

Baldwin Community United Methodist Church
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Baldwin Community News

A United Methodist Church

Spring 2021



**Pamela Gardner,
Senior Pastor**

From the very first verses of our Bible, we experience tension between human desires and God's unfolding plan. Adam and Eve ingest the snake's falsehood that tells them that by grabbing onto a piece of low hanging fruit that they can become like God. Biblical personalities, one after the other, fall to the same sinful desire to become like God. Even today, we find ourselves still building our lives on this original lie which tempts us into thinking that our thoughts are the same as God's thoughts. We need a spirit of obedience to help us discern God's wisdom and truth. Paul, in his lovely benediction to the Thessalonians encourages, *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of the prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this."*

~1 Thess. 5:16-24

Over the past year we have been tested as a church by circumstances beyond our control, pushing forward issues of decline and division further than we expected. We are living in the tension of our times. The temptation, as Christ's own people, is to react out of what we know, what we hold dearly, or what we are most afraid of happening in the future. The church is being tempted to grab low hanging fruit to save ourselves. Take heart! We are not the first generation to do this.

Living in the tension means we are being invited like all the faithful, obedient servants of the past to stop ourselves from grabbing for the quick solution, to spend thoughtful time reflecting on all that has happened and asking God for a vision of the future. Such thoughtfulness will certainly save us from trouble that comes with quenching God's Spirit to do things our way. What we shall be has not been revealed to us yet, but

with patient listening, the reading of scriptures, and inviting God into all our conversations, blessings may come to our church.

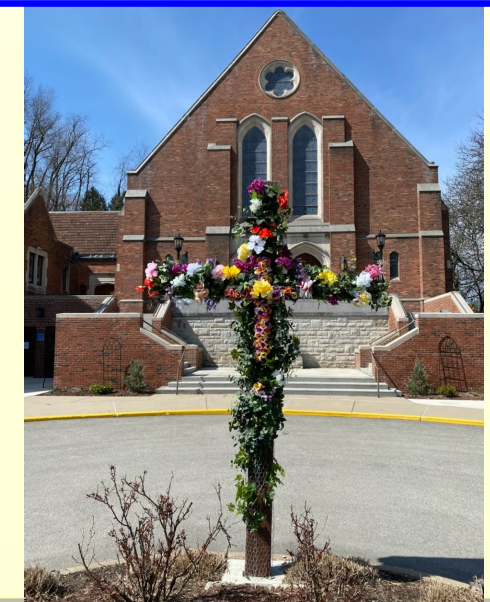
As our church leadership begins to vision and reimagine what a post-pandemic ministry looks like, please be in a spirit of generous and kind prayer for the work they will do together listening for the prompting of the Holy Spirit to guide and bless. Remember, *"unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain."* ~Psalm 127:1



**Ginger Thomas,
Administrative
Pastor**

Thank you for continuing to practice safety measures when you come to the church building in person. While we give thanks that more individuals are vaccinated, we are also seeing increasing cases of Covid-19 in our county. We will continue to ask individuals in the building to take temperatures and names, wear face coverings, use hand sanitizer, and keep social distance in order to keep everyone safe. Thank you for caring for the safety of all in our community.

**Happy Easter to our Baldwin
Community UMC family!**



NEW CREATION

Children's Art Camp

Painting
Music
Dance
Pottery
...and more

JUNE 21-25, 9:00-12:30

Register at: bit.ly/NewCreationArt

PRE-K—5TH GRADE

BALDWIN COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Adult Discipleship

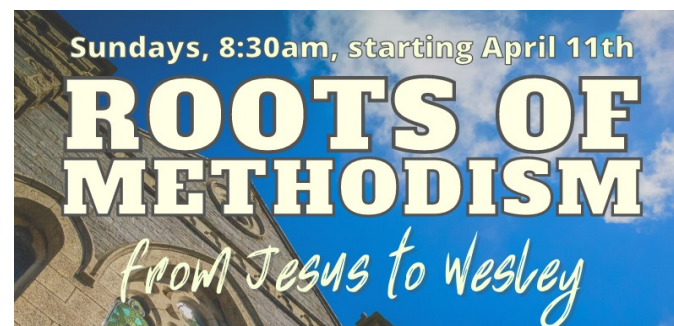


Dr. Justin Pearl,
Discipleship and
Youth Coordinator

In celebration of our newly established Social Justice Team, Baldwin Community UMC is hosting three discipleship events on the Biblical roots, history, and continuing importance of social justice for the Christian church. This past weekend, Dr. Justin Pearl hosted “The Biblical Roots of Social Justice” in person and online via Zoom. On Sunday, May 2nd at 4:30pm, we will be screening: "Romero" (1989). This event will be both in person and online via Zoom. On Sunday, May 16th at 4:30pm, Dr. Luther E. Smith from Emory University will be speaking on *What does Social Justice have to do with us?* This event will be online only, via Zoom. Register at bit.ly/BaldwinSJ



John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was a great religious innovator. But his ideas didn't come from nowhere. In this study, we will trace a path through the history of the Christian church, highlighting those key figures and ideas that influenced the theology of John Wesley and Methodism—from the earliest Christian Fathers to the Moravians and beyond. Learn more on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in person in Wesley Hall or online via Zoom.



Looking for an opportunity to grow closer to God, build relationships with members of the church and community, and learn together with others? You should join Baldwin Community's newest small group, *Growing Together with God*. This small group is starting up on May 3rd, will meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00-8:00pm, and is being led by Liz Pollock.

To register, email Liz.



Jamie Carr,
Preschool Director

Spring has sprung in the preschool!! The children are so happy to be able to play outside again on the bikes and in God's Garden. We are taking nature walks up the park path to learn about the changing season and are excited to spot a bird, squirrel or deer. The students are also planting flowers, observing bean seeds sprouting and hatching butterflies from their cocoons. These days of sunshine and warmer temperatures bring smiles and happiness to everyone.

I can't believe that we only have a few more weeks left in this school year. It has been quite an interesting year, especially with starting in September in the midst of the Covid uncertainties. Our enrollment was less than expected, but we were happy to still be able to open with 128 students. I am grateful for how well the students, staff and parents followed our Covid guidelines with the common goal of keeping everyone healthy. These little ones wore their masks daily without complaint and washed their hands like mini-surgeons. The teachers cleaned and disinfected regularly and made many changes in their classrooms to allow for social distancing. We are happy to report that we did not have to ever close the entire school due to virus transmission.

We are excited to bring back our summer camp program this year. The teachers have a lot of great things planned with our themes of The Circus, Bug's Life and Beach Party! We have Weird Eric coming to perform magic for the kids and there may be a visit from an ice cream truck!

In February, we began enrollment for the 2021-22 school year and were pleasantly surprised with the immediate and overwhelming responses. We currently have 205 students enrolled and have needed to add an extra 4-year-old classroom. Many thanks to the Pastors and Church Council for partnering with me to find additional space to accommodate all of the new families that want their child to attend next year. Baldwin Community Preschool has thrived for so many years and has such a positive reputation within the community that most of our students come to us through word of mouth recommendations.

I have so much to be thankful for during this Covid year of preschool—thankful for the parents who stuck with us and entrusted us with their children, thankful for teachers and my assistant Nicole for willingly coming to school and working diligently to make this year a safe and positive experience for our students, thankful for the pastors, church staff and congregation for their continued support of this important program. Mostly, I am thankful for our students. Their resilience, eagerness to learn and make new friends and their laughter and smiles are what this preschool is all about. Our students are true gifts from God and His light shines through them every day!

Bright and Early Job Opening: The daycare is currently looking to hire individuals who are interested in working with children in a childcare setting. The right person for this job must be willing to play, educate, and nurture other children as if they are their own, and be a team player. Early childhood education or experience is a plus, but we are willing to help you get the on the job experience you need. This individual must have a clean record as will be demonstrated through obtaining proper clearances. A current health assessment and TB test is required before being hired. Pediatric First Aid, CPR, and other trainings will be required and provided once you have been hired. Come be a part of our team where you will never have to take any work home with you. For more information call 412-881-7330 or send resumes to BrightandEarly.learning.child@gmail.com

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.

Children & Youth Discipleship



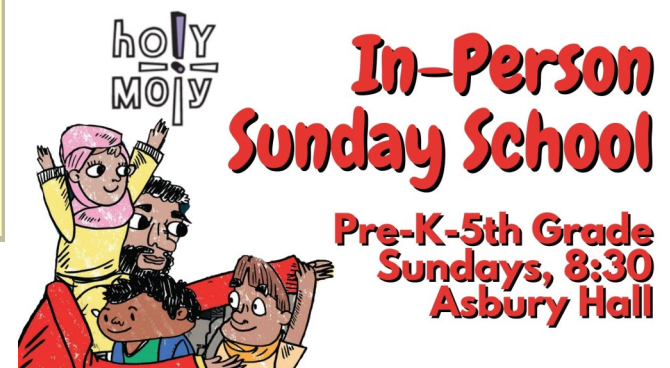
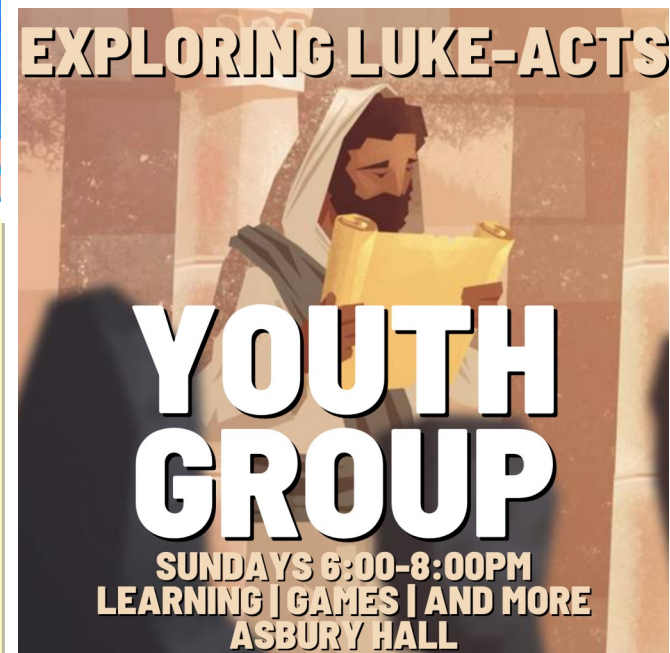
This summer, students from Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to explore the arts at *New Creation Children's Art Camp*. New Creation is a free, one-week morning camp, June 21-25th, 9:00am-12:30pm. Students will explore painting, music, dance, pottery, and more! Each day will also include a snack and a short devotional exploring God's creation.

Registration is open now at: bit.ly/NewCreationArt

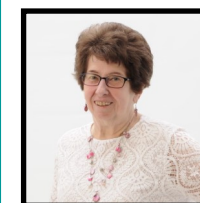
- Doors open for student drop-off at 8:30am.
 - Preschoolers should be potty-trained and have experience in a preschool.
- The camp will follow all state Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, temperature checks, social distancing, and masks.
- If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, please contact Justin Pearl at

READY FOR SUMMER CAMP?

Learn about nearby United Methodist camps at www.wpaumc.org/camping/



Noteworthy News



Bonnie Deal,
Visitor
Coordinator



Nolan Frederick Shearer	11-8-2020
Aurora Kelly Gediohn	11-15-2020
Bruce Connor Grebner	3-28-2021
Charles Michael Costanzo	4-4-2021

We are delighted to be worshipping both in person and online at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Join us!



FINANCIAL NEWS:

- **Budget Update:** The Church Council has approved a \$490,730 balanced budget for 2021. This includes trimmed expenses in many areas balanced with intentional investment in evangelism and discipleship. While the budget anticipates lower giving, we are grateful for a forgivable PPP loan from the federal government that helps during this lean pandemic time, and we are hopeful that increased giving will accompany in-person worship and activities. We are deeply grateful for those who continue to give financially to the church. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity! Your gifts make vibrant, life-giving ministries possible!
- **Giving Update:** Thank you to all who have continued to make financial gifts to the church in this difficult pandemic season. While January giving (\$10,602) was significantly down, February giving (\$27,531) and March giving (\$31,890) were back on track. Your generosity and faithfulness are greatly appreciated! Through your gifts, vibrant ministry with our congregation and community, both online and in person, will continue. We are on track with making monthly contributions toward our apportionments. This allows the United Methodist ministries beyond our congregation to have much needed support throughout the year.
- **Exciting News:** The Pittsburgh Food Bank recognizes that our church has gone above and beyond in many ways in the past year to make our community more food secure. They are honoring our good work by sharing a one-time, unrestricted stimulus gift of \$9,000 with us to support our efforts to feed people in need and mobilize the community to end hunger. We celebrate this recognition and gift to further the work of the Lord's Pantry!

Volunteer Opportunities



Susan Eyrolles,
Lord's Pantry
Coordinator

Fresh Market is Back:

After a year's hiatus, Fresh Market is back and in need of volunteers. Fresh Market is a food program that brings fresh fruits and vegetables to income-eligible families. Baldwin Community joins with other local pantries to bring this program to our community. We need set-up, clean-up, distribution, and registration volunteers. Fresh Market operates once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The program will begin June 17 and end on October 21.

Summer Food Program for Children:

Baldwin Community will once again sponsor a summer food program for the children of our community. We are excited to add some new sites to our program. The program will run 5 days a week from June 21 to August 13. Volunteers are needed to prepare lunches, deliver, and be on-site to distribute the lunches. You can volunteer to do one or all three.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with any of our food programs, please contact Susan at seyrolles@baldwincommunitymc.com or call 412-882-9300 x229.

Would you like to serve as ...

- **A Health and Wellness Team Member?** Take temperatures at the doors and ask people to wear face masks.
- **An Usher?** Be available to offer hospitality and help as needed.
- **A Tech Team Helper?** Learn to use equipment to help with in-person multi-media worship and the online live stream of worship.
- **An Online Worship Host?** Offer hospitality by engaging people in the Facebook or YouTube chat.
- **A Musician?** We welcome handbell ringers for the handbell choir and vocalists or instrumentalists for the contemporary worship band to help bring music to worship.

Contact Ria in the office for more information ! (412) 882-9300 x210.



Ria Fruscello,
Office
Administrator

Outreach

Outreach Ministry:

When talking about reaching out to help those within our congregation, our community and even our world, I often hear the phrase "I can't". The phrase "I can't" is often followed by because "I'm too old", "I'm too young", and/or "I don't know scripture very well." What I have found is that these are only the limitations that we have placed on ourselves. 1Peter 4:10 states, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms"* Let me ask you this, can you... Be a listening ear? ... Make a phone call? ... Pass out much needed items to a person in need? ... Make a financial donation to send a child to school? ... Verify items on a list? If you can do any of these things, then there is a place for you with one of the ministries here at Baldwin Community. We are always looking for new faces to help us grow our ministries. Please feel free to reach out to me, Jessica Speer at jessicaspeer83@gmail.com or another member of our Outreach team to get connected. Please continue to watch out for dates/times of opportunities where you can be a blessing to someone within our church, community, and world.

Daily Bread Dates:

- ♦ May 30th
- ♦ June 27th
- ♦ August 8th
- ♦ October 3rd
- ♦ December 5th

2021 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 BCUMC establish this annual post-secondary award in memory of the laity of this church. There may be one or more recipients regardless of gender. The awards shall be used to assist the educational development of the recipient regardless of his/her choice of vocational study. All active members and clergy of this Church are eligible to submit the required application. Forms are available in the church office or by sending an email to Jerry Rohland, Attn: 2021 Laity Award. Completed forms should be submitted to the Methodist Men at the church office or emailed to Jerry by 4pm on July 20, 2021.

Are you fun, creative, energetic, and, most importantly, do you care about the education and growth of Youth?

Calling Energetic & Compassionate Volunteers!

We're looking for a 2021-2022 Youth Helper.

JOIN THE SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM



Biblical, Advocacy, Education



Thursday, April 22 at 7 pm Wesley Hall

Saturday, May 15

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM Via Zoom

Register here: <http://bit.ly/breadworkshop2021>
Facebook event:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/243540724171098>



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

2021 SW PA
Bread for the World
Annual Workshop

- Presentation of the 2021 focus of the Offering of Letters
- Racial wealth gap simulation developed by Bread for the World

All participants will participate in simulation

2021 Speaker
Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith
Senior Associate for Pan African and Orthodox Church Engagement at Bread for the World

We can't end hunger without ending poverty – and we can't end poverty without addressing the racial wealth gap.

Learn more about the connections between racial inequity, policy, and wealth at this year's Bread for the World Hunger Advocacy Workshop on Saturday, May 15 from 9:30 to noon via Zoom.

Together, we'll be participating in an online version of Bread for the World's Racial Wealth Gap Simulation, a tool that helps us understand how federal policies created structural inequalities and how these policies have differently impacted Black and White communities in America.

Sign up at bit.ly/breadworkshop2021