancy are now available to our church. By right-sizing, we've been able to give attention and resources to different parts of our ministry. The new growth has been surprising and wonderful!

In this newsletter, you will find articles sharing with you our ongoing effort to prune or right-size the ministries of Baldwin Community UMC. You will also find articles showing evidence of new growth sprouting and unexpected blessings as we faithfully minister to our community in grace. By all these works, may we be seen as Christ's own disciples.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine."

~John 15:1-4

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Lent 2022



**Members of Abigail Circle
on the morning of the
Annual Cookie Walk held
on December 11th.**

CASUAL WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 9

TRADITIONAL
WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 11

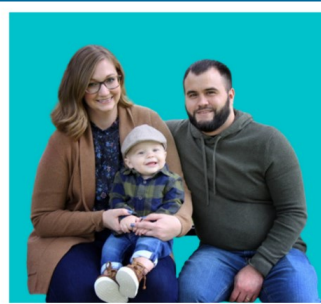


LORI DEAL

DID YOU KNOW THAT LORI...

- has attended this church for over 50 years?
- is a member of Chancel Choir?
- is the current chair of the Annual Conference Personnel team?
- works as Contracts Manager for the DRB Group - Pittsburgh Division?
- enjoys family time, game nights, and traveling?
- loves chocolate marshmallow ice cream?

Lori Deal is the current Church Council Chairperson. The church council is the administrative agency of the charge conference to envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the ministry of the congregation. Lori meets and works with the pastor and others to fulfill the mission of the church. During the year, she prepares and communicates the agenda for meetings, leads the meetings, follows up actions by assigning responsibility for implementation, coordinates the activities of the leadership team, and maintains a healthy and growing spiritual life.

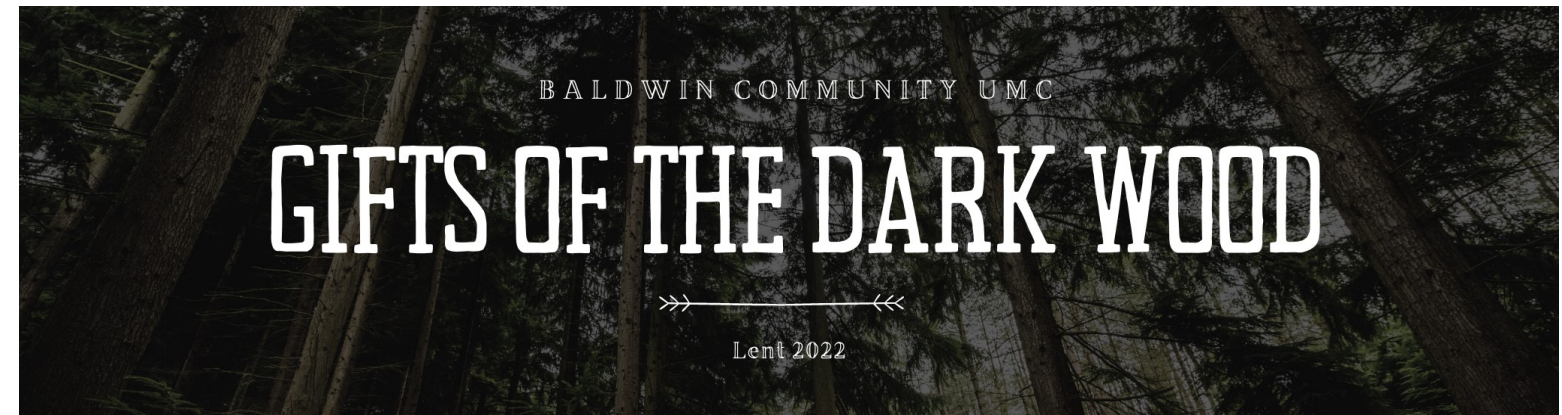


KRISTY COSTANZO

DID YOU KNOW THAT KRISTY...

- has been married to her high school sweetheart, Kevin, for 11 years?
- has a 15 month old son named Charlie?
- graduated from Kent State and currently works as an architect?
- has a boxer dog named Harper and a cat named Penny?
- is originally from St. Marys, PA?
- loves chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream in a waffle cone?

Kristy is the current Board of Trustees Chairperson. Trustees function as Christian stewards of property God has entrusted to the congregation. This includes supervising and maintaining both the physical property of the congregation and gifts made to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective and all legal requirements related to the property are satisfied. Kristy has been a member of Trustees since 2021 but was just elected to be the Chairperson for 2022.



ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2nd 12pm Chapel
7pm Sanctuary

Learning to Walk in the Dark

BOOK DISCUSSION
MARCH 20TH - 4PM - WESLEY

Lenten Reflections

MARCH 9TH - APRIL 13TH
WEDNESDAYS AT NOON
BALDWIN COMMUNITY CHAPEL

Lent 2022 begins on March 2nd with Ash Wednesday. If you would like to receive ashes, there will be 2 chances: noon in the chapel or 7pm in the sanctuary. Throughout Lent, the worship theme will be "Gifts of the Dark Wood". Some of our themed opportunities will be Lenten Hiking Club (every other Saturday starting on March 5th), every Wednesday at noon (March 9th—April 13th) for Lenten Reflections in the chapel; Sunday, March 20th for a Book Discussion of Learning to Walk in the Dark which you are encouraged to read before the discussion. Lent will conclude with a 7pm Maundy Thursday service at 7pm on April 14th in the sanctuary and a 7:30pm Good Friday experience in the chapel on April 15th. Throughout Lent, we would like to encourage you to rid your house of 40 items in symbolism of the 40 days of Lent. St. Vincent de Paul will have a truck here at the church on Holy Saturday (April 16th) to collect your items. Stay tuned to our social media, email updates, and next newsletter for more information about Easter weekend.

Lent 2022

40 ITEMS IN 40 DAYS COLLECTION

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TRUCK HERE:
APRIL 16TH
10AM - 2PM

Lent

HIKING CLUB

EVERY OTHER SATURDAY
8:30AM
STARTING MAR. 5

register at:
jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com



MEET THE CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2022



DAVID PALADINO

DID YOU KNOW THAT DAVID...

- was baptized and confirmed here at BCUMC?
- is holding his first leadership position in the church but has been involved in SPRC for awhile?
- lives in Finleyville with his wife, Alanna, and his dog, Finley?
- graduated from Westminster College and works at Robert Half as a Client Solutions Director?
- enjoys skiing, bowling, and golfing?
- has loved Mint Chocolate Chip ice cream since he was a boy?

David Paladino is the Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair. This committee works together to address anything staff related within the church. This includes hiring for different positions and ensuring both staff and parish satisfaction on a daily basis. They address any issues and work together as a group to make decisions based upon what we feel is best for the church. David is dedicated to ensuring that our church succeeds by putting our staff and our church community first.

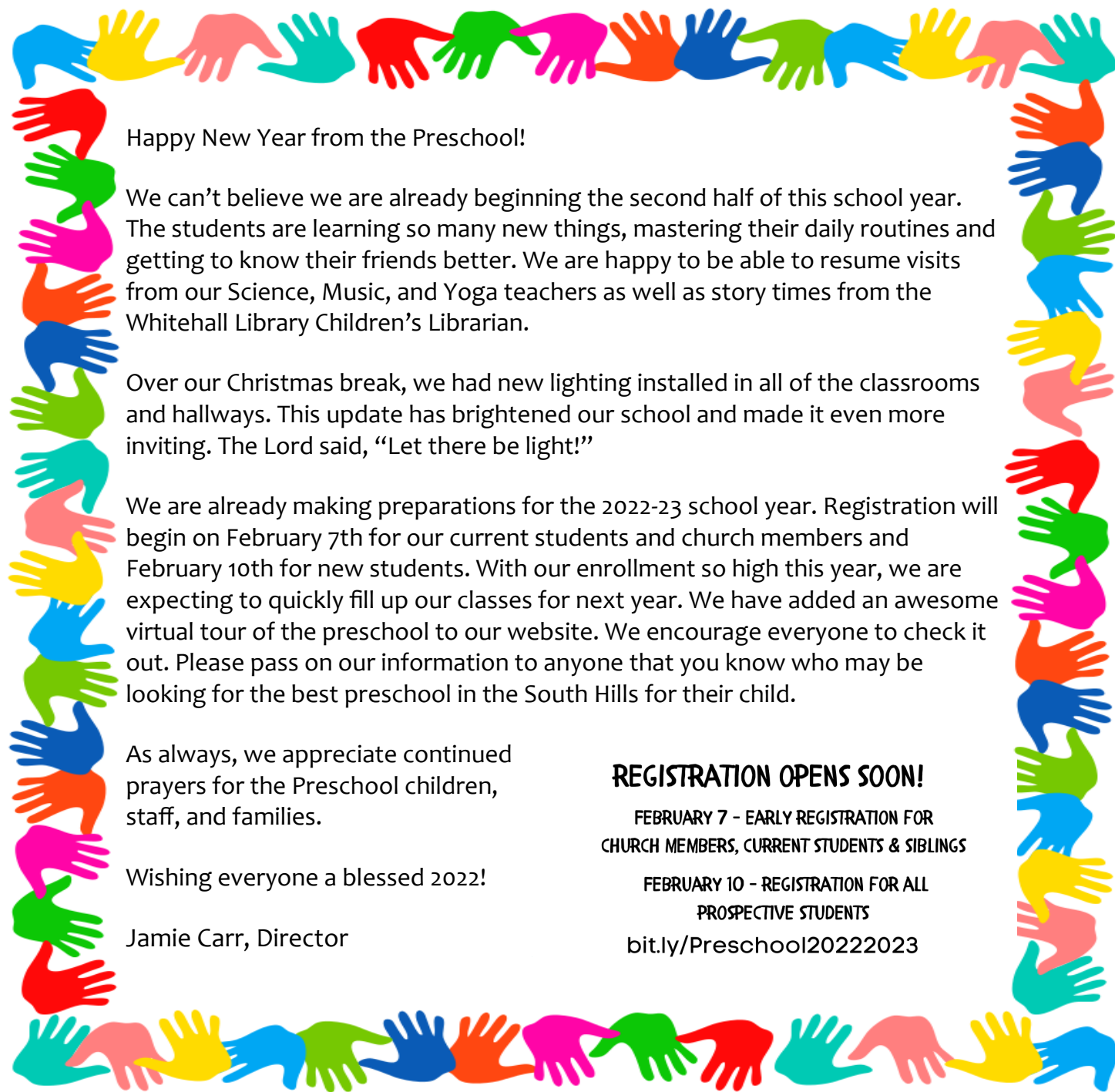


VANESSA GLEASON

DID YOU KNOW THAT VANESSA...

- married her husband, Ed Reddy, 26 years ago in the chapel of BCUMC?
- served for 8 years on the Council on Finance and Administration at the Western PA Conference, UMC?
- has been a church member since 1992?
- has a son named Christopher who lives in Beechview and works for Highmark?
- has 2 tortoise-shell cats?
- works as the Director of Finance for Cranberry Township?
- loves Whitehouse Cherry ice cream?

Vanessa Gleason is the finance chair. Her committee works with the leadership team chair, the church staff, and other ministry leaders to fulfill the mission of the church as well as collaborating with the trustees to handle designated gifts and bequests in accordance with The Book of Discipline. Vanessa gathers all budget requests to be reviewed by the committee, ensures that the congregation and the pastor are informed about the church's financial situation, and recommends to the church council any changes that need to be made in the budget after it has been approved.



Happy New Year from the Preschool!

We can't believe we are already beginning the second half of this school year. The students are learning so many new things, mastering their daily routines and getting to know their friends better. We are happy to be able to resume visits from our Science, Music, and Yoga teachers as well as story times from the Whitehall Library Children's Librarian.

Over our Christmas break, we had new lighting installed in all of the classrooms and hallways. This update has brightened our school and made it even more inviting. The Lord said, "Let there be light!"

We are already making preparations for the 2022-23 school year. Registration will begin on February 7th for our current students and church members and February 10th for new students. With our enrollment so high this year, we are expecting to quickly fill up our classes for next year. We have added an awesome virtual tour of the preschool to our website. We encourage everyone to check it out. Please pass on our information to anyone that you know who may be looking for the best preschool in the South Hills for their child.

As always, we appreciate continued prayers for the Preschool children, staff, and families.

Wishing everyone a blessed 2022!

Jamie Carr, Director

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

FEBRUARY 7 - EARLY REGISTRATION FOR
CHURCH MEMBERS, CURRENT STUDENTS & SIBLINGS

FEBRUARY 10 - REGISTRATION FOR ALL
PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

bit.ly/Preschool20222023

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



Staff News: We are excited to share two exciting announcements from the staff. As of December 31st, Bonnie Deal has officially retired from her position as Visitor Coordinator. We are so thankful for the many years that she gave her time and energy to welcome new people to the church as well as the countless hours spent helping with our membership audit throughout the last year. On January 20th, Financial Administrator, John Barone, and his wife, Samantha welcomed Leo James into the world. They want to thank the entire congregation for all their prayers and well-wishes as they adjust to life with a newborn. Congratulations to both Bonnie and John!



Staff Covenant

The purpose of the Baldwin Community UMC Staff is to support a Christ-centered community of worship, discipleship, and service:

- by fostering a positive environment of joy and laughter
- by growing a respectful, caring, and supportive team
- by equipping and empowering leaders and servants
- by maintaining openness and flexibility in our work

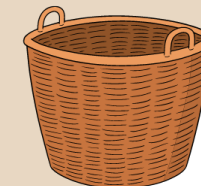
Giving News: Well done! Our conference apportionments are an important part of maintaining a healthy viable church. During 2021, the Finance committee made a commitment to make regular payments to the Western Pennsylvania UMC Annual Conference as a faithful response to Baldwin Community UMC's budget. As a result, we experienced a 95% increase in giving to the conference beyond 2020, during a pandemic year. We have a way to go before we achieve the actual asking from the conference, but this is well worth celebrating. Giving envelopes are available in the narthex, Asbury Hall, or by request.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to a healthy, vibrant church!

BCUMC Giving Options



Use offering envelopes
to mail your
contribution to the
church



Use offering envelopes
and place in the basket
during worship



Text GIVE to
412-201-0308

Visit bit.ly/baldwingive
or set up online bill pay
through your bank

Thank you for your generosity!



January 30 – February 27

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Wear colors to represent your favorite sports team during service.
Bring canned soup for the Lord's Pantry.



FEBRUARY 13TH
9:00 ASBURY
11:00 SANCTUARY



What an amazing Advent and Christmas season we had here. During services, we enjoyed music by the Chancel Choir and the little angels of the Children's Choir—such a special treat! On the Wednesdays of Advent, many of you joined Pastor Pam on Facebook for Lamp Post Lunches, an opportunity for mid-week inspiration. Our Advent Book Club met on Sunday afternoons to discuss The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe and held a movie afternoon to watch "Narnia". The BCUMC women's group, Abigail Circle, hosted their Christmas Cookie Walk on December 11th. They baked over 150 dozen cookies, packaged in variety assortment boxes. With sales and donations, they were able to raise \$1000 to be distributed through local and church ministries for women and children. Abigail Circle wishes to thank all of you for your support. In November and December, the Lord's Pantry provided food for about 70 local families each month. The Outreach team, with the help of the congregation with the Angel Tree, gave Christmas gifts to the Lord's Pantry children, Sojourner House, and Lydia's Place. On December 23rd, Mike Clarke and the Praise Band held an evening concert, playing all of our favorite Christmas music. We are so appreciative of everything!




Palm Sunday
Praise &
Chili COOK OFF

SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH
5PM
ASBURY HALL

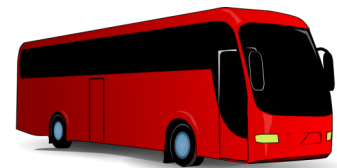
bit.ly/baldwinsoup

CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS
Book Study



Led by
Dr. Justin Pearl and
Rev. Pamela Gardner

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



2022 Bus Trips:

May 18th: Lucy Land & National Comedy Center

August 6th-12th: Charleston and Savannah

November 12th: Canton Christmas Celebration

Flyers are available in the narthex, office, or by contacting Elaine Lewis at 412-885-4560.

BALDWIN COMMUNITY UMC

YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAYS, 5-7 PM | 6-8 PM

5th-7th Grade - 5:00pm
8th-12th Grade - 6:00pm

Contact:
jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 6th—Communion Sunday

February 7th—Preschool Registration begins

February 13th—Souper Bowl Sunday at services, 4pm "Inside Mecca" Movie viewing in Wesley

February 24th—12pm Lord's Pantry Distribution

March 2nd—Ash Wednesday services at noon in chapel and 7pm in sanctuary

March 5th—8:30am Hiking Club begins (continues every other Saturday of Lent)

March 6th—Communion Sunday, Gifts of the Dark Wood sermon series begins

March 9th—12pm Lenten Reflections begins in the chapel (continues every Wednesday of Lent)

March 20th—Learning to Walk in the Dark Book Discussion, 4pm in Wesley

March 24th—12pm Lord's Pantry Distribution

April 3rd—Communion Sunday

April 10th—Palm Sunday Praise and Chili Cook-off, 5pm in Asbury

April 14th—Maundy Thursday service, 7pm in the sanctuary

April 15th—Good Friday service, 7:30pm in the chapel

April 16th—40 items in 40 days collection truck here, 10am—2pm

April 17th—Easter Sunday services

April 23rd—Rescheduled Flapjack Festival, 8am in Asbury

April 28th—12pm Lord's Pantry Distribution



Keep in touch with us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.
We are continuing to live stream the 11am service for your convenience.

NEW CREATION SPORTS CAMP

SAVE THE DATE
June 27th-July 1st

BALDWIN COMMUNITY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE NEED YOU!
SEEKING A CO-LEADER
TO GROW THIS EXCITING
MINISTRY!

contact Justin at: jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com

The deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is Friday, March 25th. For weekly bulletins & announcements, email Ria at info@baldwincommunityumc.com by Monday of the week you'd like it to appear.