

Baldwin Community United Methodist Church
5001 Baptist Road Pittsburgh, PA 15236
412-882-9300

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JOIN US ON SUNDAYS AT 9:00 CASUAL WORSHIP
IN ASBURY HALL OR 11:00 TRADITIONAL
WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

See inside for opportunities
and news from Baldwin
Community UMC!

Scan the QR code to visit
our website.



BALDWIN COMMUNITY NEWS



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

WINTER 2024

A LETTER FROM PASTOR PAM

Welcome, 2024! What an opportunity each new year presents as we anticipate the coming days full of potential and grace! Many of us have made New Year's resolutions to form new habits and attain our newly-created goals. We have just come from the holidays and are eternally optimistic about our potential. However, life returns to normal much quicker than anticipated as children return to school, demands at work increase, and unhealthy habits have a resiliency to hold on. We feel alone in our inability. Alas, we are human.

Do not lose hope! We are not alone. In 1735, the British hymn-writer Robert Robinson was born into a working-class family. Robert's mother sent him away to study as a barber's apprentice in his youth. Not interested in this profession, Robert fell in with a notorious gang of hooligans. His debauched lifestyle found transformation under the preaching of George Whitfield. Shortly after giving his life to Christ, Robinson went on to pastor several churches in England.

In 1758, Robinson wrote "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," which many have interpreted as an autobiographical composition sharing the depth of his transformation from sin to salvation and his utter reliance upon God.

Throughout Lent, we will be using "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" as our guide in worship to a deeper, more profound experience of God's grace given to humankind so that we might flourish in our daily lives of prayer and connection with God.

*"Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy never ceasing,
calls for songs of loudest praise.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love."*

Copyright: Words - Robert Robinson, 1758 from 1 Samuel 7:12,
Music - Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813



It was a beautiful sight as the lights dimmed and the candles were lit from person to person. All felt right with the world as we sang "Silent Night." Let's keep that feeling going into the new year.

Prepare your
Wandering
Heart

January 30th
7:00 pm
Wesley Hall

Register by 1/23: 412-882-9300

Join us at this evening event as we prepare our wandering hearts for Lent. Read more about this and other Lenten activities inside!

Goodbye to 2023 and

Children and Youth



In 2023, Baldwin Community United Methodist Church was bustling with activity and productivity. Our adult members had a great time attending various programs such as the Racial Wealth Gap Simulation, Summertime Cinema, Hiking Club, and the Abigail Circle Women's Retreat. They also enjoyed socializing at events like the Souper Bowl Sunday Chili Cook-off, the Annual United Methodist Men's Flapjack Festival, and Fireworks Night. Our youth had a great time bonding over activities such as campfire night, a visit to the trampoline park, and, most importantly, the week-long Youth Mission trip. Our children also had a fantastic year filled with special events such as Movie Night, the Eggstravaganza, our New Creation Science Camp, and Trunk or Treat. They also spent a lot of time praising God through song and scripture with the Children's Choir and Sunday School. As we move forward in 2024, we plan to continue providing opportunities for growth and fellowship. Be sure to keep updated through our social media and weekly email announcements so you don't miss out!



Happy New Year from the Preschool! There are a lot of great things going on in the Preschool as we start the second half of this school year. Our older students are working hard on writing their names, letters and numbers while also learning about their 5 senses and our solar system. The three-year-olds are excited about winter, learning about penguins and polar bears, and doing snow experiments. The two-year-olds enjoy making shaving cream snowmen and reading stories about polar animals.

We are even beginning to prepare for the 2024-25 school year. There will be an Information Day/Open House on **Saturday, January 20th from 10:00-12:00**. This is a great opportunity for prospective families to tour the classrooms and meet some of the teachers. We will begin registration for next year on February 5th for our current students and on February 7th for new students. Please recommend our preschool to any family or friends who may be looking.

Did you know that Baldwin Community has been home to the preschool for over 70 years? Over the years, we have played an integral part in many children's lives from the surrounding communities. We would like to celebrate our current and former preschool students, parents and staff by hosting a "Preschool Celebration." Pastor Pam, members of the Preschool Board, Franklin, and I have begun planning for this special occasion that will take place on **Sunday, February 11th at 11 am**. Our current teachers and students are working on creative artwork to decorate the Sanctuary, and the children are learning special songs to sing for everyone. I am sure that many of our congregants have had children attend our preschool or have even attended here themselves. Please join us as we celebrate the importance of the preschool ministry.

Baldwin Community UMC
is

HIRING

+

POSITION

+

DESCRIPTION

**Youth and Discipleship
Coordinator**

As our Youth and Discipleship Coordinator, you will develop, plan, and implement programs and events geared toward children, youth, and adult discipleship. A more comprehensive job description is available at bit.ly/BaldwinDiscipleship. This position is part-time (20 hours a week).
Hours are flexible, but Sunday availability is a must.

Send your resume to
pgardner@baldwincommunityumc.com

Baldwin Community UMC

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHOIR

9:30 am Choir (Wynne Hall)
10:00 am Sunday School (2nd Fl. Classroom)

SEE YOU
THERE!

Helping Hub



SILVER SEEKERS PROGRAM REVAMPED:

We are looking for interested people who enjoy keeping connected with others by phone calls, cards, emails, and/or visits. The Caring Connections team is working to create a community with those who can no longer attend worship services or are recuperating from surgery or loss. If you want to serve on a forward-thinking team, our next meeting will be on February 6th at 1 pm in the first-floor conference room. Join us!



ARE YOU WILLING TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME ON FEBRUARY 4TH TO HELP FEED OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE NORTH SIDE OF PITTSBURGH? CONTACT JESSICA SPEER AT JESSICASPEER83@GMAIL.COM.



This year, we are continuing to collect aluminum tabs for our local Ronald McDonald House. Yours can be dropped off in the Narthex, Church Office, Asbury Hall, or the Sunday School Classroom. Thank you for your help!

breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Our mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Watch for our next Offering of Letters and visit www.bread.org to learn more about ways you can help.



Lord's Pantry Requests




- January—soup, crackers, shampoo
- February—canned or boxed dinner, cake mix, hand soap
- March—cookies, pasta, paper towels
- April—peanut butter, jelly, dish soap
- May—ketchup, salad dressing, toilet paper
- June—canned or boxed dinner, cookies, shampoo
- July—rice, tuna, body wash
- August—brownie mix, canned fruit, paper towels
- September—soup, crackers, shampoo
- October—pasta, boxed potatoes, hand soap
- November—yams, pumpkin, boxed stuffing
- December—cake mix, cookies, paper towels

Hello to 2024!



Thank you to all those who promptly returned their pledge cards for 2024. As a church, stewardship is not just a fundraising campaign; it's our mission. We believe in sharing our time, talents, and treasures generously with the world and serving God's people to expand His kingdom. It's our responsibility to be His hands and heart on this earth. By offering our open hands and open hearts to God, we trust that beautiful things will happen in the lives of His people. So, let us take inventory of our blessings, listen to His call for our time and treasures, and serve His people with love and generosity. If you haven't returned your card yet, please help us create our budget by doing so today.



GENERAL CONFERENCE PREP:
OUR THEOLOGICAL TASK

February 6th — 7 pm — Chapel

Join us on February 6th at 7 pm in the Chapel to prepare for the General Conference. We will learn more about the theological beliefs of our denomination. If you're interested, we have ordered a few copies of the book "Faith Working Through Love: A Resource for United Methodist Teaching" which costs \$17. You're welcome to share the book with your friends.

SAVE THE DATE!
The Annual UMM Flapjack Festival is on Saturday, April 6th!





As many of you have heard, the organ will be receiving some TLC in the coming months. The console of the instrument will be changed over to solid state operation which means the mechanics that have lived inside the instrument since the late 1970's will be updated to more efficient software technology. This will make the instrument more accessible and easier to maintain. The project, which is already underway, will last through the summer. A very special thanks to our Organ Task Force (Helen Akers, Lori Deal, Jack Andes, Helen Pomilio, and Pastor Pam) and BCUMC Leadership for their work and assistance. Mark your calendars for a UMC collaborative organ recital hosted here on February 24th at 2 pm. More details to come! Additionally, the Praise Band is always open to new musicians for the 9 am service. Contact Mike Clarke if you are interested.

SAVE THE DATE! WPAUMC clergy and laity are invited to "Anchored in Faith: Visionary Planning for Your Church" on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at St. Paul's UMC in Allison Park. Registration opens in mid-January. Mark your calendar now to spend time gaining a sense of direction and meaning to your ministry teams, with tangible measurements on the path to God's vision. Please contact Pastor Pam if you are interested in attending.



Wandering Hearts - Lent 2024

This Lent, we will focus on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples, Peter. In him, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. We will watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us. Join us as we start the process of looking for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will meet for "Prepare Your Wandering Heart" on January 30th at 7 pm. Registration is required so we can prepare the take-home materials. Register by January 23rd by calling the office at 412-882-9300.



"TUNE MY HEART"

Ash Wednesday

Communion & Ashes Service

February 14th 7 pm Sanctuary

As we journey through Lent, we want to encourage the idea that wandering can be a form of exploration, rather than an indication of being distant from God. Ultimately, Peter's story reminds us that God loves imperfect people. Time and time again, God claims and calls those who are flawed.

We will begin the season of Lent together with our Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm on February 14th. On March 3rd at 6 pm, we will gather our prayers requesting God to help us with our troubles at our healing service. We will share in anointing and prayer as we lift our burdens and concerns to God. All are welcome!



*About the
artist*



Rev. T. Denise Anderson is a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and coordinator for racial and intercultural justice with the Presbyterian Mission Agency, working in connection with the agency's Compassion, Peace & Justice and Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries. A graduate of Howard University School of Divinity, she is the former Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Denise writes, preaches, and engages on issues of social Justice, diversity, and reconciliation. As a painter and visual artist, she creates art that explores themes of spirituality, history, religion, and race.



Prepare your Wandering Heart

January 30th
7:00 pm
Wesley Hall

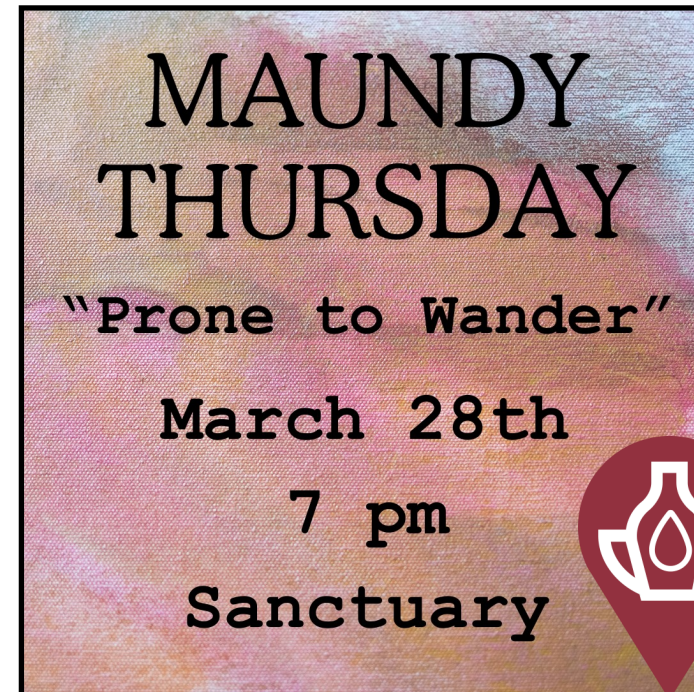
Register by 1/23: 412-882-9300



"Here I Raise My Ebenezer"

A HEALING SERVICE


Sunday, March 3rd
6 pm
Chapel



MAUNDY THURSDAY

"Prone to Wander"

March 28th
7 pm
Sanctuary



"Stations of Peter"

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29TH
7:00 PM
SANCTUARY



"AND I HOPE"

Easter Sunday

MARCH 31ST

9 AM - ASBURY HALL
11 AM - SANCTUARY