

Baldwin Community United Methodist Church  
5001 Baptist Road Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
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# BALDWIN COMMUNITY NEWS

A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2023

## A LETTER FROM PASTOR PAM

*Awake, awake to love and work  
The lark is in the sky;  
The fields are wet with diamond dew;  
The world's awake to cry  
Their blessings on the Lord of life,  
As He goes meekly by.*

1964 United Methodist Hymnal



As the birds of morning awaken the world to a new day, Advent is a call to awakening. While the world prepares for Christmas, the church is called to awaken to two possible gifts in December. The first is quite familiar as we welcome the Christ Child into our manger scenes and hearts. The second is a gift not yet given - one that we are called to alertness to receive, the Second Coming of Christ. Our Advent liturgies with each passing year help to remind us that we live in a world that has experienced the birth of Jesus, but we are still called to look to that future day of His return.

Our theme of Advent this year is “The Dawn Chorus” - how the birds of the season call us to attention, expectation, and expressions of joy as we prepare our hearts to receive Jesus. Throughout this newsletter, you will find opportunities to prepare your heart and declare the message of hope, peace, love, and joy into your family and neighborhood. On November 29th at 7 pm, I invite you to join me in Wesley Hall as we prepare our hearts and homes for the season of Advent. You must register in advance of this event as devotional materials and creative activities (making a live wreath and bird feeder) will be distributed on this night. Please email me at [pgardner@baldwincommunityumc.com](mailto:pgardner@baldwincommunityumc.com) to reserve your spot before November 20th.



## WHAT'S INSIDE:

Advent and Christmas 2023  
Our WINS  
Financial Update  
Upcoming Events  
Volunteer Opportunities

**Welcoming Advent  
with Pastor Pam**

Wednesday, November 29th  
7 pm  
Wesley Hall

RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY NOVEMBER 20TH ON THE  
SIGN UP SHEET OR BY CALLING 412-882-9300.

**Hanging of the Greens**

AN AFTERNOON OF PREPARATION FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

Sunday, November 26th  
12 pm

Join us for a potluck lunch  
then you are invited to help  
decorate the church for Christmas.

December 10th  
5:30 pm  
Asbury Hall

BCUMC WORSHIP BAND  
**CHRISTMAS  
PRAISE  
NIGHT**

**CELEBRATE  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
WITH US**

**DECEMBER 24TH:  
7:00 PM  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**NEW YEARS EVE**

**10:00 Breakfast  
in Asbury Hall**

**CELEBRATE  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
WITH US**

**DECEMBER 24TH:  
7:00 PM  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND

Get your calendar out because we have a lot of events coming your way in November... On November 18th, we are hosting a FREE Community Thanksgiving from 2 - 5 pm. Our church family as well as community members are encouraged to attend. On November 19th at 2 pm, Warren UMC (2606 Centre Avenue) is hosting a prayer event bringing together believers of all denominations for a special afternoon of thanksgiving and action to combat poverty and food insecurity. As Congress prepares to renew the Farm Bill (a piece of legislation that includes essential anti-hunger programs such as SNAP), let's thank God for the abundance of creation. We have more than enough to share with all who are in need. Directly after the 11 am service on November 26th, we will have our traditional Hanging of the Greens where we will gather for a potluck lunch in Asbury Hall and then get busy decorating the church for the season. Enjoy time with your friends and help us beautify both the Sanctuary and Asbury Hall for Advent and Christmas. On Wednesday, November 29th, there will be a special opportunity to prepare your heart and home for Advent with "Welcoming Advent with Pastor Pam" in Wesley Hall at 7 pm. Registration is required by November 20th so we can order supplies. Email [pgardner@baldwincommunityumc.com](mailto:pgardner@baldwincommunityumc.com).



**Saturday, November 18th**  
**2 - 5 pm**

Please join us for a **FREE**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**Thanksgiving**

Hosted by Baldwin Community UMC  
in Asbury Hall  
5001 Baptist Road, 15236

**Register by calling the church office**  
**at 412-882-9300 by November 10.**

Optional: Bring canned goods for our Lord's Pantry.



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**with Pastor Pam**

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**7 pm**  
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# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

🌟 *Kids* **NIGHT IN** *holiday edition* 🌟

**DECEMBER 2ND, 9TH, AND 16TH**

**6 PM - 9 PM**

**AGES 4 - 12**

SUGGESTED DONATION:

\$30 FOR THE 1ST CHILD AND \$15 FOR  
SIBLINGS PER EVENING (TO BE USED FOR  
THE 2024 YOUTH MISSION TRIP)

**REGISTER AT [bit.ly/kidsnightbcumc](https://bit.ly/kidsnightbcumc)**  
**SPACE IS LIMITED.**

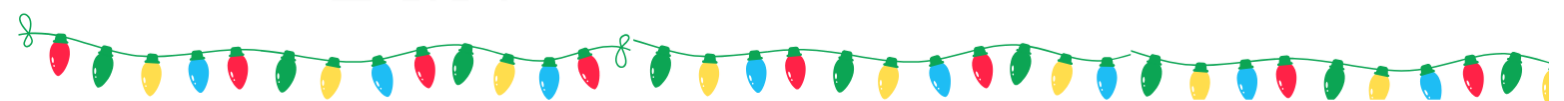


**CHILDREN'S**  
**SUNDAY**  
**SCHOOL AND**  
**CHOIR**

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



The 2024 Youth Mission Trip  
is to Mexico, MO from July  
21-27. Interested youth must  
have their deposit paid by  
the end of November to  
secure their spot.



*Save the Date*

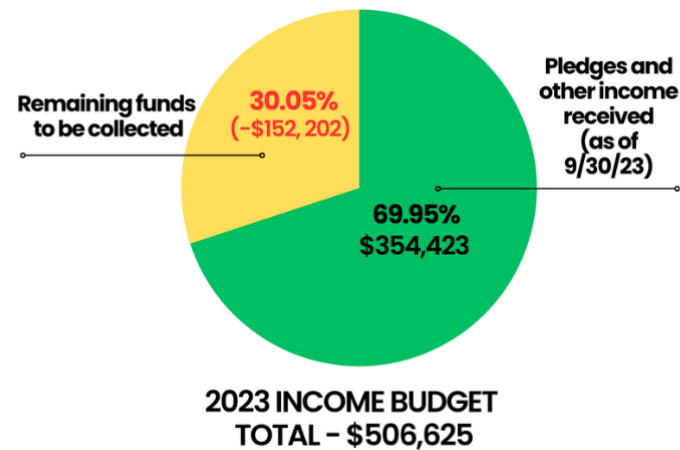
**Preschool Sunday is**  
**on February 11th!**

Our Childcare  
Center  
is open from  
9:00 am - Noon  
on Sundays!

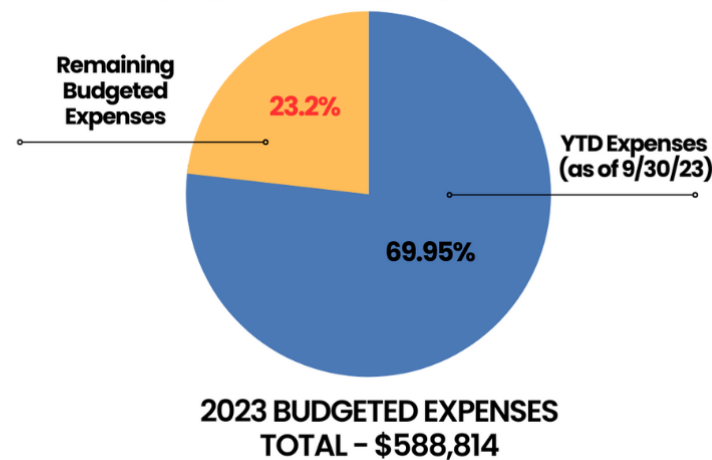


# FINANCE UPDATE

## 2023 INCOME UPDATE



## 2023 EXPENSE UPDATE



This year, the staff has worked diligently on cutting costs by reviewing and negotiating contracts, switching vendors when needed, and researching potential grant money for which we may be eligible. This effort has resulted in the following savings:

**CLEANING \$11,880**

**ASBURY HALL GRANT \$4,500**

**COPYING/PRINTING \$4,200**

**DOOR MATS \$2,160**

**FACILITIES SUPPLIES \$2,069**

**PHONE/INTERNET \$1,200**

**LANDSCAPING \$1,000**

**That's a  
savings of  
\$27,009!**

To summarize, the good news is that with a staff that works part-time, with the exception of our full-time pastor, and the above cost-savings measures, we have managed to keep our expenses low. The bad news is that costs continue to rise everywhere, especially the utilities. Please take a look at your promised pledge for 2023 and catch-up if needed.

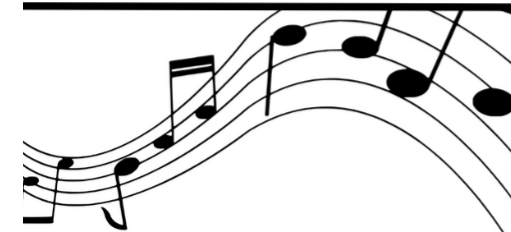
Looking toward 2024, as of late October 2023 (end of the third quarter), we had received only 1/3 of the pledge cards expected. We use these cards to create the budget, so please send them in so that the Leadership Board can accurately forecast next year's budget.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Outreach has signed up to help us sponsor children with our Angel Tree again this year. Starting on November 26th, you can choose a child from the tree in the Narthex to bless for Christmas with their wish. Several charities will be represented. Be sure to record which angel you take on the sheet!

Our next trip to Daily Bread is on Sunday, December 3rd. Contact Jessica Speer if you can help at [jessicaspeer83@gmail.com](mailto:jessicaspeer83@gmail.com). We will continue to accept new white socks and travel-size toiletries until then.



*Lessons and Carols*



December 10th  
11 am  
Sanctuary

On Sunday, December 10th, we will have our Lessons and Carols service at 11 am in the Sanctuary. In this traditional service, each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

Later that day, at 5:30 pm, all are welcome to join us in Asbury Hall for our Christmas Praise Night. Bring cookies to share, and we will provide the beverages.

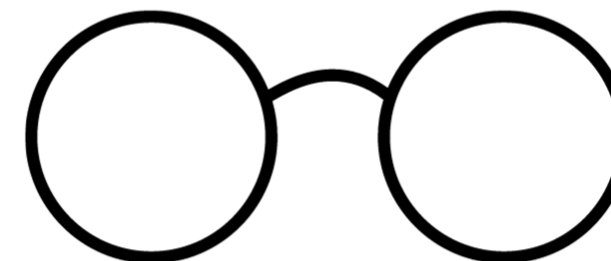
BCUMC WORSHIP BAND

**CHRISTMAS  
PRAISE  
NIGHT**

December 10th  
5:30 pm  
Asbury Hall



Save the date!



On December 27th, we will host a Family Movie Night featuring the story of young boy who finds his purpose and begins to realize the value of standing for good and against evil. Join us at 5:30 for pizza then a screening of the first movie in the series in the Chapel.



REMINDER:  
POINSETTIA  
ORDERS ARE  
DUE BY  
DECEMBER  
6TH!



CANDLELIGHT  
YOGA IS  
RETURNING!

More  
information  
coming soon!



# HOW WE WELCOME, INSPIRE,



Our Community Trunk or Treat was held on October 21st. Check out Pastor Pam posing with one of the costume contest winners and two members of our Preschool staff showing off their decorated car.

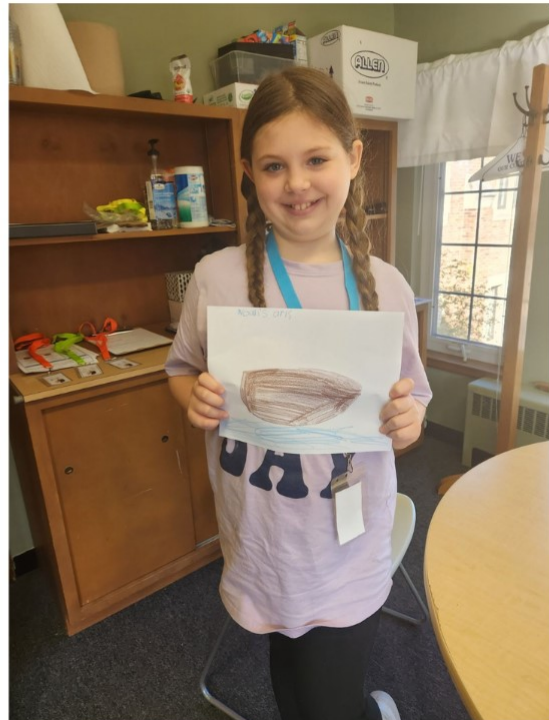


At the Charge Conference on October 28th, Lance Gjerstad shared with others from First Bethel, Mount Lebanon, Windover Hills, and Jefferson Hills UMCs about the success of the new Leadership Board and other 2023 accomplishments at Baldwin Community UMC.

Children's Sunday School has been a lot of fun. With an amazing group of teachers, the kids have a blast each Sunday at 10 am.



Pastor Pam spent a day visiting the preschool classrooms as their guest reader.



# NURTURE, AND SERVE



Children's Choir has restarted this Fall. They meet on Sundays at 9:30 am in Wynne Hall.



Both services celebrated baptisms this past month. Congratulations to the Igims and Frazier families!

The Abigail Circle Women's Retreat was held on October 7th with the theme of "Putting the Pieces Together" which gave the ladies a chance to think about the difference between us attempting to put the pieces of our life together and allowing God to do that for us.



## Other WINS:

- Our Preschool board added a new member, Debbie Gallagher; a new teacher representative, Jessi Buechel; and two new parent representatives, Raven Nagy and Christie Lobb. Cheryl Goodman, Linda Funk, and Janet Westwood have continued on the board as well.
- Barbara Gjerstad has been invited to join the Greater Pittsburgh Anti-Racism team.
- Our Outreach collections have been successful. Most recently, we were able to donate 30+ bags to the Foster Love Project.
- The 9 am casual worship is growing each week.



Our Lord's Pantry has been serving about 100 families a month. As the need increases, we are proud to help our food-insecure neighbors at our monthly food distribution which takes place on the 4th Friday of each month with the exception of November and December when it moves up by one week.

