



Baldwin Memorial United Methodist Church

# CROSSROADS

Baldwin Memorial United Methodist Church  
921 Generals Highway, Millersville, MD

December/January 2023

## Pastor's Column

It's December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we have not yet gotten our Christmas Tree. The Beiber family has a tradition of cutting down our own tree. For those of you who have petroleum-based trees instead and don't have to worry about the travel and walking and choosing and sawing and hauling involved in cutting your own tree - let me tell you. It's getting down to the wire.

Once you go a few days past Thanksgiving the 'pickins' at tree farms become very slim indeed. Sometimes the trees that are left wouldn't be good enough to suit Charlie



Brown's tastes. We really should have just gone and gotten a dang tree already.

We are in Advent, the season of waiting; waiting on Christmas, waiting on Jesus. However, it seems like there are moments in life where waiting isn't prudent. Waiting on a Christmas tree, may turn out to be one of those moments.

But is the Advent story that we find in scripture - only about waiting? Or is there some decisive action after all? I think of Mary, who upon hearing that she was carrying the Messiah, didn't hesitate to say "yes" to God; "let it be to me as you have said". Joseph also, after hearing from God, didn't wait to accept Mary as his wife. Despite the scandal it would cause - he received her and committed himself to her and her baby. When angels called out to shepherds, they didn't tell them to wait, they told them to GO!

The pattern is this: we are to wait upon God's promises, but we are to act without hesitation when it comes to answering God's call. Oh, that we would, what wonders God would work through us!

*Pastor Continued...*

So maybe I'll stop waiting, put on my boots, grab my hand saw, and take the family out to get a tree.

And I ask you, where is God calling you to do right now? If you hear Him, and you haven't yet said "yes", what are you waiting for?

Peace and Love in Jesus' Name,

*PASTOR MIKE*



## Assistant Pastor's Column

Hello Baldwin Family,

Hello Christmas!! Hello 2023!!

December is the month when everyone continues in the thankful mood. focusing more on family, spending time with family, and appreciating family. Focusing on giving and sharing God's love and his grace and mercy.

January is the month when everyone starts thinking about the New Year's Resolution they made, thinking about how they will be better this new year.

In the midst of all of our thoughts about food, spending time with family and making New Year's Resolutions, it is very easy to forget what the Bible teaches us.

*Continued...*

### *Assistant Pastor Continued...*

The Bible teaches us that we are to give thanks to God not only during good times but during hard times and everything in between. We are to be continually thankful in all circumstances.

I challenge us all to remember the importance of being thankful, being grateful and being in the November and December mood of thanksgiving and sharing and giving all year long and to know that every day is a day of gratitude and encourage others to be thankful for blessings all year long.

Let's end 2022 and start 2023 with hearts of thanks, with sharing and giving thanks and love to all. With re-establishing our personal relationship with God because God is good, his love endures forever, his Grace and mercy is ours and we can freely love and worship because of the marvelous things God has done in 2022 and will do in 2023.

Because God is worthy and faithful, let's be faithful in always thanking him in all times.

**Merry Christmas to All!!**

**Happy Birthday Jesus!!**

**Happy New Year to All!**

Live and love in fun and fellowship as we continue to grow together and live each day in our mission--**At the Crossroads of past and future in witness for Christ.** --and our vision--**Make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.** —let us stay in continual prayer for our Pastor, our church, each other, our communities, in church, and in the world.

**Love, Peace and Blessings**

Pastor Kim

## Grace's Corner

Perspective of Grace - a note from the pastor's pup.

I am very excited for Christmas! This is going to be my first one and I already know what the best part is. My family calls them 'stockings,' but they sure look like festive, old, ratty, juicy, delicious SOCKS to me.

Oh, I love socks.

Oh, HOW I love socks. Mommy and Daddy try to keep me away, but I just cannot help myself. The very second their guard is down, I try to find my way into the dirty laundry to steal one. Or two. Or FIVE.

### *Grace's Corner Continued...*

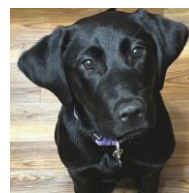
I have no idea how they expect to hang those savory, delectable looking "stockings" by the chimney with care - without them ending up in my mouth in the blink of an eye.

Daddy tells me to wait. He says I have gifts coming that are BETTER THAN SOCKS. He says I have to wait, because this time of year is all about waiting. God's people waited and prayed for a Messiah and now we wait and pray for Jesus. I don't know what all that means, but maybe I will wait and pray too.

Or maybe not. Because I REALLY love socks.



Grace



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

**The Baldwin Prayer Shawl Ministry** is going strong. We meet in the Water's Bible room every Thursday from 11:30:am to 1:30pm, knitting and crocheting for the Lord!

Together, we have made hundreds of items to give to those in need of the warmth and love that a prayer shawl provides in a time of need.

We would like to recognize and give a special "thank you" to all those who are unable to join us on Thursdays, but who faithfully give of their time and talent – donating beautiful handwork items to the ministry.

Our "close knit" group enjoys wonderful fellowship as well. We went on a field trip to Annapolis Mall to see "Where the Crawdads Sing," and met for lunch at Rams Head Road House.

All are invited to join in. We would welcome you with open arms and are even willing to teach you how to knit and crochet.

**Janice Crowe**  
**410-533-5370**

## United Women in Faith (UWF)

**Tables-Tables-Tables.** We have new tables! Anyone who has ever moved or set up our fellowship hall tables knows how much they hurt your back. Thanks to God, Pastor Mike placed the request to replace the old and buy the new. Yeah! Thanks to our table committee for all their time searching and testing tables until finding the perfect ones; sturdy and easy to set up and take down. An early Christmas gift for all to enjoy. And, a special thanks to all who donated toward their cost.



If you weren't able to attend or participate in our annual Holiday Bazaar, you missed a really fun, and festive event.

Live holiday music, warm atmosphere of happiness and holiday cheer, a room filled with over 300 members from our community and congregation, launching the celebration of the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mike, head of our welcoming committee, personally greeting everyone who came. Santa, ho-ho-heartedly, walked through the halls seeking every child capturing their individual Christmas wish.

Sixteen crafters, BSA, GSA, and UWF tables filled our hallway and fellowship hall with fresh fruit, fresh home-baked items, GSA cookies, hand-painted crafts, sweet smelling soaps, hand-knitted dolls, table runners, pillows, Christmas decorations, stained glass, and an array of other beautiful hand-made items.

UWF sales topped last year's totals. Bake table, \$524.50. Books sold in our Sunday school class rooms totaled \$316.55. Three UWF craft tables totaled \$1,703.25 in sales. Our cheerful new-to-you holiday room topped \$451.50. And our new-to-you jewelry over \$571.50.

We all thoroughly enjoyed hearing from the community about planning to attend each year with other friends and family members, crafters sharing how much they enjoyed gathering with other crafters and with our fellowship, and how much they miss our luncheon.

**THANK YOU!** to all our volunteers, your donations, and your support. We are truly blessed having each of you in our lives. May God Bless you all.

## UWF 2023 Calendar

- ❖ January 11, 2023, 9AM – UWF Leadership Team, offsite location
- ❖ February 21, 2023, 3:30-7PM – Pancake Supper, Fellowship Hall
- ❖ March 23, 2023, 9:30AM – Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- ❖ April 1, 2023, 10AM, General Membership & Leadership Team Meeting
- ❖ May 6, 2023 – UWF Spring Luncheon
- ❖ August 12, 2023, 10AM Leadership Team Meeting
- ❖ October 8, 2023 – UWF Special Recognition Luncheon
- ❖ November 12, 2023, 9AM – Thanksgiving Baskets Preparation
- ❖ December 3, 2023, 9AM – Christmas Basket Preparation

## From the Trustees

Great News! Thirty-six new tables for the Fellowship Hall were delivered, ahead of schedule, on Monday, Nov 14 & Wednesday, Nov 16.

The tables are 8 ft. commercial quality white molded plastic and only weigh 40 pounds each. So much nicer, and easier to set up.

THANK YOU to those who made donations toward the cost of replacing the tables!

The cost is \$140.00 per table, for a total cost of \$5,040.00. If you would like to donate a table, or a portion of one, please mark it "Table Donation" and place it in an envelope in the offering basket/plate.

The old tables are being donated to a church in Baltimore, Maryland.







## Early Learning Ministry

### From Baldwin Early Learning Center!

**October and November were fun filled months for us!** We made homemade applesauce and really enjoyed eating it!

We were once again able to take our annual trip to Clarke's Elioak Farm to pick our pumpkins, pet the animals, climb on the many Enchanted Forest nursery rhyme characters, and take a hay ride. We purchased pumpkins for the center and we had our pictures taken with them.

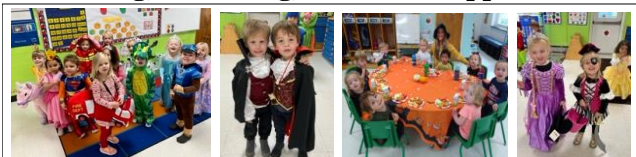
Early In November, our fall photos were taken by Great American Photos - they turned out beautifully!

The children enjoyed our classroom Thanksgiving Feast! We are all thankful that we can be here together this year. The center was closed on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving. We pray all had a blessed time together with family.

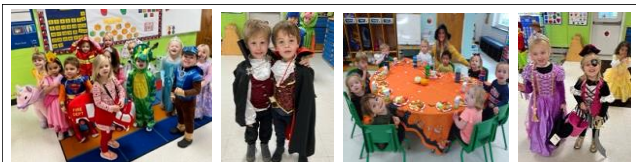
The children and staff at Baldwin Early Learning Center are so excited and are looking forward to a wonderful and exciting Holiday Season. The children will make crafts and presents, learn Christmas carols, and will enjoy lots of delicious food. They are super excited for the Christmas Program in December!

**Registration for the 2023-2024 schoolyear will begin on January 24, 2023.**

### Making, and eating, homemade applesauce!



### Halloween fun!



### We made playdough turkeys!



*Continued from Early Learning Ministry...*



### Clarke's Elioak Farm Field Trip



The children and staff of the Baldwin Early Learning Center wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas, and the best New Year ever!

**Mary Ahearn,  
Director**

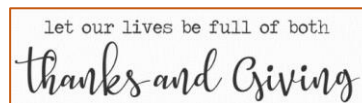
## Scout News

### BSA Troop 192 had a busy November!



The Scouts camped at Elks Camp Barrett and hosted their families for a 'Campsgiving' Dinner.

They had great fun bowling on a Tuesday night- scores were low, but spirits were high!



Next, the Scouts provided service work at Historic Baldwin Hall, helping with yard work and outdoor chores. And we finished the month with a huge Thanksgiving Bonfire!

For December, Scouts will support the church giving programs by purchasing food for Christmas Food Baskets, and by shopping and wrapping gifts for families in need.

If you know a girl aged 11-17 who would like to join us for our next adventure, contact Scoutmaster, Annie Medford, at [danmedford@aol.com](mailto:danmedford@aol.com)

**Annie Medford  
443-254-2240 cell**

## Dec/Jan 2023 Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

### BAPTISMS

**October 9, 2022**

Cody Alan Neidecker, Jr.

**November 6, 2022**

Seraphina Marie Murtagh

### WEDDINGS

**October 2, 2022**

Richard Carter & Beth Stone

**October 22, 2022**

Jeffrey Leo & Michele Ward

**December 22, 2022**

Charles Hoffman, Jr. & Melissa Blake-Maher

### FUNERALS

Stephen A. Thomas

June 16, 1948 – September 17, 2022

Thomas Joseph Bain

November 30, 1949 – November 16, 2022

## One Room Sunday School

Sunday, December 18, 9AM Worship



## Widows & Widowers Ministry

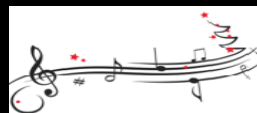
*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from  
the Widows & Widowers Group*



Join us at our Widows & Widowers Group meetings at 1 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month

Come share with us and learn from those who have experienced healing after loss

For more info, contact Barb Stodghill 410-721-2898 or [barbsMK@comcast.net](mailto:barbsMK@comcast.net)



## Music Ministry

Sunday, December 18, 1pm – 4pm

Followed by Hot Chocolate & Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall...



## From the Church Council

After Covid-19 and the sad passing of our past Council Chair, Nancy Erskine, the Church Administrative Council is pleased to report that we are now back up and operating, with the guidance of Pastor Mike and Pastor Kim.

The Council is made up of all of the chairs of the various church committees, and all church members are welcome at our meetings.

The purpose of the Church Council is to plan and implement, from a macro level, programming for nurture, outreach, witness, and resources within our church community. Our meetings are, in part, to ensure that all of the parts of the body are communicating with one another.

We had a wonderful turnout when we attended the District Charge Conference on October 12, 2022, at Community United Methodist Church in Pasadena, and while there, we enjoyed an evening of fellowship, learning about how other churches fared through the pandemic.

*Continued from Church Council...*

We are meeting next on December 13, 2022, at 6:30 pm for the limited purpose of approving our Church budget for the next year, and then we look to resuming regular monthly meetings starting in January. Watch the Church bulletin, but the Council will typically meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 pm. We appreciate all our committee leaders, but most especially Harry Davis for doing yeoman's service as the chairman of the Trustees from 2017-2022, and from which he will now take a much-deserved respite. Effective January 1, 2023, your new committee chairs are:

Administrative Council – Julie Reinhart

Trustee – Brian Burchette

Finance – Paul Schurrick

SPPRC – Glen Surles

Worship – Mary Baldrige

UWF – TJ Furlong

Education – Roene Ferrier

Nominations – TJ Furlong



Baldwin Memorial United Methodist Church  
921 Generals Highway  
Millersville, MD 21108

