



# The Steeple

February 2021

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! We are about to begin the season of Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. The Christian church has traditionally viewed Lent as a time of spiritual reflection and preparation for the celebration of Easter. It provides an opportunity for us to grow in our relationship with Jesus.

As we begin Lent this year, we will look back over the past year and think about the ways God has been at work in our lives. This is a different way of starting Lent than we normally do. We usually reserve this kind of reflection for the start of a calendar year not the beginning of a season of the church year.

We will look back over the past year because it was during Lent 2020 when we began to wear masks, to practice social distancing and to shut down church activities in response to Covid-19. It was during Lent last year that we moved away from in-person worship for the first time and began the cycle of adjusting to the changes in response to the pandemic. We believe there is much to be learned from the events of the past year. We also are convinced that God has been at work among us as well.

In addition to looking back during this Lenten season, we are also extending an invitation to look forward. What are you hoping life will be like when the pandemic ends? What are the dreams you have for our life together at Bakerstown United Methodist Church?

We know that life will not simply return to how it was a year ago. There are ways the church has adapted that will be with us as we move forward such as livestreaming and posting our services online. Other things will be laid aside like blocked off pews. There will be new challenges and blessings ahead. We are confident that God will continue to walk with us and guide us along the way.

We will begin this process of reviewing the past year and looking forward to what God has in store for us on Ash Wednesday. Since we are not able to distribute ashes, we will not be having an in-person worship service. We will be offering an online experience featuring some reflections from people in our church about the ways they have seen God at work since last Lent and what they are hoping for as we move forward. We will post that early on Ash Wednesday so we can begin our Lenten journey anytime that day.

During Lent we will be look to Jesus to help us both in our looking back and our moving forward. We will do that by looking at the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus in John's gospel during our worship services. As we connect with who Jesus is, our lives will be shaped to move into God's plan for our lives. We hope that you will join us in this journey.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Keith & Pastor Matt*

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP! ON SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM AND 11:00AM**

**The Neighborhood Table | Feb. 4 | Fellowship Hall**  
BUMC is continuing to partner with the Fox Chapel UMC to provide meals to the Sharpsburg Community.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the meal at BUMC starting at 2:30 PM. The meals are then transported to Sharpsburg and volunteers are needed there to help serve and clean up afterwards. This has been a very rewarding ministry so far, so please consider volunteering by calling Roger Cramer at 724-443-2847.

### **Drive Thru Dinner | Feb. 9 | Fellowship Hall**

The Mission Team is committed to begin serving a monthly meal for The Lighthouse beginning in January. This new ministry is being funded for the first year by The New Endeavor Fund. What is needed to make this ministry viable is a complete team including a kitchen crew, a cleanup crew, and servers to manage the distribution of meals as we continue with the drive thru format. Our vision is to be able to serve our neighbors in New Fellowship Hall whenever covid restrictions are lifted. Our most significant need is for someone to head up the kitchen crew. That person would work with the team that prepares and serves a monthly meal for The Neighborhood Table in Sharpsburg. We envision The Lighthouse meal would be served the week following TNT meal. That would allow both teams to plan the same menu and do all the shopping at once. If the Lord is calling you to participate in this new ministry in one capacity or another or if you have questions, please contact Carol Skolnik at [cnikskol@gmail.com](mailto:cnikskol@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!



Please join us on **Monday, February 8, 2021** at the **Gibsonia Applebee's** from **11 am to 9 pm** for our latest Dining to Donate with the Missions Team! **THIS**

**IS FOR TAKE-OUT ORDERS ONLY!** Simply print out [flyer](#) or show a photo of it on your phone to your "to-go person" to ensure we get credit for any purchases made. This is one yummy fundraiser you don't want to miss! Thank you for supporting the Missions Team

### **GriefShare Outreach Ministry 2021 Winter/Spring Schedule**

We will meet once a month this winter – our next meetings are Wednesday evening **February 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm in Fellowship Hall, masks and social distancing required.

**Drive Thru Pancake breakfast | Saturday, Feb. 20th**  
Come to BUMC any time between 8:00 am and 10:00 and take home a great breakfast. Each breakfast will contain bacon, eggs, sausage, home-fries and your choice of blueberry, buckwheat, chocolate chip or plain pancakes. All of this for only \$5.00. Pull in, give your order to one of the masked men and park and wait for the meal(s) to be delivered to your car. It cannot be any easier!

### **DIGging Deeper | Feb. 21 | Fellowship Hall | 9:45am**

DIGging Deeper will begin a study of 1 Corinthians. At the time he wrote this letter to the young church in Corinth, Paul had moved to Ephesus where he would spend the next three years. He had heard reports of several types of problems with the church; difficulty leaving behind their pagan ways and becoming separated into factions based upon leadership. Paul spends a good portion of the letter attempting to correct these behaviors. He also writes about the doctrines of Christianity. Today we find ourselves exposed to many of the behaviors Paul challenged the Corinthians to renounce. Factions exist in our denomination. 1 Corinthians is just as relevant now as in the 1st century. You are invited to join us either in person in New Fellowship Hall or by zoom as we spend 12 weeks digging deeper into 1 Corinthians

**Bakerstown Book Club | Wed., February 24th | 7:00pm in the Narthex**, Masks and social distancing required. The book that has been chosen to discuss is The Edge of Belonging by Amanda Cox. If you love to read, join us on February 24th, whether you've read the book or not. All "Book Lovers" are welcome!! Plus - there's always chocolate!!

**NEW weekly meetings will begin Wednesday March 3rd through May 26th, from 7:00pm till 8:30pm.**

If you or someone you know is experiencing the loss of a loved one, we encourage you to please accept this as your personal invitation to join with us. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences so that you don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Our GriefShare program is coled by Rev. Bill Dambach, Marcia Shipley, Marge Kirkpatrick and Janet Pagnello. GriefShare is a drop-in anytime group and open to anyone in the church or community. All are welcome.

Save the Date! Our Mission Trip this year will be open to the whole church congregation. The date for this year's trip is July 25-31, 2021. The location is still to be determined. Save the date and stay tuned for

## Notes of Appreciation...

Bakerstown U.M.Church members, packed and sent 36 shoeboxes of donated items to the Charlotte, NC processing center in December, 2020. In addition four large monetary donations were either handed or mailed to me for this Children's' Ministry. As usual, during the packing party I inserted this money inside filled boxes. Samaritans Purse uses cash donations for transportation costs; this amounts to a large figure.

I have received word that 8.5 millions shoeboxes were process through the Charlotte Center in December. They have been delivered to children in twenty countries located in Central and South America, Africa and island nations. These children, of course, would have also bee invited to attend classes using The Greatest Journey booklet. They are, no doubt, attending classes right now as you read this announcement. Thanks to everyone who participated in any way in being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, witnessing and spreading the gospel around the word. There is POWER in a simple shoebox; each one in a missionary. Verna Feather

*I wanted to thank all the BUMC family and friends from the bottom of my heart for the thoughtful Christmas present. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!!! Hope to see you all soon. Please stay safe!!!  
Love, Pauline Nemeth (Sunday nursery care)*

The staff of Bakerstown United Methodist Church want to thank everyone for the generous donations for the staff Christmas gift.

*Thank you to the Amazon shoppers as the Missions Team received \$164.83 from Amazon Smile for the year 2020.*

And a Thank you from the Missions Team to Kohl's team member Nicole Edinger for volunteering her time and thus Kohl's donating \$80.00 to our Missions Team.

## Mission Team Notes....

No one can deny that 2020 was a year unlike any in our recent memory. In spite of all the restrictions and upheaval of the last year, the work of the church has continued through your prayers and support. In the last year the mission team distributed funds to the following:

- Casa Cielo Orphanage - Honduras
- China Outreach Ministries - Ken Waggoner
- Faith UMC Roots of Faith - Sharpsburg
- Families experiencing personal tragedy
- Foster Love Project
- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
- Harvest Alliance Ministries - John and Janie Chitester
- Heifer International
- Iglesia Metodista Palabra Viva! - Costa Rica
- The Lighthouse - Butler
- Light of Life Mission - Pittsburgh
- North Hills Community Outreach
- Northside Common Ministries - Pittsburgh
- Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child
- United Shram Ashrams - India
- Western PA Conference Camps: Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, and Wesley Woods
- Wings For Life International Prison Ministry
- Wycliffe Bible Translators

None of this work would have been possible without your faithful support. Thank you!

The work continues in 2021! The team has begun to serve monthly Drive Thru Dinner meals for clients of The Lighthouse and is continuing the monthly meal ministry at Roots of Faith in Sharpsburg. Work is being done to define the team's purpose and goals for the year as well as developing guidelines for the distribution of funds. If you would like to join in this work please contact us at [bumcmteam@gmail.com](mailto:bumcmteam@gmail.com).



## From the Prayer Corner – Love and Prayers for February

In a popular children's book, Winnie the Pooh watches Kanga bound away. *"I wish I could jump like that, he thinks. Some can and some can't. That's how it is."*

Some of us see younger or more able men and women doing extraordinary things that we cannot do. They can; we can't. That's how it is. It's easy to feel useless when we can't do the things we were once capable of doing. And during this time of pandemic and quarantining, it is easy to be impatient, or upset and frustrated because there are many things we are urged NOT to do that we normally could do – things like gathering in large groups with friends, meeting your family for dinner in a restaurant, attending sporting events or music concerts, traveling to visit family, even going to your job or going to school or attending church.

It's true that we may not be able to "jump" like we once did, and perhaps we can't socially interact with others right now like we used to, but we can love and we can pray. These are the works that God and time and experience have prepared us to do well.

February is often called the month of Love. We find the Valentine's Day holiday smack dab in the middle of it. Love is the very best gift we have to give to God and to others. It is no small matter either, for love is the means by which we fulfill our whole duty to God and our neighbor. Our love for one other person may seem to be a small action, but love is the greatest gift of all. (1 Cor 13:13).

And we can pray. Paul encouraged the Colossians – as he encourages us still today – to "continue earnestly in prayer, with an alert mind and a thankful heart" (Col 4:2). Our prayers are a powerful force in the universe!

Love and prayer are mighty works indeed, the mightiest works for any of us. Why? Because our God, who wants to use us, is an all-loving and all-powerful God, and He works through our prayers and our love. Who is someone that you can pray for today?

(portions taken from Our Daily Bread – David Roper)

### **Reflect & Pray**

Begin the day with God;  
Kneel down to Him in prayer;  
Lift up thy heart to His abode,  
And seek His love to share. — Old Hymn

God pours His love into our hearts that it might flow out to others.

**Join the Email Prayer Team!!!! It's easy. Here's how:**

Contact Lora Stafura [lstafura@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:lstafura@bakerstownumc.org), or Cathy Dambach [hwdambach@consolidated.net](mailto:hwdambach@consolidated.net), or Heather Brown [hirdab@hotmail.com](mailto:hirdab@hotmail.com) and the monthly prayer list will be emailed to you. Occasionally we also have weekly urgent requests that are sent out as well. Thank you!

## Day School Chalkboard

The Day School has moved to virtual learning for the month of December. We returned to in-person classes on January 19. The teachers and children are really excited, however, I do believe the parents are the most excited! The Day School follows Pine-Richland School District for weather related closings and delays as well as Covid-19 shifts to and from virtual learning. While we miss seeing all the sweet children each day, we are thankful for a Board of Directors who make our safety a top priority.

In December, the preschool and kindergarten classes enjoyed virtual Christmas Parties and Polar Express Parties over the computer together. We were able to play bingo together, participate in scavenger hunts, listen to stories and Miss Sharon's pre-k class go to enjoy a private concert provided by Miss Sharon and her daughter. Miss Sharon plays for the Pittsburgh Philharmonic. The entire Day School staff is fantastic and has gone to all lengths to make this season of virtual learning, fun and engaging.

Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year!

The Day School will begin registration for the 2021-2022 school year in January. Due to Covid-19 we will not have an Open House this year.

Classes Offered for the 2021-2022 School Year:

Three Year Olds (Morning) Tues. & Thurs. 9:00-11:30 a.m.

3 Day Pre-K: (Morning) Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9:00-11:30 a.m.

3 Day Pre-K (Afternoon): Mod., Wed., Fri. 12:30-3:00 p.m.

4 Day Pre-K (Morning): Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9:00-11:30 a.m.

4 Day Pre-K (Afternoon): Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Full Day Kindergarten: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Families who are interested in finding out more information about the school should contact Kelly Campbell for more information. Email: [director@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:director@bakerstownumc.org) Call or text: (724) 272-6032



If you plan on buying Sarris for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and/or Easter, please consider buying with this link to support the Bakerstown United Methodist Day School. Shipping is FREE and it will be delivered right to your door (there is a \$5 packaging & handling fee applied by Sarris, though). It's a pretty yummy deal! You can order online at [www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com](http://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com) and use the organization name Bakerstown United Methodist Day School and Group Id 10-3713. Thank you for your support!

## February Birthday's & Anniversaries

02/01 Frank Ferguson  
 02/04 Jack Brown  
 02/06 Becky Olson  
 02/07 Thomas Pouchot  
 02/07 Alex Shipley  
 02/08 Megan Werkmeister  
 02/08 Jessica Barrett  
 02/08 Jim Episcopo  
 02/09 Josh Beach  
 02/11 Brian Szelc  
 02/12 Jane Stuart  
 02/14 Jake Daugherty  
 02/16 Kristy Beach  
 02/17 Hannah Daugherty  
 02/17 Allen Perriello

02/18 Matthew Lancaster  
 02/19 Jim Kelvington  
 02/19 James Stewart  
 02/22 Heather Brown  
 02/24 Zachary Ometz  
 02/24 Emily Acquavita  
 02/24 Greg Mason  
 02/25 Bonnie Rodgers  
 02/26 Erin Lunn  
 02/26 Thomas Reynolds  
 02/27 Elsie Strader  
 02/28 John Cleary  
 02/28 Paxton Lowell  
 02/28 Evan Marentay  
 02/29 David Zynn

2/2/1963 — Reid & Beth Joyce  
 2/6/1982 — Mike & Miriam Perriello  
 2/12/1966 — Jack & Carol Redman

Bakerstown United Methodist Church  
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 www.bakerstownumc.org



*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
 for the transformation of the world.*

## Staff:

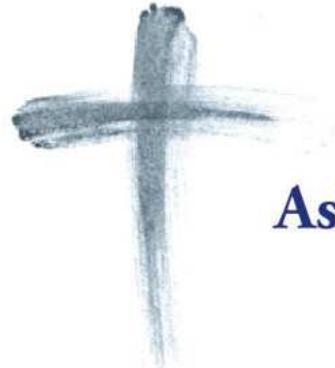
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**Ash Wednesday**  
 — Lent Begins

**Ash Wednesday February 17th**

Begin your lent with an online reflection posted to our website [www.bakerstownumc.org](http://www.bakerstownumc.org), our [YouTube Channel](#) and [Facebook](#) page. You can participate at your convenience on Ash Wednesday.

We are still collecting and sending coupons for the troops and their families around the world. If you can cut-sort or bring them in, please put them in the box on the information center. Please contact Joyce Koval at 412-327-8890.



## FINANCE REPORT

	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020 YTD	Dec. 2020 YTD	Dec. 2019
Donations:	\$39,892.13	\$101,907.00	\$546,116.50	\$477,959.85
Expenses:	\$36,629.14	\$58,104.65	\$531,576.33	\$424,859.05

Church family....Thank you for weathering the pandemic showing faithful support of your church and it's ministries.  
 All bills have been paid. Apportionments have been paid in full. We were able to move money into our savings for the Major Projects Fund and the Future Endeavor Fund. In December our Paycheck Protection Program loan was forgiven and per Council and the Finance Committee we gave back some to the community and kept some in reserve as wise stewards of our finances.

As always, please call me if you have any questions. Kay Cramer, Financial Secretary 724-443-2847