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February 14th



love
your
neighbor
day



Cookie Giveaway 12:00–1:00pm in Church Front Circle
and other acts of kindness in our neighborhood
baldwincommunityumc.com

A limited number of Love Your Neighbor Day t-shirts will be available for pickup in early February. More details to come...



Baldwin Community News

A United Methodist Church

Winter 2021



A Note from the Pastor

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021! As I was journaling in my Sacred Ordinary Days journal on December 31st, I noticed that the quote for the day was filled with irony and joy: “Shout the glad tidings o’er Egypt’s dark sea: Jehovah has triumphed; his people are free!” In many ways this is exactly how we feel about the past year. We bear a sense of relief that 2020 is over and dare to be cautiously optimistic about the new year.

Think about it! We learned so many things about ourselves during 2020—how to create consensus among leaders, install and use new video equipment and programming, care for one another during a pandemic, look outside our building to engage the community successfully, enfold our homebound members with love, and so much more. We do not diminish the challenges that are still present as we support our congregation financially and share a socially distanced ministry. In the end though, most of the lessons we have learned along the way have been positive and brought many of us into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. This is true freedom.

Going forward with holy boldness, you will find in this newsletter information that will help you engage at Baldwin Community UMC over the next few months. Make sure that you mark your calendars with those activities that will bless you and your neighbors, especially Love Your Neighbor Day on February 14th. On this last Sunday of our worship series “Won’t you be my neighbor?” celebrating the life, work, and theology of Fred Rogers, we will be taking our love for neighbor to the streets. I invite you to think about it right now: *How could you bless your neighbor with Christian love on February 14th?* Maybe delivering a plate of cookies, treating your neighbor to a meal or treat from a local restaurant, dropping a note of kindness in the mail, inviting your neighbors to support other neighbors by contributing goods to a local charity, and many more ideas might come to mind. We are free to love!

Also, you might want to join the Lenten Hiking Club as they walk through several local parks during our “Invitation to Walk with Christ” Lenten series. We are taking this invitation seriously. Each hike will include a short devotion for the Lenten season. For those who cannot join the hiking club, we will tuck a finger labyrinth in our Lent At Home bags for you. That’s right! We are handing our Lent At Home bags around and on Ash Wednesday for you to bring Lent into your home and heart.

Remember, free and blessed people, we have the power to embrace a vibrant relationship with God at home and in heart as we wait for the day we can return safely into our beloved church building! Let’s make the best of a good thing!

Pamela S. Gardner
Senior Pastor



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Adult & Youth Discipleship

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

This winter, the church will be spending a few weeks celebrating the remarkable life and ministry of Fred Rogers. To highlight his unique vision for the world, we will be hosting two discipleship opportunities. On January 24th, we will be hosting an online screening of the moving documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* On January 31st, we will be hosting an online community discussion entitled *Who is my Neighbor?* The conversation will feature the editors of *Mr. Rogers and Philosophy*, Holly and Eric Mohr. To register for the events, go to bit.ly/BCUMCRogers

Paul's letter to the Romans is his longest and most complex—but also, at times, his most profound and powerful. Starting on January 17th, you can grab a cup of coffee and join an online weekly study of this important text.



To register for this study, contact Justin Pearl at jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com

DISCIPLESHIP EVENTS

ONLINE MOVIE NIGHT

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

JAN. 24, 4:00PM

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

ONLINE DISCUSSION WITH HOLLY AND ERIC MOHR

JAN. 31, 4:00PM

Register at: bit.ly/BCUMCRogers

Wednesdays with My Neighbors

January 13th-February 10th - 7:00-7:15 p.m.

Facebook Live

Continuing the tradition of our midweek devotions, Pastor Pam will be reading quotes by Fred Rogers, scriptures, and offering a short time of prayer on Wednesday evenings. Because this is a live event, you do not have to answer questions or say anything. Midweek is about receiving and centering our lives in God in a quiet, meditative moment. All are welcome!



Throughout Covid, the 6th-12th grade youth group has been engaged in a variety of non-traditional meetups including online devotions and game nights, socially-distanced service opportunities, and outdoor activities, such as hikes and campfires. To be kept in the loop for upcoming youth activities, contact Justin at: jpearl@baldwincommunityumc.com to be added to our mailing list.

2020 Recap

Thank you so much!

We appreciate everyone who gave their time and talent in 2020 to Baldwin Community UMC.

- Outreach Ministries
- Summer Food Volunteers
- Lord's Pantry Volunteers
- Technology Volunteers
- Mailing Team
- Sunday School Leaders
- Counters
- Church Decorating Team
- Staff Members
- Choir Room Organization Team
- Committee Members
- Committee Chairpersons
- Health & Wellness Volunteers
- Music Ministry
- Church Work Day Volunteers
- Lay Shepherds
- Worship Hosts
- Silver Seekers and Circles

Photo Credit: Dave Stout | Captured in the Moment Photography

Stewardship Update

We celebrate that more than 100 households have made financial pledges for the 2021 ministry year, including ten households that have pledged for the first time and 25 households that have increased their pledge amounts. We are grateful for such generosity! As the Finance Committee works to make a budget for 2021, we invite you to consider offering a pledge if you haven't already. We understand it is a challenging time, and any gift amount is appreciated. We plan to continue to provide vital ministries to our congregation and community, as you can see in this newsletter. Please consider how you can contribute to our ministry efforts. Thank you!

In 2020, we...

Baptized

7 babies and 1 confirmand

Confirmed

8 young adults

Received

3 new members



Worship & Lent 2021



Lent At Home

Pick up your Lent At Home bags at the Love Your Neighbor event or on Ash Wednesday to get everything you will need to worship with us and spend your Lent in a time of prayerful reflection and atonement.

Ashes To Go:

Drive through on Wednesday, February 17th from 12pm—1pm in the church circle. Ashes will be distributed, and you will also have a chance to pick up your Lent At Home bag.



Happy New Year from the Preschool! We are happy to report that the first half of the 2020-21 school year has been a success. Through our Covid guidelines, we have been fortunate to avoid an outbreak in our school. The children are amazing us daily with how well they have adapted to the new ways of attending school. They wear their masks and do a lot of hand washing without complaint. They have already learned so much in their classes. Our adorable two year olds are learning how to share and take turns and are having a lot of fun making crafts with lots of messy paint and glue. The three year olds are identifying their shapes and colors, sit in circle time without fidgeting and have mastered walking down the halls while staying in line. Of course, our four and five year olds are preparing for kindergarten by learning how to correctly write their names and the alphabet and have even learned to read some sight words. We witness friendships blossoming even though they can't see their classmates' smiles through their masks. The teachers are doing an exceptional job of making all of this possible while working hard to keep everyone healthy and safe. We greatly look forward to the day when we can welcome the children to the preschool with warm hugs and big smiles that everyone can see.

The preschool is already preparing for the 2021-22 school year and registration will begin on Feb. 8th for current students and church members and Feb. 10th for new students. We are grateful for the families who have entrusted us with their children this year and look forward to welcoming new ones.

The Lord has definitely kept watch over our preschool flock during 2020, and we are confident that, with His grace, we will have a positive and successful 2021.

Jamie Carr, Director



Sunday School, for Pre-K through 5th grade students, meets online every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and is led by Mr. Leo. Each Sunday, students hear a story from the Bible and have the opportunity to share a show-and-tell object or a story from their life as well as play some games. For more information, including login information, contact Justin Pearl.

Helping Our Neighbors

Approximately 60 -70 neighborhood families, up to 150 people including 60 children, come to Baldwin Community the fourth Thursday of each month to receive bags of food and other necessities.

How you can help:

- Donate food items each month.
- Unload the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank truck the third Thursday of every month. Sign up to make sure you are notified when the truck will arrive.
- Help pack food bags on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Sign up to make sure work is distributed appropriately. To sign up to help at the church, please contact the Pantry Coordinator - Susan Eyrolles.

Lord's Pantry 2021 Distribution Dates

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • January 28th | • July 22nd |
| • February 25th | • August 26th |
| • March 25th | • September 23rd |
| • April 22nd | • October 28th |
| • May 27th | • November 18th |
| • June 24th | • December 16th |

February 14th



love
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The new series, "Won't You Be My Neighbor," will conclude with Love Your Neighbor Day. Mark your calendars for February 14th from noon—1:00 p.m. and stay tuned on social media and in email blasts for more information on the events of the day.

Cookie Giveaway 12:00–1:00pm in Church Front Circle
and other acts of kindness in our neighborhood
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Donations Requested

Daily Bread is a feeding program that is a part of our Outreach Ministries. This ministry feeds the local homeless or people having a hard time making ends meet. Due to the pandemic, there are more people in need of help and the individual foods that we must serve are more expensive than buying in bulk. To help lower the cost, we are accepting donations of sports drinks, bottled juice, plain bottled water, and fresh fruit. Items are placed in to go bags. If you like to bake, we can make arrangements for drop off at the church building. We typically serve 140 people each time. The upcoming dates are March 21st, May 30th, June 27th, Aug 8th, Oct 3rd, and Dec 5th. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, contact Liz Pollock .

The more you grow into
a helpful person yourself,
the happier you'll find
this world of ours is.

- Fred Rogers



Outreach News



Over the past few months I find myself being drawn to the song "Evidence" by Josh Baldwin. The chorus of the song goes like this "...I see the evidence of Your goodness, All over my life, All over my life. I see Your promises in fulfillment, All over my life, all over my life." This has been a rough year for so many, but the evidence of God's goodness and the hope that He brings are very much evident in the ministries of Baldwin Community UMC. Together the congregation of Baldwin Community UMC and the local community have helped support those in need in the following ways:

- Provided/served meals to those who experience homelessness (Daily Bread)
- Provided boxes of food to families in need (Lord's Pantry)
- Collected basic necessities for those in need (8th Avenue)
- Donated approximately 93 gifts to children/adults in need so that they might experience one of the joys of Christmas (Angel Tree)
- Sponsored students education (Hearing Impaired Program)
- Collected cleaning supplies to help individuals who have experienced a disaster (UMCOR)
- Advocated to stop hunger by writing letters requesting our state representatives to support legislation of various food programs (Bread for the World)

On behalf of the Outreach team, I say thank you. Thank you for showing God's love and being a blessing to others who are in need. Thank you for answering God's call and being just a small piece of "THE EVIDENCE" of God's goodness and hope. The Outreach team is looking forward to seeing how we can continue to be a blessing in the coming year, and we hope that you will join us on that journey.

-Jessica Speer, Outreach Team

The Giving Fair, held on the weekend of November 21/22, was a complete success.

Church members and the community donated items to help make the holiday season brighter and also picked angels from the tree and bought Christmas gifts for them. Thank you to all who helped the Outreach team accomplish their mission.